



PROFESSOR Police search home of atom man TROOPS French ask Britain: Join Europe army WAR Arms convoy on the way to Reds BIG RACE Betting heavier than on the Derby

ATOM HOUSE SEARCHED

Suitcase taken away

POLICE THERE AT MIDNIGHT

Express Staff Reporters SECURITY police entered the home of Professor Pontecorvo in Letcombe-avenue, Abingdon—near the Harwell atom station—at 11.30 last night.

As four officers in light raincoats drove up to No. 5, a gas street lamp outside the house was put out. The men used a master key to get in. They drew all curtains before they put on the lights.

It was the first time the lights were on in the house since Pontecorvo, his Swedish-born wife, and three sons left Britain on holiday in July. Now the family is in Russia.

Behind the heavy brown and red curtains the atom scientist's private papers, magazines, and books were sifted by the officers, who wore brown gloves.

At 12.30 a.m. the lights went out. The four officers, one carrying a fawn suitcase, left the house, walked to a side-street where their car waited, and drove off.

Earlier Commander Leonard Burt, of Scotland Yard's Special Branch, took over the major inquiries into Pontecorvo. He had a two-hour interview at the Home Office and came away with instructions on a special procedure.

It is believed he came away, too, with new powers for the Special Branch to vet all atomic research workers—a check independent of M.I.5 findings.

New security measures are said to have been discussed by Mr. Attlee and Sir Percy Sillitoe, M.I.5 chief. A squad of the Special Branch may be allocated to enforce them.

The U.S. Government will ask Britain for full details of information Pontecorvo might have given the Russians. The Americans have been told so far that all the information would be known already to the Russians.

The Russian Minister in Helsinki, Lieut-General G. M. Savonenkov, has told the Finns that further publicity about the case would be "very unwelcome to the Soviet Government."

Not dismissed To get a complete picture of the Pontecorvo case, Special Branch men will visit the physicist, scientists, Dr. Emil Fuchs and Dr. Nunn May.

Pontecorvo (pronounced Ponteh Kor'Vee) and his wife and three sons left Britain for Russia in September. He was in Harwell for a few days before he was arrested.

But his pay has been stopped back to September. That was when Harwell chief Sir John Cockcroft, who has known the professor since 1934, first listed him as absent without leave.

No move to trace Pontecorvo was made until he failed to show up after he failed to return from a five-week Continental holiday.

Harwell authorities were not worried until he failed to show up at an international atom conference in Oxford, which ended on September 13.

Until then, we thought he was just taking a few extra days' holiday. A Government official said yesterday. But the professor had flown on September 1.

No travel ban Other ex-foreign scientists at Harwell will be stopped from travelling on the Continent. German scientists employed by the Government on guided missiles and jet research will still be allowed to go home on holiday—but not to Berlin, it is understood.

From HARWELL: His colleagues say he was sociable but avoided joining any organisations. Mrs. Pontecorvo was tussled about the schooling of her sons—Antonio (five), Giorgio (four) and Bruno (two). When they went on holiday to Sweden she wired the school: "Tito and Bruno could be returning."

From ROME: Pontecorvo's car, in which he drove on holiday in July and August, was found yesterday in a Rome garage. It is an ash-grey Standard Vanguard, with the number NYC 744. The left mudguard is battered, as though the professor had been in an accident.

The garage owner said that Pontecorvo left the car on August 31. The professor's sister, Giuliana Tabet, wife of a Ministry of Agriculture official, resigned early in September as secretary of the Italian Committee of the Friends of Peace. This committee promotes the Communist "peace" petition.

STOCKHOLM, Tuesday.—Bengt Nordholm, brother of Mrs. Pontecorvo, said in Stockholm today: "My sister Martianne met her husband in Paris in 1938."

"She is a tall, slender, platinum blonde. She was sent to Paris by my father, a steel mill executive, to learn the language."

"She was gay and loved dancing. I believe she met Bruno at a ball in Montparnasse. They married in Paris after a lightning romance."

"Pontecorvo was then 25, and wrapped up in scientific work. He wanted only a civil marriage. My parents, my younger sister and I were not there."

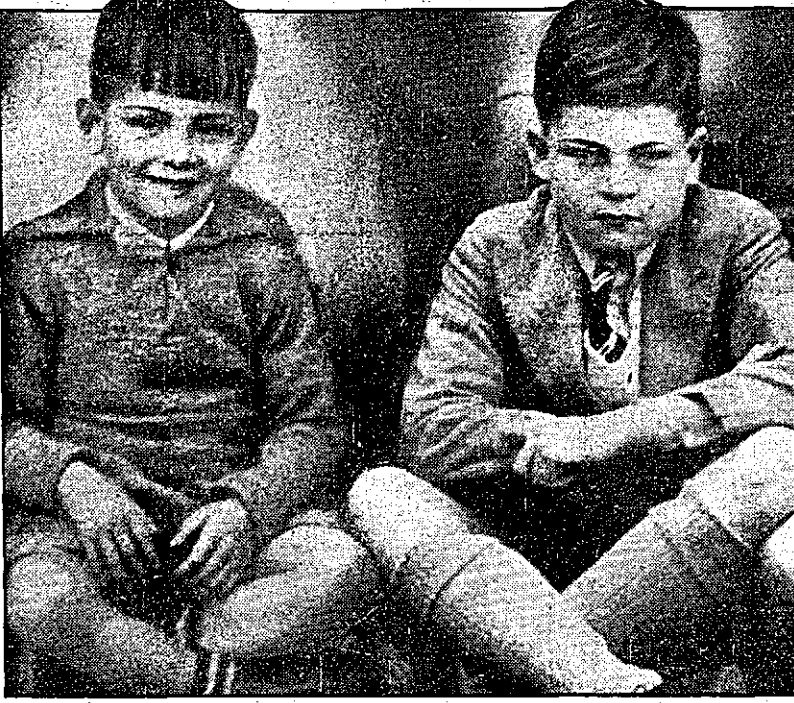
"The couple came to Stockholm soon after. Pontecorvo could not speak Swedish or English. He and my sister spoke French together. So the family conversation with him was rather limited."

"We all stayed together at my father's country house at Sandviken, but the meeting was not a success. Not only did Bruno seem very foreign, but he was obviously absorbed in his work."

"The second time we saw Martianne after her marriage was in 1949, when she came with her three small boys to stay with me in Stockholm. It came like a cold shower when we heard this week-end that Marianne and her family spent a night in Stockholm on the way to Helsinki without contacting us."

"It is more astonishing because Bruno is said to have asked the Salvation Army for accommodation after finding several hotels full up."

TWO OF THE PONTECORVO BOYS...



TITO, SIX—AND GIULIO, 12 No telegram to school, this time

BIG RACE PARTY ROBBED

Swoop by jewel thieves JEWEL thieves last night raided guests attending a house party at Newmarket for today's Cambridgeshire. Jewellery worth more than £4,000 was stolen.

The party is at Egerton House, the home of race-horse owner Major Buchanan-Jardine. The house stands near the race-course.

The Scout writes: Bookmakers report that today's Cambridgeshire has produced the heaviest anti-spoils betting of the year— heavier than that on the Derby which Prince Simon failed to win.

And all because of a black horse called Socrates. Two months ago when the weights for this handicap appeared, Socrates had run only four times—in its two-year-old season. The odds against it were 200 to 1.

In September Socrates had its first race of the year—unplaced. Then it won a small race at Newmarket on September 23. Odds came down to 66 to 1.

A week later the horse caused one of the sensations of the season by beating Masked Light, third in this year's Guineas, in a mile race at Thirsk. Odds tumbled, and Socrates became favourite at 10 to 1.

A fluke? Was this last race a fluke? Racegoers have been debating the point. Mr. Peacock, the colt's veteran trainer, would not go to Newmarket races yesterday. "I'll only have to answer a lot of 'dull' questions," he said.

Some reports say that the horse is nearly as good as Danie, 1945 Derby winner, trained by Peacock. Bookmakers are taking sides as strongly as backers. One has laid Socrates to lose more than £25,000. Another says the horse ought to start at even money and has backed it to win £20,000.

Socrates is owned in partnership by Sir Thomas Dugdale, Tory M.P. for Richmond, Yorks, and Lord Srobourn, son-in-law of Earl Mounbatten.

Bevin calls envoy The Argentine Ambassador, Dr. Carlos Hogan, spent 45 minutes in private with Mr. Bevin at the Foreign Office last night. On Monday Dr. Hogan complained about Britain's handling of the debt negotiations.

JOHN DOUGLAS MCKENZIE, born prematurely at Princess Beatrice Hospital, Fulham, weighed 1½ lb.—but has put on eight ounces.

Mrs. Maureen McKenzie, of Hurlingham, has not seen him yet. She has another baby—not a year old and very fit—who weighed 2½ lbs. at birth.

'Free the £—and live better' MONTREAL, Tuesday.—Lord Beaverbrook in an interview here today said that Canada is leading the world on the road to liberty by freeing the dollar. He hoped the British £ would soon be similarly set free.

"If this is done," he said, "the value of the £ will improve at once and the English people will have a higher standard of living."—Reuter.

2 officials quit trade union Two officials have resigned from the Transport and General Workers' Union—Mr. William Sheppard, secretary, and Mr. Vivian C. Wilkins, organizer of the metal and engineering group in the Bristol area.

Said Mr. Sheppard, who is also leaving the Socialist Party: "This union cannot represent unskilled workers and skilled craftsmen."

Pollitt's surprise Harry Pollitt, secretary of the British Communist Party, flew to London from Prague last night, and was asked: Did you meet Molotov? He replied: "You would be surprised."

WRACs killed PAGE ONE EMPLOYEE SLEEP ON THIS... MR. JACK BROWNE, Tory M.P. for Govan, was told that book two months ahead for a London-Glasgow sleeper. He went along a sleeping car asking people why. He was told: "It's those confounded M.P.s."

'SOVIET TRIES A DEAL'

French Premier asks for East-West talks

From R. M. MacGOLL: Paris, Tuesday

FRANCE'S Premier, Rene Pleven, made an expected speech tonight asking Britain to join in forming a European army—and unexpectedly urged new talks with Russia.

Reports say there has been a secret meeting between the Soviet Ambassador in Paris, Mr. A. Pavlov, and M. Alexandre Parodi, Secretary-General of the French Foreign Ministry.

The reports add that Russia approached France with the aim of weakening her adherence to the Atlantic Pact. Russia offered to call off pressure in French Indo-China in return for political concessions.

Said Pleven to the Assembly: "We have a profound conviction that war is not inevitable. France hopes fervently for fresh talks between the Powers."

PLEA TO BRITAIN In a speech that was wildly applauded, Pleven pleaded with Britain to send men to join in a European army under a European Minister of Defence.

This Minister would be answerable to the present European Assembly in Strasbourg or to a new organisation. He would be France, said Pleven, seeks to settle world problems by "the same methods" as the Schuman Plan for pooling European steel.

"The assembly of German divisions under a German Minister of Defence would lead to a fatal resurrection of German military power," he went on.

"I do not see simply having an old-fashioned coalition. A true European army must be formed. Its units would be formed of men from all the nations mixed together in small units."

"Those parts of the nations' forces not included in this European army would remain under the control of their own countries." M. Paul Reynaud, a wartime Prime Minister, said: "Britain will almost certainly not take part in a European army, if that is so, the plan is doomed to failure."

RIFLES FOR THEM Berlin cable: A force of Germans with rifles and battle-green uniforms is taking over guard duties for the British in West Germany.

Washington cable: The U.S. has withdrawn its objection to the appointment of an American as supreme commander of unified land forces in Europe. Western chiefs of staff have agreed on other major questions.

To tour Australia TRINIDAD, Tuesday.—The West Indies cricket team will tour Australia in 1951.—Reuter.

They stood talking and smiling for three minutes. Afterwards the President said Mr. Vishinsky is "a nice fellow."

Mr. Truman asked Vishinsky lightly why he had not said anything in the Assembly about disarmament. Vishinsky replied with a smile that he would come to that.

He said he was disturbed by the way American newspapers lay stress on war. Mr. Truman said the American Press is free to say what it likes.

In his speech the President outlined three conditions on which America would join in disarmament. They are: 1.—Disarmament must be based on a possible concession to the Soviet.

For four years Russia has fought to merge two UNO commissions on disarmament in ordinary weapons and in atom bombs.

America fought against this merger. Tonight Mr. Truman said: "Much valuable work has been done by the two commissions."

"I believe it would prove useful to explore the ways in which their work might be more closely brought together."

SOMETHING NEW? One possibility to be considered is whether their work might be revitalised if carried forward in the future by a new and consolidated commission.

The conditions which the President outlined for disarmament are: 1.—It must include all weapons—not just the atom bomb. This is a blow at Moscow's "peace" offensive against the atom bomb alone.

2.—Disarmament must be based on unanimous agreement.

3.—It must be foolproof. It must be policed thoroughly. It must be founded on the free interchange of information across national borders.

Mr. Truman added: "Until an effective system of disarmament is established the only course for peace-loving nations is to create a strong and united world force to make the world secure against aggression."

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B.B.C. probe—a warrant soon?

By ROBERT CANNELL A NUMBER of senior executives have been told to be ready for early developments following investigations into allegations of bribery at the B.B.C.

A warrant for the arrest of one official is expected. The investigation is expected to cost less than £100. No name has been mentioned during hush-hush talks with Broadcasting House.

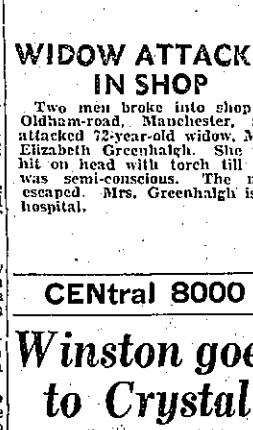
Chief Detective-Inspector A. Howard of Scotland Yard, is several weeks interviewing B.B.C. officials. Theatrical agents, former and others connected with the entertainment business.

4.30 a.m. LATES WIDOW ATTACK IN SHOP Two men broke into shop Oldham-road, Manchester, attacked 72-year-old widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Greenhalgh. She hit on head with torch; ill; was semi-conscious. The men escaped. Mrs. Greenhalgh is in hospital.

CENTRAL 8000 Winston goes to Crystal Palace fire Mr. Churchill—and thousands of other people—watched a fire which last night destroyed old School of Art, the last of the Crystal Palace buildings survive the 1936 blaze. He was being driven from London to his home near Westham, Kent.

Among those present Winston Churchill, fire-watcher when he saw the glow and told chauffeur to drive to the fire. Two hundred firemen called to the blaze. But building, used as a storehouse, burned out.

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NVC 744 FOUND IN ROME NYC 744: Pontecorvo's car.

the eve of his flight, and said he would take it next day on a long journey.

They claimed that America, in building the atom bomb, infringed their patents on producing radioactivity by means of neutrons.

Yesterday Dr. Gabriel Giannini, one of the eight and head of a Californian company, withdrew from the suit. He said: "I am a U.S. citizen first and do not care to be associated with, any sort of international mystery."