DAILY EXPRESS

No. 15,710 TUESDAY OCTOBER 24 1950 CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDER LORD BEAVERBROOK Weather: Dull One Penny

PROFESSOR Pontecorvo worked with Nunn May

PLANNER Festival contract given to Government man's firm

PHILLIPS Socialist secretary starts a row

PROBE Americans begin Red round-up

ATOM MAN KNEW ATOM SPY

Professor and Nunn May shared lab

NEW PROBE STARTS

By CHAPMAN PINCHER

PROFESSOR BRUNO PONTECORVO, the atom scientist from Harwell who has gone to Russia, worked for two years in a Canadian laboratory with Dr. Nunn May

—now serving a ten-year sentence for passing atomic information to Russia.

This discovery, made yesterday, switched inquiries about Pontecorvo to Canada. Security authorities there are checking on whether approaches were made to him by Russian agents.

For an extensive spy ring was discovered in Canada after a Russian cypher clerk at the Soviet Embassy reported to the police.

Pontecorvo and Nunn May were among the first scientists to join the Canadian atom project in 1943. They worked together on what is still highly secret research in a Montreal laboratory.

From this laboratory Nunn May stole a sample of atomic explosive which he passed to Russian agents.

In 1945 Pontecorvo moved to the main Canadian atom station at Chalk River. Nunn May came back to Britain and was arrested a year later while lecturing at King's College, London.

M.I.5 agents are trying to discover if Pontecorvo made plans to go to Helsinki before he left Britain on July 25 to visit Italy.

Mr. Oswald Scott, British Minister in Helsinki, has been in London discussing the case with Whitehall. He will return today.

INTO RUSSIA

An Express Staff Reporter phoned from Helsinki last night:

British secret service men, working with the help of Finnish Premier Urho Kekkonen, established tonight that Pontecorvo disappeared into Russia on Saturday, September 2.

At 2.30 p.m. that day, as the northern sun set over Malmi Airport, Helsinki, a Scandinavian Airlines plane from Stockholm set down the professor with his fair, Swedish-born wife Helena Marianne and their three children.

They had 11 trunks. The professor carried a bulging dark-brown briefcase. Their 12-year-old son Gustav Inge Nils listened attentively while father went through the Customs.

Six-year-old Pito Nils and the third son, Antonio, aged five, romped, while mother kept an eye on them.

A hitch came when the passport control asked to see the professor's Finnish visa. He had none. So his passport—issued in Ottawa April 1948—was impounded, and he was told it would be deposited with the Finnish Foreign Office.

As a British citizen, it was pointed out, he could collect the visa next day.

Asked where the Ministry could get in touch with him about the passport, he signed a paper saying, "At my hotel."

But no trace of his registration at any hotel has been found. Nor did he collect his passport.

OVER BRIDGE?

While discussions about the visa were going on the bus for the passengers' half-hour trip into the capital was held up. But Pontecorvo did not take the bus.

A big black Buick with Diplomatic Corps plates and a lounge-suited chauffeur drew up. Into it the professor and his family piled with their luggage.

That was the last seen of them.

A fellow passenger from the plane says they drove towards the Helsinki quay where the Russian boat Beloostrov lay on her way from London to Leningrad.

But Finnish police and passport officials say that no one named Pontecorvo boarded the Beloostrov.

The Finnish authorities say the Buick sped in the direction of the Soviet enclave of Porkkala, ten miles outside Helsinki.

This territory was leased to Russia for 50 years from 1944. Where it begins a 300-yard wooden bridge spans a creek.

From Porkkala the Pontecorvos could have taken the sealed train which passes from the enclave across Finnish territory to Leningrad, six hours away. Nobody but the Russians would know.

Milan cable: Pontecorvo's 26-year-old sister Anna is in England. Another sister, 29-year-old Laura, was a hospital nurse in Britain, and returned to Italy with Pontecorvo in July.

Man with a stick hits reporter

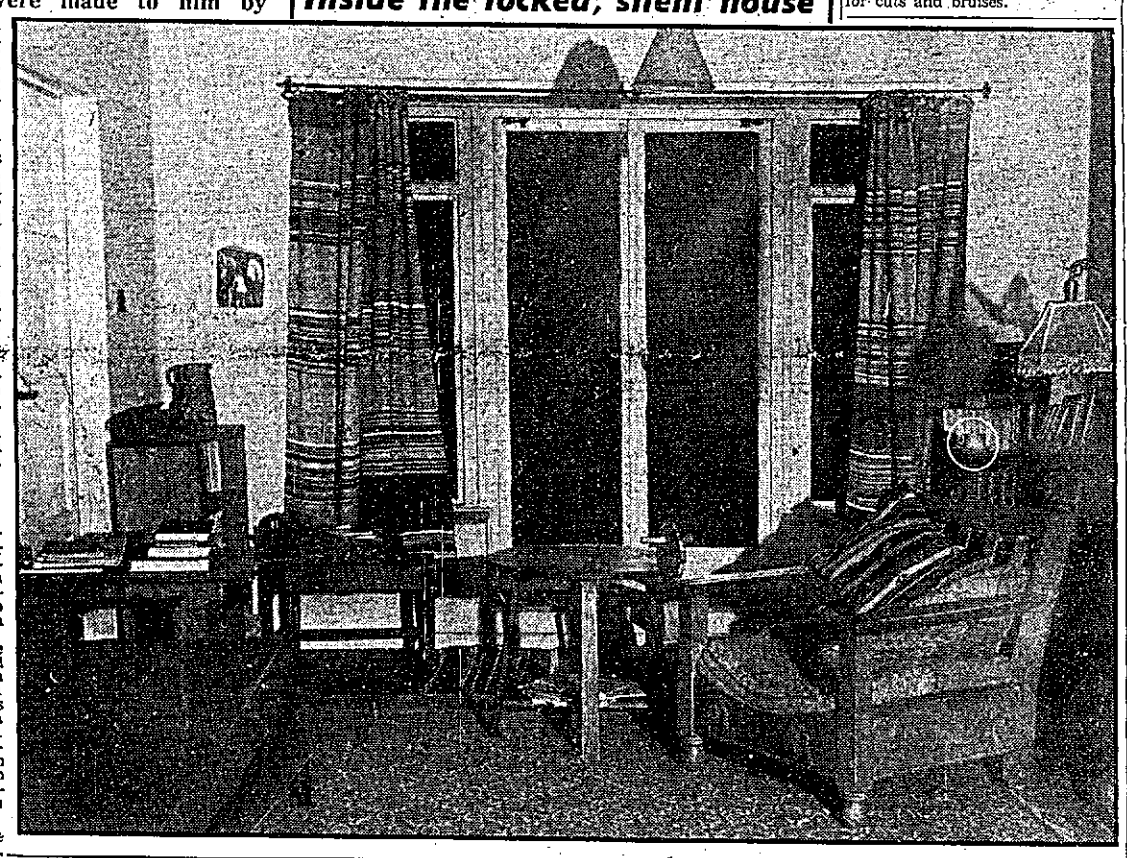
Reporters called at the house of Professor Pontecorvo's brother in Great Western-road, Glasgow, last night. A man waving a heavy stick, followed by a woman, sprang from the door shouting: "Get out."

They struck a reporter and grabbed a photographer's camera.

MISSING PROFESSOR—PASSPORT PHOTO

—Daily Express exclusive picture.

Inside the locked, silent house



THIS is the sitting-room of Professor Pontecorvo's four-bedroomed, £2 10s. a week house in Lefcombe-avenue, Abingdon, Berks. It has been locked up since he left with his family in July. Ringed—a tea-cup on the bookcase.

A Madonna and Child reproduction painting stands on the mantelpiece.

The rocking horse with the bashful look . . . the professor's youngest son, Antonio, is five.

RED SWOOP: BRITON ARRESTED IN BED

Express Staff Reporter: New York, Monday

SECURITY POLICE went to an eight-roomed house in the heart of Hollywood at 2 o'clock in the morning and arrested Harry Carlisle, 52-year-old British film writer, in his bed.

This was the start of a nation-wide round-up of Reds.

The Justice Department said Carlisle is one of America's top Communists.

He was ordered to be held on Terminal Island, near Los Angeles, for violating the deportation law and the new internal security Act.

This Act compels all Communists to register. Twelve other men—two of them Russians—were arrested, and police are searching for 73 more. All can be jailed or deported.

Carlisle has been 30 years in America, but he stayed a British citizen. He lived with his sister, his niece and her husband.

Carlisle is described by the Justice Department as a former editor of a Communist-front newspaper and a lecturer on Marxism.

A 39-year-old Polish seaman, Waclaw Furtak, who deserted his ship two years ago rather than return home, was called before a deportation board today. He committed suicide.

Melbourne cable: Security police raided Communist headquarters and party officials' homes in cities throughout Australia yesterday. They seized stacks of papers.

POCKET CARTOON

by OSBERT LANCASTER

'We couldn't stop his trip'

DR. BRUNO PONTECORVO, the missing atom scientist, has been screened several times in the last few years by British security officers, said Mr. G. R. Strauss, Minister of Supply, in the Commons yesterday.

He added that for several years Dr. Pontecorvo's contacts with secret work have been very limited.

Mr. Strauss was replying to a question from Mr. F. J. Erroll (Tory, Altrincham). He added: "I have no information about Dr. Pontecorvo's present whereabouts apart from what has appeared in the Press." Mr. Erroll: Can the Minister state that the professor has never had an opportunity of acquiring knowledge of atom bomb manufacture likely to be of value to a foreign Power, and can he explain how reliable the British screening of this individual was, in view of the report that his sister is the wife of a Communist official in Italy?

Mr. Strauss: Though Professor Pontecorvo has not had direct access, except in a very limited way, to secret subjects for some time, it would be quite impossible to say he has not been able to gather information while residing at Harwell or in Canada which might be of value to an enemy.

Mr. Charles Taylor (Tory, Eastbourne): When a man like this is known to have relatives who

PAGE TWO, COL. FOUR

Sugar? You ought to revolt

Says Jamaica man

MR. ATTLEE and other Ministers heard Mr. C. C. Campbell, Speaker of the Jamaica Parliament, say at a Guildhall dinner last night:—

"We in Jamaica are offering you sugar and still more sugar. The English people ought to rise in revolt against the Ministry of Food.

"There is still greater production to come, but we want your market.

"Unless that market is guaranteed, with profitable prices, our redoubled steps may have to be reduced."

Stokes hurt in car crash

Mr. Richard Stokes, Minister of Works, was injured when a car in which he was riding was in collision with a taxi in Green-street, Mayfair, last night.

Mr. Stokes was taken to hospital, but went home after being treated for cuts and bruises.

NOTHING WRONG, SAYS MORRISON

FESTIVAL ROW OVER ORDER

Chief Planner Plowden's firm gets contract

Express Staff Reporter

A FIRM which has Sir Edwin Plowden, the Government's Chief Planning Officer, on its board has got the contract to sell advertising space in 3,000,000 Festival of Britain programmes.

The estimated advertising revenue is £300,000, which may mean a gross commission of £20,000 for the firm.

Yesterday, in the Commons, Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre, Tory M.P. for the New Forest, asked Mr. Herbert Morrison:—

"Do you think it right a contract of this nature should be given to a firm of which a director holds an alternative position of this kind?"

Mr. Morrison: "I did not know that. I cannot see there is anything fatal about it.

"This happened to be the most appropriate firm. The choice was very limited. If we had denied ourselves the services of this firm we should have been in difficulty.

The last man . . .

"It would not have been practical to divide the work among several firms.

"I am certain the Chief Planning Officer of the Government is the last person who would be capable of any improper conduct.

"Unless you can follow up these imputations and innuendoes . . ." The rest of the sentence was lost in shouts from both sides of the House.

The successful firm is Adprint, Ltd., of Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, W. Last night, the general manager, Mr. R. Spicer, said:—

"The Festival of Britain Council are producing seven publications. They approached seven firms and our tender was accepted.

"Sir Edwin Plowden has been on leave of absence from the firm for between three and four years as a nominal director without fee."

They just sell

Mr. W. Foges, managing director of a subsidiary of Adprint, said: "Adprint employs about 100 people. The festival contract can be carried out by five or six. All they have to do is sell the space at £500 to £700 a page."

Said a Festival spokesman: "The volume of work was so enormous that even the Stationery Office could not undertake the sale of advertisements.

"We accepted the Adprint tender because they had the machinery to do the job."

Forty-three-year-old Sir Edwin Noel Plowden became Chief Planning Officer and chairman of the Economic Planning Board in 1947, the year after he was knighted.

He is married, with four children, has a house at Dunmow, Essex, a flat in Chelsea and a salary of £6,500 a year.

Adprint has a capital of £200,000. The firm was founded in 1937.

Car park miners

Forty miners at the Nook Colliery, Astley, Lancs, have asked for a car park at the pit.

ARTISTS GAG MUNNINGS

Express Staff Reporter

SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS, former president of the Royal Academy, has agreed to open an exhibition by Chelsea artists tomorrow week, despite criticisms about his attitude to Stanley Spencer's "saucy" paintings.

Some artists threatened to boycott the exhibition if Sir Alfred opened it.

Seven members of the exhibition council met over the week-end.

They wrote to Sir Alfred, asking him not to make any reference to his "deplorable controversy" with Spencer.

Said Sir Alfred yesterday: "There will be no controversial statements. I shall talk about tulips and primroses."

Tanks nearer death train

NORTH KOREA, Monday.—Tanks racing to rescue 160 G.I.s from a prison train bound for Communist China are 45 miles from the border tonight.

The G.I.s are survivors of a massacre. The Reds took 90 others off the train and shot them.

Further west, the British Commonwealth Brigade is 70 miles from the border in a dash to free other G.I. prisoners.

To avenge their brother

Three brothers—Raymond Kinne, 21, Derek, 20, and Valentine, 18, of Leeds, were called The Three Musketeers. Each wore a signet ring to seal a "One-for-all" pact made two years ago.

Now Raymond has been killed in Korea. So Derek and Valentine have both joined the Army. Said Derek yesterday: "We will avenge Ray's death."

1s. in the £ off

BRUSSELS, Monday.—The Belgian Government tonight cut prices by 5 per cent. to force down the cost of living.—Express News Service.

UNMARRIED MOTHER STAYS INDOORS

Express Staff Reporter: Nottingham, Monday

MRS. NELLIE LAMONTE stayed indoors with her little daughter today at her new council house at Beeston, near Nottingham. She feared gossip because people now know that she and 50-year-old Mr. Harold Lamonte, a Post Office engineer, are not married.

"The housing committee meets tomorrow, and the letting of the house to an unmarried couple may be raised," said chairman Mr. Frederick Litchfield tonight.

He added: "But whether or not we are a court of morals, we should set an example as a council. I don't agree with the letting.

"I had a similar case five years ago—a couple living in a prefab. I told them to quit when we found they were not married."

There are 2,081 families on Beeston and Stapleford council's waiting list for houses.

The local branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has passed a resolution calling for "absolute priority" for married couples. This was unanimously endorsed by 50 members at a women's social service club.

Said president Mrs. Florence Bradley: "Women are up in arms about this letting."

Man goes down in blazing boat

A wife and her three children, who normally live in a trawler, were ashore last evening when the vessel caught fire and sank off Southend.

Her husband, Mr. Ronald Archer, aged 30, owner of the trawler the Holba, was saved, but a Canadian friend with him was lost. Mr. Archer was unable to say what happened when a tug landed him at Gravesend.

Wilson gives in

Mr. Harold Wilson last night climbed down and scrapped his three-year-old plan to set up a Government-controlled development council for the wool industry. Instead the industry is to have its own advisory committee of employers and union representatives, with independent members.

Up to the wife

Alan Brown, East Fife inside forward, priced at £20,000, was shown a house yesterday by officials of Croydon Rovers, semi-amateur club who want him as coach. Said club chairman Henry W. Rose: "He is waiting until his wife approves the house before signing on."

Unknown's £1,500

A picture by an unknown artist, of a Pope and cardinals, fetched £1,500—top price of the day—at a sale yesterday at Shelton Abbey, Eire, home of the Earl of Wicklow.

Women screened in theatre

Nearly 100 men and women aliens who live in a Government hostel were screened yesterday at Leigh, in Lancashire. They were interviewed in a theatre by officials. It was the first day of Britain's anti-Communist check.

'No meat? I blame..'

Dr. Carlos Hogan, the Argentine Ambassador, said in London last night: It is the sole responsibility of the British Government that no Argentine meat has been shipped to this country since July.

PAGE ONE ENDPIECE

TURN ON THE HEAT

EIGHT letters were delivered yesterday to Rotherham Town Cricket Club (four to the secretary, four to the treasurer). Each was from the East Midlands Gas Board, Sheffield, and said: "On and after November 1, 1950, all accounts should be paid at the Gas Showrooms, Frederick-street, Rotherham."

Bevin furious with Phillips

By GUY EDEN

WHITEHALL'S biggest storm for years is raging round Mr. Morgan Phillips, £1,200-a-year secretary of the Socialist Party.

Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, are furious over a speech made to a Socialist conference in Paris on Sunday.

He is reported to have told the meeting that neither the British Government nor the British Socialist Party has made up its mind on rearming Germany.

Mr. Bevin went to see Mr. Attlee at No. 10 yesterday as soon as he saw the report.

For the British Government has made up its mind and has published its views. It favours the rearming of Germans to take part in a European Army for the joint defence of Europe against aggression.

Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevin decided to issue an official statement repudiating their party secretary.

The Cabinet met. The position was reported to the Ministers. The Foreign Office was ordered to put out a statement with all speed.

No change

Reporters were asked to stand by to rush the official statement on the news tapes. It said:—

"Statements attributed to Mr. Morgan Phillips may have led to some misapprehension.

"The British Government's attitude on this question has made clear during the meetings of the North Atlantic Council in New York and has not changed.

"It considers that Germany should be enabled to make an appropriate contribution to the build-up of the defence of Western Europe. Conditions and methods are still under discussion between the Governments."

This statement was telephoned to the British Embassy in Paris, to be sent at once to the French Government and to the Socialist leaders.

The Ambassador in Washington, Sir Oliver Franks, was asked to assure President Truman that the Government has not gone back on its plans.

Mr. Phillips is likely to be reported to the party executive for possible disciplinary action. It meets tomorrow. Mr. Bevin will demand severe action.

4.30 a.m. LATES

CUTTER SAVES 8 CASTAWAYS

ST. JOHN'S (Newfoundland), Monday.—Eight survivors from a Canadian freighter Ne[illegible] Voyageur, which disappeared [illegible] miles off Cape Race, have been picked up by U.S. coastguard cutter.—Express News Service.

CENtral 8000

The famous sweet pickle . . .

WITH CHEESE

WITH CHICKEN

WITH MINCE

WITH MEAT

WITH SAUSAGES

WITH SALAD

TRUST Maconochies FOR FLAVOUR