



***aequem memento rebus
in ardius servare
mentem**

Is a member of the Staff an agent of a foreign power?

Since time immemorial the peoples of this divided world have had their own espionage services. In the Old Testament Joshua sent out spies to Jericho, prior to the invasion of that country by the Children of Israel. The spy services of Venice saved that country from defeat during the turbulence of the Middle Ages; while in England Walsingham and Cecil saved Elizabeth I from the

plots of the Roman Catholics. A variety of methods were used to extract information from the captured spies—boiling oil and lead, the rack, wheel and thumbscrew, all with varying success.

During the 15th century, one of the most famous spies was Pedro de Covilha; he was a picaresque character, a likeable rogue who found service with the Portuguese and travelled to India dressed as a Muslim merchant. After this, in the guise of a pilgrim, he went to Mecca, and later became the trusted servant of the Emperor of Ethiopia. During the Great War of 1914-18 there was the much-glamourised Mata Hari, who was shot by the French for spying for the Germans. In the Second World War a number of German spies were detected by the M.I.5, notably Kelly, Adams, Job and Craven.

Most countries also have their own organisations for the promotion of subversion and the liquidation of enemy agents. Methods vary considerably, ranging from sabotage, arson and assassination, to promoting "wild cat" strikes, and by so doing damaging a country's economy. There are other methods—the Americans believe that the British are helping Cuba, by selling them buses. No doubt the Senate have visions of hordes of bearded and unwashed Cubans, led by a cigar-smoking Castro, sailing across the Gulf of Mexico in the double-deckers, driving ashore in Florida and then driving north to capture Washington, where they would promptly set up a cigar factory—to sell cigars to the British!

In Great Britain we have as our main counter-espionage service M.I.5. It was founded in 1909 and developed by Captain Vernon Kell, of the South Staffordshire Regiment. During the two World Wars and the ensuing years, M.I.5 has had a number of notable successes—Heinrich Grosse, Karl Graves, Trebitsch Lincoln (all German spies), the dedicated Communist, Percy Glading. More recently, Communist spies such as Linney, Marshall, Blake, Houghton, Lonsdale and Vassell have all been unearthed and convicted. As must be expected, when against usually very clever and highly organised spy rings, there are a few failures, notably Pontecorvo, Fuchs and Nunn May, who were allowed to slip through our fingers. But as a general rule success has outweighed failure.