

How the Moscow invitation occurred

Saturday 03 January 1970

I received a letter with a questionnaire from a Mr. Geoffrey Shorter of Iliffe Science and Technology Publications of IPC Business Press Limited. The letter referred to the possible launch of high-quality publication dealing exclusively with Electronic Design. I did not fill in the questionnaire but instead I arranged for Mr. Shorter to discuss the proposed journal with the Committee on Electronics Design at its next meeting, on 23rd January.

This contact with Mr. Shorter led in due course to the Moscow invitation and later to the USSR encounter in an Oxford College.

Friday 23 January 1970

In the late morning I went to the House of Commons for a debate on Privacy, announced by the Government of Harold Wilson. I left the debate while it was in full flow and went on to the IEE HQ at Savoy Place to chair the Committee on Electronics Design.

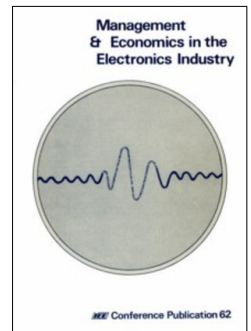
Only one member of the Committee beside myself turned up - a Mr. Wilson. Mr. G.B. Shorter described IPC plans for the Electronic Design journal and after the Committee meeting ended he was at pains to show me a copy of another IPC journal called Futures, which considering my position was a particularly thought-provoking title.

Friday 09 March 1970

I received a phone call from a colleague of G. Shorter of Iliffe/IPC about a Symposium due to take place in Edinburgh in about a week's time. The colleague (name not recorded) asked if I could write an article about the Edinburgh Symposium of approximately 1000 words at £15/1000. I asked that my expenses be also paid, which was agreed.

The event was an International Symposium on Management and Economics in the Electronics Industry (MEEI) which was to run from 17th to 20th March at the University of Edinburgh. It was organised by the IEE in collaboration with numerous other Institutes and Societies.

The theme of the event was very much in tune with the thinking I had promulgated in the IEE, particularly through the Conferences and meetings on Electronics Design. Moreover I had come into close contact with most of the participating organisations before or after leaving M.I. and likewise I knew many of the session speakers.



However, I had no thought of attending because I had been without a regular income for so long that I could not afford it. Spending money on a job interview was one thing but I could not justify the expense of attending a distant meeting on the nebulous basis that it might be to my advantage. These circumstances go some way in explaining my huge feeling of elation when I received the call to attend, with all my expenses paid, so that I could write an article for one of the Iliffe/IPC journals, for which I would also be paid.

Tuesday 10 March 1970

In the morning, Geoffrey Shorter of Iliffe/IPC telephoned and amended the request made by his colleague. He asked me instead to write one article on the Telecommunication aspects of the Symposium and also a full-length article covering Training from a much wider viewpoint than that expressed at the Symposium. I was surprised at the topics but agreed and, in view of the imminence of the Symposium, got his approval for me to go ahead with registration and travel booking. Geoffrey Shorter said he would get the necessary authorisation to me by an 11 am deadline on Monday 16th March, the day I would have to fly up to Edinburgh.

I put the arrangements in hand - I made a late registration as a participant and booked a seat on a flight from Heathrow to Edinburgh.

Friday 13 March 1970

I had a telephone conversation with Geoff Shorter of Iliffe/IPC about a lesser rate I would be paid for the article on Training. It was agreed that the Telecommunications article would be 2500 words at £15/1000 and the other on Training was to be 3000 words at £10/1000. He also added that there was a slight doubt about getting authorisation from his General Manager - he was 95% certain but there was about 5% area of doubt.

Monday 16 March 1970

By 11 am the phone call expected from Geoffrey Shorter authorising travel and attendance at the Edinburgh Symposium had not come. I had made the necessary bookings, including the flights, so with considerably heightened apprehension about the financial outlay and the possibility of a hidden agenda, I travelled to Edinburgh. On arrival I made my way to the University's Pollack Hall. I had some interesting conversations over dinner and retired to bed.

Tuesday 17 March 1970

After breakfast in Pollock Hall I attended the Opening Ceremony of the Symposium. The IEE President, D. Edmundson, was one of the Openers and the keynote speaker was Lord Beeching.

At lunch I met for the first time Hans Motz, Reader in Electrical Engineering at the University of Oxford. Hans Motz introduced the topic of Design into the conversation and of course that got me going. We met and had long conversations on two or three other occasions, in the course of which he told me about a novel he was writing. The thought-provoking plot was about a man who considered himself to be manipulated and how in fighting back he had greatly enhanced his experience and career prospects.

I responded to Hans Motz's synopsis by saying that I had been thinking up a plot for a novel; mine was about a man who realised he was being manipulated. He had received all sorts of favourable hints and had tracked their source down to one person because only the two of them knew of matters being referred to in the hints. He greatly distrusted the source person and so ignored or even responded in the opposite way to that indicated by the hints. The manipulated man was religious and prayed to God for guidance. He then discovered that the person he had thought to be the source had met with an accident long before and had survived virtually as a cabbage, quite unable to initiate any manipulations whatsoever. At the end of the novel the man would be puzzling out what it all means. Hans Motz had the goodness to say that my plot was much more powerful than his.

Before the end of the Symposium Hans Motz asked if I would like to dine as his guest at his College (St. Catherine's) on May 1st and stay overnight. I said I would be interested.

In the afternoon I went to the first few of the many sessions of the Symposium, making numerous notes to provide material for the two articles I was writing.

Later, back at Pollack Hall, as I started on my way to early evening dinner I came across a man standing just outside my bedroom door. He motioned that he was waiting for a kettle to boil in an adjacent kitchen and then, in very poor English, explained that he was from Russia. He invited me to a drink in his room, which turned out to be next to mine. I explained that I was on my way to dinner and suggested he do likewise but he declined. He suggested that I should call on him after dinner, to which arrangement I agreed. If this text is giving the impression of an easy conversation it does not reflect the reality of much gesticulating, fumbling for words and trying to make the same point in different ways on both our parts.

After dinner I knocked on the door of the next room and was warmly invited in. I found there were three Russians within, both newcomers speaking much better English than the first. They had, they said, come at short notice to the Symposium and were accommodated in the three rooms next to mine. The first Russian made up for his lack of English by being very hospitable. There was a great slab of lean pork on the bench from which he cut a hunk and handed it to me on the knife. He then gave me a vodka and a Russian cigarette and the four of us chatted away as best we could.

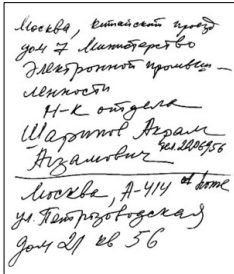
I learned that the first Russian was a senior civil servant, heading a Department in the Soviet Ministry of Electronics in Moscow. One of the others was Alexander, who was with a factory in Leningrad, while the third was Victor, who I think said he was with Moscow University. It was probably Alexander who mentioned he had previously spent some time at the University of Swansea.

Because of my late registration I was listed in Part 3, (i.e. the second supplement) of the list of delegates. The civil servant and Alexander were also listed in Part 3, their entries being:-

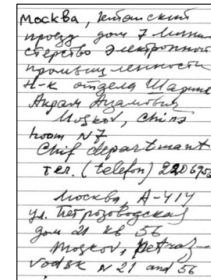
A A Sharipov Ministry Elektronik Industry, Moscow, Kitajski 7, U.S.S.R.

A Borovskoi "Svetlana" Works, Leningrad, L-156, Svetlanovski prospekti 2, U.S.S.R.

I did not find an entry for Victor in any of the lists of participants but, as I discovered later, MOD/MI5 knew of him.



At one stage I asked the civil servant to write his details in my notebook. He willingly complied (see left) but I found I could not read it so I asked one of the others to translate the statement into my Filofax wallet (see right).



That evening we all met again at the Civic Reception by the Provost Marshal at the Guildhall and compared the educational systems of our two countries.

I was pleased to learn that a place had been found for me, long after the deadline had expired, to attend the Symposium Dinner at the MacRobert Pavilion at Ingliston. If I recall correctly, a member of the IEE Secretariat had given up his place.

Wednesday 18 March 1970

It was in the morning of Wednesday 18th that the civil servant Russian made a beeline for me as I made my way to one of the sessions. He had in his hand a piece of paper which he showed to me as he spoke, saying something like "You come Moscow. You be my guest." On the paper was written the words VISITING PROFESSOR; I had the impression that he had either been busy with a dictionary or he had got someone else to write out the words he was supposed to convey. There was no doubt that his approaches (there were two more to come) were purposeful and specific to me.

The next one in fact took place as the afternoon sessions were about to begin. The civil servant Russian came up and made a comment which because of antecedents and what followed must be regarded as highly significant; he observed that Professor Charles Oatley of the University of Cambridge Department of Engineering (who was about to speak in one of the parallel sessions) was a very good man and sound in what he says. Professor Oatley had been guest of honour at the 1968 Electronics Design Conference dinner in Trinity College, Cambridge.

Thursday 19 March 1970

The third deliberate approach took place the following morning, the 19th, when the civil servant Russian approached me and said something like these words - "You learn Russian. Come to Moscow this year. Come as my guest. Aeroflot will bring you with your wife and children".

Friday 20 March 1970

I continued attending the Symposium Sessions to the end and I think it was in the afternoon of the last day that there was a further contact with the Russian civil servant, this time quite accidental. I came across him in the driveway of the Hall of Residence and could see that he was suffering from a heavy cold. The other two Russians were no longer around. I went out and bought some Aspro which I took to his room. He thereupon insisted on wrapping up two tins of fish in a Russian newspaper and handing the package to me as a present for my wife. The tins had a picture of a tall building (which I took to be the Kremlin) on them with a red star surmounting it.



I felt I should return the compliment so I rushed out once more and bought two tins of boiled sweets for his children. Thus ended this strange series of encounters. I never saw any of the Russians again.

Whether Hans Motz ever published his novel I do not know. I did not think of his and my own still dormant novel until nearly two decades later; it was natural that it should come immediately to mind when I heard that Ray Burnett had died while staying overnight in his Oxford college after attending a Dinner.

One more point must be mentioned about the Symposium, namely that I was later told that I had been expected to choose different sessions to those I actually attended - as though someone had mapped out my likely movements in advance and had then obtained information on what had taken place.

Actions on the Moscow Invitation

Sunday 22 March 1970

I acted straight away on the Moscow invitation by writing to my M.P. (at that time for Harpenden & Hemel Hempstead), James Allason. I had been in touch with him about Privacy issues - I had come to regard the use by Marconi Instruments and others of people outside the company to "saturate the environment with the message to be received", along with some other behavioural practices, as an invasion of privacy. I had also sent him a paper entitled *Training System for Key Men*, which was essentially an early version of *Synopsis of a Total Training Scheme*. He had visited me at my home and had also given me a VIP tour of the House of Commons. My letter was as follows:-

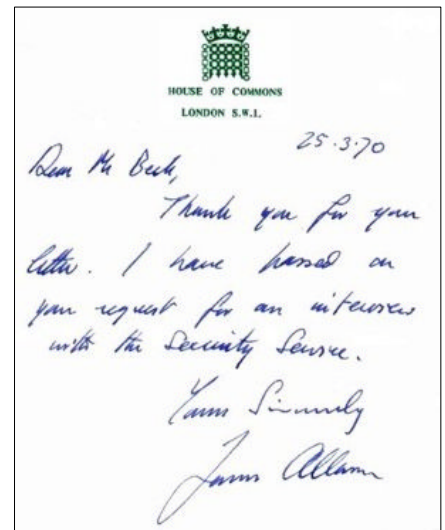
Dear Mr. Allason,

A few hours after posting my letter to you of the 17th from Edinburgh, I met a Russian who, with two colleagues, was attending the Symposium on Management in the Electronics Industry at which I was also a delegate. He is a Departmental Head of the Soviet Ministry of Electronics, and has invited me to be his guest in Moscow.

The manner in which we met and in which he made the invitation, together with the circumstances in which I was inveigled to attend the Symposium at short notice, and two or three other factors, makes me very desirous of discussing the matter with a senior Government officer. I would be most grateful if you would advise me on whom to approach or to introduce me direct to an appropriate person.

On the lighter side, just before the Russians departed I was given two tins as a present for my wife which we hope will turn out to be caviar but might of course be only sardines. The best I could do in exchange at such short notice was to present two tins of boiled sweets!

Yours sincerely,



Dear Mr. Beck,
25.3.70
Thank you for your letter. I have passed on your request for an interview with the Security Service.
Yours Sincerely
James Allason

Monday 23 March 1970

I completed one part of the IPC commission and wrote to Geoffrey Shorter enclosing an 1800-word commentary entitled *Communications at the M.E.E.I. Symposium*. A few days later I sent him the 4000-word article on Training and as I wanted to quiz him about the origins of the Iliffe/IPC request which got me to the Edinburgh Symposium, I enclosed a handwritten note saying I would like to meet him in London to talk about another matter.

Wednesday 25 March 1970

I received a handwritten reply (see above) from James Allason M.P. saying that he had passed on my request for an interview with the Security Service, which was not exactly what I had requested.

Monday 06 April 1970

Considering that the invitation to travel to Moscow came from a USSR Ministry corresponding in some respects to our own Ministry of Technology, I wrote to the Minister of Technology, who happened to be Anthony Wedgewood Benn.

Dear Mr. Wedgewood Benn,

I wonder if I might come and talk to you about relationships between Government Departments in Britain and their opposite numbers in the Soviet Union. I have been invited by the Head of a Department in the Soviet Ministry of Electronics to be his guest, as a Visiting Professor, in Moscow.

There may be some security implications in the manner and circumstances in which the invitation was made and my Member of Parliament, Mr. James Allason, has made a request on my behalf for an interview with the Security Service. Meanwhile I would very much like to know what contact there is between Britain and the Soviet Union so far as Government Departments are concerned, what would be the view of your Ministry and what should be the response of a British subject to such an invitation.

The invitation, which was rather a pressing one, came completely out of the blue and I would be glad of any information you can let me have on how to handle it.

Yours sincerely,

Sunday 05 April 1970

I sent to Geoffrey Shorter of Iliffe/IPC the 4000-word article on Training. I wanted to quiz him about the origins of the Iliffe/IPC request which got me to the Edinburgh Symposium so I enclosed a handwritten note saying I would like to meet him in London to talk about another matter.

Monday 06 April 1970

I delivered the following letter directly into the hands of Miss Loyne, Lord Nelson's secretary, at GEC Headquarters.

6th April 1970

Dear Lord Nelson

When I saw you last November, you made a comment which rather surprised me and which, in view of a recent event, I feel I must follow up. You said something to the effect that it was not your company's fault or responsibility if I had got mixed up with communists. You made this comment before you had read any of the documents I left with you and indeed before I had told you anything about my experiences on which you could base such a statement.

I would very much like to know who briefed you before our meeting. In spite of you referring to me as Mr. Peck, it is clear not just from the above but from other indications that you knew who I was and why I was approaching you.

The event that leads me to ask who suggested I had communist associations is that I have been approached by a Russian "Civil Servant" and invited to be his guest, as a visiting Professor, in Moscow. The manner in which the approach was made and the invitation issued has serious implications nationally and I am anxious to throw as much light on the matter as possible. I would be very glad to have comments on this aspect of our previous discussion.

As you know, I have been seeking another interview with you. I am sorry you did not respond to my constructive proposals in a responsible manner. I think I am justified in saying this, since you would not even examine the evidence in a non recriminatory way but you will appreciate that I must continue to draw attention to what has been happening, including the leading part which your company has been playing in it. If at any time you would like to discuss the whole matter again, I would be most pleased to hear from you - as long as it is directly, i.e. no grapevine hints or non verbal communications. Meanwhile I would be glad to hear from you on the specific question of communist associations.

Yours sincerely,

Regrettably I never received a reply.

Tuesday 07 April 1970

I.T. Manley, Private Secretary to the Minister of Technology, sent a card saying that a reply to my letter of 6th April would be sent to me as soon as possible.

~Tuesday 14 April 1970

I received a phone call from a Mr. Slater who asked me to go and see him at 11.30 one morning in Room 538 Millbank Tower. He volunteered his individual phone number (834 2255 Ext108).

Wednesday 15 April 1970

James Allason M.P. wrote saying arrangements had been made for me to be seen by a Government officer.

Thursday 16 April 1970

I received James Allason's letter of the 15th then at noon a Mr. McCauley telephoned and after announcing that he was with the Ministry of Defence referred to my request to Mr. Allason. He went on to make the thought-provoking statement that my letter had "reverberated around the corridors of power" and had been "fielded" to him "to deal with". He added intriguingly that I had been "kept waiting long enough" and said that he wanted to come and see both myself and my wife.



He suggested visiting my home the following day, Friday 17th. He seemed keen to meet my wife as well as me. I suggested the time of 2.30 to which Mr. McCauley, after a slight hesitation, agreed.

In the course of our conversation Mr. McCauley mentioned that he spent some of his time in the Cabinet Office and that he lived near Chequers. Mr. McCauley concluded by saying that I ought to take a note of his telephone number in case I wished to get hold of him. I took down the number 930 9400 Ext 393.

Mr. McCauley had seemed nervous and hesitant, which is what first made me wonder what level he was. It also occurred to me that his opening statement may have been yet another allusion to C.P. Snow and that his mentions of the Cabinet Office and Chequers may have been oblique references to No.10 or the Prime Minister, who was still Harold Wilson. Faced with these uncertainties, I decided to find out as much as I could about the person with whom I was dealing. I therefore went to the local library and looked Mr. McCauley up in the Civil Service list. I could not find his name. I should mention that I never saw Mr. McCauley's name spelt out but I kept an eye open for all the variations I could think of and still drew a blank. My search was not entirely fruitless, however, for I noticed his phone number was the one listed for the Management Services Unit of the Ministry of Defence. Moreover, with the phone number was an address in Northumberland Avenue, which was near Charing Cross Underground station on the Thames Embankment.

I thought I would do some more checking so at 5.30 pm the same day I dialled Mr. McCauley's number and a male voice answered to the effect that I was through to the War Office. I asked to be put through to Mr. McCauley and there was a long silence while somebody checked whether or not he was available. Eventually I was told Mr. McCauley had just left but could be contacted at any time and that this would be done straight away if I would leave my phone number. I replied that Mr. McCauley had arranged to visit me the following afternoon; it was not worth troubling him as I only wanted to give him directions on how to get to my home and I would ring again to do this in the morning.

Just before I rang off I asked what Mr. McCauley's function was and was told quite firmly that this information could not be given.

That same evening, at 9.45 pm, Mr. McCauley phoned. He said he would not have a car the following day (Friday 17th) so he would have to make it Wednesday 22nd. After some discussion we settled for Tuesday 21st and that he would pick me up from my home between 7.00 and 7.30 pm. I did not mention then or later that I had phoned his office, nor did he.

~Monday 20 April 1970

At 1130 I met Mr. Slater at his office in the Ministry of Technology as arranged and discovered that he was Head of the International Relations Section or had some such title, and the nett result of our discussions was that I should feel honoured that the Russians had invited me, if I wished to go to Moscow nothing could be done to stop me but I was advised not to go.

There were two further features of that meeting I should record. First it was Mr. Slater's view that the Russians I had met might be embarrassed if I contacted them again. Secondly, throughout the half-hour to one hour of the meeting, people kept coming in and out of the office and saying to Mr. Slater "Tony said (this) ..." and "Tony said (that) ...". It was not difficult to guess to whom the name belonged.

[It appears from Tony Benn's published diary that he may have been in the U.S.A. when I met Mr. Slater. Also, whereas the Russians had been very warm towards me in our encounters, in his diary entries Tony Benn laments the very poor relationships between the U.K. and USSR. at that time].

Tuesday 21 April 1970

Mr. McCauley and I met but not as arranged over the phone. I decided that instead of waiting for him to call for me in the evening of Tuesday 21st; I would go and see him. He had intimated he would be in his office in London all day, I now had its address and so on the morning of the 21st I set out to call on him.

I found the entrance to the Ministry of Defence building in Northumberland Avenue and asked at Reception to see Mr. McCauley. The officer on duty rang through and after a brief conversation informed me that Mr. McCauley was sending his secretary to take me to him straightaway. There then followed an embarrassing wait of an hour or so, with no sign of the secretary, and on asking the officer on duty to make enquiries I discovered there were two entrances to the MOD complex and that I was waiting at the wrong one. I was thereupon directed to the Whitehall entrance, which was in a War Office building. There, I was most graciously received by the secretary who conducted me down a short corridor just off the monumental Reception hall, to Mr. McCauley's office.

Mr. McCauley received me very civilly, with no sign of surprise or annoyance at the change in arrangements. As I was seating myself he made some reference to MI5. He sat with his back to a window looking out on Whitehall, through which I could see the Horseguards sentries almost opposite. I cannot remember too well now what Mr. McC. looked like.

During our meeting we covered many matters. Early on, when we considered the Russians I had met in Edinburgh Mr. McCauley called for some files to look up when they had applied to attend the Symposium and expressed surprise when he discovered that it was as late as 4th March. He had very little information on the civil servant Russian and indeed asked me about him. The other two - Alexander and Victor - were well documented and he showed me their photographs as well as read out that they had both spent some time at Swansea on a previous visit or visits.

I for my part recounted some of my experiences and I am sure from his reaction that the Eastern European involvement in my affairs - for example the attendance of USSR people at one or two of my IEE meetings - came as a complete surprise. At this, he asked if I had ever been behind the Iron Curtain and I replied, as I thought accurately, that I had not. I told him of my other encounters with Security people and when I referred to the Ministry of Aviation man who had come over to EEV during my bizarre consultancy to plead on behalf of Ray Burnett, he was very keen indeed to know who he was. However, when I described him as a man with a large red nose who drove a Jaguar and lived on the South Coast, his interest subsided. He got very excited when I mentioned RAF connections.

There was one name I mentioned to which Mr. McCauley reacted with much scepticism. This was Grant, the name given to me of a Russian who had applied for a job at CCL and on whom I had been asked to give my views. Mr. McCauley doubted if a Russian would have the name Grant. [It is interesting to note that in *Spycatcher* by Peter Wight & Paul Greengrass, which was published abroad in 1987, there is a fascinating section on a Russian named Sokolov Grant!]

There were one or two puzzling features of our conversation, such as his preoccupation at one point with a cricketer named Sir Compton Burnett. Also, right at the end of our meeting Mr. McCauley said that he had known a former M.P. for Hemel Hempstead (a predecessor of James Allason) very well and that he had become Lord Davidson. He then asked me to keep quiet about our conversation.

There was a surprising openness throughout towards me and Mr. McC. seemed ready to respond to all the topics I raised. However, I do not know what his function was though evidently he was a very senior official as was indicated by the location of his office and the words he had used when he contacted me on 16th April. Nor do I know even now Mr. McCauley's real name - in *Spycatcher* there are many references to an aliased person listed rather oddly in the index as *McCaul, Michael (Macauley)*.

Encounter with a Russian at Oxford

Tuesday 28 April 1970

I received a handwritten letter from Hans Motz, Reader in the Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford and Professorial Fellow, St. Catherine's College. Hans Motz said he had not been able to find my name in the List of Participants but he had found me through the Members List of the Physical Society. Clearly, he had not seen Part 3 of the List. He wrote: -

If you are indeed the one I met in Edinburgh and invited for Fri May 1st Please ring at above Tel. No. to confirm.

I probably telephoned my acceptance that day. Hans Motz arranged for me to stay in St. Catherine's College overnight.

Friday 01 May 1970

I arrived at St. Catherine's College sometime during the afternoon.

Hans Motz took me to tea, in the course of which, without any prompting from me, he said Lord (C.P.) Snow was a good man to have on your side and that he was very helpful to refugees, including those from the Eastern Bloc. He also volunteered the information that he had been sounded out by a waiter about becoming a Freemason! Hans Motz said the waiter was obviously "planted" but he had not minded - these processes, he went on, were perfectly acceptable.

Hans Motz and I got on well - I had learned to enjoy many occasions despite the undertones. He invited me to view the Engineering Laboratory the following day and bearing in mind that there were points I wished to put to him I invited him to lunch afterwards.

In the evening I dined in considerable style at High Table in St. Catherine's College as a guest of Hans Motz. My host's other guest was a Russian physicist, newly arrived from Moscow - we were introduced but I had no conversation with him that evening.

Saturday 02 May 1970

After the Dinner I spent the night in College. When I went to breakfast I was shown into a small room which had one other person in it, the Russian physicist. We conversed as we had breakfast together at a desk. The Russian physicist mentioned that he was on his way to the Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of Cambridge and spoke favourably of the Professor of Electrical Engineering. This was particularly thought-provoking because at the Edinburgh Symposium some six weeks before, the Soviet Ministry of Electronics man who invited myself and family to Moscow had enthused likewise about Charles Oatley.

During the morning my host showed me over the Engineering Laboratory and then took me to his home. Hans Motz was most attentive and congenial. The Russian physicist did not accompany us.

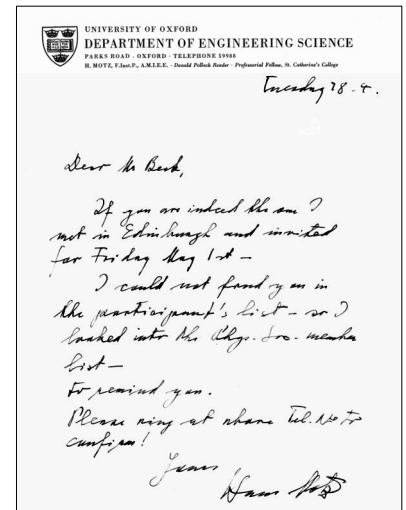
I entertained Hans Motz to lunch at what was probably the lesser eating place at the Randolph. It was over that lunch that I showed him some papers I had written on my experiences, including an early version on the Royal coincidences. He was quite taken aback with what he read. The day before, he had put forward the notion that the kinds of processes I had encountered were acceptable but I hoped that from my papers he was getting a fuller picture which led him to revise his views.

During the lunch I asked Hans Motz who the Russian was and at his dictation I entered with a green ink pen borrowed from my guest, the following on a Filofax page:-

Prof at Lebedev. V.N. Tsytovich.

Plasma physics (turbulence) accelerators applied to Astrophysics.

[Putting V.N. Tsytovich into an internet search engine produces many references to his work.]



Actions on the USSR encounter in Oxford

Monday 04 May 1970

In the afternoon I telephoned James Allason M.P. at the House of Commons. I told his secretary that I wished to send documents to the Prime Minister but would like to discuss the political implications first. She said J.A. was busy but would ring back.

Wednesday 06 May 1970

In the morning James Allason telephoned. He said he would be in the Constituency the following day and would call at 6 pm.

Thursday 07 May 1970

James Allason M.P. called at my home. I had made notes in preparation for the meeting but I am not sure what points I got across to him. Basically, however I told him something of what had been happening in my life - thus far I had kept my discussions with him mostly at an impersonal level with papers on Training Systems, Privacy and the like.

I said there were Security implications and that I wondered if I should write to the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, as Head of the Security Services, to let him know what was going on.

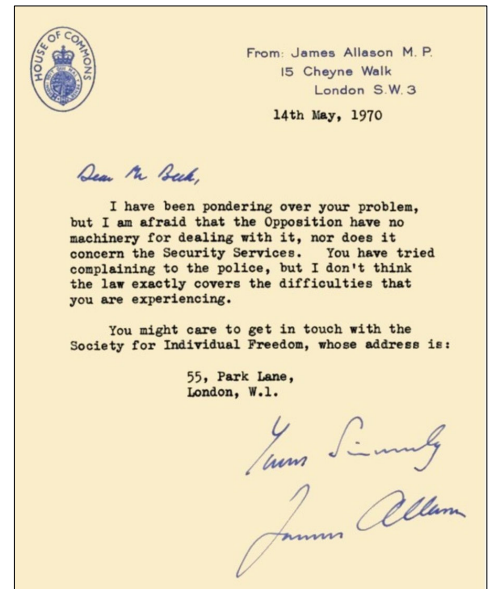
Clearly, in view of his response a week later, I gave him food for thought.

Thursday 14 May 1970

James Allason M.P. wrote saying he had been pondering on my problem, that the Opposition had no machinery for dealing with it and that it did not concern the Security Services. He pointed out that I had tried complaining to the police and he didn't think the law exactly covers the difficulties I was experiencing. He suggested I contacted the Society for Individual Freedom and gave me its address.

I wondered what was the machinery to which the Opposition did not have access but which is available to Government? It seems that James Allason was not referring the matter to the Law, the Police or the Security Services so what was left?

My follow-up of the Society for Individual Freedom suggestion, which brought me in contact with Gerald Howarth, is reported elsewhere.



Thursday 18 June 1970

General Election. Won by Conservatives from Labour

Saturday 20 June 1970

I wrote to James Allason M.P. congratulating him on his re-election as Member of Parliament and adding the following:-

I have followed your advice and got in touch with S.I.F. but now, of course, I wonder if the Government have machinery for dealing with my situation. If not, could I help in setting it up?

James Allason M.P. did not respond to this query.

Friday 17 July 1970

I met Geoffrey Shorter for a bar lunch at the IEE. I tried to get from him details of how his colleague had come to ask me to attend the Edinburgh Symposium and before that, what led him to put out the questionnaire on *Electronic Design* and show me the *Futures* magazine. I gave him a glimpse of what had happened. I got absolutely nowhere with my enquiries.

By this time I had still not been paid by Iliffe/IPC; when eventually this occurred I got one cheque for £35 from Electronics Design (the title now conformed exactly to that of my Committee) and another for £30 from Electronics Communications. If my articles were published I never saw them. However, digital copies of most of the text have been produced from carbon copies of the originals.

October/November 1970

At the meeting with Mr. McCauley I had said I had not been behind the Iron Curtain. By this time I had realised that this was not quite true. I had recalled that because of the enthusiasm for trains of a Marconi Instruments colleague, at his request and accompanied by him, I had paid a brief visit to East Berlin to obtain a visa to enable us to travel by rail through East Germany from Berlin to West Germany.

I thought I had better set the record straight so I called at the War Office building and asked for Mr. McCauley. The atmosphere had changed radically. I did not get to see Mr. McCauley. I did not even meet the secretary. I was merely asked to speak my message into a Reception phone. I heard nothing further.

COMMENTS

Many questions arise from these encounters with the two USSR people:-

A In network terms:-

1. Who initiated the two USSR contacts?
2. Who organised them at the UK end?
3. Who organised them at the USSR end?
4. Who briefed Geoffrey Shorter's colleague?
5. Who briefed Geoffrey Shorter?

Did the topic change from the general request by his colleague to writing about Communications and Training signify anything? I think there was some indirect communication going on – probably picking up on my Training System for Key Men. Also every time I spoke to G. Shorter I was reminded of my dire financial position.

6. Who briefed Hans Motz?

In 4, 5 & 6, to which organisation did the briefer belong and what was the purpose of the briefing?

B The most important question is:-

7. Why was I invited to Moscow as a Visiting Professor? Was it
 - (a) because my activities and publications on science, engineering and society topics struck a chord in the Soviet Ministry of Electronics,
 - (b) did one or more of the Behind-the-Iron-Curtain people and their sympathisers I met in Education and Industry put in a good word about me or
 - (c) was it to redden my name i.e. by association identify me as a left winger?

What additional significance was the contact with the USSR physicist at Oxford?

C Finally, a question which should be easy to answer:-

8. What was Mr. McCauley's real name and function?

It should also be possible to find out who in the "corridors of power" briefed him, what was he briefed and what did he report and to whom?

FURTHER NOTES

1. It may be significant that in 1971 there was a mass expulsion of USSR diplomatic staff from the UK due, it was reported, to their targeting UK scientist and engineers.
2. I had experienced a great deal of 'dropping a word in my ear' by intermediaries – I have come to call them *agentii* – agents of influence and/or intelligence.
3. Hans Motz, having got me going at the Symposium by introducing the topic of design and then describing the plot of his novel, was an agent of influence. This view was reinforced at Oxford by his remark at tea on 1st May. I am very happy to include Hans Motz in my LIFT! list.
4. It would seem too that at the time of the Symposium my meeting the USSR physicist was already in the offing. When Hans Motz asked me if I would like to dine at his College and I said I would be interested, another fairly certain step to my meeting the USSR man had been taken
5. How come both the USSR Civil Servant in Edinburgh and the USSR Physicist in Oxford who was on his way to the Department of Engineering in Cambridge spoke favourably about Professor Charles Oatley? There must surely be some commonality between the two events.
6. On a straightforward professional basis the most likely reason was the philosophical content of my activities and publications in Design, Measurement, Management and Society. USSR had its hi-tech Industry problems similar to UK and was looking for help. From 1967 to 1969 I had published letters on Scientists & Technologists in Society. In 1968 Professor W.H.C. Armytage of the University of Sheffield in an IEE meeting on The Engineer in Society outlined the current need for outside help by the USSR, such as had been provide decades before by USA's Arnold Hammer.
7. Was I was targeted by the USSR as a possible recruit to Communism and perhaps as its mole as I rose in rank or status in the UK? If so it was totally misguided.
8. Regarding Tony Benn's Diaries, if it was true that in 1970 the relationship between the U.K. and USSR was very poor, the warmth of the Soviet Civil Servant towards me tends to support the view that I was invited because my thinking about hi-tech industrial and educational matters was attractive to them.
9. Having had the interview with McCauley, Allason's comment that the Security Services were not concerned could be taken as a security clearance. Unfortunately that would not undo the damage already done by a rumour that I was a security risk – for example, that was the reason given by Racal earlier in the Wilderness Period for their change from enthusiasm to recruit me to outright rejection. Widespread promulgation of clearance was needed.

Harold Beck
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