

to supply really vital information. The network is prepared to wait a long time for its information to mature. It is much better, if the time can be afforded, to let your spy work his way gradually up into a position of trust rather than to be forced to make a pass at someone in a high position with the risk of failure or compromise. "Catch 'em young" is a motto which applies as well to espionage as to other walks of life.

Once an agent is recruited from "the Neighbour" he passes his information direct to the cut-out and severs all connection with the Party intelligence system. His final recruitment will usually only take place after a long period, during which time he will not be in touch with the network at all, but be passing his information through the contact in the Party. His material and his background will be checked and double-checked against other information supplied from similar sources and the Party records. Only then will he meet the cut-out and become part of the network. Even then he will be able to compromise only his own particular contact, who, if he is arrested, will also be knocked off, but will not compromise the network as a whole.

Apart from agents, which term I have used in this chapter only to cover individuals who actually supply information—spies in the strictest sense of the word—the Party also is a recruiting-ground for radio-telegraphists and minor cut-outs and couriers. These may be of the nationality of the country against whom the network is operating or in which the Resident Director is living. The sole task of the couriers and minor contacts is to act as channels for the information from the agent himself to the Resident Director, and *vice versa*. In most cases—and this is, of course, desirable as often as it is feasible—they are unaware of the identity of the agent, the contact, or the cut-out to whom they work, merely meeting them at predetermined times and places and never at their homes. The information or instructions that they carry are either memorised or typewritten. In the latter case the message is typewritten through a well-used bit of **carbon paper** and the **carbon** copy is carried and the original is destroyed. This method makes it much harder to identify

the typewriter upon which the message was written, should it fall into unauthorised hands. The **carbon** copy is, of course, destroyed as soon as the Resident Director has incorporated it into his encyphered message.

As stated, liaison between the Resident Director and the local Communist Party is usually carried out by the chief cut-out, who is naturally a person in whom both parties have complete confidence. However, on certain occasions when important directives are being transmitted from Moscow, a secret meeting is arranged between the Resident Director and the party leaders, where the matter can be discussed. This is one of the occasions when a Director comes out into the open, but such occasions are few and far between.

In all agents' messages and in all encyphered texts only cover-names are used for the sources, etc., and the messages are couched in a jargon which would make them not easily interpreted by anyone not "in the net"; so, even if the gist of the message could be made out, the agent's identity is concealed by the use of the cover-name. The Resident Director has to memorise all the cover-names used in his network. English Christian names are most commonly used, and both male and female names are employed indiscriminately without regard to sex; thus a male agent may easily have a female cover-name. In cases where a source is only casual and not in frequent use the Director may give him a name which can be easily remembered by association, such as "Red" if he has red hair or "Lanky" if he is very tall. This is only used for unimportant characters whom the Director might not easily be able to remember, and it is a practice which is discouraged by Moscow, as such a cover-name is obviously less secure than a purely arbitrary one.

In addition to persons, countries also have cover-names as well, and these vary from network to network. In the Swiss network against Germany Great Britain was "Brazil," France "Florence," Germany "Jersey," and so on. The U.S.S.R. was always "Home." Other institutions and objects also had their own name. In my network a wireless transmitter was "a musical box," a passport "a shoe"; a forger of false passports