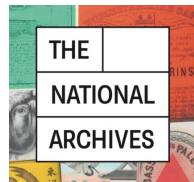




# Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War

Stephen Rhind-Tutt  
July 2022

[rhindtutt@coherendigital.net](mailto:rhindtutt@coherendigital.net)



# Landmark

---

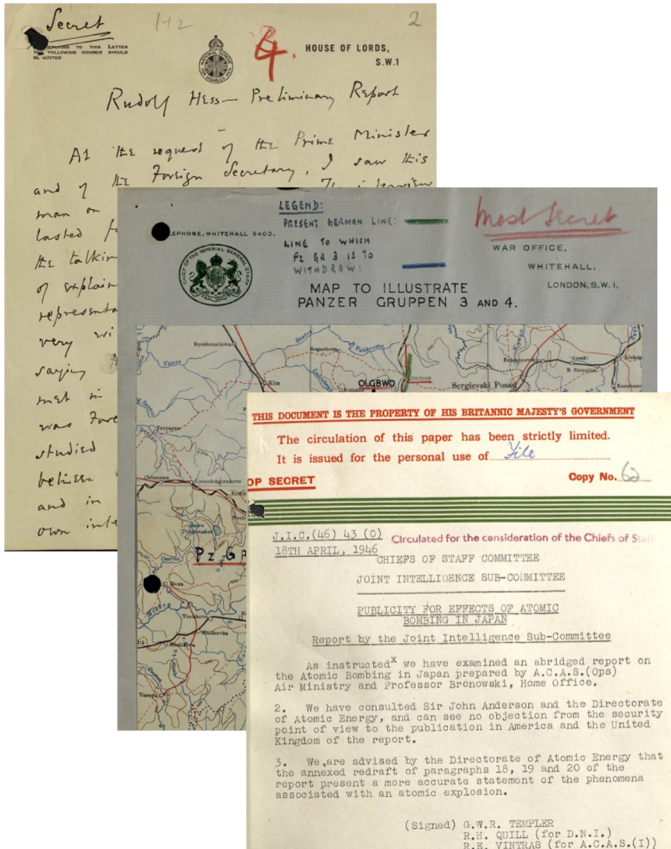


*“Perhaps the greatest and most exciting British archival innovation in decades... This is a fascinating and a fantastic collection and ought to be the staple ingredient for all histories of the Second World War from now on.”*

## **Professor Michael Goodman**

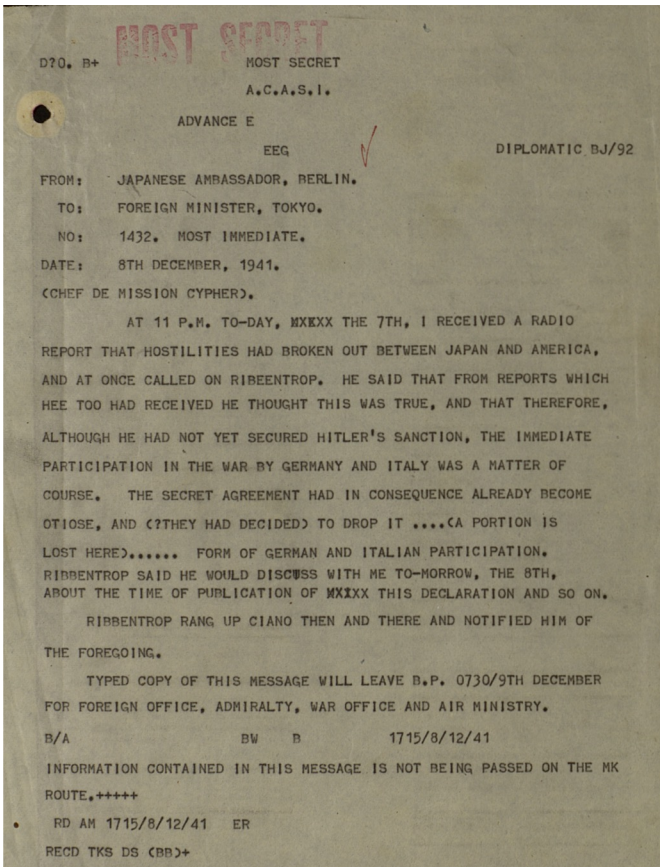
Professor of Intelligence and International Affairs,  
King’s College London

# What is it?



- Exclusive, previously unseen content from the UK National Archives
- Critical materials that will excite students
- Nine file series containing British government secret intelligence and foreign policy files
- 4,500 files. 16,838 documents. 147,600 pages
- Highly international
- Focus on WW2 & the Cold War, some content from Korea and Spanish Civil War

# 3-Tiered Insight into World History



**Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee**  
*Government directed intelligence policy and foreign policy based on intelligence gathered by the services*

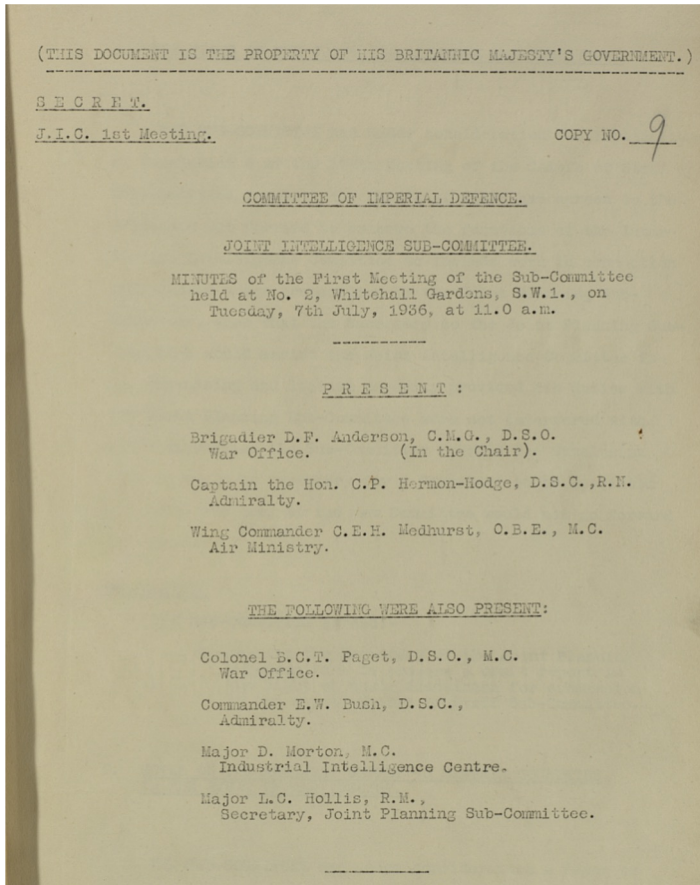
**FO1093 ('PUSD') and CAB 301**  
*MI6 intelligence files on individual events, subjects and issues*

**HW1**  
*Intercepted, decoded Axis signals.*

HW 1/308, Signals  
Intelligence Passed to the  
Prime Minister, 8 December  
1941



# Departmental Relevance



- 20<sup>th</sup> Century History
- Politics – Domestic and International
- International relations & foreign policy
- Intelligence & espionage
- Security & policing
- Media, culture & propaganda
- Economics & trade
- Propaganda, Censorship and Psychological Warfare
- Signals Intelligence and Code-breaking
- Technology and Nuclear Warfare

# Global Coverage



*no Syria.*  
*Have you any view on this? I would like to know*  
*Italians get for their expenditure?*  
*KH 4/1/41*

Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

MOST SECRET.

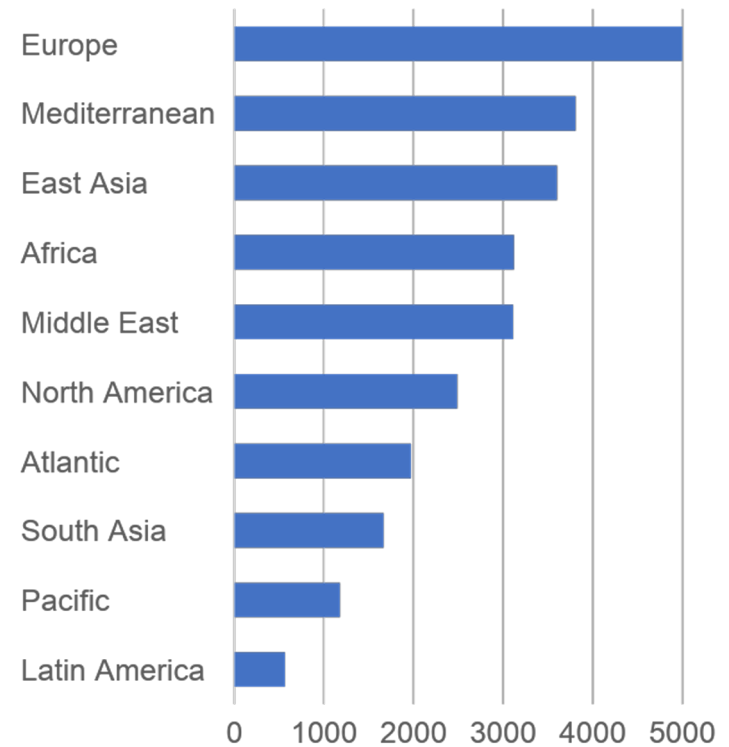
3rd January, 1941.

*Dear Britain,*

We recently put forward to our Ambassador in Bagdad a suggestion for the adoption of large scale bribery of politicians and other leading personalities in Iraq. This is a practice which has been followed in that country with considerable success by the Germans and Italians and it has been felt, not only in this Department but by the military authorities, that we were handicapping ourselves by not adopting similar methods. The Ambassador replied agreeing with these proposals and expressing the hope that a substantial sum might be allocated for the purpose.

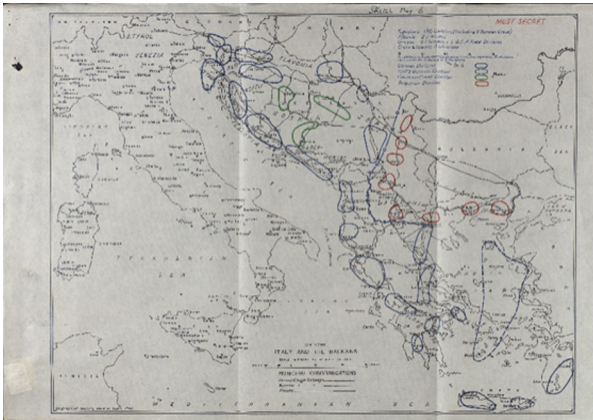
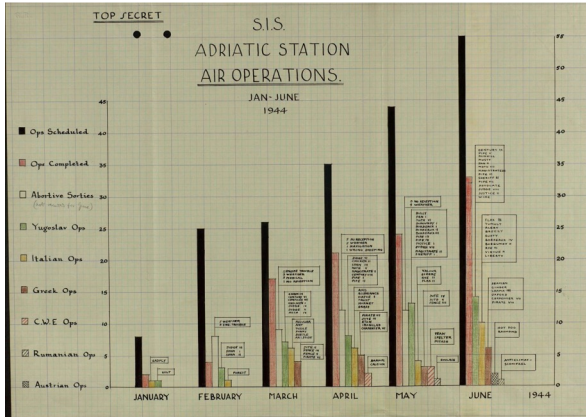
This matter has now been discussed with Jebb's people, including the chief S.O.S. representative in the Middle East who is over here for a few days. It was agreed that it was most desirable that measures should be taken to enable bribery of these persons to start as soon as possible and that the decision as to whom it was proposed to bribe would have to be with His Majesty's Ambassador at Bagdad. Although, therefore,

Number of documents by region



CAB 301/97, Secret Funds for Baghdad  
1941-1946

# Document Types



- Correspondence
- Directives
- Financial Records
- Maps
- Meeting Minutes
- Memoranda
- Reports
- Signals Intelligence
- Miscellany



# Learning and research tools

## Seminar Topics

### THE RUSSIAN FRONT

**Aims-** To introduce students to the process of working with primary sources by setting a selection of documents as required reading for a seminar. To encourage students to interrogate the origins and purpose of primary source documents. To explore how primary sources inform our understanding of historical events.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What motivations lay behind Germany's decision to invade Russia in 1941?
- What successes did Germany achieve in Russia? What mistakes did Germany make?
- What disadvantages did Russia face? What were her advantages?
- How did the invasion and subsequent fighting proceed? Why did the invasion fail?
- What were the key figures in the German High Command?
- How did the Soviet Union's military strategy evolve during the war?
- How did the civilian population in both countries experience the war?

### Primary Source Reading Lists

**Aims-** To include primary sources with regular weekly reading assignments.  
To build familiarity with the process of analyzing primary sources.  
To improve critical thinking skills and analytical techniques.  
To encourage students to make connections between individual documents and larger historical events.

#### DOC

- Drawn from the following documents:
1. Secret Intelligence Service Report on the Arrest of 'Hilaire Noulens' (Aka Jakob Rudnik), Communist Activity in France and Exposure of Spy Ring; Report by Valentine Vivian, Head of Section V, Secret Intelligence Service. FO 1093/92. 1932. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0092/002/001>

#### Spies and Spycraft

The 'Noulens Case': An investigation into the Arrest of 'Hilaire Noulens' (Aka Jakob Rudnik), Communist Activity in France and Exposure of Spy Ring; Report by Valentine Vivian, Head of Section V, Secret Intelligence Service. FO 1093/92. 1932. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0092/002/001>

#### Terrorism

Reports of Possible Attack on British Embassy in Constantinople by Turkish Anarchist. FO 1093/123. 31 March 1911. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0123/002>

#### Appeasement

Foreign Armaments. Report by the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee. CAB 56/2. 16 February 1937. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0002/028/001>

#### Spanish Civil War

Spain: Intelligence Regarding Air Warfare. Note by the Secretary Covering a Report by the Home Office, Air Raid Prevention Department. 6 May 1937. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0002/035/001>

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Air-Warfare in Spain. 2 March 1938. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0005/006/001>

## Research Tools

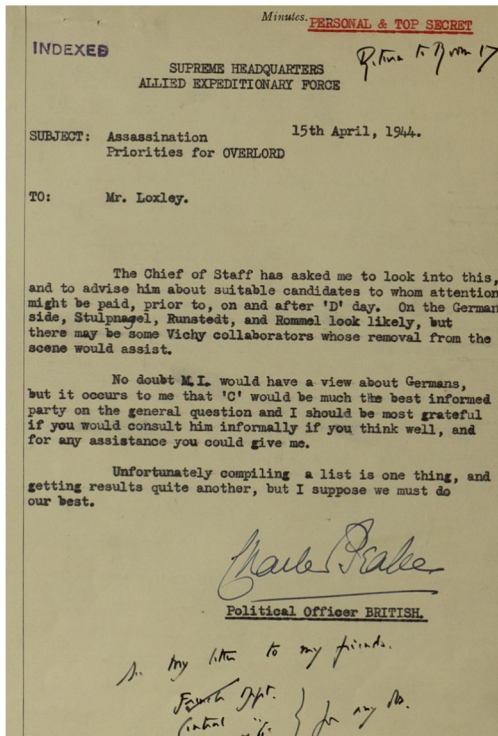
- In-depth subject indexing
- Table-of-contents for each file
- Glossary of key government people
- Organizational directory

## Learning Tools

- Subject essays
- Lesson plans
- Reading lists and document-based questions



## Highlight: FO 1093 Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary's Dept 1873–1985



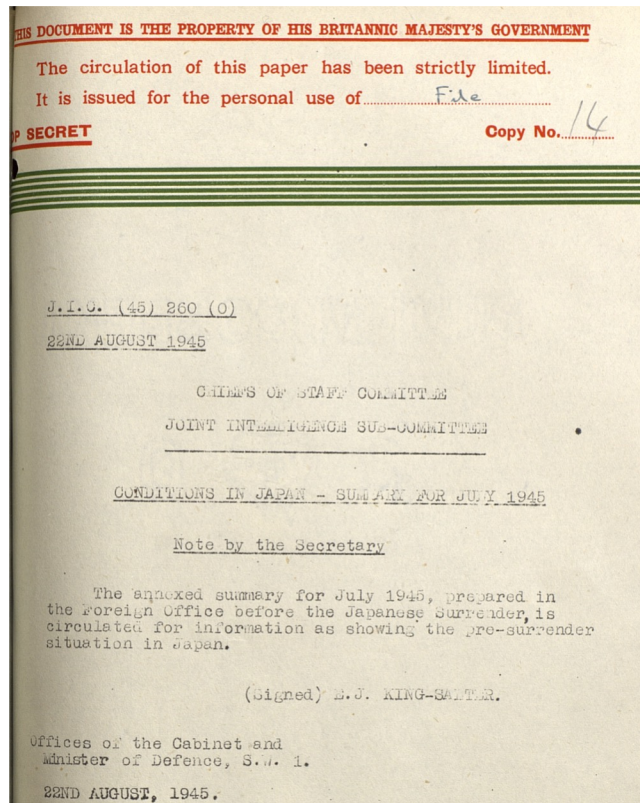
Files on intelligence, military operations, foreign policy, and defence concerns, in which information was gathered by covert means.

- Details of U.K.- Soviet wartime relations. Includes an account of Churchill's Moscow meeting with Stalin.
- Discussion of proposed assassination targets ahead of Operation Overlord.
- Defection to Canada of a Soviet agent, who revealed information on a Soviet spying network in North America.
- Papers relating to the wartime imprisonment of Rudolf Hess.
- Fortnightly summaries of Soviet intentions – codenamed “Crystal Gazer” – prepared by the Russia Committee.

FO 1093 /292: Assassination  
Priorities for OVERLORD, 15  
April 1944

## Highlight: CAB 81 War Cabinet and Cabinet: Committees and Sub-committees of the Chiefs of Staff Committee: Minutes and Papers, 1939–1947

---



### Covers a diverse range of intelligence, strategic, and foreign policy matters throughout WW2

- Key turning-points of the war, such as the Battle of Britain and D-Day.
- Analyses of Germany's strategic intentions, including predictions of the likelihood of German invasions of the U.K. and the U.S.S.R.
- The war in Asia, including analyses of Japan's strategy in China and the Pacific, and the treatment of prisoners-of-war by the Japanese.
- Assessments of enemy weapons development, including German long range rockets and other secret weapons.

CAB 81/130:Conditions in Japan - Summary for July, 1945

## Highlight: Signals Intelligence Passed to Churchill 1940 –1945

APPENDIX B

PUBLICATION OF HITLER'S WILL

Three courses are open to us :-

(a) We could suppress the documents in our possession;

(b) We could communicate them to the other Controlling Powers for their confidential information;

(c) We could inform the world.

2. If the will becomes public knowledge, there is clearly some likelihood of its helping to create a myth on the theme of Hitler's martyrdom. Indeed, Goebbels instructed Lorenz that, if he could not deliver the will, it was 'to be published for historical purposes'. It is in fact designed for posterity, to deny Germany's war guilt and to resurrect the Nazi spirit in future generations of Germans. It shows all Hitler's usual skill in appealing to German emotions. For this reason course (a) would appear the best if there could be reasonable certainty of the will never being revealed from other sources.

3. As to this, the following facts have been ascertained from the Political Adviser in Berlin. There are believed to be three original signed copies of the will, of which we now have two. The third is alleged to be, or to have been, in possession of Standartenführer Zander, one of Bormann's adjutants, who is so far still missing. He, together with Obergruppenführer Lorenz and Major Johann Meyer (on whom our two copies were found) left Berlin on April 29th in order to take the will to Doenitz. Our Allies are not aware of our find, and it is not known if they possess copies. But it can hardly be imagined that the Americans or the French would successfully suppress the will if they found it, even though they might consult us. The Russians might adopt any course, but would not consult us.

CAB 176/8, Hitler's Will, 28 December 1945

Thousands of signals intelligence reports issued by the Government Code and Cypher School and sent by MI6 to Winston Churchill with associated correspondence and annotations.

- Detailed army and air force intelligence across all areas of operation, including the Eastern Front, North Africa, and the Normandy campaign.
- Intercepted diplomatic telegrams, including Japanese communications on strategy and Japan's relations with her Axis allies.
- Naval intelligence on enemy and neutral shipping activity.


# Highlights

-9-

3. KENT, Fritz. (This was not his real name, which probably ended in -OV).

@ SIERRA, Vincente. (Uruguayan nationality).  
@ Petit Chef.

Photograph:



Description:

Nationality:	Russian, came from Leningrad.
Age:	30-38.
Height:	Approx. 5' 7".
Build:	Slim or medium.
Hair:	Dark blond, unkempt.
Eyes:	Slav.
Face:	Big pointed nose. Very thick lips.
Distinguishing marks:	Slightly projecting ears.
Characteristics:	Slow in movement.
Languages:	Russian, good French and German, Spanish, poor English.

Miscellaneous:

Russian Lieut, later promoted Captain.  
Had been trained for the Russian Military Intelligence Service s

- Soviet and communist espionage activities and networks in Asia, Europe and North America
- Free and Vichy French leaders and relations
- Prisoners, imprisonment, and war crimes
- Opposition movements and assassination plots
- Interrogation files and personal correspondence of Rudolf Hess, including at Spandau
- Intelligence failures, such as the 'Venlo Incident', and the arrest of Dudley Clarke



# Software Features



The screenshot shows the website's header with the 'TOP SECRET' logo and navigation links. The main content area features a historical map of Europe with a text overlay: 'Secret intelligence and foreign policy files: 1873-1953' and a 'REGISTER FOR A FREE TRIAL >' button. Below the map is a quote from Professor Anthony Glees. The background of the page is a collage of historical documents, some marked 'TOP SECRET'.

- Currently available on the T&F platform
- Migration to the *Commons Platform* by Sept 2022
- New tools include
  - Links to open content
  - Ability to upload content
  - Improved performance
  - Modern design

# Editorial Board

---



- **Gill Bennett, OBE**, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
- **Professor Anthony Glees**, University of Buckingham
- **Professor Michael Goodman**, King's College London
- **Professor Matthew Jones**, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Dr Michael Morgan**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- **Professor Denis Smyth**, University of Toronto

# Praise



*“Some of **the most valuable files** from the British official archive on intelligence, defence and foreign policy... From students at many different levels working on their projects, to academic researchers with a specialist interest, there is **an Aladdin's cave of secret history** to be found here.”*

**Professor Matthew Jones,**  
London School of Economics



*“Secret intelligence has long been regarded as the **‘missing dimension’ of international relations**. However, thanks to the Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War, Britain’s spies, security agents, codebreakers and deceptioneers are no longer missing in action. “*

**Professor Denis Smyth,**  
University of Toronto

---

# Appendix – Additional Highlights



## CAB 56 Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee Minutes and Memoranda, 1936 –1939

---



- Key moments in WWII, including D-Day
- Anglo-American cooperation
- Civilian morale in Axis nations
- The War in Asia, Japanese war strategy, and Japanese war crimes
- Assessing enemy weapons development, including chemical weapons and nuclear weapons
- Preparations for possible war with Soviet Russia
- The Middle East, Partition of Palestine and establishment of Israel

## CAB 159 Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office 1947–1968

---

A series of Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee (JIC) meeting minutes, providing **insight into Britain's intelligence, military, and foreign policy concerns in the early Cold War.**

- Predictions of Soviet military and political intentions and analyses of the likelihood of war in the near future.
- Scientific intelligence, including intelligence on atomic energy, atomic weapons, and biological warfare.
- The Chinese Civil War, the Korean War, and the rise of communism in East Asia, and implications for U.K. and U.S. security and policy.
- Defectors and deserters from the U.S.S.R. and their exploitation for intelligence.

## CAB 163 War Cabinet, Ministry of Defence 1939 –1985

---

**A miscellaneous collection of papers that allow for an analysis of case-studies of operations, events, and intelligence concerns during and after the Second World War.**

- Papers on security and intelligence planning and threats relating to Operation Torch, the Allied plan to invade French North Africa.
- Churchill's miscellaneous correspondence, covering a diverse range of topics, including enemy agents in the U.K., German troop morale, and communications between Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt.
- Sir Douglas Evill's 1947 report on the U.K.'s intelligence services.

## CAB 176 War Cabinet, Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office 1942–1957

---

A series of Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee (JIC) and working party reports and intelligence assessments, circulated to JIC members as Secretariat minutes. The reports cover a range of intelligence, strategy, and foreign policy topics.

- Diplomacy and international intelligence cooperation during the Second World War
- Intelligence gathering in and reports on countries around the world,
- Scientific intelligence, including German secret weapons and atomic energy.
- Hitler's will and political testament with British intelligence evaluations and an account of their capture
- Prisoners of war, including the interrogation of prisoners in the U.K. and Germany

## CAB 301 Cabinet Office: Cabinet Secretary's Miscellaneous Papers, 1936 –1952

---

Confidential papers on intelligence matters originating from the Private Office of the Cabinet Secretary. The papers relate to the organisation, role, and funding of the intelligence services, as well as signals intelligence and code-breaking.

- **The funding of MI5 and MI6 activities**, including operations, interrogation, and bribery. These provide case studies of intelligence operations, including the bribery of politicians in the Second World War, and the financing of escape routes for Allied prisoners of war.
- **The organisation and responsibilities of British intelligence.** Includes Sir David Petrie's 1941 report on the inefficiency of MI5, and Sir Norman Brook's 1951 enquiry into MI5 and MI6.
- Commonwealth defence and the security of British missions overseas.
- **The Special Operations Executive**, including reviews of their activities across Europe and Africa and arrangements for funding their operations.

# Links to File Details

---

- [CAB 56](#)
- [CAB 81](#)
- [CAB 158](#)
- [CAB 159](#)
- [CAB 163](#)
- [CAB 176](#)
- [CAB 301](#)
- [FO 1093](#)
- [HW 1](#)