

Cheltenham

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15 Dec 1955

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Dear Mr. Friedman;

Reference: "Eyes of the Navy"

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Josh Cooper speaking informally says that the book was submitted to Admiralty for review and then passed to GCHQ. Cooper received it and made suggestions that certain material be deleted and that names of living persons associated with Room 40 not be included. He also offered as his opinion that the book contained no previously unpublished material but that it would be better if it had not been published again. He is not sure that all of the recommended deletions were made but is confident that most were. In addition to a weak substantive case, it would have been very hard to recommend against publishing in view of Adm. James' status as former Chief of Naval Intelligence and in view of his national prominence. It appears that the UK, like the US, has a mechanism for reviewing manuscripts but is faced with similar frustration. Nothing can be done to prevent publication except to threaten prosecution. Prosecution is undertaken only when the material is such that, warning not to publish, it is published and the content considered substantial enough to support the prosecution. Cooper believes that certainly nobody would hold that the content of this book is of such a nature.

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Cooper offered some interesting information concerning Adm. James. He was known in the Navy as "Bubbles" because he had during his early childhood been the model for a painting showing a golden-curled boy blowing soap bubbles with a clay pipe. The painting was later used by the (Peer's, Peal's, Pear's?) Soap Company as an "advert". The artist was Adm. James' grandfather, John Everett Millais, who had married the former wife of John Ruskin. She had been awarded a decree of nullity from Ruskin on the grounds of his impotence and had later married

Apparently Cooper know (or knew of) Adm. James in the Navy and mentions that two members of Room 40 are at present employed here. They are Mr. Birch in the Historical Section and [redacted] who since your retirement has the Trans-Atlantic title for continuous regular service.

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(Cooper has inquired as to your health and sends greetings.)

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

JOHN J. LARKIN
Deputy SUSLO

15 Dec 1955

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JOHN J. LARKIN
Deputy SUSLO "

Apparently Admiral James himself didn't know the delicate and interesting technical points about the Zimmermann Telegram which remained obscure or in doubt, in my own mind at least, if not in the minds of others, until he published his book. And the same can be said of his clarification, --unintentional, I'm sure-- of other dubious points about the history ^{about the} and operations of Room 40. But we can't go into these except as they impinge upon the cryptology involved in the