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9th February 1967

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Here is the MS for my book on Sidney Reilly. Please do not judge the literary content too harshly, there is still some polishing to do!

The book is complete, except for the preface and in so far as I may make additions - if I get further information - as regards:-

- (i) More details of our pre 1914 intelligence set-up.
- (ii) More about Reilly's activities in 1917.
- (iii) A reply from the Russians to a query I have addressed to the Soviet Ambassador on the date and place of Reilly's death.

As regards (iii), I frankly do not expect a straight answer - I have been waiting over a month for a reply - in which case it will emphasize the contention with which I end the book that Reilly's life ended where it began - in mystery.

If the question of my father's relationship with Reilly still exercises anyone's mind in the F.O., it is clear from his book "Memoirs of a British Agent" that once intervention in Russia had been decided on in 1918, he gave his active support to the counter-revolutionary movements with which, of course, Reilly was actively working. Quite apart from

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Robert H. B. Lockhart Collection  
Box 11, Folder: Reilly, Russian Revolution, etc. Sources:  
Foreign Office, 1957-7000

to: P. R. H. Wright Esq.

- 2 -

9th February, 1967

others, my father has himself made it clear to me that he worked much more closely with Reilly than he had publicly indicated and further stated that, in his opinion, it does not matter saying so now as the Russians know it anyway. I have, nevertheless, expressly refrained from making this quite explicit in my book as this would better come from him than me.

While my father is still alive I feel I cannot, even having his approval, explain that "Memoirs of a British Agent" did not tell the whole truth. I refer specifically to the plot with the Letts. "British Agent" refers to my father handing over the Lettish officers to Reilly, after which the former implies he had little more to do with them. My father's memory as to exact details is now vague but all the investigations I have made go to confirm that the Russian version (a translation of which I include in the book) is essentially the true one. That is to say, it was Reilly who passed on the Letts to my father. My one deliberate distortion of the truth is to maintain that my father's version is the right one and that the Russian story is incorrect.

I would like to again make the point that I am letting you see the MS as a matter of courtesy rather than submitting it for censorship! On the other hand, I shall naturally try to take into consideration any official feelings if possible. I think, nevertheless, that as the book is essentially an historical one, there is little reason for it to cause any fluttering in Whitehall dovecotes.