

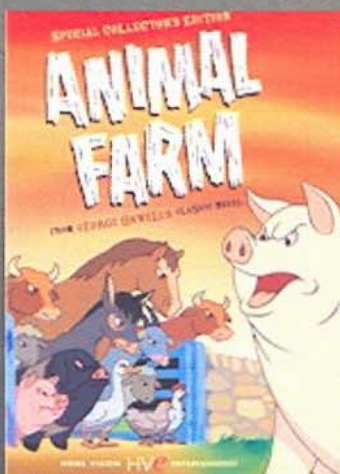
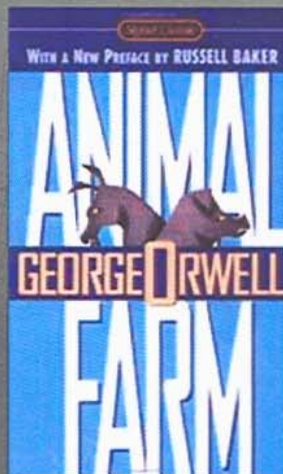
Address to the 4th International Conference for
Information Commissioners

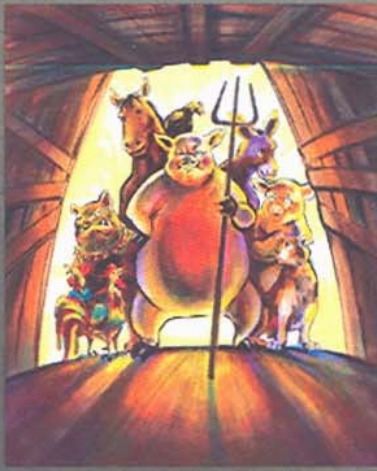
Manchester – 23 May 2006

Secrecy versus Security 'and the Jigsaw Effect'

Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Vallance

Secretary, Defence Press & Broadcasting Advisory
Committee





Secrecy versus Security

- ◆ Security good; Secrecy bad X
- ◆ Security good; Secrecy better X
- ◆ Security good; Secrecy also good ✓

The British View of Secrecy

- ◆ Personal secrecy is a birthright
- ◆ Official secrecy widely suspected
- ◆ 'Private secrecy good, public secrecy bad?'

Impact of the 'Knowledge-Centric Society'

- ◆ Information and knowledge management
- ◆ 'Need to know' fundamental to security
- ◆ But:
'You don't know what you need to know until you need to know it'

Abuse and Accountability

- ◆ 'Knowledge is power'
- ◆ Secrecy denies information deemed by some to be public property
- ◆ Can lead to flawed judgements
- ◆ Raises concerns over accountability

Practical Objections

- ◆ Cost
- ◆ Administrative burden
- ◆ Manageability

World Wide Web

- ◆ An unprecedented tool for information gathering and dissemination
- ◆ But, no control on end use/users
- ◆ Facilitates Information Aggregation: 'the Jigsaw Effect'
- ◆ How valid are Jigsaw pictures?

Public Acceptability

- ◆ How much secrecy will the market bear?
- ◆ Leaks and Whistleblowers
- ◆ Conspiracy theorists

Whistleblower Philosophy

- ◆ Based on the view that all official information is potentially public property
- ◆ End use?
- ◆ Whistleblowers cannot see the full picture
- ◆ Disclosure of some official information can lead directly to deaths or injuries

The Secret Services

- ◆ The British Secret Services:
 - Security Service (S/S)
 - Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)
 - Government Communications HQ (GCHQ)
- ◆ Established under law, publicly accountable, subject to parliamentary & judicial oversight
- ◆ Counter to terrorism, illegal narcotics, people trafficking, organised crime, WMD proliferation etc

Secret Agent Naming – a Harmless Game?

- ◆ 'Neither confirm nor deny' = No denial
- ◆ Naming damages Service confidence, morale and cohesion; deters informants; denies vital information; puts people at risk and ruins their careers; reduces capability
- ◆ Secrecy is the key enabler that allows the Secret Services to protect us

Deductions on Secrecy

- ◆ A degree of secrecy is essential for security
- ◆ There are practical limits to how much can be kept secret and for how long
- ◆ Keeping secrets depends on consensus and shared responsibility

The key role of the media

The Defence Advisory (DA) Notice System

- ◆ Offers advice on information disclosure to help prevent inadvertent damage to national security
- ◆ Based on consensus and shared responsibility between government and the UK Media

The Defence Press & Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC)

- ◆ An independent body that oversees the DA Notice system
- ◆ Composed of senior officials and leading members of the UK media
- ◆ All UK Government departments concerned with national security are represented: Defence, Home Office, Foreign Office, Cabinet Office
- ◆ UK media provides the Vice-Chairman and the majority of Committee members

The Media Side of the DPBAC

- ◆ James Bishop, Editor-in-Chief, Illustrated London News Group
- ◆ Hugh Carnegie, Managing Editor, The Financial Times
- ◆ Simon Bucks, Executive Producer, Sky News
- ◆ Ed Curran, Editor in Chief, The Belfast Telegraph group
- ◆ Robin Esser, Executive Managing Editor, The Daily Mail
- ◆ Jonathan Grun, Editor, Press Association
- ◆ John Battle, Head of Compliance, ITV
- ◆ Ian Martin, Editor, Scotland on Sunday
- ◆ Clive Jones, Director, News, ITV
- ◆ James McManus, Executive Director, News International
- ◆ David Jordan, Controller, Editorial Policy BBC
- ◆ Simon Irwin, Editorial Director, Kent Messenger Group

The 5 Standing DA Notices

1. Military Operations, Plans & Capabilities
2. Nuclear & Non-Nuclear Weapons & Equipment
3. Ciphers & Secure Communications
4. Sensitive Installations & Home Addresses
5. UK Security & Intelligence Services & Special Forces

DA Notice No 1 Military Operations, Plans & Capabilities

1. Details of present and future operations tactics and contingency planning
2. Details of Readiness and op capability of units involved in or preparing for operations
3. Operational movements of individual units
4. Projected tactics, trials techniques and training
5. Details of counter-terrorism defensive measures

DA Notice No 2 - Nuclear & Non- Nuclear Weapons and Equipment

1. Design, operational details, transport arrangements and security arrangements for nuclear weapons and associated fissile material
2. Highly classified design, technical specifications and materials, performance figures and operational capability of non-nuclear defence and counter-terrorist equipment vulnerability to counter-measures

DA Notice No 3

Ciphers & Secure Communications

1. UK National, NATO or Allied highly classified codes & ciphers, related protection measures and communications facilities
2. Information on the above published at home or overseas about UK codes and ciphers and their vulnerability

DA Notice No 4 - Sensitive Installations & Home Addresses

1. Defence and related sites associated with nuclear weapons
2. High security sites associated with intelligence and other sensitive activities
3. Sites of NATO or National crisis HQs and Communications facilities
4. Serious, long term, critical national infrastructure vulnerabilities
5. Details of home addresses of people likely to be terrorist targets

DA Notice No 5

Security & Intelligence Services and Special Forces

1. Specific covert operations, sources, methods and application of methods of S/S, SIS, GCHQ & Special Forces
2. Identities, whereabouts, photographs family details and home addresses of people engaged in such work
3. Addresses and telephone numbers of those Services not already made public

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See www.dnotice.org.uk for full details

DA Notice System – A Very British Arrangement

- ◆ Based on Confidentiality & Consent
- ◆ Confidentiality: Not subject to the Freedom of Information Acts
- ◆ Full transparency over policy and full privacy over casework
- ◆ Consent: Purely voluntary; no legal sanctions
- ◆ Acts as a safety net to help prevent inadvertent damage to national security

Challenges to the DA Notice System

- ◆ Attracts criticism from both opinion poles
- ◆ Tricky to manage; highly subjective
- ◆ Responsible journalists can feel disadvantaged
- ◆ British-only in an increasingly international World
- ◆ Consideration vs Real-time News transmission
- ◆ Challenges to DA Notice System set to grow

Alternatives to the DA Notice System?

- ◆ More Government legislation?
- ◆ Media free-for-all in which media denied authoritative disclosure advice?

The Value of the DA Notice System

- ◆ The worst form of national security media support? Except for the alternatives!
- ◆ Works within reality
- ◆ Founded on media and public consent
- ◆ A partnership between government and the media; not adversarial
- ◆ Strikes a sensible balance between secrecy and security in a difficult World





Secrecy versus Security

- ◆ 'Four legs good, two legs also good'
- ◆ Providing that key caveats are met!

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