

INSIDE MI5

Ex-MI5 officer and whistleblower Ann Machon spoke at Chester Friends meeting house in January at a meeting organised by the Quakers. Unusually, the room was not just full but overflowing with people sitting in the hallway to listen. Whistleblower David Shayler was also billed to speak but had to pull out due to food poisoning. As it turned out there would not have been time for two speakers anyway. Ann kept the audience intrigued with her fascinating insights into the workings of MI5. Ann is the partner and former MI5 colleague of David Shayler.

She began by giving a short history of MI5 - about how it justified its existence by saying it was working to ensure there were no more enemy spies. To this end it had an agent in every branch of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and Militant Tendency amongst other groups, routinely tapping phones of members. As MI5 did not officially exist until 1989, it worked completely outside the law until then.

Ann was approached by MI5 in the early 1990s and was told that these bad old days were in the past and the organisation was reformed. Her recruitment lasted 10 months and she was never told what she would be doing. She admits to being naïve and idealistic at this stage. Ann's first position was on the SWP desk. She also had to check the records of MPs to see if they were a threat to national security. There is a file on many members of the Cabinet, including Tony Blair and Jack Straw.

She was then moved on to the section that dealt with the IRA. She began to notice that MI5 was not acting as efficiently as it could and saw that bombs could have been prevented. As an example, she said that there was a delay of 12 days in information being processed that could have averted the Bishopsgate bomb.

Ann was now losing her idealism and the straw that broke the camel's back occurred when MI5 and MI6 allegedly attempted to assassinate Colonel Qadhafi by paying £100,000 of public money to Islamic terrorists. The plot failed and innocent people were killed. The organisations had not obtained Government permission for the plot and it was clear that their actions were illegal as well as immoral. Both Ann and David decided to leave and David decided to go public with what he'd learned.

They knew that he could be prosecuted for breaking the Official Secrets Act but David eventually submitted his story to Whitehall. They lived abroad for a period, during which time their flat in the UK was ripped apart by MI5. Eventually David was prosecuted. He was not allowed to defend himself at the trial and the judge ordered the jury to convict! He was given 6 months and served 7 weeks. The press covered the story by just repeating the Government line.

Despite all the big funding for MI5, when it came to Iraq, MI5 had no intelligence. Ann then moved on to discuss the "war on terror" and the 9/11 attacks. Her first thought was that the FBI had been extremely incompetent as large amounts of information had been passed to them about an impending terrorist attack. However, it then became apparent that the attack had been allowed to go ahead as a pretext for further wars. At first this thought seemed crazy but Ann had already seen MI5 paying terrorists. The Project For The New American Century needed to get funds and to secure energy from the Middle East and it needed a catastrophic event to get public backing. Ann went on to list a number of things that in her opinion did not add up regarding the attacks:

- concern was raised about flying lessons taken by the 9/11 pilots, but the FBI blocked warrants to investigate.
- If a plane goes off course it is always intercepted.
- It takes 2000 degrees to melt steel - how could the towers have collapsed? A further building on the site was not hit but was demolished that day.
- the Pentagon is heavily defended with missiles, yet none were fired.
- the paper trail does not lead to Al Qaeda.

Hearing all this from someone so knowledgeable about the subject meant it was impossible not to take it seriously.

More information at:
www.911research.wtc7.net and
www.911review.com.

You can see Ann Machon and David Shayler at Chester Gateway Theatre on 4th May. Tickets £14 with concessions available. Tel: 01244 340392
www.chestergateway.co.uk/whatson.php



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