

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC1046

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Porn trade at secret laboratory

By CHRISTOPHER HOUSE, Crime Correspondent

GOVERNMENT security chiefs are studying a report about trade in pornographic material inside a secret research establishment. Films and other obscene material have been smuggled inside employees' lunch boxes for four years.

Security chiefs and police have admitted unofficially that, as a result, a great many people working at the establishment, PERME (Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment in Waltham Abbey, Essex, were at one time a potential security risk.

The man dealing in the pornography was an electronics expert at the establishment. The expert, a married man, is still working at PERME pending the outcome of a police report to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions next week.

Ministry of Defence police discovered three months ago that the electronics expert was using the establishment to peddle pornography.

They discovered that he was buying pornographic films and other obscene material from Denmark, Sweden and Germany, through a catalogue. The home

of another worker at the establishment was being used as an accommodation address to which the obscene material was sent.

On at least two occasions, Customs officers at Dover seized packages of obscene material, en route to the accommodation address. On each occasion they wrote saying that they were going to destroy the obscene material unless a good reason was given why they should not. Each time this letter was ignored.

FILM SHOWS

When Ministry of Defence police finally questioned the electronics expert they found that the smuggling of the material had been going on since 1976. Pornographic material was also seized by the police.

It was also said that pornographic film shows went on in a basement inside the establishment although police could not confirm this.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "We can confirm that Ministry of Defence police have investigated the source of pornographic material at the establishment. A man has been questioned and a report is being sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions."

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SUNDAY
TELEGRAPH

10/2/80

Mr. McLaren

You expressed an interest in having a copy of this
(for the archives?) I am sending it under as plain a cover
as possible.

X
13.2.80