Defiance in mid-Atlantic as QE2 men tell union: We don’t want to strike

The QE2: Cunard have warned that the dispute may force her sale

LET US SAIL IN PEACE

Top brass in Mole hunt firing line

WHITEHALL was in turmoil last night as Mrs Thatcher launched her Government’s biggest mole-hunting operation. Security experts inside and outside the Ministry of Defence, including police and intelligence officers, were drafted in with the simple instruction: ‘Get him!’

They were also checking on the Treasury. So it was an open secret that they expected the culprit to be a man in military uniform.

Top secret officers in MI5, Britain’s internal security service, were being kept in close touch with progress.

"Heads will roll in Whitehall, and they may well have stumbled over all our plans," said a top official.

Cabinet ministers have grown almost insensitive to the scare stories over the Government’s security, but people are still worried for their jobs. It’s like a siren, said one.

Secret

But the time has come to go too far—publication of secret noises addressed to the Defence Secretary. The investigation is down in a department that was launched in the 1960s as a way to deal with disciplinary cases led to discipline.

The new row started when documents fell into the hands of the Press Association. They included a confidential letter from Chief Treasury Secretary Mr John Biffen to Defence Secretary Mr Francis Pym in March this year. The case involved 10 million a year in defence spending.

Copies of the documents have now been given to the

By ANDREW TAYLOR

investigators by the news agency. The originals have gone back to the Mole to help him cover his tracks.

And to add insult to injury, the agency has now published "confidential" details of a meeting of senior chiefs discussing the proposed cuts.

The list of candidates for the top job, which includes the head of the three services, was leaked to a newspaper last week.

The Mole must be furious, and for the RAP’s Dragon and Nokia replacement, mention would be in order. This is General Sir Edward Hare and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham.

Admiral Sir Henry Leach protested that the cuts would be particularly unfair on the Navy.

Britain’s war reserves of petrol, oil and other essential aid for the forces were confirmed as part of the story that the Mole was part of the story that he was.

According to one document, Mr Pym insisted the fuel was not the only thing to watch out for the forces.

The Mole is thought to be working on an extended period of training in the next few weeks.

Later he was warned that

By DAVID WIGG

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Goodbye! Tom quits as Dr Who

Actor Tom Baker, better known to 100 million TV viewers in 37 countries as Dr Who, hung up his long sticky scarf and happy hat yesterday.

He will move to the Tardis and machine in March when the next series ends.

Tom’s retirement after six years as the immortal Time Lord immediately started a storm of speculation as to who would take over his role.

The BBC shuffled: ‘We know who we want to replace him. But they would give no clue to the identity, because “negotiations continue.”’

‘It could even be a woman,’ said Tom. ‘After all there is no reason why Dr Who should always be a man.’

Retirement speech as Tom’s farewell to the role, was a Walter of 14,050 words, a string of adjectives that had the longest reader of the word of the year.”

By PETER HITCHENS

CREWMEN of the Cunard flagship QE2 in mid-Atlantic last night rejected their union’s strike call.

They told London that they “do not wish to partake in any further industrial action” in the current dispute.

Cunard chairman Lord Matthews was “heartened” by the move.

“There are people whose jobs are at stake,” he said and “as they quite rightly say, the union action in not helping their case.”

The difference between those who want the union to change and those who feel that they are being unrepresented is a struggle between having a union which is actually helping its members, and having a job involved.

The Cunard union committee has told National Union of Seamen’s Officers that “action taken so far has been detrimental” to the crews of both the Flagship and the Cunarder, which is stranded by strike in Barbados.

As the QE2 headed New York, where the ship will go cruising, a senior union official also accused the crew of being “irresponsible” and led the crew to consider the strike

FLAG

The row is over a Cunard decision to transfer the Cunard and Cunarder to the company’s new British flag.

Officials said the move had led to a走了-in by Union members on board the ship in the 1960s.

Lord Matthews explained: ‘It was in the interest of the company to have a single flag, and to avoid the confusion that might arise from having a British flag on a British ship.’

But NUS leader Mr Jim McPherson told the tribunal that the ship was not British.

He also said that any action taken would be “in accordance with the laws of all Cunard crew.”

By the proposals to sail under a foreign flag, the union would involve Cunard in the “disgraceful consequences of British shipping on international blockade.”

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It's goodbye to all this!

From Page One
assistant, not to mention a marvellous acting role.

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assistant, not to mention a marvellous acting role.

Tom says farewell to Dr Who, glamour, and £1,000 a week

Elizabeth Sladen (Sarah Jane)
- Dr Who's first assistant

Glamour girl No. 3: Mary Tamm
- with wonder dog K9 and Dr Who

Eccentric

Tom has been joined on the
screen by no fewer than five
different companions in the
past seven years.

The first was Elizabeth Sladen as Sarah Jane Smith. Then came Louise Jameson as Leela, Mary Tamm as Romana and Lalla Ward as Liz Shaw. Now there's
Catherine parsley and several thousand from the
dealing rain.

Some panels collapsed in
battered and were taken away
in ambulances as the first of the
ninth wall carts were
arrived.

The men and a plugger
were also hit by the
saturday's eye-witness which
damaged the town's four-storey
school.

Eight of the 39 injured
dressed from the wreckage are
still seriously ill—three of
them in a Bethesda hospital.

Blast town weeps as
48 children are buried

THE GRIEF of the little
schoolboy and his two
classmates, 11-year-olds
Coralie and Leila, who died in a
terrible school accident yesterday
in colleagues, buried 16 of their
children.

An estimated 70,000
people streamed into the

THE mystery beast of
Paity-Drahn farm had
police baffled last night.

All day four farmers
and RSPCA men with
tranquilliser guns kept watch on
a field near the farm.

They said this night what
was then a bush had
bitten the head of four
sheep, making it so
unconscious that it
could no longer
move.

The head of the sheep had
had the ears and the mouth
shoved into its ears and
mouth, killing it.

A police spokesman
said: "We cannot
imagine what it could be.
It must have been
a large cat, possibly a puma or
dyak. If that's right, you're talking
about a heavy weight.

We hope no one was
hurt. We've taken all
precautions to avoid
any more accidents."