

INDIAN POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE (IPI) FILES, 1912-1950

Editor: Anthony Farrington

Archival collection of intelligence files concerning the monitoring of organizations and individuals considered a threat to British India. Included are surveillance reports and intercepts from MI6, MI5, and the Special Branch, as well as a large number of intelligence summaries and position papers. The main thrust is anti-communist.

- 767 files; 57,811 pages
- 624 microfiche
- printed and online guide by A.J. Farrington



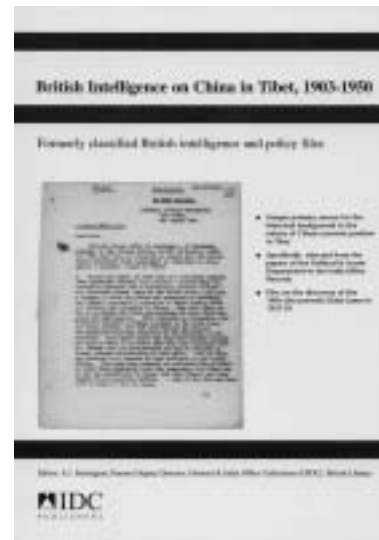
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ON CHINA IN TIBET, 1903-1950

Formerly classified British intelligence and policy files

Editor: Anthony Farrington

These formerly classified files and associated confidential print were accumulated at the India Office in London during the first half of the twentieth century. This edition is fully endorsed by the British Library – Oriental and India Office Collections (OIOC). The files will serve as an essential source material for the study of (among others) the following subjects:

- British intervention in Tibet, 1903-04
 - Tibet's expulsion of the Chinese, 1911-12
 - The McMahon Line and border determination
 - British support for Tibetan *de facto* independence
 - Changing attitudes during World War II
 - Indian independence and the Chinese invasion.
- 303 files
 - 576 microfiche
 - printed and online guide by A.J. Farrington



COMINTERN ARCHIVE

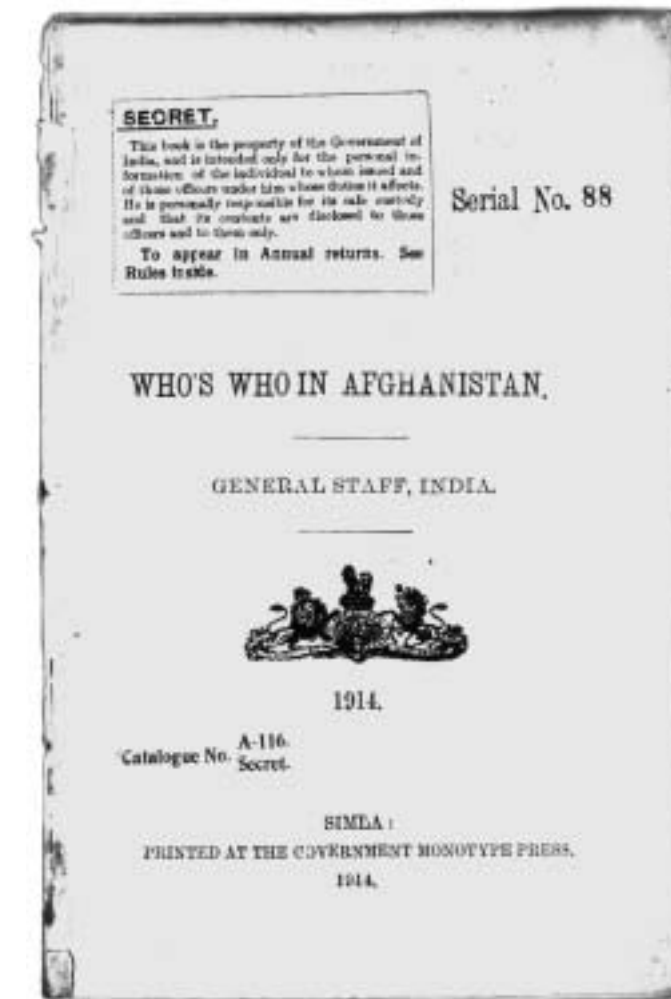
The Comintern archive collection comprises the thousands of documents of the seven congresses of the Comintern and the thirteen plenums of the Executive Committee of the Comintern (ECCI), together with materials from the associated preparatory and working commissions. They include transcripts and minutes of meetings, with individual presentations and general discussions and debate, materials presented by the leadership and those arising from the floor, theses, lists of delegates, mandates (credentials), questionnaires filled out by delegates, appeals, open letters, and a wealth of other documents.

- 14,569 microfiche + indexes
- Index in English and Russian on CD-ROM



British Intelligence on Afghanistan and its Frontiers, c. 1888-1946

Secret and confidential print from the British Government of India



- A collection unique in its breadth and accessibility
- All works were classified 'Secret' 'Confidential' or 'For Official Use Only'
- Including Foreign Department Printed Correspondence

Online Finding Aid at www.idc.nl

Editor: A.J. Farrington, Former Deputy Director, Oriental and India Office Collections (OIOC), British Library



British Intelligence on Afghanistan and its Frontiers

IDC Publishers is pleased to announce the publication of *British Intelligence on Afghanistan and its Frontiers, c. 1888-1946*. The Government of India had a pronounced intelligence interest, concentrating on Afghanistan's internal and external affairs and trans-frontier tribes and personalities. All the works were classified 'Secret,' 'Confidential,' or 'For Official Use Only,' and were subject to strict rules of custody. The collection in the India Office Records at the British Library, now made available by IDC Publishers, is unique in its breadth and accessibility.

Political and military strategies

The defense of the North-West Frontier of British India and the status of Afghanistan in the face of real or imagined Russian threats were dominant themes in the political and military strategies of British India for more than a hundred years, beginning with the First Afghan War intervention of 1838-1842, when the British frontier had not actually reached Afghanistan. Strategic planning and policy formulation required information – intelligence on the terrain, communications, resources, internal politics, tribal groupings, rivalries, and personalities – to provide both background for political relations and practical know-how for possible military operations.

Before 1922, there was no direct Government of India diplomatic or political representation inside Afghanistan, apart from disastrous attempts to station Residents at Kabul in 1838-1842 and 1878-1880, while the government in London did not consider Afghanistan to be a nation of a status requiring a diplomatic mission. Between 1882 and 1919, however, a succession of Indian Muslim Agents were posted to Kabul from India, and after the Third Afghan War of 1919-1921 full diplomatic relations were finally established. The British Ministers in Kabul up to 1949 were members of the Indian Political Service, but were appointed by the Foreign Office in London.

Early information-gathering was both patchy and dangerous, and depended

upon the abilities of individual travelers, often in disguise, and the occasional employment of native newswriters. It was not until the outbreak of the Second Afghan War of 1878-1880 that the Government of India began to take more seriously the whole question of intelligence.

Military Intelligence

In 1878 an Intelligence Branch was formed within the Quartermaster-General's Department at Army Headquarters, India, consisting of three officers and two assistants. Reorganization in 1892 increased the complement to five officers and four assistants, and in 1903 the officer-in-charge was raised to the rank of Brigadier-General, with added responsibility for mobilization. The wide-ranging reforms of the Army in India Committee of 1912-1913 established an Intelligence Section (M.O.3) within the Military Operations Directorate of the General Staff. The Section, headed by a General Staff Officer Grade 1 reporting to a Brigadier-General Director of Military Operations, was divided into five subsections, four of them geographical (Afghanistan, Russian Turkestan and the North-West Frontier were subsection N), and the fifth devoted to 'special work of a confidential nature.' Total staffing was fifteen officers and ten clerks. This arrangement, with regular increases of personnel, continued until the end of British rule in 1947.

Unique collection

Beginning rather slowly with historically oriented gazetteers and similar background works, the Intelligence Branch eventually issued a stream of practical handbooks, route books, military reports, tribal monographs, 'who's who' compilations, and summaries of events. Sources were officers in the field, particularly those stationed on the North-West Frontier, and their contacts, together with local tribesmen who had been clandestinely employed.

All the works were classified 'Secret,' 'Confidential,' or 'For Official Use Only,' and were subject to strict rules of custody. It was also ordered that when a new edition of a particular work appeared, all previous editions were to be destroyed. As a result, these works survive in very few locations.

Political Intelligence

The Government of India Foreign & Political Department had a parallel intelligence interest, concentrating on Afghanistan's internal and external affairs and trans-frontier tribes and personalities. It issued its own compilations, mainly sourced by political officers serving on the North-West Frontier or in Afghanistan proper, and often overlapping the work of the military.

The series, in imitation of what had become standard practice at the Foreign Office in London, reprinted all incoming and outgoing correspondence and associated papers relating to Afghanistan between 1919 and 1941. Beginning as 'Third Afghan War 1919 Correspondence,' the title eventually

Printed Correspondence

Of special significance is the massive series of Foreign Department Printed Correspondence, totaling some 13,600 pages in 73 parts. Because it was archived in London separately from the main groupings of intelligence publications, the Printed Correspondence remains a little-known source.

became 'Afghan Series;' the pagination is frequently erratic, but within each part the documents run in a continuously numbered sequence.

Provenance

The secret and confidential print reproduced in the present collection are located in two internal reference libraries which were kept within the Military Department (L/MIL/17) and the Political & Secret Department (L/P&S/20) at the pre-1947 India Office in London. Items were received from India upon publication and were kept or disposed of according to the strict custody rules laid down by the

originators. Exceptions are (1) the Foreign Department Printed Correspondence, which passed through the Political & Secret Department registry and was placed in 'subject' files up to 1931 (L/P&S/10), and thereafter in 'subject' collections (L/P&S/12); and (2) a small number of items which accumulated at the British Legation in Kabul (R/12) and were then brought to London, together with the Legation's archive, in 1965. All the India Office departments were subsumed within the Commonwealth Relations Office (subsequently the Foreign & Commonwealth Office) after Independence in 1947. In 1982, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office transferred the administration of the India Office Library & Records to the British Library, where it now forms a part of the Library's Oriental & India Office Collections.

A.J. Farrington

Former Deputy Director, Oriental & India Office Collections (OIOC), British Library

Organization of the print

For the present publication the material has been arranged in nine subject groups. Groups 1-5 are in roughly chronological order. Groups 6-9 follow the sequence of 1-5 for each geographical area.

- BIA-1 Afghanistan: Gazetteers and Handbooks, 1888-1935
- BIA-2 Afghanistan: Internal and External Affairs, 1907-1941
- BIA-3 Afghanistan: Who's Who, 1914-1940
- BIA-4 Afghanistan: Military Reports, 1906-1940
- BIA-5 Afghanistan: Route Books, 1907-1941
- BIA-6 Afghanistan: Frontiers – General, and Northern Section, 1910-1946 (NWF Province, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Bajaur, Gilgit, Hazara, Mohmand, Buner)
- BIA-7 Afghanistan: Frontiers – Central Section, 1908-1941 (Khyber, Peshawar, Kabul-Kurram, Kohat)
- BIA-8 Afghanistan: Frontiers – Waziristan, 1907-1940 (North & South Waziristan, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Derajat)
- BIA-9 Afghanistan: Frontiers – Baluchistan, 1910-1946

Within these groups the following information is provided for each item:

- fiche number,
- title, author/issuing body, publication details, pagination etc,
- OIOC reference number, original India Office registry reference (for Foreign Department Printed Correspondence).

General information

Scope	Approx 17,000 frames
Number of fiche	410
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm.
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies depending on the size of the original
Internal finding aids	Eye-legible headers on every fiche
External finding aids	Printed and online (at www.idc.nl) guide with introduction and index by A.J. Farrington

Cover illustration from: Who's who in Afghanistan. General Staff, India. 1914. *Secret*. Cover L/P&S/20/B220/1 (Fiche 221)



Illustration from: Handbook of Kandahar Province, 1933. General Staff, India. 1933. *Secret*. p.19 L/P&S/20/B299 (Fiche 31)



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