

S E C R E TUSE OF RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES UNDER CENSORSHIP

1. The Censorship Regulations provided that, on the imposition of telegraph censorship, the use of the radiotelephone services should be entirely suspended except for the transmission of certain broadcasts, principally to the United States of America, approved and controlled by the Ministry of Information. The use of the services for United Kingdom Government messages was explicitly forbidden, the reason being that radiotelephony is liable to interception and, on that account, the more important the communication the more desirable it is that it should not pass by radiotelephony.

2. In general the principle has been maintained of not allowing United Kingdom Government calls passed by radiotelephony, although one or two individual calls have been specially authorised. The radiotelephone service to the United States was, however, made available for outward press calls from London, these calls being made under the control of a Ministry of Information censor, and immediately prior to the imposition of censorship on the 31st of August, it was decided, as an exceptional case, to permit the Bank of England to use this service on Bank business. The service has also been made available for calls between the United States Government and the United States Ambassador in London, between the Dominions Office and the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada, and between the Canadian Government and the Canadian High Commissioner in London. Business calls have not been allowed on the service with the United States and it seems undesirable that such calls should be permitted by radiotelephony, since one indiscreet sentence might give away valuable information.

3. All radiotelephony services, other than that to the United States of America, were entirely closed on the imposition of censorship and the transmitting and receiving equipment was allocated for other purposes.

4. At the beginning of October however a radiotelephone service to Denmark was opened in order to enable Scandinavian press representatives in London to telephone their news reports to Scandinavia. These calls are made from the Ministry of Information under the supervision of a censor. The Scandinavian Governments have also been allowed to use the service for communication with their Legations in London, but such calls have, in fact, been extremely few, as the Scandinavian Governments have been impressed with the dangers arising from the use of the service.

5. The question of permitting a very limited radiotelephone service under strict censorship between Bermuda and New York and in the Bahamas is under consideration.

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