

Spies

As early as the 1920s, Lenin's secret police, the Cheka, had more than 100,000 agents at home and a dedicated unit to co-ordinate operations abroad.

In contrast, MI5's counter-espionage unit had five officers.

The US was little better.

In 1929, secretary of state Henry Stimson had closed the government's code-breaking department because "gentlemen do not read each other's mail."

**John Paul Rathbone,
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