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Britain helped USA spy on Charlie Chaplin

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:
http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

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19th February, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

New information shows that the British government spied on silent comedy star Charlie Chaplin. America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asked Britain's spy service MI5 to look into Chaplin's background. The USA believed the English comedian was a communist. This was at the time of the Cold War when relations between America and the Soviet Union were very icy. The FBI wanted MI5 to help it get Chaplin banned from visiting or living in the USA.

Charlie Chaplin could not produce his birth certificate. This made the FBI think he was some kind of spy. They suggested his real name was Israel Thornstein and that he was born in France. The Bureau also said Chaplin made donations to the American Communist Party. MI5 found no evidence that either of these things were true. Despite this, the USA asked Chaplin to leave the country in 1953. He lived in Switzerland instead, where he died in 1977 at the age of 88.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. the British | a. star |
| 2. silent comedy | b. of the Cold War |
| 3. look into Chaplin's | c. banned |
| 4. at the time | d. background |
| 5. very | e. government |
| 6. help it get Chaplin | f. icy |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. birth | a. donations |
| 2. he was some kind | b. no evidence |
| 3. Chaplin made | c. of spy |
| 4. MI5 found | d. certificate |
| 5. leave the | e. instead |
| 6. He lived in Switzerland | f. country |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

New _____ that the British government spied on _____ Charlie Chaplin. America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asked Britain's _____ to look into Chaplin's background. The USA believed the English comedian _____. This was at the time of the Cold War when relations between America and the Soviet Union _____. The FBI wanted MI5 to help it get Chaplin _____ or living in the USA.

Charlie Chaplin could not produce _____. This made the FBI think he was _____. They suggested his real name was Israel Thornstein and that he was born in France. The Bureau also said Chaplin made donations to the American Communist Party. MI5 _____ that _____ were true. Despite this, the USA asked Chaplin to _____ in 1953. He lived in Switzerland instead, where he died in 1977 _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

New information (1) _____ that the British government spied on silent comedy star Charlie Chaplin. America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asked Britain's spy service MI5 to look (2) _____ Chaplin's background. The USA (3) _____ the English comedian was a communist. This was at the (4) _____ of the Cold War when relations between America and the Soviet Union were very (5) _____. The FBI wanted MI5 to help it get Chaplin banned (6) _____ visiting or living in the USA.

Charlie Chaplin could not produce his (7) _____ certificate. This made the FBI think he was some (8) _____ of spy. They suggested his real name was Israel Thornstein and that he was born in France. The Bureau also said Chaplin (9) _____ donations to the American Communist Party. MI5 found (10) _____ evidence that (11) _____ of these things were true. Despite this, the USA asked Chaplin to leave the country in 1953. He lived in Switzerland (12) _____, where he died in 1977 at the age of 88.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) showing | (b) showcase | (c) shows |
| 2. | (a) onto | (b) into | (c) as to |
| 3. | (a) believed | (b) belief | (c) believer |
| 4. | (a) clock | (b) time | (c) alarm |
| 5. | (a) icicle | (b) iced | (c) icy |
| 6. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) of |
| 7. | (a) birth | (b) born | (c) baby |
| 8. | (a) kind | (b) gentle | (c) thoughtful |
| 9. | (a) did | (b) was | (c) made |
| 10. | (a) not | (b) no | (c) non |
| 11. | (a) either | (b) neither | (c) both |
| 12. | (a) ready | (b) steady | (c) instead |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. New arontnomfii
2. silent ydcmoe star
3. look into Chaplin's gnbodcrkau
4. the English ienamocd
5. eoaitrnls between America and the Soviet Union
6. get Chaplin bdanne

Paragraph 2

7. produce his birth iercfaecitt
8. Chaplin made niootsand
9. MI5 found no inecdeev
10. theeri of these things
11. eetDpis this
12. He lived in Switzerland niaedts

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120219-charlie_chaplin.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () star Charlie Chaplin. America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asked Britain's spy
- () born in France. The Bureau also said Chaplin made donations to the American
- () and the Soviet Union were very icy. The FBI wanted MI5
- () in Switzerland instead, where he died in 1977 at the age of 88.
- (**1**) New information shows that the British government spied on silent comedy
- () Communist Party. MI5 found no evidence that either of these things were
- () Charlie Chaplin could not produce his birth certificate. This made the FBI think he was some
- () kind of spy. They suggested his real name was Israel Thornstein and that he was
- () service MI5 to look into Chaplin's background. The USA believed the English comedian
- () true. Despite this, the USA asked Chaplin to leave the country in 1953. He lived
- () to help it get Chaplin banned from visiting or living in the USA.
- () was a communist. This was at the time of the Cold War when relations between America

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. government star spied on The silent British comedy.

2. MI5 service spy Britain's asked FBI America's.

3. believed comedian communist USA English a The the was.

4. the the at of War was time Cold This.

5. from banned Chaplin get it Help visiting.

6. birth his produce not could Chaplin certificate.

7. was of The he kind think some spy FBI.

8. of were No either things that these true evidence.

9. to The leave USA the asked country Chaplin.

10. the 88 died at of He 1977 age in.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. SPYING: Search the Internet and find more information about spying. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about spying. Include an imaginary interview with two spies. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a spying expert. Ask him/her three questions about spying. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.