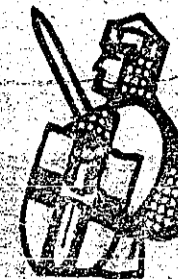


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BANNED
FULL STORY
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DAILY

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

EXPRESS



No. 24,185

Tuesday April 4 1978

Weather: Cloudy

8p

★★★★

Norman Scott affair: Police act

THORPE FRIEND QUIZZED



GAUL: DEFIANT

Give us John Gaul

MINTOFF FACES ANGRY DEMAND

By Patrick Clancy
and Peter Hardy

**BRITAIN is asking
Malta to place tycoon
John Gaul under
immediate arrest.**

Along with a request
for extradition proceed-
ings to be started,
Britain is preparing a
"rocket" for the Maltese.

Officials are amazed and
angry that 46-year-old
Gaul is still free aboard
his yacht *The Lotus*
Eater.

He is wanted in connection
with the murder of his 33-
year-old ex-model wife
Barbara in Sussex.

From Malta, he has issued
a defiant challenge to British
police that they must try to
extradite him.

But Malta is at present
refusing to recognise the
extradition treaty with
Britain.

Relations between Britain
and Malta have been strained
—to say the least—for years.
Premier Dom Mintoff was
responsible for throwing the
Royal Navy out of its tradi-

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Holmes: Met police

**POLICE investigating the
Norman Scott affair were
last night questioning
onetime Liberal Party
treasurer David Holmes.**

He was met at a flat in
London's Belgravia and
driven to Bristol police head-
quarters.

This has been the centre of
police inquiries since former air-
line pilot Andrew Newton—jailed
for shooting Scott's dog and pos-
sessing a firearm—"confessed"
last November that he was hired
to murder Scott.

David Holmes, a close friend of

By Paul Hopkins

former Liberal leader—Mr Jeremy
Thorpe, has been working in London
as a financial consultant, using an
office in St. James's.

Det-Chief Supt Michael Challes,
of Avon and Somerset police, in
charge of the inquiries but working
with Scotland Yard, went to see
Holmes in a basement flat in fashio-
nable Eaton Place.

After 10 minutes they came out,
Holmes carrying an overnight bag,
and drove off in a C.I.D. car.

TALKING

At Bristol Mr Challes and Supt
David Greenough talked to Holmes
about the Norman Scott affair.

Early today a police spokesman,
Inspector Mike Beer, said: "There is
very little I can say at this stage." An

official statement said Holmes was
being "interviewed."

Further police moves are expected
today in Wales.

Until recently Tory former
Attorney-General Sir Peter Rawlin-
son was advising the police and the
Director of Public Prosecutions in the
latest stages of the inquiry, but he
withdrew from his role last week
after being made a life peer.

Meanwhile former Liberal M.P.
Mr Peter Bessell, who has been twice
interviewed at his home in California
by Mr Challes, said he had received
news of the Holmes development "by
special arrangement."

Mr Bessell—he made payments to
Scott, who was claiming hardship
over an alleged affair with Mr Thorpe
—explained: "I had asked to be kept
informed."

Holmes was best man at Mr
Thorpe's wedding to his first wife,
Caroline—she died in a car crash—
and godfather to the only child,
Rupert.

He was based in Manchester
until he announced he was the
mystery Liberal supporter who
had paid £2,500 to Scott for
original copies of certain docu-
ments.

He has always denied any
suggestion of being involved
in a plot to dispose of Scott.

Mr Thorpe, at a Press con-
ference last year, also denied
any knowledge of such a plot
and Scott's allegations that
there had been a homosexual
affair between them, but he
admitted that at one time
they had been friends.

Last week Mr Thorpe—
who remarried—took Rupert
to Spain on what was
described as "partly busi-
ness and part holiday."

Margaret must rest

By Don Coolican

**IN face of criticism
about her private life
Princess Margaret has
been bravely struggling
against illness to fulfil her
public duties.**

Yesterday it was revealed
she has "Red" flu and has
been told by doctors to stay
in bed.

The Princess has been down
with a bad cold ever since
she returned to a chilly

English spring from her con-
troversial holiday in the West
Indies with Roddy Llewellyn.

Although feeling ill, some of
the criticism made her decide
to carry out official engage-
ments, according to royal
sources.

Last week when she visited
Southampton, she was seen
frequently blowing her nose.

On Saturday she had a tem-
perature when she went to a
Westminster Abbey service to
mark the R.A.F.'s diamond
jubilee.

Today she was due to fly to
Edinburgh for a full day of
engagements. But yesterday
afternoon these were suddenly
cancelled.

She was examined at Wind-
sor Castle by Dr John
Clayton and Dr John Batten,
physicians to the Queen, and

then a royal spokesman said
the Princess had influenza
"and has been advised by her
doctors to stay in bed."

With a Government an-
nouncement about increases
in the Civil List expected on
Friday a number of Labour
M.P.s have been critical of
her present £55,000-a-year
salary.

So she was reluctant to
cancel any previously
arranged public engagements.