The paper that helps Britain's enemies

FORGET hacking voicemails or slipping payments to officials for stories that may not have been true. Set to one side even (dare we say it?) this paper's provocative headline 12 days ago - 'The paper that helps Britain's enemies' - and the accusations levelled against the Guardian by No10.

Yes, it is true - the Guardian has had a number of stories that have helped to expose the tactics of our enemies. Indeed, it is impossible to imagine a greater charge against a newspaper than that of helping our enemies.

Yet so far Andrew Parker, in his first speech as the new head of MI5, has been significantly endorsed by No10.

So isn't it staggering that the BBC, after spending months covering the Ed Miliband's attack on our charge that his father's Marxist beliefs are a threat to the security of the country, has hardly brought itself to mention the new MI5 chief?

The Guardian, for its part, is worse than useless under the new director general, and it is clear that a wall of prejudice surrounds Broadcasting House.

We do not dispute the MI5 threat from the BBC for its demands for the power to determine what is and is not news. The BBC's soulemates on the liberal Left are all too willing to help.

The MI5 charge against MI5's cosiness with Labour over the dodgy dossier on Iraq and the allegations of the co-called snoppers' charter.

And we have always argued that a line needs to be drawn between the reporting of reality and the interests of national security.

We believe the Guardian, which should be impartial, has crossed the line by printing tens of thousands of words describing the secret techniques used to monitor our enemies.

Certainly that is the view of UK national security experts, who in their own publications have noted the paper has 'already done real damage', while the information it still holds is likely to lead to widespread less of MI5's work.

Indeed, so incendiary are these documents that British agents have had to go on the run.

Yet, almost as astonishingly as the BBC's defence, the editor of the Guardian now says he will continue to release the material, arguing that he will take care to protect MI5's sources.

But how, in the name of sanity, can he know? He's a journalist, not an expert on MI5.

As for his paper's attack on us over the Labour leader's father, let us say something more surprising.

True, he said much about this country that he wanted a workers' revolution to coincide with the monarchy, parliament, property rights and even church replaced with Stalinism and even more with Stalinism than with Churchill's during the Cold War. Exteded from previous.

But never, as far as we are aware, did he give practical help to our enemies.

Now we have seen the head of our security services publishing British lives at risk.

Is there a greater deal more than can be said for the Guardian?