In the summer of 1974, a special RUC inquiry investigated Kincora 'housefather' William McGrath, his homosexual activities and his extremist associates. The Hughes report says that 'these' original documents had not been in the possession of the Terry inquiry investigators'.

After McGrath and two other Kincora staff were jailed late in 1981, senior Ministry of Defence officials became alarmed about the activities of a former Ministry official, Colin Wallace. Wallace had been an employee of the Army's 'Psyops' (psychological operations) unit in Northern Ireland until 1975. He then left the civil service.

Wallace knew a lot about Kincora, having frequently briefed journalists at the time about McGrath and his paramilitary organisation called Tara. But in 1981, Wallace too was imprisoned at Lewes, Sussex, for 10 years for manslaughter of an antique dealer. About the same time a secret memorandum went to Defence Ministry Permanent Under Secretary Sir Frank Cooper, warning him that Wallace had both the information and the motive to reveal the story behind Kincora.

Bizarrely, the Sussex police team which was then appointed to investigate Kincora for the RUC comprised the same officers who had investigated the manslaughter case against Wallace. Wallace claims his conviction was a frame-up.

The fears expressed to Sir Frank Cooper were well founded. With the aid of his wife, a former Secret Intelligence Service employee, Wallace has widely circulated a series of internal Army documents and summaries, including examples of propaganda about Kincora and other matters prepared by his unit. Wallace's most important document, which was seen by the Hughes inquiry, is a four-page Northern Ireland Army Headquarters memorandum dated 8 November 1974, scurrilously labelled 'confidential'. Signed by Wallace, the document is entitled 'Tara reports regarding criminal offences associated with the homosexual community in Belfast'. The report recommends that the Army leak information about Tara to discredit the Protestant paramilitaries involved.

The Hughes inquiry scrupulously avoided examining Wallace's document. They were never shown to Terry's inquiry.

While a majority of leading Protestant politicians were quite experienced in media management during 1974, 1975, and 1976, the Army could not control either the intelligence services or the media. It is inconceivable that the intelligence services would not have known of McGrath's and Tara's activities. It is also provably untrue because entries in intelligence notebooks kept during 1974 by former Intelligence Officer Captain Fred Holroyd (NS, 4 May, 1984) refer to the Kincora hostel by name, and say of leading Protestant politicians that they are 'all queers'. Although this is nothing more than gossip, it does show that Army and RUC intelligence officials had had no difficulty in furnishing information about the homosexuality of extremist associates to the Kincora hostel.

Holroyd also says that, while being trained for his Northern Ireland duties, he was told that the Tara organisation was in effect controlled by British intelligence, and was not a real security threat — implying that McGrath had indeed come under intelligence control.

Late in 1984, Holroyd assisted Wallace to send this and other papers to the Prime Minister. The original documents have never come back. Photocopies were evidently substituted, and pencil markings on them show whoever made them was attentive to publicity that might affect the intelligence services. But both the Ministry and the Northern Ireland Office deny making, or even knowing about, the substitution.

Eastern moles

THE BRITISH ATLANTIC Committee, a Foreign Office-funded campaigning front for NATO, is the latest British defence-oriented group to admit that the 'Moonies' religious cult has been trying to infiltrate its ranks.

This week, BAC director Major General Chris Popham told the New Statesman that he too had been a target of the Moonies.

Last summer, he said, an organisation calling itself the International Security Council offered him a free trip to the Middle East and Mediterranean security. He became suspicious when he learnt that the conference was not being attended by senior NATO figures. Then they admitted they were funded by the Moonies, otherwise known as the Unification Church.

A few days later, BAC members started complaining that they had been approached at their private addresses by another Moonie front, CAUSA (UK). The problem was so serious that a special warning letter went out to all BAC members.