

# TARGET

## Intelligence Report

VOLUME XXV No. 231

T U E S D A Y

October 31, 2023

### Travelling with TARGET

PART III OF V

#### The Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian

This medium had requested the concierge of Hilton Glasgow, on the day of arrival, to assist in obtaining the services of a motor car, along with a driver, the motor car, being sufficiently large to transport this traveller, along with six suitcases, to Edinburgh, the Capital City of Scotland, two days hence.

The result of this request fell upon deaf ears, as it turned out.

Which was quite in accordance with the services, afforded by Management of this hotel as this scribe was forced to witness.

On the evening, prior to leaving Hilton Glasgow, realising that the concierge had been the epitome of a dumb-ass, this traveller managed to locate a company on the

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Printed by: TARGET Newspapers Ltd  
Suite 2901, 29th Floor, Bank of America Tower, Number 12, Harcourt Road, Central, Hongkong.  
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Internet that claimed to specialise on transporting people throughout Scotland – and in Mercedes-Benz, seven-seater vehicles.

And so, it transpired that, in comfort, the trip from Glasgow to Edinburgh was without any problems, whatsoever.

On arrival at the door of Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian, taking note of the arrival of the Mercedes-Benz with its passenger and the copious number of suitcases, several employees quickly swarmed round the motor car, emptying its luggage in a trice – thus welcoming the arrival of yours-truly.

The impromptu welcome of the magnanimous management of this Edinburgh hotel could well be akin to having a person, for the first time, experiencing the light of day, following days of darkness: The light of day, being the welcoming experience due to the friendly assistance and efficiency of Management of The Caledonian; the two days of darkness, being the unwelcome exit of persons from the ignominy of the Management of Hilton Glasgow.

On the discovery of the spaciousness of Room 306 of The Caledonian, with everything that one might expect of a five-star hotel, it was in direct contrast to this medium's earlier situation, having been boxed in that tiny – and very unpleasant room – at Hilton Glasgow.

It was as though this Edinburgh hotel represented an advanced civilisation versus an alien civilisation that had been forced upon this medium to endure at Hilton Glasgow.

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Sadly, the stay at The Caledonian was only for four nights because London was calling this medium to resurrect some old friends, living in the Capital City of Great Britain.

During the time that this medium stayed in Edinburgh, time, being pressing, it was required that the services of a respectable motor car, along with a driver, was very necessary in order to tour the countryside of this region of Scotland.

And so, within three full days of touring, this medium visited, amongst other things, the most-famous golf course in the world: Saint Andrews Golf Course.

It is, also, said to have been the oldest golf course in the world.

It is believed to be the home of golf when it was said to have been known as **Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden (GOLF)**.

At Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle, one learned a great deal of some past historical events, of the failed hopes of many a poor Scot, the unhappiness of the past centuries when Great Britain ruled the roost with an iron hand.

As one meandered through the rooms of these ancient castles, taking in the history of Scotland, of the triumphs of yesteryear, as well as the horrors that befell many a Scot who did not toe the staunch, British-enforced line.

The Kelpies at Falkirk were something else.

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The Kelpies are the 10-year-old creations of two metal heads of the likenesses of horses, rising 98 feet into the air, having been the work of the Scottish sculptor: Mr Andy Scott.

These massive monuments can be seen for miles around.

The sculptures form a gateway at the Eastern Entrance to the Forth and Clyde Canal, and the Canal extension, built as part of The Helix land transformation project.

The two, metal horses' heads overlook the Canal in which live swans that had been introduced, sometime earlier, forcing them to make it their home, forever.

It was a pleasant place of peace and, perhaps, for some, if so desired, solitude.

It was a place where one might only want, just to take in the beauty of the day, enjoying the views of the countryside of bonnie Scotland.

## The **L**ondon **N**orth **E**astern **R**ailway (**LNER**) To London

The journey from The Caledonian to London took four hours and 20 minutes, exactly.

Strikes aplenty, there might be in Great Britain, but the trains, which are running, must, always, be on time.

Aboard the train, that had been labelled as the fast train of The **LNER** (The **L**ondon **N**orth **E**astern **R**ailway), First Class Ticket Holders were served a variety of snacks

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and drinks, throughout the entire journey, and, when one was not too interested in masticating and/or imbibing cold drinks, there was, always, something to see as the train passed through the beautiful British countryside.

On arrival at King Cross Station, there was something of a dash, as passengers from The **LNER**, joined an ever-lengthening queue in order to obtain the services of taxis.

Unlike the crushing situations that so often explode in numerous cities of Asia at the busiest of times of the day, where irresponsible, extremely rough men and women, in order to get to the head of a seemingly, never-ending queue of people, push and yell and, sometimes, beat an unwilling individual, the situation at King Cross Station was very respectful and civilised, with people, waiting patiently, for their turn.

As luck would have it, somebody that this scribe had met, in the past, had obtained the services of an Uber Taxi to drive this scribe to St. James' Court, a four-star hotel in which I had, more than 36 years earlier, stayed briefly.

Today, this hotel, opened in 1984, could boast of having 400 bedrooms.

It is within walking distance of Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, St. James Palace, Westminster Abbey, and Westminster Cathedral.

And it was, exactly, the location that yours-truly required in order to ferret out information about this very important, modern metropolis, called London, a city, being the home to a little less than 10 million people.

Statistically, London residents – excluding British-born, permanent residents – foreign-born individuals, who had determined to live in the United Kingdom,

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permanently, are said to have a working knowledge of one or more of the 300 languages that are known to be spoken in the country.

Which leads one to ponder:

*‘What makes London, the **‘magnet’** of so many people from so many countries?’*

## The Statistics

According to the British Government statistics, not less than 30 million people, from around the world, visit London, annually.

The permanent human population of the entire country is said to be about 68 million, men, women and children.

Thus, the number of people, visiting London, annually, is equivalent to about 44 percent of the entire, human population of Great Britain in respect of a single calendar year.

A breakdown of the human population of Great Britain indicates that Asian residents, including former residents of the **People’s Republic of China (PRC)** and, in addition, the former residents of The **Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)** of the PRC, account for about 9.30 percent of the entire human population of country.

Hotels extract a bundle from the annual, legal human migration to Great Britain, but the largest percentage of people, visiting London for short periods of time, are residents of Europe, being only a smattering, compared with the known European contingent, coming from Asia.

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However, it is, also, well known, according to British Government statistics, that there have been, during the past five years or so, moneyed ethnic Asians, ethnic Chinese inclusive, coming to London, as well as to other parts of the United Kingdom, in order to find that which they maintain is a safe haven for their money.

This group could well be said to be making their new home in Great Britain due, mainly, out of fear of one sort or another.

On a visit to the famous, 1,000-year-old Tower of London, it was learned that more than three million people, of all nationalities, visit this very special castle, annually.

The castle is, amongst other things, the protector of the invaluable Crown Jewels.

Statistically, the number of annual visitors to The Tower of London represents about 4.41 percent of the entire human population of Great Britain, as well as representing about 30 percent of the entire population of London, presently being a little less than 10 million people.

The Tower of London was, originally, built as a secure fortress, a royal palace, and an infamous prison for the unlucky.

From this Tower, former kings and queens demonstrated their power over the entire country, shaping British society, and, by so doing, helped to guide and control the society of their time.

Thus, by so doing, the former heads of British Government influenced, to some degree, the thinking of other leaders of the world – rightly or wrongly.

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