

WHITEHALL,
LONDON



Sir Stephen Mackmain is here.

Send him in.



John. Thank you for finding the time to fit me in.

I'm a Permanent Undersecretary of State, not the bloody dentist, Stephen. We can't just do random off-the-books visits for the head of MIS.



Wait. Dentists do off-the-books visits for you?

Of course they do. I'm a Permanent Undersecretary of State. God emails my office to ask permission to go to the toilet. What do you want, Stephen?



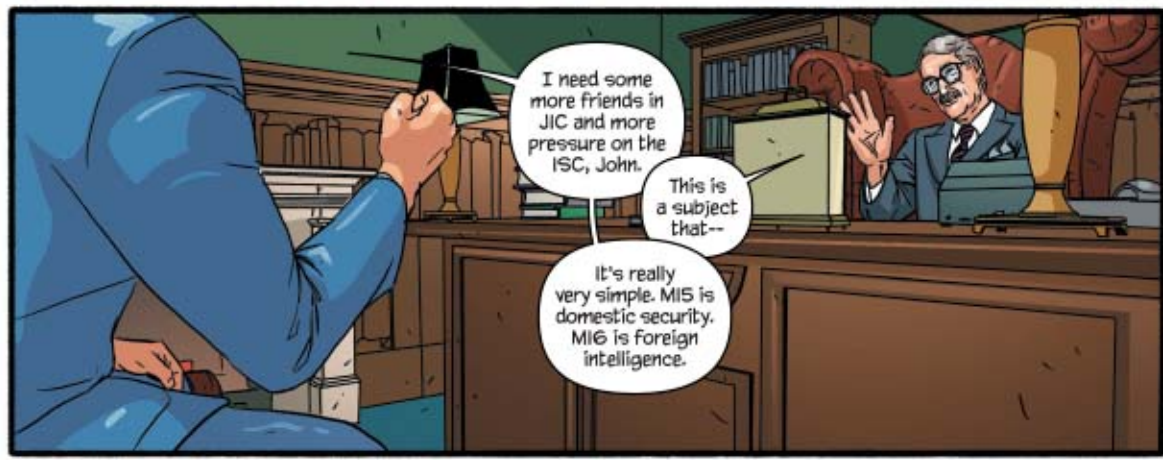
You have the ear of the Joint Intelligence Committee and the Intelligence Services Commissioner. And a review of the Hard Rule is coming up.



Your opposite number at MI6 makes some compelling arguments for its rescission.

I'm sure he does. M has very good reasons for wanting his people galloping around the place with cannons.

But none of those reasons have anything to do with the provision of security within the United Kingdom.



I need some more friends in JIC and more pressure on the ISC, John.

This is a subject that--

It's really very simple. MI5 is domestic security. MI6 is foreign intelligence.



Agents employed to operate abroad do not get to run around inside Britain with firearms. That affects domestic security. Which is my business.

It's simply not manageable or safe. Especially when you take into account cowboys like--



