



Russian spy maps made available to the public

A set of Russian spy maps revealing the hidden secrets of South West cities are to be made available to the general public for the first time.

The unique maps – which include Plymouth and Exeter – are a Cold War legacy and were produced by the Russian military from 1950 to 1997.

They reveal the exact location and purpose of every structure of possible military importance, including details such as the width of roads, the height of bridges and the depth of rivers.

In some instances, the maps include potentially sensitive details not shown on UK versions.

For example, a quarry near Exeter is noted which is not shown on any Ordnance Survey mapping between 1890 and 1990, but is likely to have been of interest to the Russians as a possible source of contaminants.

Similarly, the Russian map

The maps are a legacy of the Cold War when leaders like Leonid Brezhnev, right, presided over the most comprehensive global survey ever attempted



of St Katharine's Docks in East London shows the numbers of moorings available and the depth and contours of the river bed – essential knowledge for anyone planning to bring a submarine up the Thames.

Experts believe the maps were developed using aerial photos, satellite images, local knowledge and even spies.

The Russians managed to map out 16,000 sq km of the UK, including 103 major UK towns and cities, forming part of the most comprehensive global survey ever attempted.

The maps will be made available at www.russianmaps.co.uk



