



Pryvet comrade, is this the Pier Head?

That's hello pal – but the Soviets would have had good map

by **LUKE TRAYNOR**
 Chief Reporter

SECRET maps of Liverpool created by Russian spies during the Cold War were unveiled to the public for the first time today.

The documents show how the Soviets scrutinised the city in the 1970s for locations of possible military importance.

This map, produced in 1974, highlighted in dark brown an area of Liverpool which the KGB considered worthy of monitoring.

It appears to show the outskirts of the city centre, running through Everton, Fairfield and on to West Derby.

Islington, West Derby Road and Queens Drive were clearly marked, with areas around Wavertree Technology Park and other depots and warehouses darkened with Soviet pens as places of interest.

Under surveillance were industrial buildings, aircraft manufacturing sites, bridges and roads – in particular their height and width – and other access points. Liverpool was of particular interest to spies due to its sprawling dock areas.

English company Landmark Information Maps bought the Russian documents after the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Residents from states like Latvia and Estonia took possession of them but they have now finally found their way into British hands.

The maps can be viewed online by the public for the first time today.

During the Cold War, spies used technology such as satellite imagery and confidantes on the ground in Liverpool to assess potential targets.

Russell Morris, of Landmark Information Maps, said: "The KJB focused on industrial, populated areas.

"Cross-referencing these spy papers with normal Ordnance Survey maps, it is easy to pinpoint areas Liverpool people may know or, for example, recognise areas their grandparents grew up in, and which buildings were interesting the Russians.

"During the 1970s, Russia was the enemy of the world. From a spy point of view, they wanted to know about installations.

"They were portrayed like

Al-Qaeda is portrayed today.

"Big conurbations like Liverpool, with significant docks areas and prominent access points, came to their attention."

The Russians managed to map out 16,000 sq km of the UK, including 103 major UK

towns and cities.

It formed part of the most comprehensive global survey ever attempted, with the Russian military creating detailed, accurate maps of almost every country in the world.

To see the maps, go to www.russianmaps.co.uk or www.old-maps.co.uk





SECRET: Maps of Liverpool created by Russian spies during the Cold War

