

## AUTUMN DIRECTIVE 1984

Dear Observer,

The theme of this directive is the relation between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is more than usually important that you read the whole thing through before you start writing because I don't want you to focus exclusively on the important but obvious political aspects - these have been given their proper place in section 6. I hope that you will take your time over this one. It is not a topic to rush at and, mercifully, there is no special deadline. Please be patient with me if there is some delay in acknowledging your contributions.

David Pocock

1. First Impressions Can you remember in what way the existence of the United States first impinged on your experience, and what your impressions were? For some it might have been American films in the 1930's and for others the Vietnam war. Has this first impression shaped your later thoughts and feelings about the United States?
2. In the 1940's 'O.K.' was still regarded as a slang term to be discouraged. Have you memories of other first reactions to American words or phrases which are now accepted in day-to-day English?
3. What about other imports that have been naturalized? There is a wide range here from religion to footwear. Record if you can both your own first reactions and those of your elders at the time.
4. If you have first-hand experience of the United States, through friends, relatives or visiting, are there aspects of American life that should be more widely known in this country?
5. What do you admire most and what do you like least about American and/or American people?
6. Here are some topics that you might care to comment on: The special 'relationship' between this country and the United States; British defence policy and United States world strategy; the dollar and the pound; the experience and local effects of American tourists; the possibility (desirability?) of the European Community as a third 'major power'.
7. Starting with Reagan and counting backwards how many Presidents of the United States can you recall in their correct order - without assistance, naturally!
8. Can you remember where you were when John Kennedy was assassinated?