

PHILBY SPEAKS.

Mr. Harold Philby, (on the right), holds a press conference to deny charges that he was involved in the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean. The 43-year-old former Foreign Office diplomat has challenged his accuser, an M.P. to repeat the charges outside the Commons:-

Reporter: "Mr. Philby, Mr. Macmillan, the Foreign Secretary, said there was no evidence that you are the so-called third man, who allegedly tipped off Burgess and Maclean. Are you satisfied with that clearance that he gave you?"

Philby: "Yes".

Reporter: "Or if there was a third man, were you in fact the third man?"

Philby: "No, I was not".

Reporter: "Do you think there was one?"

Philby: "No comment".

Reporter: "Mr. Philby. The disappearance of Burgess and Maclean is almost as much of a mystery today, as it was when they went away four years ago or more..Can you shed any light on it at all?"

Philby: "No I can't. In the first place, I am debarred by the Official Secrets Act from saying anything that might disclose to unauthorised persons, information derived from my position as a former Government official. In the second place, the Burgess and Maclean affair has raised issues of great delicacy in the sphere of international affairs. I left the service some four years ago and I haven't any means of knowing whether words of mine, perhaps lifted from context or perhaps even garbled as they sometimes have been, wouldn't severely prejudice or damage the Government in its conduct of International affairs".