

1997 + 1948 appeal

JL- CIA affidavits and feeding the courts

9/23/78

We have the affidavit saying the CIA can't disclose even the State in which Nosenko lives without the KGB killing him and that the manner of the CIA's treatment of him is intended as an example (read enticement) for all defectors.

I think we need a straight-faced affidavit setting forth this perfect model for treating defectors from the Hart testimony before the House assassins this week with a few desert-toppings from Helms.

It is, of course, quite reasonable that the CIA would keep him in an unventilated ~~skizixas~~ attic during the summer so Nosenko would not suffer the rigors of Siberian cold; that it would deny him reading matter, even the toothpaste literature to save his eyes; that it would sweep up his lint chess set not to weary his mind; that it would protect him from KGB retaliation by safeguarding him inside a hidden vault. And that it would, out of decent concern, seek to prepare him for life in the free world: by threatening to kill him and dodging notes holding alternatives, like driving him crazy and loosing him in a looney bin; by telling him his survival chances were zero; by isolating him for three years, except for a few of its operatives and guards, and not giving him a place to sit in while keeping him entirely ignorant of what went on outside his vault; by not letting him see a smile or hear a word other than of interrogations over a period of more than 1200 days; And above all, preparing him for the inevitable lean days by keeping him on a diet of thin porridge and weak tea.

We might express some surprise that with the CIA's intent of letting other defectors know his treat was their model it withheld all details of this treatment, even including giving him a half million dollars by the time of their affidavit.

We might even make J. Skelley Wright in his decisions. If not write in court.

I think we should try to get the Hart transcript and attach it. If the committee will not provide it perhaps Bud of Lardner can. They are having overnight service because they are quoting day-before transcripts at hearings .

Because of interruptions I may not have the complete Hart testimony on tape. I did get all of Helms yesterday and there is much on it. But the time required to go over the tapes and make selections will be great. If we cannot get the transcript we can use quotes from the papers and provide dubs of the tapes.

There will never be such an opportunity for straight-faced ridicule of a CIA affidavit. There can hardly be one so totally false or a claim so utterly spurious in an FOIA case. Now that we have done this with the FBI and Beckwith let us not slight the CIA and Admiral Turner's injunction to Hart, "Let your conscience be your guide," quoted in this a.m.'s Lardner piece.

If you speak to Bud about this transcript, please try also for Guinn, Baden and Helms because all have potentially great value in cases in which we may need them at a moment's notice.

The committee appears to have provided press copies of its exhibits from the NER broadcast. Totenberg and Wolz have been reading from them as used. Perhaps copies can be obtained from them.

Failing all else I'd write Blakey or Stokes and state we need these public records pronto for court use and if we do not get them have the letters as explanation of the use of news stories and for any other interpretation anyone might care to make.

The committee did not switch from a scope to open sights in its reconstruction of the crime because I've been saying from the first nobody would use a scope for that distance and nobody would use a scope on that rifle period. I have finally spotted its source, a fine one -Castro. In their interview with him.

X