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Senate unit probes

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The Senate Intelligence Committee intends to question two former CIA directors and a former chief of CIA counterintelligence about roles they may have played in allowing Soviet double agents to penetrate the agency.

"The long knives are out," said James Jesus Angleton, who was fired as chief of counterintelligence for the Central Intelligence Agency in 1975. He said he feared he was being set up to take the blame for any security breach.

Reached at his home in Arlington, Va., Angleton confirm-

ed that the investigation was under way and said he was preparing to testify before three congressional committees.

Intelligence community sources in Washington said the committee also intends to call Richard M. Helms and William E. Colby, the two former chiefs of the CIA. The committee staff wants to question them and Angleton about the handling of KGB defectors suspected of feeding false information to the agency with the possible help of "moles," or high-level double agents, within the CIA.

In Ottawa, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman confirmed that a similar investigation has been started in the Canadian capital.

In Washington, Spencer Davis, spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee, confirmed that the committee staff has begun what he called a "routine" preliminary investigation into a writer's charges that Lee Harvey Oswald had been working for the Soviet spy service before he killed President John F. Kennedy.

Davis said the committee already has interviewed author Edward Jay Epstein about allegations in his book, "Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald," published in March by Reader's Digest Press and McGraw-Hill.

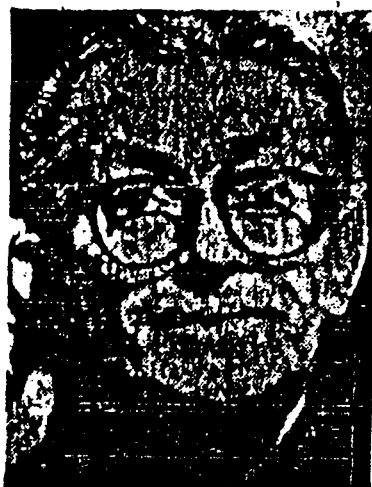
Quoting Angleton at length,

See BREACH—Page 6, Col. 1

CIA security breach



William E. Colby



James J. Angleton



Richard M. Helms

to be called for questioning by Senate Intelligence Committee

Epstein recounts the story of the Soviet KGB agent who defected to the United States after the assassination and insisted during repeated interrogation that Oswald had never been involved with the KGB.

Angleton said he was convinced that the Russian, Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, was a double agent sent to the United States to feed misinformation to the CIA. Angleton was overruled on this point by his superiors. Nosenko eventually was given a new identity and a \$35,000-a-year job as a CIA consultant.

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., questioned in a hallway of the Federal Building in Wilmington, declined to discuss any aspect of the investigation or even confirm that it was being conducted.

But when reporters told him that the committee staff was looking into whether a Soviet-sponsored "mole" had been planted in the highest levels of the CIA hierarchy and that Helms, Colby and Angleton are being questioned, Biden said:

"You know a lot."

Biden is chairman of the intelligence committee's secrecy subcommittee.

Davir, the press spokesman for the committee, said Chairman Birch Bayh, D-Ind., would not be available to discuss the subject.

Sources next to the closely guarded investigation said the only members of the committee with full knowledge of the probe are Bayh, Biden and Sen. Walter Huddleston, D-Ky. Huddleston did not return reporters' telephone calls.

← SOME MISSING?

opened its own investigation into Angleton's handling of more than a dozen KGB agents, including Nosenko, who came to the CIA claiming to be defectors.

Another source and a high official of the CIA clandestine services division said the review is being conducted by Cleveland Cram, former chief of the CIA station in Ottawa.

Those sources said Cram was brought out of retirement because of his experience in helping to expose large-scale Soviet spy rings in Canada during the

does not identify civilian intelligence officials by job title.

Bennett has been called back from Australia to testify in secret before the so-called McDonald Commission. Bennett has been living in Australia since he was forced to retire from the RCMP intelligence agency in 1972 following the disclosure that agents of the KGB's dread Department V — the department of murder, terrorism and sabotage — had been allowed to operate freely in Canada.

The RCMP spokesman said

early 1970s.

The Canadian government, it was learned from CIA sources, is conducting its own probe into the possibility that a "mole" had been operating at a high level with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Intelligence Service, Canada's counterpart of the American CIA.

The RCMP spokesman in Ottawa said a royal commission is looking into questions raised by Angleton about the activities of James Bennett, a one-time high official of the Canadian intelligence service, Canada

the latest phase of the McDonald Commission inquiry was triggered in part by a novel called "Portrait of a Spy." Its main character, the police spokesman said, is a thinly disguised version of James Bennett.

The American inquiry upset Angleton.

"I never have taken the position that you accuse anyone of being a penetration [agent]," he told a reporter, "because that is the way to kill off counter-intelligence. That's the Joseph McCarthy method."

Colby, away from his home

near Washington on a lecture tour, was unavailable for comment.

From his Arlington home, Angleton said the Epstein book, as well as a magazine article dealing with Soviet double agents, prompted the investigation. He said congressional investigators contacted him and advised him he would be asked to testify.

Angleton condemned an earlier probe of intelligence agencies by a select committee on intelligence headed by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho.