

CIA suit

2/19/78

Today's Washington Post carries a UPI story headed "CIA Able to Control Minds By Hypnosis, Data Shows."

According to the story these CIA records were obtained under FOIA by Science Trends, a newsletter, which made the records available to UPI.

There is no doubt at all that this information is within my prior requests of the CIA, one in particular on which it just stopped sending me copies of records ~~it~~ it did make available to others.

By prior I mean by about two years.

This story represents the second recent CIA release to another of what I had requested and had not been provided.

This particular story represents information in which I have mixed interests, special interests aside from the general interest represented in the requests.

Its release follows my complaint/appeal to CIA over the previous one. It therefore is not accidental.

One of these special interests was prompted by the novel The Billiken Courier. Another is the prior experience, theories and present interests of my source Mike.

The novel claims that its postulate about hypnosis is based upon an actual case in which the subject of hypnosis was induced to do what he ordinarily would not have done. It is a Copenhagen case. Recollection was triggered by display of the billiken (approx. - my copy of the novel was borrowed and not returned.) in the part of the novel of interest to me.

What this story does not go into is that if a woman can be persuaded to shoot an associate for no good reason when she is under hypnosis it is apparent that anyone can be induced to assassinate under hypnosis.

The Warren Commission had such an interest. I obtained this record years ago. In it, it now is clearly apparent, the CIA did not tell the Commission what it knew, These released records relate to experiments of the period 1951-1954.

HW

CIA Able to Control Minds By Hypnosis, Data Shows

United Press International

The Central Intelligence Agency shook the theory that "nice" people cannot be made immoral under hypnosis by getting one woman to act out a cold-blooded murder in 1951, according to declassified intelligence documents.

The Cold War-era mind control experiment climaxed when the hypnotized woman, described as peaceable and terrified of guns, fired a pistol point blank at a sleeping colleague—not knowing the gun had been unloaded.

The documents also described other experiments in hypnosis—always involving female subjects for reasons not stated—in which women were persuaded to simulate immoral, abnormal or disloyal behavior.

One report concluded:

"If it can be shown in a series of tests that our subjects will do things that they normally would not do in their everyday activities, it seems logical that individuals elsewhere can be also controlled thusly."

The once-secret documents were obtained by the weekly Washington newsletter Science Trends under the Freedom of Information Act, and made available to United Press International.

They described CIA-sponsored hypnosis experiments carried out from 1951 to 1954, when the agency was starting up its ultra-secret "Project MK-Ultra" research into mind and behavior control using witting and unwitting humans.

MK-Ultra ran into the 1960s, spurred initially by Korean War-era fears that the Soviets and Chinese had a big lead in "brainwashing" techniques that might enable them to induce confessions from any captured enemy and turn Western spies into helpless, obedient double-agents.

Names of subjects were blanked out in the released documents, but all were described as young, well-educated, highly motivated women who worked for the CIA and apparently volunteered for the experiments.

The simulated murder was described in a report dated Feb. 10, 1954, concerning a male hypnotist and a woman "who had expressed a fear of firearms in any fashion."

It said she was put in a trance and told to awaken another woman who had been put into a deep sleep.

When she could not awaken her colleague, the report said, she was ordered to "pick up a pistol nearby and fire it at Miss (blank)" and assured that "her rage would be so great that she would not hesitate to 'kill.'"

It said the woman "carried out these suggestions to the letter, including firing the (unloaded) gun at Miss (blank), then proceeding to fall into a deep sleep" as ordered.

When awakened, neither the "murderer" nor her "victim" had any recollection of what had happened, the document said. It added:

"The 'murderer' refused to pick up or accept the same gun and absolutely denied that she had ever fired it."

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Plausibility is no longer relevant. The theory that Nosenko was a disinformation agent is not even reasonable when it is compared with what he told the CIA about other than Oswald and it cannot serve the alleged purpose of disinforming, based on what is known of what Nosenko said to the FBI. It likewise is apparent that Nosenko has no fear of being killed or he would not be making himself available to others, like Barron and Epstein. That Nosenko was being interviewed and for a book I knew several years ago. My source was I think an AP reporter named Martin. I know it was AP. So how secret was Nosenko keeping himself, how much was the CIA worried about him?

If the CIA really believed this nonsense it could and would have broken Nosenko during the three years it kept him isolated at Camp Peary. McCone ultimately told Dan Schorr on camera that the CIA was satisfied that Nosenko stacked okay.

Note that the Russians did NOT supply records confirming Nosenko's story. And that as of the time he told this story it was not known that Oswald was anti-Soviet, part of what the Russian files disclose, according to Nosenko. Not knowing about Nosenko in late 1964 and early 1965 I do go into this in Whitewash, from the available WC records.

There is an element of desperation in all of this. Part of the Post's account of the New York article reflects a strange approach to me several years ago, roughly coinciding in time with both the amending of FOIA and the Rockefeller Commission.

The CIA rehired Rocca to do a report for the Rockefeller Commission. Rocca takes this incredible line in that report. He goes farther and tries to reconstruct the thoroughly discredited Alvarada Ugarte fabrications. They are designed to make Oswald the assassin with Cuban backing.

Rocca means Angleton. Angleton is publicly credited with being an Epstein consultant. The prior CIA/Angleton/Barron/Readers Digest connections need not be repeated here.

I received several phone calls from a man with a heavy Russian accent. He called himself "Mr. Martin." He wanted to meet with me. He appeared to be reluctant to come here. He indicated he lived in the Wheaton area, without identifying that DC suburb by name. So I arranged a meeting in Rockville on a day I had to be in Rockville anyway.

We chatted and shopped together for a while. He identified me by my key carrying a copy of Whitewash LV. (For which he has never paid) while I browsed in the Wechsinger store. (That he has a home with a garden is apparent from the seeds he purchased.) We then lunched at an inexpensive restaurant adjacent to Wechsinger's. Mr. Martin wanted anonymity so I made no effort to watch him as he left and get the identification of his auto.

Mr. Martin was not merely anti-Soviet and anti-KGB - he was anti anti-Soviets, especially Nosenko. He was bitter and illogical in his denunciations of Nosenko. He had initially raised the Nosenko subject with my by phone. I did not raise it with him. It is my recollection that he did this in terms of Barron's book AGB.

If I had wanted to identify Mr. Martin, who is pretty certainly a Soviet defector and with little less certainty a KGB defector, it would have been simple. An unknown associate could have parked in the same lot and photographed us as we walked, him as he left in his car, and perhaps have followed him without detection. So there was some risk in seeking me and meeting with me in public, particularly as open a place as the Wechsinger store and its parking lot. It is hardly within the CIA's claims of "national security" interest in secrecy related to defectors.

I am not now certain but I believe that Mr. Martin mentioned the name Golitsin, mentioned in the news account. He could, in fact, have been Golitsin. Prior disagreements with Nosenko could account for the intensity of his dislike and the vacuousness of his denunciations of Nosenko - no proof, no reason and no hiding of hatred. After 10 years.

This guy wanted to pin the JFK assassination on the KGB and on Nosenko as co-conspirator. He also knew of other defectors. As I recall mentioned where some worked. Of course I have no way of knowing if truthfully or if he spoke of himself. I think one worked at WHH as a translator. (His English was good but accented, indicative of long contact with the language as spoken here.)

Hoover Alleged Duped by a Spy

1978
By Jack Egan
Washington Post Staff Writers

NEW YORK—Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was duped over a period of years by a Soviet KGB intelligence agent code-named "Fedora" who offered his services to the FBI in 1962 but was deliberately providing the FBI director with "disinformation," according to an article in the issue of New York magazine released yesterday.

The article, which deals with "moles", or high level counter-agents implanted in rival intelligence organizations, is based on an upcoming book by Edward Jay Epstein, the author of "Inquest," which 12 years ago severely criticized the Warren Commission and its report.

The new book, "Legend," claim that Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, was recruited by the Soviet KGB in Japan in the late 1950s, where as a Marine Oswald worked as a radar operator at the Atsugi U2 base. It also speculates that Oswald provided U2 information to the Soviets which they used in the interrogation of the late Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot who was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960.

After Oswald's stay in Russia, the KGB, by this account, constructed a "legend," or cover story, that would hide his KGB connections.

"The Soviets never intended for Oswald to kill President Kennedy, but when he did, they sent a fake defector, Yuri Nosenko, to the United States, to tell a story that would corroborate Oswald's legend," according to the convoluted article, which reads like an attempt at a defictionalized John le Carre spy novel plot.

Nosenko, Epstein alleges, approached the Central Intelligence Agency in Geneva in January, 1964, soon after Kennedy's assassination, claiming he was the KGB officer who had superintended Oswald's file during his three years in Russia.

Nosenko "stated categorically that Oswald had had no dealings with the KGB," and then asked to be allowed to defect because he claimed the KGB had wind of his CIA contacts and therefor would kill him if he returned to Russia.

The CIA brought him to the United States, given his status as an Oswald witness (his information was presented to the Warren Commission), but in turn checked out Nosenko's "legend" through "Fedora," who was the FBI's double agent.

Fedora confirmed Nosenko's claims, Epstein says. But when the CIA discovered inconsistencies in Nosenko's story, the agency suspected that Fedora had also been deliberately supplying false information, including the fake cover story.

Nosenko was subjected to intensive CIA interrogation, according to Epstein, because the agency had been warned earlier by another Soviet defector, Maj. Anatoli Golitsin, a senior KGB officer, "that the Soviets had planted one mole deep within the CIA and another within the FBI, with the objectives of promoting and advancing them to positions of leadership in American intelligence." However, Nosenko never significantly changed his story.

Epstein says he extensively interviewed Hoover's deputy director, William C. Sullivan, who died last year in a hunting accident, and Powers, who died last year in a helicopter crash, along with 200 other witnesses in gathering data for the book, which is supposed to trace Oswald's connections to Soviet and Cuban intelligence agencies as well as the CIA.