

12/6/69

Paul and Gary,

The book was both boring and fascinating to me, the disclosures strictly ho-hum, the omissions titillating, the man's egelomania undisguised (no handicap in performance, nor downgrading to his value). In the context of its date of appearance it is strictly for the military@industrial complex first-strike philosophy and an argument for increased military influence and expenditures.

At the time of its appearance it was credited as a CIA job. At this later date, I am satisfied this is the case. It is my recollection (not to be depended upon) that Gibney and Deriabin both are. If this is true, then it casts Davison in still another role, not merely that of a military intelligence agent (which he was, overtly, as assistant air attache).

In the entire text of the book there is no mention of Davison. Attention is focused instead, repeatedly, on Mrs. Chisholm. This is carried to such an awkward extreme that when Davison's phone is given (p.190, this edition), his name and identity are not, unusual in any writing, more so in this book. He is not mentioned in any way until he cannot be avoided, in the excerpts from the trial, when it is downgraded. (But p.255 seems to establish this as a regular American dead drop, not just for P, respite the effort to make it seem a dead drop was to be used but once.)

New remarkable coincidence: Aleksei Davison becomes Alexis, Penkovsky has the code name Alex, and need I remind you of LHO's?

With what the trial produced on Davison, I find it hard to believe he was not immediately declared *personne non grata* and find myself wondering if the Soviets wanted him to remain in the country longer. This is consistent with their failure to do anything about P for so long after they had the goods on him. It is also a standard FBI technique.

The second sentence in Chapter 8 tells of P making contact with "the U.S. Intelligence officer", no further identification. Later in this chapter (p. 233) there is reference to P having made "casual contacts" with "British and American attaches", seemingly, although there is neither naming nor identification, including Davison, the only U.S. "attache" mentioned for the period of reference. If this is the case, then the role Davison played is a larger one than indicated in the news stories.

I have not located "Front(line) of the Secret War" (I've seen title with and without line). I'd like very much to read Wynne now. Does either of you have it? I think I can arrange to get it? Through friends in England.

As I began, what is omitted is provocative. Among the minor omissions is any identification of the two most responsible for the book, Gibney and Deriabin, whose names are mentioned but once, on the tital page. The omissions on Davison also make him more interesting.