

History 299

Re: Notes on John Hart Testimony

Early on in the interview with the Committee Hart notes that on June 11, 1962, the deputy chief of the Soviet Bloc Division of CI wrote that Nosenko had clearly established his bone fides. This was Peter Bagley. Bagley was later involved in the three year effort to break Nosenko at the orders of Angleton and Helms.

Early on (p. 3) Hart discusses a Mr. X--Anatoli Golitsin. He ~~is~~ was diagnosed as paranoid by a CIA psychiatrist. Mr Golitizin (Mr. X) was obsessed with a KGB massive disinformation plot to take over the West. . . Mr. X, according to Hart, believed that the stories of the USSR-Chinese fall out was simply a KGB disinformation campaign. He was believed by certain elements in the CIA. Hart contends it was this Mr. X who finally accused Nosenko of being part of a KGB exercise to discredit him and to do this by spreading disinformation. Golitizin was trying to maintain his "importance" to the CIA, the US Government, and to the federal tax dollar, by eliminating all competition. It was his testimony to the effect that Nosenko was out to discredit him that precipitated the allegations that Nosenko was a 'plant,' etc. and believed by the CIA at this time (1964-1967).

Nosenko and the FBI. Federal Bureau believed Nosenko. N. talked to FBI IN Jan and February. Just at the time he was "swept up" by the CIA. February 1964 Nosenko came under CIA control in control house.

Hart description of CIA attempt to "break" Nosenko. Interrogation not to find out what Nosenko knew, etc. . . But to get Nosenko to reveal that he was a "plant."

Nosenko did not break. By 1966 Helms grew weary of the "game." He wanted results. Results in 2 months.

Hart quotes a letter from the deputy chief of the SB using the term "eventual disposal" of subject.

The Dodd-Hart exchange: Here Hart exceeds Dodd's own characterization of the CIA handling of the Nosenko interrogation (intimidation) as failing miserably. Failing to get from Nosenko any information he might have had about Oswald in Russia.

Finally, Hart makes the point that all the time Nosenko spent under CIA and was sweated for three years the Agency made no effort to find out anything about Oswald in Russia.

Committee never gets anything about Oswald from the Hart testimony. Hart was purposeively selected because he apparently knew nothing about Oswald or was certain to say nothing. All that Hart does is credit Nosenko's bone fides. Justify the agency's use of him and strikes a blow at the old CIA--The Helms crowd.

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Re: Oswald, Nosenko, and Russian Connection

Note: Copies of the Oswald visa/london to Helsinki. Might note the way Epsien treats the timing.

Also note Epstein's treatment of the Assassination . . . The non-book quality of Legend.

Notes on Nosenko:

Might begin with the Barron book and the description of what Nosenko brought to the CIA. The information he sent to the CIA after working for the Counter-Intelligence branch. The time of his defection. . .

The KGB volumes on Oswald. Some 8 in number. Nosenko never saw them all or even more than a fraction of the entire record. This despite what he told the FBI.

Note: The Jan. 27th transcript of WC executive session has Dulles speculating on Oswald as an intelligence agent or working for a US intelligence agency-- which could only have been the CIA. Dulles helped shift attention away from The Company and to the FBI in that session.

Chronology:

Nosenko began working for the CIA in early 1962. His work was within the Counter-Intelligence branch of the CIA--Helms-Angleton-Bagley branch

Oswald was accused of assassinating JFK on Nov. 22, 1963

Nosenko defected to the USA in February 1964

Nosenko was made available by the CIA to the FBI in late February and early March of 1964. He told the FBI that the KGB regarded Oswald as a "sleeper" agent in place. That is, Oswald was employed by the Plans division or counter-intelligence network within the CIA.

Immediately after Nosenko agreed to testify in secret to the WC a CIA delegation headed by Helms, DD of Plans and Angleton's superior, started to talk with the WC into ignoring Nosenko's information by throwing up the fear that Nosenko might be a "disinformation" plant himself . . . sent here to divert the Commission away from the truth about Oswald, etc.

Nosenko disappears. Now begins his three years of incarceration by the CIA--see Hart Testimony.

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Point here is that the WC knew about Nosenko's allegations about Oswald. They had the summaries of the Nosenko FBI testimony--see the Clawson and C. D. Coleman summaries, etc. The WC refused to hear Nosenko testify even in secrecy. They allowed themselves to be thrown into a purple funk by the CIA--Helms--apprehensions about Nosenko's bone fides.

See the June 23, 1964 transcript The WC settled the matter by ignoring Nosenko. Ignoring any allegations he made about Oswald. And settled the matter of Oswald and CIA connections simply by doing what was done in the case of Hoover and FBI--instead of any investigation the WC accepted as a substitute the affidavit of Director McCone that Oswald was never connected with the CIA.

Why the Nosenko "legend" about his defection --the impossibility of its truth that Nosenko was sent to the US to divert attention away from an Oswald-Russian connection in the assassination of JFK.

From the very first--from the moment LBJ authorized Hoover to "leak" the findings of the FBI investigation into the assassination--early in December--before the WC had the access to the report--the Russians knew that the official story was a "single lone-nut" no-conspiracy story by American officialdom. The Russians may not understand democratic ways, but they know how the Bureaucracy works. . . There was no need to send Nosenko over in February to play the role of plant or "disinformation" agency