Top Spy Hunter Erred On Soviet, Book Says

CIA Turned Over Real Double Agent to KGB

Pnt 5/14/91

The CIA's legendary spy hunter, James Angleton, arranged to return a Soviet double agent to the KGB in the mistaken belief the agent's cooperation with the United States was a trick, according to a new book.

There are conflicting accounts of what became of the agent, KGB Maj. Yuri Loginov—whether he was shot or merely fired by the Soviet spy agency, according to the book by British journalist Tom Mangold. But after Loginov had been secretly spying for the CIA from within the KGB for six years, Angleton arranged to have him arrested as a Soviet spy in South Africa in 1967 and swapped two years later, against Loginov's will, for 11 Westerners, the book says.

A secret two-year investigation by the CIA concluded in 1979 that Loginov had genuinely transferred his allegiance from the KGB to the

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CIA, writes Mangold, a senior correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corp. He says Angleton's error cost the United States a rare opportunity to discover and manipulate an entire network of Soviet agents in this country.

Mangold's book, "Cold Warrior, James Jesus Angleton, the CIA's Master Spy Hunter," is to be published here and in Britain this month. It is the basis for a documentary by Mangold to be shown on Public Broadcasting Service's "Frontline" program tonight. Based on interviews with past and present intelligence officers in several countries, the book discloses a number of events said to be related to Angleton's long and controversial search for a Soviet "mole," or spy, within the CIA. Angleton headed CIA counterintelligence from 1954 until he was fired in 1974 by CIA Director William Colby for tying the agency's Soviet division in knots for years with his mole hunt. Angleton died in 1987.

Among the book's assertions:

- Angleton personally led an FBI covert operations team into the French Embassy in Washington in 1963 and photographed French code books, trying to find Soviet spies in French intelligence.

- James Bennett, deputy counterintelligence chief of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who was forced to retire in 1972 because of Angleton-inspired suspicions he was a Soviet agent, was cleared by the CIA and RCMP in 1977.

- In 1985, KGB Col. Vitaly Yurchenko, who defected to the CIA for three months, named a different man as the Soviet spy inside Canadian security services during Bennett's era. Mangold says he is withholding the name until Canadian officials make it public.

- KGB Lt. Col. Yuri Nosenko, who defected in 1964 but was always suspected by Angleton of being a plant, provided six solid leads on Soviet spies in Western Europe that Angleton concealed from CIA colleagues and U.S. allies. Ultimately, one led to the arrest in 1969 of Austrian cipher expert Alois Kahr, who confessed to spying for the KGB since 1960.

- Allies and CIA colleagues were never told by Angleton about 20 leads from an FBI source codenamed Nick Nack, whom Angleton mistrusted. When distributed by his successors, the material led to the arrest of the Fabiew spy ring in France in 1978 and of former Swiss air defense chief Jean-Louis Jeanmaire in 1976.

- Angleton allowed his favorite defector, KGB Maj. Anatoly Golitsyn, who set off the mole hunt with the story he brought over in 1961, to keep some of the agency's most sensitive files at his New York farm with no security.