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Mr. Thomas Mangold
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Dear Mr. Mangold:

Until I read your "Cold Warrior" I wondered from time to time why you are so different from most of the British reporters I've known over many years. Not one was not polite and well-mannered and almost all were thoughtful and responsible. You behaved badly. You imposed upon me. You asked an ageing and ill man for help, said you'd be in touch, and when you were not and he wrote, telling you he did not want to waste any more of the limited time he has left and asking if you still wanted that help, you did not respond. You were not even decent enough when you reached that decision to write or phone to say so. As a result, I did spend a lot of time and waste the cost of considerable xeroxing for you. I did wonder about this bad behavior. It is not what most of us expect from the British or have experienced from Britishers.

As I began to read your book, which is informative and I think will be well received - maybe I also should say and read uncritically by most reviewers - I did, initially, regret that you did not have what I had copied for you and more that I'd not copied.

But the more I got into it the more I came to understand what you have done, the more content I became to have had no connection with your book. Also, because on a personal level you are a stinker.

The idea I was beginning to get became a certainty in my mind when I came to your lying about what Nosenko told the FBI about Oswald. As well as your omission of some of what he'd said and of all that confirms what he said.

It is beyond reasonable question that when he was in CIA captivity, it questioned him about this, but you omit that from your book, too.

This lying and these omissions, Dr. Faustus, serve only your Mephistopheles.

There are, of course, many, many other omissions of what is so relevant to your book about Angleton/Golitsyn/Rocca/Helms et al. and the Commission, particularly about Nosenko.

Including my FOIA suits for those Commission transcripts, particularly those relating to defectors in general and to Nosenko in particular.

You knew about this not only because Jim Lesar represented me but because you make selective quotation of a Briggs affidavit in it. (I don't want to address you as you should be addressed so I resort to this euphemism, "selective.") Your assistant, Jeff Goldberg, passes himself off as a subject expert so he also should have known.

Without checking my files I recall what I think even you can understand I'll never forget, what Briggs did swear to as the initial basis for the withholding of the Commission's Nosenko executive session transcript, that the CIA's treatment of him was a "model" to entice others to defect!

Even in your moderated version of what that "model" treatment the CIA swore was so wonderful others would be standing in line to defect to enjoy it - what the CIA (other than Angleton) admitted to is monstrous. And knowing this you omitted that CIA's attestation in court?

(You did not go into the various means of killing Nosenko considered, put on paper and made public by the CIA.)

It is not hard to see why so many former CIA employees were not worried about being punished over their violations of their CIA employment contracts and talked to you: they had nothing to worry about.

You have written a book that serves the CIA's interests and there certainly appears to have been this payoff for you. To the degree possible you have exculpated the CIA as an institution as well as all of those with bureaucratic authority over Angleton who were responsible along with him.

For what other reason would you lie about what Nosenko told the FBI about Oswald being suspected as a U.S. agent and omit all the so much that confirms and relates to it, including even the fact that Helms personally added to the Angleton pressure through Rocca and others for the Commission not to question Nosenko even in secret?

For what other reason would you ignore the disclosed proposed CIA questions to be addressed to the government of the USSR, questions clearly designed to be so insulting the State Department would be afraid to send them or, if sent, would assure offense to the USSR and thus, either way, the known and existing KGB records on Oswald would be kept in the USSR.

The very records you lie about, the records stating that Oswald was suspected of being an American agent in place or "sleeper," the records that state he was openly anti-Soviet when in the USSR - what you censored for the CIA from your book.

The Angletonian approach was to persuade the Commission not to exercise its own judgment but to accept his and not listen to Nosenko. Of course the Commission, had it not been cowardly or already determined to whitewash the assassination, could have heard Nosenko anyway, as it knew it should have. Or when it got those FBI interview reports it could have asked the State Department to ask the USSR for its Oswald files. But it got Angleton's message (for the CIA, not only personally) that it should not want anything from Nosenko because it could point back to the CIA. So it did not mention even Nosenko's name. But then it published only about 10,000,000 words so it had no space for this name that had been in all the papers.

I find your citation in your notes of those FBI reports a bit odd. The first book to use them was my 1975 "Post Mortem." Only you could not cite that, could you, because it makes clear that you lied for the CIA. So instead you credited them to HSCA's later use of them.

Or didn't you know that they were available in the Archives, where I got them, so you could have cited that only?

Likewise is it odd that in your brief references to the scheme you attribute to Angleton alone in the CIA, to get rid of Harold Wilson, you do not include in your notes and bibliography the book, "The Wilson Plot." Is this because it points at more in the CIA than the safely-dead Angleton? I've given my copy away so I can't check. (In the text you focus on Wright in England. He was hardly alone in it there.) Or do you have British sources to serve, too?

So, please accept my thanks for and appreciation of your bad behavior and for your sparing me what would be a great embarrassment, any connection with such impressive dishonesty in the book from which you will reap your reward of wealth and fame here and elsewhere.

I do not envy you wealth and fame gotten the way you get it.

HAROLD WEISBERG