Angleton

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
12/24/78

Mr. James J. Angleton
4814 33rd Road North
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Angleton,

Yesterday's Post account of your suit for Nosenko information leads me to believe that it is one of two issues on which we probably agree. The other is the need in today's world for an effecient intelligence system.

Because I believe that my lawyer and I can be of help to you in your suit, without consulting with him I offer whatever help your lawyer believes he can use. I am confident that my cousel will feel the same way because we both believe that all possible information should be available to everyone, including those with whom we disagree, and because we both follow this practise with the records I obtain and have obtained through what is probably the largest number of FOIA cases filed by any private citizen.

My experiences, with the CIA but not limited to it, are from the outside. I can give detailed proofs and if necessary testimony to the withholding by subterfuge, to the withholding so that the same information can be leaked or first used in angled form or by those of known preconception and disposition.

For more than three years the CIA has been withholding all Nosenko information from me. My FOIA request is that old. I have repeated it and appealed. The appeal is without response. Both refusals violate the Act. If this had not been done the angled use, really misdirection of Hart's House committee testimony would not have been possible. In my view none of it was within any proper legislative mandate and all of it was dictated by the CIA, not the committee. In short I regard it as media manipulation, possible because of the committee's own irresponsibility if not bankruptcy.

If this offer has or can have any interest for you I make it without any quid pro quo, despite the fact that we sought to depose you in one of my suits. Our purpose had nothing to do with your beliefs. It was merely to ask you as an expert the kinds of questions you now have to have answered about the existence and withholding of existing information.

If your lawyer does not have extensive FOIA experience my lawyer does. He is James H. Lesar, with two offices. In his home, 484-6023; in the Christian Science Building 223-5567.

So far as I am concerned you are welcome to all our case records, to read or to copy and use. We may have copies of relevant decisions that may save your counsel much time inx research if he does not have them.

Some of the CIA's affidavits in my cases, particularly with regard to Nosenko and his treatment (which is not of special interest to me) may be quite valuable to you, I believe.

I will inform Mr. Lesar of my desire to provide any assistane you or your counsel may find can be of use to you by a carbon of this letter, as I also will when I speak to him again. In addition, I will make it clear that while I still believe the testimony we desired from you should still be before that Court it is in no way a precondition and that save for what he might consider inappropriate I would like everything we have to be available to you, through him, me or both of us.

Good luck in your suit. Which I also believe you'd have been well advised to have filed in the District, where the district and appeals court have much more experience in FOIA cases and official misrepresentations in them. The appeals court in particular appears to be tiring of these misrepresentations. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Ex-Counterintelligence Chief Sues for Access to CIA Data

Post 12/23/75

Former CIA counterintelligence chief James J. Angleton has sued Stansfield Turner, the agency's current director, for access to documents bearing on the handling of a high-ranking KGB defector, Yuri Nosenko.

During hearings by the House Assassinations Committee, Angleton was criticized for the counterintelligence division's management of Nosenko's defection, which included subjecting the former KGB official to three years of solitary confinement.

The critical testimony was provided by retired CIA official John L. Hart who was called back to active duty to review the agency's handling of the Nosenko case.

In his suit Angleton charged that Hart had made statements which "were frequently false and misleading" about his involvement in the Nosenko defection. He said the agency had denied him access to documents necessary to defend himself.

Hart termed the handling of the Nosenko case "an abomination" because of the harsh treatment inflicted on the defector. The brunt of Hart's testimony was that Nosenko had valuable information to pass on to his American debriefers but was subjected to abuse because of the suspicions of the counterintelligence division that he was not a genuine defector.

Among the matters on which Nosenko was considered competent to testify was the KGB file on Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Angleton contended in the suit filed in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria that he had been promised access to documents bearing on Hart's testimony and was then denied the material.