

HISPA.II 9/15/79 Staff report on Nosenko. Excerpt of how CIA divines from leads without an actual lie

led to his being questioned by the FBI upon arrival in the U.S. He was interviewed in late February and early March. It is not known if these sessions were tape recorded, but as of today all that exists are statements prepared by the interrogating FBI agents, a four-page report of the February sessions, a nine-page report of those in March. Nosenko told the FBI about his knowledge of Oswald and the fact the KGB had no contact with him.

The conclusion of the March report reads as follows: On March 4, 1964, Nosenko stated that he did not want any publicity in connection with this information but stated that he would be willing to testify to this information before the Presidential Commission, provided such testimony is given in secret and absolutely no publicity is given either to his appearance before the Commission or to the information itself.

The report noted that on March 6 Nosenko inquired if the information he furnished on March 4 regarding Oswald had been given to the appropriate authorities. He was advised that this had been done.

NOSSENKO IS PLACED IN ISOLATION BY THE CIA

On April 4, 1964, CIA officials decided to place Nosenko in isolation and to commence hostile interrogations.

First, he was subjected to a polygraph, one designed to insure a proper atmosphere for the hostile interrogations.

The CIA polygrapher was instructed to inform Nosenko he had lied.

regardless of the actual outcome of the test. (In his report, the polygrapher wrote his true conclusion, which was that Nosenko had indeed lied.) The official position now stated by the CIA, is that the test was "invalid or inconclusive."

The conditions of Nosenko's isolation have been described by the Rockefeller Commission as "spartan." Both Nosenko and the CIA were asked by this Committee to describe them.

Nosenko says the room to which he was confined had "a metal bed attached to the floor" and "the only furniture in the room was a single bed and a light bulb."

The CIA states, "Nosenko received a regular diet of three meals a day. Periodically during this time, his diet was modified to the extent that his portions of food were modest and restricted."

Nosenko states he "was not given a toothbrush and toothpaste and food given to me was very poor. I did not have enough to eat and was hungry all the time."

The CIA:

"Nosenko did not have access to TV, radio or newspapers... He was provided with a limited number of books to read from April 1964 to November 1965 and from May 1967 to October 1967. His reading privileges were suspended from November 1965 to May 1967."

Nosenko:

"I had no contact with anybody to talk. I could not read. I could not smoke..."

The CIA states Nosenko was "under constant visual observation from April 1964 to October 1967," the period of his isolation.

Nosenko: "I was watched day and night through TV camera... I was desperately wanting to read and once, when I was given toothpaste, I found in the toothpaste box a piece of paper with a description of compound of this toothpaste. I was trying to read it under my blanket, but guards noticed it and again it was taken from me."

Both Nosenko and the CIA agree that conditions improved markedly beginning in the fall of 1967 (the end of the isolation).

THE CIA INTERROGATES NOSENKO ABOUT OSWALD

Nosenko was questioned about Lee Harvey Oswald on five occasions in 1964 -- on January 23 and 30 in Geneva, and on July 3, 27, and 29 in the U.S. The sessions of July 3 and 27 were of particular interest to this Committee, since they were detailed and specific about Nosenko's knowledge of Oswald. The questions were chronological, and an attempt was made to touch all aspects of Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union. Areas of inquiry included Oswald's visa application and his entry into the U.S.S.R.; KGB contact with Oswald; Oswald's request to remain in the U.S.S.R.; the denial of this request and Oswald's subsequent suicide attempt; Oswald in Minsk and his job in a radio factory; Oswald's marriage to Marina; Oswald's attempt to return to Russia via Mexico City in 1963.

The interrogator, an employee of the Soviet Russia Section, conducted the interviews in English and tape recorded them.

Nosenko related that he was assigned to the Seventh Department of the Second Chief Directorate when Oswald arrived in the Soviet Union in 1959, at which time Nosenko's section had responsibility for counterintelligence operations against American tourists.

At the time Oswald asked to remain in Russia, Nosenko reviewed information the KGB had on the American. Soon after Oswald went to Minsk, Nosenko was transferred and lost contact with him. However, he became reinvolved in the case right after the assassination.

Nosenko said that as soon as President Kennedy's assassin was identified as a man who had lived in the Soviet Union, the KGB ordered that Oswald's file be flown to Moscow and reviewed to determine whether there had been any contact between him and Soviet intelligence. Nosenko said further he was assigned to the review of Oswald's file. Based on that review, as well as his earlier contact with the case, he was able to report positively that Oswald had neither been recruited nor contacted by the KGB.

In his July 27 interview, Nosenko was handed a transcript of a tape recording of the July 3 session. He read each question