

Dear Jerry,

6/10/89

Here is Epstein's "Deception" for the library. As I told you today before finishing it, it is a total waste of time if read for information. It misinforms, disinform, misrepresents and it even lies. I'll cite an example or two from the few comments I wrote on the pages.

It is at once an effort to rehabilitate James Jesus Angleton and a cold war distribe. It is so much an effort to make Angleton right that toward the end I was thinking of the author not as Edward Jay Epstein but as Edward Jesus Anglestein.

My only original interest in the book was what he had about Nosenko. It has nothing at all by way of fact and it has much the exact opposite. He has not a word about what Nosenko said, for example, to the FBI, or what he said about Oswald and the USSR's records on Oswald. I believe this is not an oversight. Rather is it that he could not have argued so dishonestly if he had to write and explain his way around what Nosenko told the FBI about Oswald. In the USSR and what the KGB believed of him, that he was an agent in place or a "sleeper" agent. Yet the first third of the book is, ostensibly about Nosenko and Oswald or Nosenko's alleged "deception" role beginning with Oswald.

In a number of places I have marked what I regard as dishonest, using that word.

None of what has, without question, happened in the USSR under Gorbachev has, according to ~~Epstein~~ Epstein, happened at all. I am not exaggerating. He says it is all deception, the sixth Glasnost Deception.

An example of a lie Epstein had to know is a lie is in his epilogue on Angleton, page 288:

"Angleton evidently believed Oswald's shuttling ~~between~~ between the Cubans and the Soviets in Mexico City required cooperation (meaning between the Cubans and the USSR), especially since Oswald was eventually telegraphed a visa by the Cuban Foreign Ministry in Havana."

Whether or not Oswald required a seeing-eye dog to lead him from one of the buildings to ~~the~~ other, it is without question that he failed to get a visa to go to Cuba and had a memorable scrap over its refusal.

However, if the CIA had had any such information and withheld it from the FBI and the Warren Commission, what a terrible thing that was. In fact, however, quite aside from what was made public by the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is solid on the Cuban refusal to give Oswald a visa, the CIA also had its own way of knowing, as Angleton surely knew and as the CIA, via Angleton or otherwise, probably did let Epstein know.

When David Phillips was deposed in a lawsuit he filed he was accompanied by, among other officials, one from the CIA to be sure that he did not disclose any ~~such~~ information that ought not be disclosed. Phillips testified that the CIA's Mexico City station had an inside source in the Cuban mission. In addition, he testified to the taping of which we know and to his personal knowledge of it.

There is not a single source cited, not a single footnote in the Nosenko portion. Thereafter there are very few notes of any kind. There is no way for the reader to know the source of most of this book and my belief is that there is no actual source, that it is what Epstein began intending to say, plus his rendition of what Angleton may have said that is not attributed to Angleton.

The book was published only two months ago. It is so very wrong, so obviously biased and dishonest in what it says about the USSR today, I think it will die a fairly rapid death, save for the other ideologues who may want to see their own preconceptions on paper.

Harold