

Senator Charles McC. Mathias
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/24/78

Dear Mac,

This letter is prompted by the Kaisern story in today's Post headed "Doubts Persist About Soviet Defector." It says the Intelligence committee is looking into the "hotly disputed" case.

I think that the committee likewise is going to be torn and unable to agree.

Moreover, much too much paper has been generated. I doubt anyone will be able to assimilate all of it.

My own belief is that this is much more Byzantine than appears on the surface - or any of the surfaces.

There are aspects about which I think I can be helpful, if you so desire. It is possible that one of these aspects is basic. I think it is although I do not think the dispute will ever be resolved to the satisfaction of those of Angletonian view of the world or of intelligence activities.

Because it is not wise for me to drive that far and have to keep my feet down I go to Washington only when I must. As of now I know of nothing that will require me to go there for a month. Then I will use the bus, which gets me there about 8:30. I will return on the bus that leaves at 2:00 p.m. I have a status call in an FOIA case that morning. However, if you are here or a member of your staff is driving that far is no problem if meeting here is.

Separate from whatever may be the facts of the Nosenko case there is this consideration: why would the CIA and the FBI stonewall my earlier FOIA requests relating to Nosenko and then do more than comply with Epstein's later requests? If one can believe what he says, and often I do not, both agencies did more than merely provide records - also doing that on an exclusive basis.

Why also would both agencies even now refuse to comply with my requests?

I have received from these agencies not a single piece of paper relating to Nosenko, as of now. I filed new requests in about February. Both have been rejected.

While to a degree Epstein's known political views and the nature of his prior writings can provide an answer it cannot be and I believe is not a full answer.

Our best to you all,

Stories under "Epstein-Legend"

Harold Weisberg