

Mr. David Ignatius
Editor, Outlook
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
3/6/90

Dear Mr. Ignatius,

Yuri Nosenko has long been of great interest to me, beginning with some almost entirely ignored Warren Commission records. The CIA has entirely ignored my FOIA request for Nosenko information and the FBI ignored ^{it} for years, until it decided to provide some to a right-wing writer who died before he could use them. It did provide me with copies it selected for him, even by mistake addressing me with his name. Under FOIA litigation I finally got a suppressed Commission executive session transcript reflecting what transpired when it pondered calling him as a witness. It did not accept his offer to testify, made to the FBI. When the archives did stop withholding Nosenko records in their entirety, it removed his name from them in granting access.*

If when you interviewed the most recent KGB defector to go public he told you anything about Nosenko other than that the KGB had considered killing him, and if it presents you with no conflict, I'm very interested in knowing what he said, no matter how insignificant it may seem to be to you.

There is an untold Nosenko story, in fact several, that to a considerable degree I have documented. If this interests you, please let me know.

When the House Select Committee on Assassinations expressed an interest in Nosenko to the CIA, it sent John L. Hart to testify in public about Nosenko and its treatment of him. He was followed by Helms, who is also part of the Nosenko story. I've read the Hart testimony as published and I'm confident that it was edited. I'm now sorry that I gave the tapes I made as broadcast to the University of Wisconsin so I cannot be 100% certain, but I believe there was significant omission in what was published.

This does involve what Nosenko told the FBI about Lee Harvey Oswald. And what Nosenko told the FBI about Oswald does not conform to the official "solution" to that crime. I'm willing to go into this in detail if you'd like and can provide documentation.

Separately, but in my mind not unrelated, I've put together a somewhat different background on Oswald than the generally believed version. I'd had some suspicions about him that are, albeit elliptically, in my first book. My first confirmation came in an unusual way - in a radio appearance in the San Francisco Bay area in December, 1966, I turned on a former Marine Corp friend who feared going public. He would not talk to me on the air but he did after the show signed off. I was able to confirm everything he told me about Oswald, including such small things as his taste in music and that he was a pool shark. As well as what was more significant that I'll also be glad to go into it if interests you. I have the barest mention of this in my Oswald in New Orleans but I've since carried it forward, as best I could until illnesses slowed me down. I did plan a book on it all. In fact, I started it. **

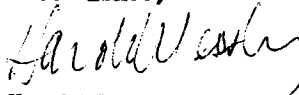
My indirection is for two reasons: no matter how slight the possibility may be, not to give you any conflict and because it is a pretty hairy story that the passing of a quarter of a century may not make more acceptable. I think an exceptionally important story. It does not reflect any lack of trust.

If this interests you, please let me know.

* Nosenko's defection was announced officially 2/64.

** Oswald's friend told me he was never interviewed by ONI, the FBI or the Commission

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg