

Let's start the specifics with a case where Barros was relatively honest, but where the consequences of his folly and impatience have been widespread and nasty. On December 16, 1984, William Stevenson, Canada's premier spy catcher, wrote in the Toronto Sun that, according to Chapman Pincher, the world champion, there was little doubt that Norman "had worked for the KGB in all three posts" - Tokyo, Wellington and Cairo. Moreover "One recent biographer is convinced [he] ... 'went far to contribute to Moscow's decision to give the North Koreans the green light to invade South Korea ...'."

Sure enough, both allegations are spelled out in Pincher's Too Little Too Late (418), but he gives full credit to Barros who in turn had learned from Lester Pearson's Mike that General MacArthur had told him and Norman that South Korea lay outside the American defense perimeter. Barros cleverly deduced that if Norman had passed that information to the Kremlin - "and he might have" - that could have contributed to the start of the Korea war. In the middle of an otherwise coherent paragraph, however, Barros has inserted the assertion that Secretary of State Acheson had made the same statement in public a month earlier. (163-4) The Russians could have had this tragically misleading information for the price of a newspaper! Why the now defused paragraph remains is a minor mystery.

But how could Pincher, and through him Stevenson, miss that detail about the Acheson speech? The reason Pincher cited "Barros book," and not No Sense of Evil, is that his book appeared two years before Barros'! In his eagerness to launch his campaign of calumny, Barros had sent the great Pincher an early draft. When an informed editor or friend called the Acheson speech to Barros' attention, he just shoved in the mention, retained a now nonsensical paragraph, and forgot to alert Pincher. So another nasty myth was born, all because Pincher and Stevenson were trusting, ignorant and lazy, and Barros had been too impatient to get his indictment of Norman into print. A multitude of readers were told that Norman, a gentle scholar and diplomat, was an instigator of an ugly war that caused nearly two million casualties. Pity he is not around to sue.

Pincher and Stevenson were just as unwise to take seriously the Barros' version of another situation, one as comical as Korea was serious. This concerns the allegation that Norman served the KGB while High Commissioner to New Zealand. Their authority is only Barros, who in turn relied totally on a single witness, one directly involved, bitter and eccentric. Her charges are prime facie ridiculous, and also could easily have been checked for the price of a couple of phone calls, or a request for the relevant file. But Barros