

The greater fault is Barros' failure not to say clearly that Golitsyn had proven to be the most disruptive of all the defectors, and perhaps the most unreliable. Having cast a spell over James Angleton, the head of counter intelligence for the CIA, Golitsyn proceeded to finger over 100 Americans, nearly as many Britons, and dozens in France, Germany, Scandinavia and Canada. Very few of his charges stuck. Nor did his strong insistence that the Czech rising in 1968, and the Sino-Soviet rift, had been faked by the Kremlin to persuade the West to drop its guard. The turmoil he created was enormous. Knowing this, how much credence should anyone, apart from Barros and Nigel West (his single source), give Golitsyn's sweeping allegation against Norman?

Actually, unbeknown to Barros, Golitsyn had given a more revealing statement to the RCMP in 1962 - still "vintage"? Asked about Norman's suicide he said: "... I asked myself, is it possible that it can be previous KGB involvement? And I thought when I come to the West I'll find this out. My guessing was at the time that its possible ... that this person is a target from both sides, at first a victim from the KGB, then as a result of persecution, interrogation."

Canadian security officials subsequently interpreted this guessing as evidence that "Golitsyn has no knowledge relevant to the Norman case." He is, of course, far from the only defector whose speculation has been taken as serious evidence by gullible or mischievous members of the literary spy catchers guild.

Gouzenko

No other defector, or convicted traitor, appears to have accused Norman of being a spy or agent. There remains, however, a curious report by Gouzenko of a 1946 query from Moscow to the Embassy: "Do you know Norman?" In reply, Herbert Norman was not even mentioned, but the RCMP nevertheless concluded, not unreasonably, that the Soviets might have been considering him as a desirable recruit. There was no approach that is known and no development. Only Barros now attaches any significance to the cryptic message. (63)