

Two opposed books

situation" (Dulles memorandum of conversation, March 27, 1956, *Dulles Papers*).

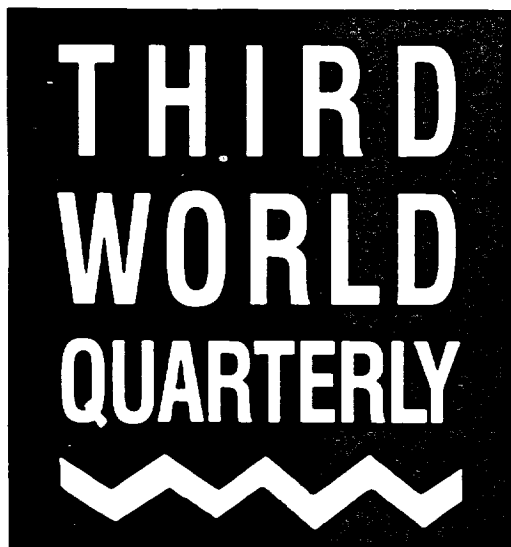
In October 1956, Dulles and Eisenhower agreed that Pearson was the best man to replace Lord Ismay as Secretary-General of NATO. Pearson, however, now that St. Laurent was back with vim and vigor, and was ready for the election campaign, felt he must support the Prime Minister, and, if he were re-elected, stay on at External Affairs (Dulles to Eisenhower, October 23, 1956, *Dulles Papers*). In their different ways, Pearson and Dulles attempted to convince Eden not to resort to force against Nasser, and both were shut out by the Anglo-French-Israeli collusion and decision of October 1956 to attack Egypt. Then they worked in concert to rescue Egypt from its aggressors, the aggressors from the consequences of their own folly, and the UN and world peace from Soviet mischief. Finally, they cooperated to bring about a cease-fire, to create the UNEF, secure the evacuation of Egyptian territory, clear the Suez Canal, and seek new arrangements in the Middle East (Dulles to Merchant, October 25, 1956, Dulles/Pearson telephone conversation, October 30, 1956, Dulles to

Pearson, November 14, 1956, Merchant to Dulles, December 7, 1956, *Dulles Papers*).

This is not a question of hagiography. Revisionism about Lester Pearson is underway and will gather steam. But it will not end with subversion, disloyalty and treachery.

Conclusion

It is inconceivable that the Soviet Union did not try to recruit traitors of promise from Commonwealth countries, along with young Englishmen. There are blemishes on Norman's record. He was investigated in Britain and the United States, as well as in Canada. Perhaps it was deemed unwise to leave him in Tokyo after the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950. But is it reasonable and responsible to construct an indictment of him on the evidence available? I think not. One must conclude that Barros's book will not find a place in the literature about intelligence that is scholarly, sound and lasting. No amount of publisher's hype will alter that fact. The book is, in the final reading, a self-indulgence. It is, in fact, a conceit. □



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