

Republic, as his authority for saying that Norman had probably been recruited as an agent. To explain how Blunt had learned of Norman's treason, Barros said "pillow talk," a cheap shot at the alleged love affair between Burgess and Blunt, and a reference to Burgess' alleged friendship with Norman. (There are, incidentally, no serious suggestions that Norman was homosexual.)

A record of an official interrogation of Blunt is on file. It reports that Blunt remembered Norman but "was not quite certain of the context." "Certainly a Communist" he said, "and might have been a Party member at one stage." He thought that "he was relevant to the 'game'[presumably espionage] but could not remember exactly how." Some time later, Blunt recalled that Norman was "definitely in the game" but he didn't know who had recruited him. Burgess, he thought erroneously, had come to Cambridge too late to know Norman.

A hazy witness at best, and it must be remembered that Blunt was earning his freedom by tattling and needed to please his potential prosecutors with information, true or at least plausible. There had been a great deal of media speculation about the Norman suicide, and most non-Canadians have assumed that it was an admission of guilt. Blunt would not be the only agent to be influenced by the media. John Cairncross, another Cambridge contemporary, who became a mole in the British Treasury, gave similarly vague answers about Norman. He "thought" he had been in the "Circle" but could recall no specifics.

Golitsyn

Barros frequently misleads the reader by understating the limitations of the single witness he is citing. The most serious example was Anatoly Golitsyn who defected from the Soviet Union in 1961. Barros did indicate that his "vintage" reporting was "very good indeed," implying that it may have soured a trifle with time. Then, without indicating whether he was citing vintage Golitsyn or sour, he quoted the apparently conclusive statement that Norman was "a long term communist and KGB agent." Those damning words form his text for the next thirty pages on Soviet intelligence, suspicious behaviour by Norman, etc. Towards the end Barros boasts that he had extracted a letter from Golitsyn in which he declined to comment on the grounds he was writing a book. Discouraged? Not at all! Since "he was man enough not to deny" the charge against Norman, Barros reasons that it is likely to be true! The logic is a trifle hard to follow.