

The Norman case was similar. When in 1957 the Senate subcommittee made public its outrageous charges against Norman, Prime Minister Pearson, with strong support from the Opposition, delivered one of the strongest protests in the history of Canada-US relations. Both the RCMP and External urged Pearson, in accordance with traditional policy, not to reveal any specifics from Norman's file. He was provoked, however, into saying that the Government had known for a long time of Norman's left-wing associations during his student days. He did not say much, and did not wittingly lie because Norman had misled him.

But he said too much. The columnists, editorial writers and a few Parliamentarians were off in hot pursuit. Pearson then wrote long letters to the Montreal Gazette and the Globe and Mail to answer the reflections on himself. John Diefenbaker, leader of the Opposition, and Solon Low, leader of the Social Credit Party, jumped in with ammunition provided by the Canadian Intelligence Service Digest, a right-wing, anti-Semitic journal. The drama of the suicide was sufficient to ensure prolonged speculation, but the partial departure from the traditional policy made matters worse. No number of government denials of treason, even when issued by Conservative Governments, could calm the suspicion and clamour. Nor did it help that Norman's name turned up frequently in the booming international spy literature, such as the books of Chapman Pincher. Often these mentions have been inspired by writers in Canada, notably James Barros. (see Appendix B)

Virtually the entire Norman story, at least as far as it is known to the Government, has been open to scholars since the passage of Access to Information legislation in 1983. With the deletion of a few pages and names to protect sources and living persons, the External package, and another of RCMP documents, have been issued to the media, several scholars and Mrs. Herbert Norman. I have seen both full and sanitized versions and can attest that nothing has been deleted that contradicts the Government's assurances, or the serious accounts by Bowen and Taylor. Barros has also had access but, having started with a strong conviction of Norman's guilt, and also of bureaucratic duplicity, no number of new facts is likely to alter his position.

How can I be confident that I was shown all the files, with no deletions, as directed by the two ministers most concerned? I saw the eight volumes of External's Norman file, and about sixty files containing his reporting from abroad-all that I requested. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service made available all its relevant files and National Defence let me see the papers covering Norman's wartime work. I can't guarantee that I saw every relevant sheet, but I think I did.