

APPENDIX B

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE BARROS MYSTERY

The Herbert Norman tragedy was largely caused by the crude, ideological intervention into Canadian affairs by a subcommittee of the United States Senate. This study, ironically, is the result of another crude, ideological, American intervention into our affairs but, I hasten to add, I foresee nothing tragic in the outcome! Indeed, I have enjoyed the assignment, and the contract terms are not unreasonable. I should, perhaps, not look the "Barros gift horse" in the mouth! I nevertheless feel bound to inform the long suffering Canadian tax payer that, but for the passionate agitation of a single foreign professor, this study would almost certainly never have been commissioned.

Among older Canadians, there is clearly considerable curiosity about the Norman case, and many seem pleased that the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, and the Solicitor General, Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux, opened the relevant External and CSIS files for this study. Younger Canadians, understandably, rarely recognise the Norman name, and in an era of glorious detente, are increasingly blasé about Cold War tales. A couple of sensation seeking columnists, William Stevenson and Peter Worthington, have sought to keep the issue alive, and an occasional editorial writer, on a dull day, has called for an extension of glasnost in our murkiest past. Nowhere, however, can I detect a groundswell of concern about the true loyalty of Herbert Norman, still less of Lester Pearson. Not even a placard on Parliament Hill!

Professor Barros, however, did enlist two energetic voices in Parliament, M.P.s Alex Kindy and David Kilgour, and their prayers have finally been answered. I'll wager my pension that neither would have spoken out without the inspiration and coaching of Professor James Barros. But what motivates him? I'm at a loss to explain. As the Norman mystery diminishes in my mind, the Barros mystery steadily thickens. A clear statement of purpose from him might help us all to understand a minor but intriguing political event that seems to be without precedent in our history. Who else has ever been hired to examine fifty years of official files to determine if successive governments, both Liberal and Progressive Conservative, have been telling the truth about one, long dead civil servant?

James Barros is not listed in the Canadian Political Science Register, nor in the Canadian Who's Who, and I have been unable to obtain his C.V. The biographical sketch found in his recent books deals only with his academic career. It does not mention his work for the United States Government in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Barros' other writing appears