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CIA ACCUSED OF GHOSTWRITING SOVIET DEFECTOR'S BOOK
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WASHINGTON

A best selling book by Arkady N. Shevchenko, the highest-ranking Soviet official ever to defect to the United States, actually was written by the CIA, an American critic has charged.

Edward Jay Epstein, author of a book that challenged the official findings that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in President John F. Kennedy's assassination, said Shevchenko not only did not write the best selling 'Break with Moscow' but was not a 'super mole' supplying top intelligence to the CIA.

Epstein's views on Shevchenko's book are contained in a lengthy review to be published in the July 15 issue of The New Republic magazine.

Shevchenko left his position as U.N. undersecretary general for political and security council affairs and defected to the CIA in 1978. He has been on the CIA payroll since as a consultant.

Epstein, who describes himself as an intelligence expert, said Shevchenko 'had little knowledge of the inner workings of current Soviet policies or intelligence operations' and that an earlier book of memoirs he actually authored was turned down by publishers as innocuous and not saleable.

After this failure, Epstein claimed, the CIA 'entered the fiction market' and fabricated a 'thriller' complete with car chases, heroic escapes, secret meetings and recollections of 'intimate' conversations with Soviet leaders.

Asked for comment, the CIA issued a statement saying, 'Arkady Shevchenko provided invaluable intelligence information to the United States. The CIA had nothing to do with writing his book.'

Ray Cline, an intelligence veteran of 30 years and former deputy CIA director who has met with Shevchenko, said, 'The CIA denial is correct and the Shevchenko story substantially truthful.'

Ashbel Green, a senior editor for New York publisher Alfred Knopf, which published the best seller, told United Press International in a telephone interview that the work he edited 'is certainly true as far as I'm concerned. People I know in the intelligence community confirmed he was what he said he was and I frankly believe them more than Mr. Epstein.'

Green pointed to a Sunday New York Times book review Feb. 3, which quoted Sen. Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y. a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, that Shevchenko's disclosures 'were invaluable ... nothing like it has ever before occurred.'

Epstein, in his review, quoted unidentified analysts at the Defense Intelligence Agency that Shevchenko 'had nothing of value to offer American intelligence, aside from some dated biographical material.'

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The critic said that according to his own investigations, Shevchenko could not possibly have had the experiences he claimed because of conflicts in dates and circumstances and could not have had top level access to Kremlin leaders and secrets.

Shevchenko, now 54, was appointed to his high U.N. post in 1973. Several years later, he said, he began feeding intelligence information to the CIA and then defected.

Shevchenko's wife returned to Moscow where she was said to have committed suicide. He also left a son and daughter in the Soviet Union.