

TRENTONIAN (TRENTON, NJ)
25 September 1985

CIA Response

The writer of *The Trentonian's* editorial on Aug. 20 entitled "Spy Story" professes to be "disturbed" by "published reports" that the Central Intelligence Agency helped defector Arkady Shevchenko write his memoirs.

The "published reports" are not true. The CIA has said publicly in response to the Jay Epstein article in *The New Republic* that it in no way assisted Mr. Shevchenko in the writing of his book.

In answer to those who allege that Mr. Shevchenko is not all he claims to be, we also have affirmed that Arkady Shevchenko provided valuable intelligence information to the U.S. government. Our statement was carried widely in major publications and by the wire services.

Our democracy is unique and so is our public affairs office here at CIA. No other intelligence organization in the world has one. Our job is to respond when possible to queries from the public and the press about CIA and intelligence. If the answers involve compromising the intelligence sources and methods we are charged by law with keeping secret, we simply cannot respond.

We do not lie to the American people nor do we engage in "public relations flimflam to boost" our "image" in the U.S. You have oversight mechanisms in the Congress and under the president to make sure this does not happen.

In the interest of journalistic accuracy, I suggest in the future you call my office to check out the facts.

**George V. Lauder, Director
Public Affairs, CIA**

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The editorial stated an opinion that the Shevchenko book suffers gaps in credibility due to unanswered criticism regarding easily verified or refuted details asserted in the book and questioned by Jay Epstein and other critics. We were remiss in not noting the CIA's denial of any involvement in the writing of the book, and we are glad to hear reassurances that the agency had no role in Shevchenko's literary efforts.

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