

SPECIAL REPORT

Cold War spy history got some sharp corrections in late March from CIA veterans during a conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. The fifth assembly of the Raleigh Spy Conference, hosted by Raleigh publicist Bernie Reeves, was devoted to "CIA's Unsolved Mysteries: the Nosenko Defection, Double Agents, and Angleton's Wilderness of Mirrors." In an unprecedented, bold effort to illustrate for a lay audience some of the best-hidden, most complex, and least understood levels of counterespionage, CIA veterans and informed investigative journalists set out to correct oft-repeated misunderstandings and distortions that had become conventional wisdom in the public press.

CIA chief historian David Robarge straightened the image of CIA's legendary counterintelligence chief James Angleton, so often loosely labelled as "paranoid" and accused of obsessive theories about KGB capabilities that allegedly caused a "paralysis" of CIA's Soviet operations. Not true, Robarge pointed out; Angleton's scepticism and protectiveness of secrets had been blown out of proportion, there was no paralysis, and writers even use Angleton's middle name (Jesus, given him by his Mexican mother) is derisively, whereas neither Angleton nor anyone close to him had used it in his time.

The centrally important case of Yuri Nosenko was exposed to the conference by the CIA officer who had handled it in the 1960s, Tennent ("Pete") Bagley. That case, he showed, involved far deeper issues than the simple question of whether or not this KGB officer did or did not

genuinely defect to the West. What was really at stake, hidden behind Nosenko's stories to CIA, was KGB success in breaking American secret ciphers - the enemy's possession, at crucial moments of the Cold War, of this "war-winning capability." Bagley also told the conference that the KGB really caught America's top spies in the Soviet establishment in the 1950s and early 1960s, Pyotr Popov and Oleg Penkovsky, not by chance KGB surveillance of Westerners in Moscow as Nosenko and others alleged, but by betrayal by still-undiscovered penetrations of CIA's ranks - just as CIA's spies of the 1980s were betrayed by later moles Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen.

sources after the Cold War confirmation that Penkovsky was betrayed, not discovered by chance - though the betrayer remains undiscovered.

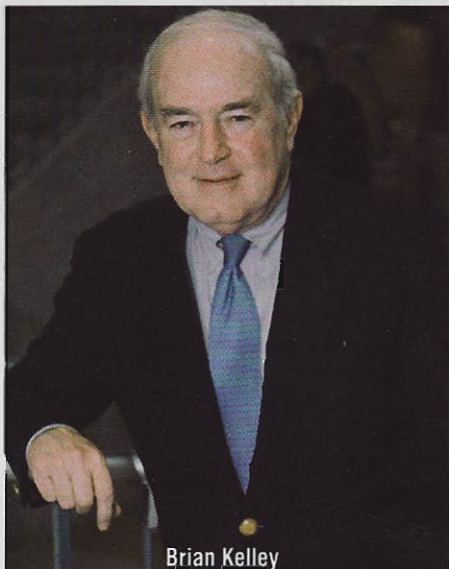
CIA counterintelligence veteran Brian Kelley caught many of the intricacies - and unsolved mysteries - of Cold War games of moles and counterspies in his account of the defected Soviet naval officer Nikolay Artamonov alias Shadrin. In the late 1960s and early 1970s CIA ran Artamonov as a double agent to boost the career of Igor Kochnov, a volunteer from the staff of the KGB - though as Kelley pointed out, Kochnov's true motives remain dubious. In any

Bagley also corrected published misstatements of why he, and the CIA of his time, came to suspect that the KGB had sent Nosenko. It was neither vague theories nor Nosenko's lies nor warnings by another defector nor, least of all, Nosenko's 1964 assertions about Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's assassin, but, instead, inexplicable circumstances surrounding Nosenko's presence in Geneva where he first came into contact with CIA in 1962. Bagley described how, on his own long after his retirement, he got confirmation after the Cold War from former KGB adversaries.

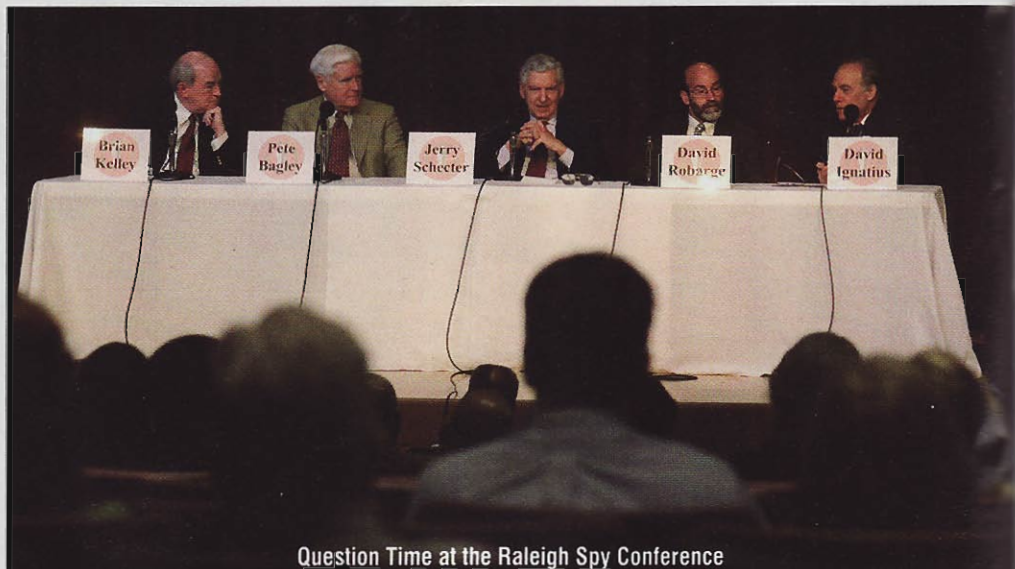
The case of Soviet Colonel Oleg Penkovsky was described at the Raleigh Conference by Jerrold Schecter, former *Time Magazine* bureau chief and the author of its best account, *The Spy Who Saved the World*. Schecter got from KGB



Myths of Cold War Spy Cases Shattered in Raleigh Conference



Brian Kelley

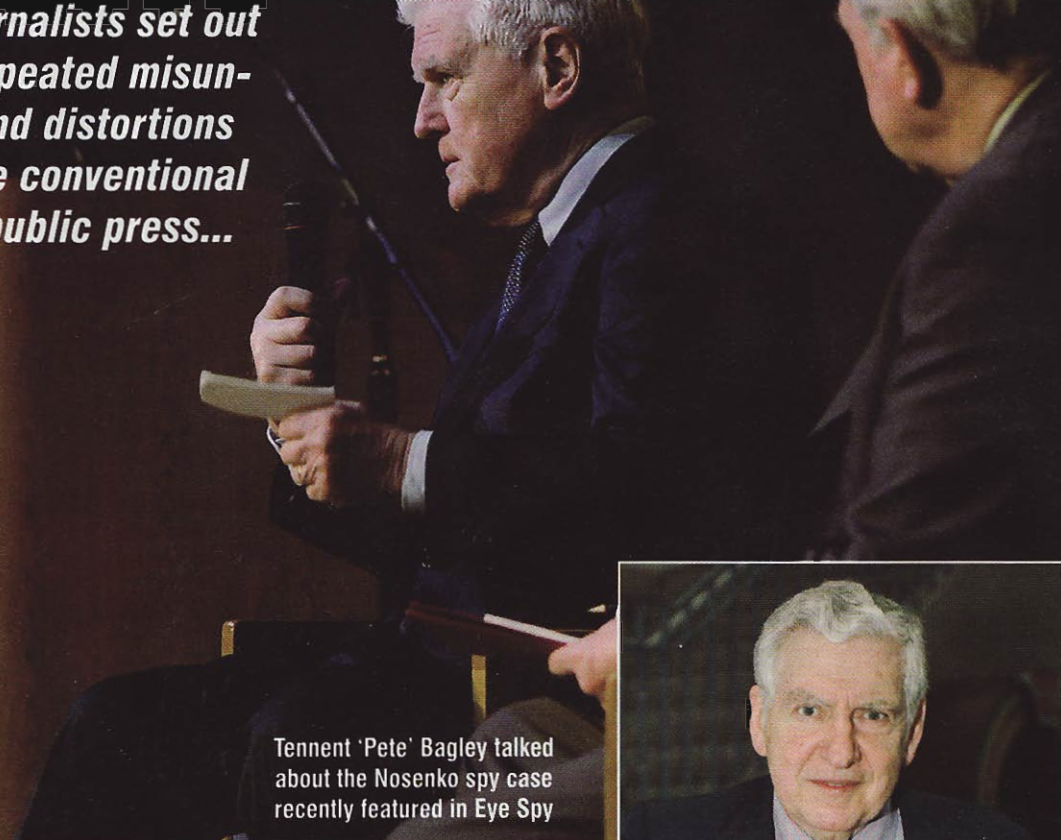


Question Time at the Raleigh Spy Conference

investigative journalists set out to correct oft-repeated misunderstandings and distortions that had become conventional wisdom in the public press...



RALEIGH SPY CONFERENCE
MARCH 25-28, 2006



Tennent 'Pete' Bagley talked about the Nosenko spy case recently featured in *Eye Spy*

event the game was betrayed to the KGB by a mole inside Canadian counterintelligence, Gilles Brunet, as described to the conference by Dan Mulvenna, formerly of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The KGB kidnapped Artamonov in Vienna in 1975 and accidentally killed him by an overdose of sedatives. The case vividly illustrated how much still remains unknown about the undersides of Cold War counterespionage.

In a separate talk Brian Kelley demonstrated, through the intriguing events of the "year of the spy" 1985, an extraordinary range of counterintelligence events - moles, defections, plants, double agents, and mysteries. Highlights of that year included the still-mysterious defection and re-defection of KGB counterintelligence officer Vitaly Yurchenko, and the beginning of CIA officer Aldrich Ames's betrayal of large numbers of Soviet intelligence officers recruited as spies by CIA in the waning years of the Soviet Union.

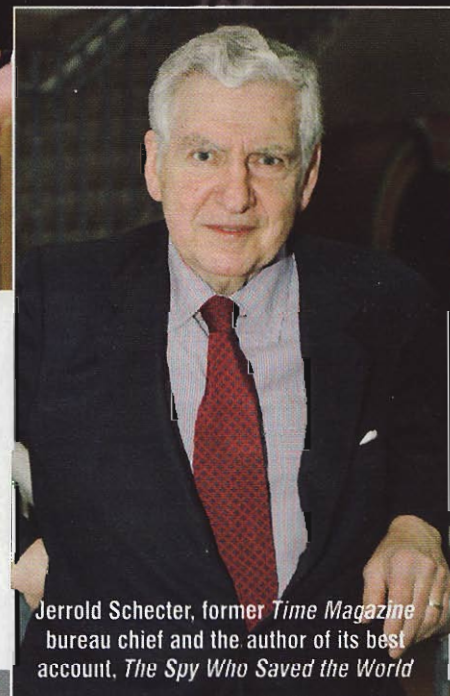


David Ignatius (left), renowned commentator of the *Washington Post* and writer on intelligence, told the conference the inside story behind each of the five gripping spy novels he has published since the mid-1980s - and how, one

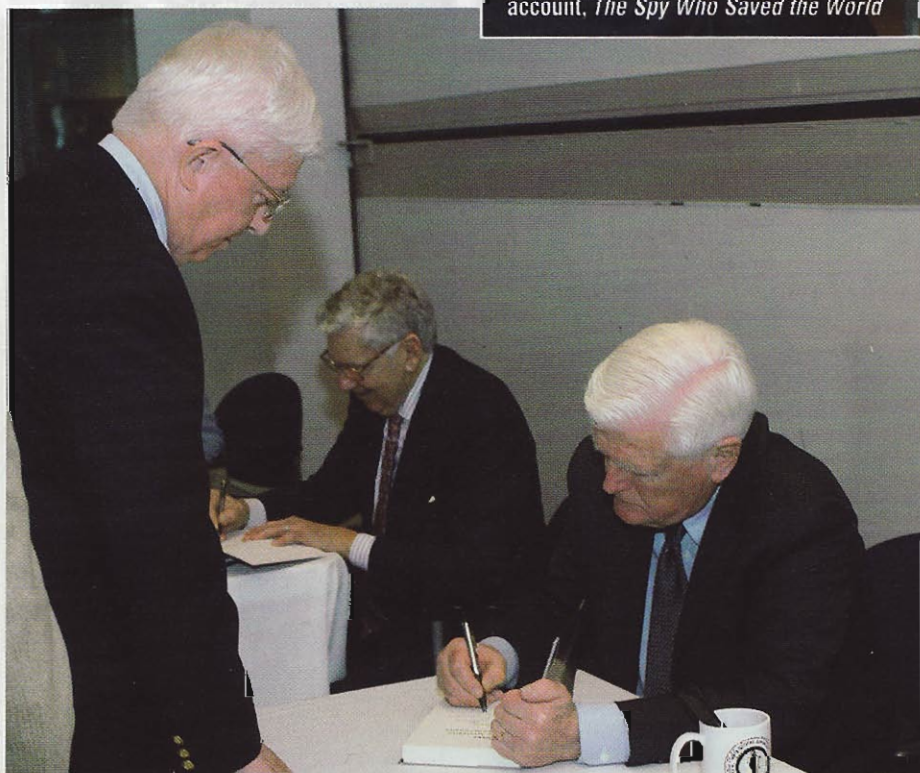
after the other, they demonstrated a CIA declining from a "robust, well-wired" organization into a piece of a multilayered bureaucracy ever more reluctant to take the risks needed to deal with its new, terrorist opponents. No doubt tongue in

cheek, Ignatius recommended that its Langley campus be turned into a theme park, some of its intelligence collection and appraisal functions transferred to other government agencies, and a leaner, more truly clandestine service moved away from Washington and the excessive scrutiny it endures there.

Editor's note: If you would like more information on this annual and important event, please visit: www.raleighspyconference.com



Jerrold Schecter, former *Time Magazine* bureau chief and the author of its best account, *The Spy Who Saved the World*



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