

Angleton, Mossad, and the Kennedy Assassinations

By Laurent Guyénot - June 5, 2022

Edward Curtin wrote four years ago on *Counter-Currents*:

perhaps no one epitomized the twisted mind games played by intelligence agencies more than James Jesus Angleton, the notorious CIA Counterintelligence Chief for so many years, in whose safe were found gruesome photos of Robert Kennedy's autopsy. Why, one may ask, were those photos there, since Angleton allegedly had no connection to the RFK killing and since Sirhan was said to be the assassin? Was Angleton's work as CIA liaison with Israel in any way connected?

If you ask me, I strongly suspect it was. Angleton had been the Mossad's indispensable ally in John Kennedy's assassination. So he had personal reasons to cooperate with them again in stopping Robert Kennedy from reaching the White House, a position from which, according to multiple testimonies, Robert intended to track his brother's assassins.[\[1\]](#)

I summarized the case against Ben-Gurion's Israel in the assassinations of both Kennedy brothers in [this article](#), which still turns up regularly among The Unz Review's "Past classics". Here I'll try to show that an inquiry into Angleton's "wilderness of mirrors" makes the case even stronger.

[The "World War III" Virus](#)

Angleton's name often comes up in books incriminating the CIA in the 1963 Dallas coup, because he is believed to have engineered the staged visits and telephone calls by an Oswald impersonator to both the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico City in late September and early October 1963. Over the phone, this bogus "Oswald" referred to an arrangement with Vladimir Kostikov, who was known to the FBI as the officer in charge of assassinations in the United States. These visits and calls were, of course, monitored by the local CIA cell, and would constitute, after November 22, evidence of a Cuban-Soviet conspiracy.

According to the most natural and common interpretation, the purpose of staging Oswald as a communist conspirator was to blame the Dallas shooting on Cuba and/or the Soviet Union — a classic false flag scenario. Besides getting rid of Kennedy, the theory goes, the motive was to create a pretext for

invading Cuba, something that Kennedy had forbidden after the Bay of Pigs debacle and the firing of Allen Dulles. That has become the dominant JFK conspiracy theory, best articulated recently by James Douglass. But it has one major flaw: there was no invasion of Cuba following Kennedy's assassination. How can that be explained?

And why did Johnson, Hoover and the Warren Commission quickly suppress the "rumors" of Oswald's communist profile (already hitting the news on November 23, e.g. the morning front-page of the *Washington Post* titled, "Pro-Castro Fort Worth Marxist Charged in Kennedy's Assassination"[\[2\]](#)), to replace it with his "lone nut" profile? James Douglass's explanation is that Johnson thwarted the plot hatched by the CIA and Pentagon hawks, thus saving us from World War III. "To Johnson's credit, he refused to let the Soviets take the blame for Kennedy's murder; to his discredit, he decided not to confront the CIA over what it had done in Mexico City. Thus, while the secondary purpose of the assassination plot was stymied, its primary purpose was achieved."[\[3\]](#) The problem with this theory is its internal contradiction, since it also affirms that the reason Kennedy was assassinated was that he refused to start World War III: therefore, starting the war was supposedly the primary — not the secondary — purpose of the whole plot.

The alternative explanation is that Oswald's profile as a Communist assassin was crafted by the conspirators, not for the purpose of starting a war against Cuba and Russia, but for allowing Johnson to bully Federal and State administrations, and even the news community, into closing the investigation quickly, lest the discovery of Cuba and Russia's responsibility force the U.S. into a global nuclear war "that would kill 40 million Americans in an hour," as Johnson kept repeating to everyone from Dallas to Washington. To convince Senator Richard Russell to sit in the Warren Commission, for example, Johnson told him in a taped phone conversation: "we've got to take this out of the arena where they're testifying that Khrushchev and Castro did this and did that and kicking us into a war that can kill forty million Americans in an hour..."[\[4\]](#)

Besides allowing Johnson to shut down Police investigations and secretly task the Warren Commission with the goal of "rebutting thought that this was a Communist conspiracy" (as recommended by Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach's November 25 memo[\[5\]](#)), the threat of nuclear war kept the American people satisfied that, if they were being lied to — as many felt they were — it was for their own good. And so the lie about Kennedy's assassination was two-sided: on one side was the Cuban-Soviet conspiracy, and on the other was the lone assassin. Both sides of the lie had to be maintained over the years, the Soviet conspiracy remaining in the background in order to keep the Warren Commission's conclusion, if not credible, at least justifiable. That is why, in a September 1969 [filmed interview](#) (broadcast on CBS on April 24, 1975), Johnson could calmly declare that "there might have been international connections," but that the Warren Commission did a fine job anyway.[\[6\]](#)

Like most JFK researchers, John Newman, a retired U.S. Army major and Political Science professor and the author of *Oswald and the CIA*, believes that

long before Kennedy's trip to Dallas, Oswald was maneuvered and his activities "carefully monitored, controlled, and, if necessary, embellished and choreographed," so that, "on 22 November, Oswald's CIA files would establish his connection to Castro and the Kremlin." However, in an epilogue added in 2008 to his book (which Ron Unz has already referred to [here](#) and [here](#)), Newman reasons that the real purpose of setting up Oswald as a Communist was not to start World War III, but to create a "World War III virus", used by Johnson as a "national security" pretext to shut all investigations and intimidate the corporate media. "It is now apparent that the World War III pretext for a national security cover-up was built into the fabric of the plot to assassinate President Kennedy."[\[7\]](#)

After reviewing the steps taken to design this plot, Newman concludes: "In my view, there is only one person whose hands fit into these gloves: James Jesus Angleton, Chief of CIA's Counterintelligence Staff."

No one else in the Agency had the access, the authority, and the diabolically ingenious mind to manage this sophisticated plot. No one else had the means necessary to plant the WWII virus in Oswald's files and keep it dormant for six weeks until the president's assassination. Whoever those who were ultimately responsible for the decision to kill Kennedy were, their reach extended into the national intelligence apparatus to such a degree that they could call upon a person who knew its inner secrets and workings so well that he could design a failsafe mechanism into the fabric of the plot. The only person who could ensure a national security cover-up of an apparent counterintelligence nightmare was the head of counterintelligence [Angleton].[\[8\]](#)

As a matter of fact, no one pushed more for incriminating the KGB than Angleton. Michael Collins Piper, who wrote much about Angleton in his groundbreaking *Final Judgment*, showed that Angleton went to great length to discredit, imprison and torture Russian Soviet defector Yuri Nosenko. who in 1964 claimed insistently that the KGB had decided against trying to use Oswald in any way during his sojourn in Russia, and that the KGB had nothing to do with Kennedy's assassination. Angleton was also the main source for Edward Jay Epstein's book, *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald* (published in 1978), which laid the blame on the KGB.[\[9\]](#)

[Angleton and Counterintelligence](#)

Angleton was appointed head of the Counterintelligence Staff by CIA Director Allen Dulles in 1954, a position he kept for twenty years. According to Tom Mangold, author of *Cold Warrior: James Jesus Angleton: the CIA's Master Spy Hunter* (Simon & Schuster, 1991): "Angleton's longstanding friendships with Dulles and Helms were to become the most important factor in giving him freedom of movement within the CIA. He was extended such trust by his superiors that there was often a significant failure of executive control over his activities."[\[10\]](#)

After Kennedy fired Dulles and his two Deputy Directors Richard Bissel and Charles Cabell in autumn 1961, Angleton was shielded by new Deputy Director

Richard Helms, who had survived the purge and would end up as head of the CIA. In 1962, as the CIA moved into its new headquarters in Langley, Angleton's Counterintelligence Staff had nearly two hundred people.[\[11\]](#)

As one colleague and friend said, "Jim's central dominating obsession was communism, something that for him was the essence of absolute and profound evil. For him nothing else really mattered, but he would use anyone and anything to combat it."[\[12\]](#) The most secret component of Angleton's empire was the Special Investigation Group (SIG), tasked with exploring the possibility that the CIA was infiltrated by the KGB. "The SIG was so secret that many members of the Counterintelligence Staff didn't even know it existed," writes Mangold, "and nearly everyone was denied access to it. . . . Secret units within a secret unit were a hallmark of Angleton, the SIG, and the Counterintelligence Staff."[\[13\]](#)

The tragicomic story of Angleton's "mole hunt" is told in detail by Tom Mangold. It involves a megalomaniac KGB defector named Anatoly Golitsyn, who, responding to Angleton's paranoia, convinced him that the KGB had infiltrated the CIA through a high-level source code-named "Sacha", and that all other defectors after him would be phony. Angleton's quest for Sacha would last seven years. About 40 senior Agency officers were put on the suspect list and many had their careers ruined, while at least 22 genuine defectors were turned away. No real KGB spy was ever caught by Angleton. Meanwhile, the British Soviet agent Kim Philby remained Angleton's most trusted friend until being unmasked in 1963, and one Counterintelligence agent, Clare Edward Petty, ended up believing "Sacha" must be Angleton himself.[\[14\]](#) This fiasco is the subject of David C. Martin's book *Wilderness of Mirrors* (2018).[\[15\]](#) As *Los Angeles Times* journalist David Wise writes: "In the end, Angleton never found a mole. But he did more harm to the CIA than even the most talented mole could ever have accomplished."[\[16\]](#)

When William Colby, from the Soviet Division, became Director of the CIA, he looked for a pretext to sack Angleton, and fired him in December 1974 after the disclosure by Seymour Hersh in the *New York Times* of two dubious domestic operations that his Counterintelligence Staff had been conducting in violation of the CIA's charter: intercepting mail sent between the United States and the Soviet Union (Program HT/LINGUAL) and spying on American antiwar protestors (Operation CHAOS).

When George Kalaris, who replaced Angleton, directed an investigation into Angleton's files, his team located over 40 vaults that had to be drilled open. It took three years to sort, destroy or classify the discovered materials, which had never been archived into the CIA's central filing system. And it took CIA officer Cleveland Cram six years to write a report in 12 legal-sized volumes on the activities of the Counterintelligence Staff from 1954 to 1974.[\[17\]](#)

The most important conclusion is that Angleton's Counterintelligence, which was involved in the preparation for JFK's assassination, was not the CIA, but rather a "second CIA within the CIA" (as Peter Dale Scott put it), sealed from scrutiny and accountable to no one, yet supported by almost unlimited

budget.^[18] During Kennedy's presidency, John McCone, an outsider, of course had no idea what Angleton was doing or not doing, and Richard Helms, his Deputy, let him do as he pleased.

But this Counterintelligence disaster is only half of Angleton's story. There is another half, rarely told. Tom Mangold only refers to it in an endnote:

I would like to place on the record, however, that Angleton's professional friends overseas, then and subsequently, came from the Mossad (the Israeli intelligence-gathering service) and that he was held in immense esteem by his Israeli colleagues and by the state of Israel, which was to award him profound honors after his death.^[19]

To be fair, Mangold also writes: "Angleton's ties with the Israelis gave him considerable prestige within the CIA and later added significantly to his expanding counterintelligence empire," while stirring "the utter fury of the division's separate Arab desks."^[20] But that's all we'll learn from Mangold about the Mossad-side of Angleton. To know more about it, we must turn to Jefferson Morley's more recent and thorough investigation, *The Ghost: The Secret Life of CIA Spymaster James Jesus Angleton* (St. Martin's Press, 2017). We will learn that Angleton was less "out of control" than we think — only the people who controlled him were not those who were supposed to.

[Angleton and Mossad](#)

When Angleton became chief of Counterintelligence in 1954, he had already been occupying, since early 1951, the CIA's Israeli Desk, or Israeli Account, as it was called. And he had exclusive authority on the CIA station in Tel Aviv. The Israeli Desk was created for Angleton after the visit of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to the United States in May 1951. Besides launching a drive to raise \$1 billion from the sale of Israel Bonds,^[21] the purpose of Ben-Gurion's visit was to establish collaboration between U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies. Israel's population of immigrants from the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe made the country a privileged source of information about what was going on behind the Iron Curtain. In exchange for this service, Israel wanted strategic, economic and military support against their enemy Nasser, whom they did their utmost to push into the Soviet camp. Here is Morley's account of the background for that turning point in U.S.-Israel relationship:

In 1950, Reuven Shiloah, the founder of Israel's first intelligence organization, visited Washington and came away impressed by the CIA. In April 1951, he reorganized the fractious Israeli security forces to create a new foreign intelligence agency, called the Institute for Intelligence and Special Tasks, inevitably known as the Mossad, the Hebrew word for "institute." In 1951, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion came to the United States and brought Shiloah with him. Ben-Gurion met privately with President Truman and Walter Bedell Smith [director of CIA]. Angleton arranged for Ben-Gurion to lunch with Allen Dulles [Deputy Director for Plans] . . . Shiloah stayed on in Washington to work out the arrangements with Angleton. The resulting agreement laid the foundation for the exchange of secret information between the two services and committed them

to report to each other on subjects of mutual interest. Shiloah, according to his biographer [Haggai Eshed], soon developed “a special relationship” with Angleton, who became the CIA’s exclusive liaison with the Mossad. Angleton returned the favor by visiting Israel. Shiloah introduced him to Amos Manor, chief of counterespionage for Israel’s domestic intelligence agency [1953-1963], known as Shabak or Shin Bet.[\[22\]](#)

For almost 25 years, Angleton was the CIA’s exclusive liaison with Israeli intelligence. In this capacity, recalled one of his friends interviewed by Andrew and Leslie Cockburn for their book *Dangerous Liaison: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship*, “he was getting the benefit of Israeli networks and connections all over the place, not just in the Communist bloc.”[\[23\]](#)

Angleton’s special channel to the Mossad brought little profit to the U.S. in terms of intelligence. In October 1956, no warning came from Angleton about the Israelis’ plan to invade Egypt. As rumors of war were reaching the State Department, Robert Amory, head of the CIA Directorate of Intelligence, called an emergency meeting on October 26. After he presented Allen Dulles with evidence that the Israelis “were mobilizing to attack someone — Egypt,” Angleton contradicted him saying, “I can discount what Amory is saying. I spent last night with our friends and they have assured me that they are just carrying out protective measures against the Jordanians.” Amory got mad and said to Dulles: “The taxpayer lays out \$16,000 a year to me as your deputy director for me to give you the best intelligence available. Either you believe me or you believe this co-opted Israeli agent here [pointing to Angleton].”[\[24\]](#) Within days, Israel had invaded Egypt’s Sinai.

James Jesus Angleton made his first visit to Israel in October 1951. “By the mid-1950s,” Morley writes, “Angleton liked nothing better than to leave the cramped office politics of Washington for the austere frontier of the Holy Land. On his visits, Angleton stayed in Ramat Gan, on the suburban coastal plain north of Tel Aviv, the home to many Israeli intelligence officers and diplomats.”

“He used to come from time to time, to meet the head of Mossad, to get briefings,” recalls Efraim Halevy, who served as the Mossad’s liaison officer to the CIA station in Tel Aviv in the early 1960s. Halevy escorted Angleton on his rounds and recorded his meetings with Israeli officials. “He used to meet with David Ben-Gurion, whom he knew for many years,” Halevy recalled. “Ben-Gurion ultimately left office [in 1963] and Angleton went down to Sde Boker [Ben-Gurion’s home in the Negev] to meet him. I didn’t attend those meetings. Those were just the two of them. He had business to transact.”[\[25\]](#)

Angleton knew at least six of the men closest to Ben-Gurion and privy to his secrets. Besides Efraim Halevy (on the right in the top picture), he befriended Isser Harel, founder of the Shin Bet and chief of the Mossad from 1951 (“Jim had enormous admiration for Isser,” said Halevy). Angleton also enjoyed the lifetime friendship of Amos Manor, director of Shin Bet from 1953 to 1963, of Teddy Kollek, who later became mayor of Jerusalem, and of Meir Amit, head of Mossad from 1963 to 1968. When Halevy accompanied Yitzhak Rabin for his ambassadorship to Washington (1968-1973), Angleton met him as often as five

times a week, and had monthly lunches with Rabin, Halevy recalled. Angleton's friends were among the builders of the Zionist state, and Angleton was the only American authorized to talk to them.[\[26\]](#)

This, coupled with his infatuation with Zionism, gave Angleton a great influence on Washington's Israeli policy. According to Morley, "he was a leading architect of America's strategic relationship with Israel that endures and dominates the region to this day."[\[27\]](#) "Angleton's influence on U.S.-Israeli relations between 1951 and 1974 exceeded that of any secretary of state, with the possible exception of Henry Kissinger. His influence was largely unseen by Congress, the press, other democratic institutions, and much of the CIA itself."[\[28\]](#)

Speaking of Kissinger, Michael Piper mentions, quoting Deborah Davis's biography of Katharine Graham, that Kissinger actually moved Angleton's Israeli desk into the White House, and that both men worked very closely. In one of the most interesting appendixes added to his 1998 edition of *Final Judgment*, Piper argues that Angleton was the mastermind of the Watergate dirty trick that caused Nixon's fall, using his longtime ally Ben Bradlee, then *Washington Post* editor. According to Piper, Watergate was "a joint CIA-Mossad operation—orchestrated by James Angleton—for the purpose of removing Nixon from the presidency." Nixon had to be removed because, like Kennedy before him, he had become a threat to Israel's survival.[\[29\]](#)

[Dimona and the Stolen Uranium](#)

Naturally, Angleton's influence on U.S.-Israeli relationship touched upon the sensitive question of Israel's military nuclear ambition. Morley again:

In Washington, he and Cicely [Angleton's wife] had spent many evenings with Memi de Shalit, a Lithuanian-born military intelligence officer stationed in the Israeli embassy. Angleton "adored" de Shalit and his wife, Ada, said Efraim Halevy. The de Shalits moved back to Israel in the 1950s, but the friendship continued, and it brought Angleton into the circle of other knowledgeable Israelis. Amos de Shalit, Memi's brother, was a professor of nuclear physics at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Tel Aviv. He would be a major contributor to the Israeli nuclear program.[\[30\]](#)

According to Seymour Hersh, "Angleton's close personal ties with the DeShalit family and others in Israel made it inevitable that he would learn about the [Dimona] construction in the Negev." Yet he never reported on the Israelis' efforts to build a nuclear reactor for military purposes.[\[31\]](#) In 1960, Angleton ignored a request from the U.S. Intelligent Board, which reviewed CIA operations on behalf of the White House, that all information regarding Dimona be transmitted "expeditiously".[\[32\]](#)

Angleton also failed to notice or to report about the stealing of weapons-grade enriched uranium from a plant of the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC) in Apollo, Pennsylvania. The NUMEC had been created under U.S. government license by David Lowenthal, a Zionist financier, and was run by Zalman Shapiro, the son of an Orthodox rabbi from Lithuania, who was

also head of the local chapter of the Zionist Organization of America. Over the 9 years from 1959 to 1968, the Atomic Energy Commission estimated that 267 kilograms of uranium went missing at the Apollo NUMEC plant. One Israeli masquerading as a nuclear engineer who visited the plant was a Mossad agent named Rafael Eitan, who was known to Angleton. "With the fissile material diverted from NUMEC, Israel was able to construct its first nuclear weapon by 1967 and become a full-blown nuclear power by 1970 — the first, and still the only, nuclear power in the Middle East. Angleton, it is fair to say, thought collaboration with Israel was more important than U.S. non-proliferation policy."[\[33\]](#)

"Angleton's loyalty to Israel betrayed U.S. policy on an epic scale," Morley concludes. "Instead of supporting U.S. nuclear security policy, he ignored it." John Hadden, then CIA station chief in Tel Aviv, who felt betrayed by his superior Angleton, wrote in 1978: "A crime was committed 10 or 20 years ago, a crime considered so serious that for its commission the death penalty is mandatory and no statute of limitations applies."

Angleton had regular professional and personal contact with at least six men aware of Israel's secret plan to build a bomb. From Asher Ben-Natan to Amos de Shalit to Isser Harel to Meir Amit to Moshe Dayan to Yval Ne'eman, his friends were involved in the building of Israel's nuclear arsenal. If he learned anything of the secret program at Dimona, he reported very little of it. . . . The failure of the U.S. nonproliferation policy to prevent the introduction of nuclear weapons to the Middle East in the 1960s is part of Angleton's legacy, and its effects will be felt for decades, if not centuries.[\[34\]](#)

Angleton himself implicitly acknowledged his role to *New York Times* foreign correspondent Tad Szulc, who declared before the Church Committee in 1975:

I was told by one of my news sources that a situation had occurred in the 1960s in which the CIA delivered to the Israeli government classified information, technical knowledge, know-how, the services of distinguished physicists and fissionable material in the form of plutonium to assist in the development of an Israeli nuclear weapon at the Dimona Israeli Nuclear Testing grounds. . . I have raised the subject in a private conversation with Mr. James Angleton in the spring of this year [April 1975]. Mr. Angleton told me that essentially this information was correct.[\[35\]](#)

[The Six Day War and the USS Liberty](#)

According to Andrew and Leslie Cockburn, "There is a body of opinion within the American intelligence community that Angleton played a leading part in orchestrating the events leading up to the June 1967 war. One long-serving official at CIA's ancient rival, the code-breaking National Security Agency, states flatly that 'Jim Angleton and the Israelis spent a year cooking up the '67 war. It was a CIA operation designed to get Nasser.'"[\[36\]](#)

In that period, according to Joan Mellen, author of *Blood in the Water: How the US and Israel Conspire to Ambush the USS Liberty* (2018), "Meir Amit was

Angleton's chief ally in Israel, but in the United States, he relied on another Mossad operative, Ephraim 'Eppy' Evron, who in 1967, as a Mossad operative as well as deputy Israeli ambassador to Washington, enjoyed greater importance at the Israeli embassy than the ambassador, Avraham Harman. It was Evron who had arranged meetings between Angleton and Moshe Dayan . . . to discuss the feasibility of an attack on Egypt with the objective of toppling Nasser. Lyndon Johnson had authorized Angleton to inform Evron that the United States would not intervene to stop an attack on Egypt."[\[37\]](#)

In May 1967, Eppy Evron met Johnson at the White House. Evron later said that Johnson told him, "You and I are going to pass another Tonkin resolution," in reference to the mock incident in the Gulf of Tonkin that Johnson used to justify the aggression against North Vietnam.[\[38\]](#) On May 30, Meir Amit, then head of global operations for Mossad, flew to Washington and met first with Angleton the next day. There is no documentary record of their conversation, but on June 1, Amit reported to Israel: "there is a growing chance for American political backing if we act on our own."[\[39\]](#) "It would be Angleton," says Joan Mellen, "who would prevail in formulating, with Meir Amit, the configuration of the operation that would culminate in the attack on the USS *Liberty*."[\[40\]](#)

Here a summary of Tom Segev's account of this meeting in *1967: Israel, the War, and the Year That Transformed the Middle East* (2007): "Amit's trip to Washington had been instigated by Aharon Yariv, and its main purpose was to find out, through intelligence channels, what the Americans would really do if Israel attacked Egypt." The first person Amit met there was James Jesus Angleton, who introduced him to Helms, head of CIA. Helms "arranged for Amit to meet with Secretary of Defense McNamara." Presenting Israel's plan to attack Egypt, Amit "heard no objections from McNamara." McNamara was called out of the meeting twice to talk with Johnson on the phone, and reported to Amit the President's message: "I read you loud and clear." Amit reported back to Israel his impression that the Americans would give their blessing to an Israeli strike "crushing Nasser." In response to Eshkol's question, Amit said they might even assist Israel in such a strike. "Jim Angleton was enthusiastic," writes Segev; he saw in Israel's strike "the possibility of solving the region's problems." He "stressed the issue's delicacy and asked to preserve complete secrecy." When corresponding with Eshkol on the phone, Amit acknowledged the decisive importance of Angleton's support. Angleton, he said, intimated that the Americans "would undoubtedly look positively on a knockout" on Egypt; "Angleton was an extraordinary asset for us. We could not have found ourselves a better advocate." He was "the biggest Zionist of the lot," insisted Amit.[\[41\]](#)

In December 1967, having more than doubled their territory, the Israelis threw a big party for Angleton when he visited them on his 50th birthday.

[Conclusion](#)

The Mossad side of Angleton is part of the "unspoken Kennedy truth" that, in Michael Collins Piper's footsteps, I documented in [my book](#) and in [this article](#). It is no small part. As Morley writes, "Angleton's formative and sometimes

decisive influence on U.S. policy toward Israel can be seen in many areas — from the impotence of U.S. nuclear non-proliferation policy in the region, to Israel's triumph in the 1967 Six-Day War, to the feeble U.S. response to the attack on the *Liberty*, to the intelligence failure represented by the Yom Kippur War of 1973.”[\[42\]](#)

Angleton is remembered in the U.S. as a mentally unstable man who caused irreparable damage to the CIA's efficiency and reputation. In contrast, he is remembered in Israel as a great benefactor of the Zionist state. Here is an extract from the [Washington Post](#) report about a ceremony held in his honor in Jerusalem after his death. Although it was supposedly secret, a couple of Israeli reporters, including Andy Court of the *Jerusalem Post*, had been tipped off and attended:

The head of the pathologically secretive spy agency, the Mossad, was there, as was his counterpart with Shin Bet, the Israeli internal security service. Five former heads of those agencies and three former military intelligence chiefs were also present. Their mission: to pay final tribute to a beloved member of their covert fraternity — the late CIA chief of counterintelligence, James Jesus Angleton. . . . Following the planting [of trees], the group gathered again in Jerusalem behind the King David Hotel at a scenic spot not far from the walls of the Old City that Angleton often visited on his trips here. There they dedicated a memorial stone that read, in English, Hebrew and Arabic: “In memory of a dear friend, James (Jim) Angleton.” . . . The ceremonies symbolized the respect and affection that the Israeli intelligence community holds for Angleton . . . Although his name appears in few history books about Israel, Angleton played a crucial role in the early years of the young Jewish state. In the 1950s and early 1960s, when most of official Washington was wary of — even hostile to — Israel, he helped forge links between the Mossad and the CIA that established the basis for cooperation in intelligence gathering that still exists today. . . . Angleton “was a friend you could trust on a personal basis,” said Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who spoke at the tree-planting ceremony. Rabin knew Angleton from his days as Israeli Army chief of staff in the mid-1960s and later as ambassador to the United States. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who rose from his sickbed to attend the ceremonies, told the small crowd, “We commemorate a great friend, who saw Israel-U.S. relations through their most difficult period in the 40 years of Israel's existence.” . . . Those who attended, according to Court, included the current heads of the Mossad and Shin Bet, neither of whom can be named under government security laws; former Mossad chiefs Meir Amit, Zvi Zamir and Yitzhak Hofi; former Shin Bet chiefs Avraham Ahituv and Amos Manor, and former military intelligence heads Aharon Yariv, Shlomo Gazit and Binyamin Gibli.[\[43\]](#)

There is still a mystery about Angleton's relationship with Israel, a mystery that perhaps Angleton himself could not have cleared up. It is a reasonable guess that most of Angleton's Israeli friends were well aware of his personality issues and of his delusional worldview, and that they exploited them to the fullest; they convinced Angleton that they were his indispensable allies against Communism. One former Mossad chief said to the Cockburns: “Of course, Jim had some pretty weird ideas, like that one about the Sino-Soviet split [Angleton

believed it was a cunning deception]. But I think that he found himself a little more appreciated here in Israel than in Washington. We would listen respectfully to him [here the smirk] and his opinions.” The Israelis, gather the Cockburns, “took great care to flatter him and bend a respectful ear to his interpretation of events in the shadowy world of intelligence and deception.” Taking a closer look at the Angleton memorial in the Jerusalem forest, the Cockburns point out that, “Unlike the other memorial groves, the inscription here is not carved in stone, but is written on a sheet of plastic screwed to the stone itself. Within a year of the commemoration of the site most of the trees, tiny saplings, were dead or dying. The ground all around was covered in garbage: cans, rags, and, here and there, bones.”[\[44\]](#) What kind of memorial is this? A memorial for a useful idiot that can be soon forgotten.

What was Angleton’s position in the organizational chart of the plotters against Kennedy? If, as John Newman believes, Angleton was the “general manager” of Oswald’s handlers, and the engineer of his mock appearance in Mexico, what did he really know of Oswald’s ultimate function in the plot? There is no indication that Angleton ever felt that he had been used by his Israeli friends, and it is therefore more than likely that he was a deliberate participant in the conspiracy to kill Kennedy. What has been shown beyond a reasonable doubt is that Angleton, the central CIA player in the plot to kill JFK, was in reality more controlled by the Mossad than by the CIA itself.

I am happy to see that this conclusion is now becoming more accepted among Kennedy researchers. Peter Janney, author of the acclaimed [Mary’s Mosaic: The CIA Conspiracy to Murder John F. Kennedy, Mary Pinchot Meyer, and Their Vision for World Peace](#) (2012), in which Angleton figures prominently, honored me with a comment on the Amazon page of my book:

In addition to his book *JFK – 9/11: 50 Years of Deep State*, which was published in 2017, Laurent Guyénot has given us yet another gem with *The Unspoken Kennedy Truth*.

As the author of “Mary’s Mosaic” and someone who has spent many, many years studying the JFK assassination, Laurent Guyénot takes us where few have dared to tread — the role of Mossad and Israel in the murders of both Kennedy brothers and very likely in the event of 9/11 itself. I have been persuaded by both these books and have come to the conclusion that JFK assassination researchers have missed a vital element in understanding the larger role of Israel...

Is it a coincidence that there are not just one — but two — monuments in Israel to the legendary CIA Counterintelligence Chief James Jesus Angleton? Are we anti-Semites for making an indictment against Israel, given Guyénot’s persuasive argument that is supported by evidence? The answer is no! The truth takes no prisoners...

Phillip Nelson, author of [LBJ, The Mastermind of JFK’s Assassination](#) (2010), the ultimate 720-page indictment of Johnson (followed by [LBJ: From Mastermind to “the Colossus”](#) and [Remember the Liberty](#)), also wrote a

comment that I am proud to quote: “Guyénot’s short book covers much territory, some of it never so thoroughly explored before. ... He has made a very compelling and persuasive argument for his position and I recognize the truths he has revealed.” Nelson has reservations, however, on the thesis that Ben-Gurion was the “driving force” behind the assassination of JFK.

The major problem with his thesis is that the problems with Dimona didn’t arise and become the hot topic between JFK and Ben-Gurion until 1963. LBJ’s plot to take the White House by the “back door” began in 1958, when he pushed the Texas legislature to allow him to run on both the state ballot and the national ballot at the same time, something it had then prohibited. That was only the first box he had to check-off, five years before the assassination.

In my opinion, it’s more likely that, during that five years, Johnson and Ben-Gurion, with their submissive acolytes, discussed many of their goals and priorities, and that the “Big Event” became a mutually-agreed high priority, with plenty of time to set all the knights, bishops, kings, queens, and pawns, in their place.

I think Johnson made it on Kennedy’s ticket in 1960 only because the Zionists (Abe Feinberg) wanted him there, as Kennedy’s potential assassin and future “best U.S. president for Israel ever.” For as I wrote in [“The Umbrella Man, the Sins of the Father, and the Kennedy Curse”](#), long before 1960, the Israelis saw the Kennedys as a serious potential threat to their expansionist ambitions, and rightly so. In the organization chart of the plot, I place Ben-Gurion higher than LBJ. But that is open to debate.

Source:

<https://odysee.com/@KontreKulture:c/Israel-and-the-Assassinations-of-The-Kennedy-brothers:9>

Notes

[1] This has been shown conclusively by David Talbot in *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years*, Simon & Schuster, 2007.

[2] Jefferson Morley, *Our Man in Mexico: Winston Scott and the Hidden History of the CIA*, University Press of Kansas, 2008, p. 207.

[3] James Douglass, *JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters*, Touchstone, 2008, p. 232.

[4] Douglass, *JFK and the Unspeakable*, p. 82.

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[5] Douglass, *JFK and the Unspeakable*, pp. 82-83.

[6] “LBJ speaks on a conspiracy in JFK murder,” on [YouTube](#).

[7] John M. Newman, *Oswald and the CIA: The Documented Truth About the Unknown Relationship Between the U.S. Government and the Alleged Killer of JFK*, Skyhorse, 2008, pp. 613-637. Excerpts on spartacus-educational.com

[8] Newman, *Oswald and the CIA*, pp. 636-637 (on spartacus-educational.com)

[9] Michael Collins Piper, *Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy*, American Free Press, 6th ed., 2005, pp. 166-169.

[10] Tom Mangold, *Cold Warrior: James Jesus Angleton: the CIA's Master Spy Hunter*, Simon & Schuster, 1991, p. 52.

[11] Mangold, *Cold Warrior*, p. 55.

[12] Andrew and Leslie Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship*, HarperCollins, 1991, p. 43.

[13] Mangold, *Cold Warrior*, p. 57.

[14] Jefferson Morley, *The Ghost: The Secret Life of CIA Spymaster James Jesus Angleton*, St. Martin's Press, 2017, p. 229.

[15] David C. Martin, *Wilderness of Mirrors: Intrigue, Deception, and the Secrets that Destroyed Two of the Cold War's Most Important Agents*, Skyhorse, 2018.

[16] David Wise, "The Spookiest of the CIA's Spooks," *Los Angeles Times*, December 24, 2006, on www.latimes.com.

[17] Jefferson Morley, "Wilderness of Mirrors: Documents Reveal the Complex 'Legacy of James Angleton, CIA Counterintelligence Chief and Godfather of Mass Surveillance'", January 1, 2018, *The Intercept*, on theintercept.com/

[18] Peter Dale Scott, *Deep Politics and the Death of JFK*, University of California Press, 1993, p. 54, quoted in Michael Collins Piper, *Final Judgment*, 6th ed., 2005, p. 63.

[19] Mangold, *Cold Warrior*, p. 362.

[20] Mangold, *Cold Warrior*, p. 49.

[21] Cockburn and Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, p. 41.

[22] Morley, *The Ghost*, 55

[23] Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, p. 43.

[24] Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, p. 65; Morley, *The Ghost*, p. 78.

[25] Morley, *The Ghost*, p. 171.

[26] Morley, *The Ghost*, pp. 174, 73; Jefferson Morley, "Wilderness of Mirrors."

[27] Morley, *The Ghost*, p. 262.

[28] Jefferson Morley, "CIA and Mossad: Tradeoffs in the Formation of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Relationship," conf for the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, 2018 May, on www.wrmea.org/

[29] Piper, *Final Judgment*, 6th ed., 2005, pp. 461-478.

[30] Morley, *The Ghost*, p. 174.

[31] Seymour Hersh, *The Samson Option: Israel's Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy*, Random House, 1991, p. 147.

[32] Morley, *The Ghost*, p. 92

[33] Morley, "CIA and Mossad."

[34] Morley, *The Ghost*, pp. 261-262.

[35] Michael Holzman, *James Jesus Angleton: The CIA, and the Craft of Counterintelligence*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2008, pp. 167-168.

[36] Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, pp. 146-147.

[37] Joan Mellen, *Blood in the Water: How the US and Israel Conspired to Ambush the USS Liberty*, Prometheus Books, 2018, on www.worldtruth.online/, p. 50.

[38] Peter Hounam, *Operation Cyanide: Why the Bombing of the USS Liberty nearly caused World War III*, Vision, 2003, pp. 266-267.

[39] Mellen, *Blood in the Water*, pp. 37-40.

[40] Mellen, *Blood in the Water*, p. 49.

[41] Tom Segev, *1967: Israel, the War, and the Year That Transformed the Middle East*, Henry Hold, 2007, pp. 329-332.

[42] Morley, "CIA and Mossad"

[43] Glenn Frankel, "The Secret Ceremony," *Washington Post*, December 5, 1987, on www.washingtonpost.com. Andy Court's article, "Spy Chiefs Honour a CIA Friend," *Jerusalem Post*, December 5, 1987, is not online.

[44] Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, p. 44.