



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
 J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences  
 Commemorative Year, 1981-82

Fulbright Institute of International Relations

*Copy to Matt*

Read in *Carter Adm.* Jackson, Jr

Debrief *ca*

Portrayed himself modestly  
 Stanfield Turner his yg like  
 W.J.

Marshall S.

Arnold Harlich RAND UCLA

February 18, 1985

*Scribbles turned it down*

MAR 15 1985

Bob Kaiser may write  
 for Post.

Letters to the Editor  
Time  
 Time and Life Building  
 Rockefeller Center  
 New York, NY 10020

To the Editors:

*Egomaniac*

*Alcoholic.*

*Recalls no ref to delib. cheating.*

Arkady Shevchenko's memoirs published in Time ("Breaking with Moscow," Feb. 11 and 18) have been billed as "authentic and reliable" -- your Washington bureau chief's description of Shevchenko. Respectfully, for I have great admiration for Strobe Talbott, I disagree. Furthermore, I am alarmed at the ease with which the Shevchenko memoir, and the man himself, have been taken at face value in a cascade of print and television coverage -- caused by Time choosing to hype both work and man in a way usually reserved for "historic figures" like Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter.

There are some disturbing aspects of this affair that cannot be allowed to pass:

1. Was Shevchenko as strategically placed to be informed about Politburo-level policy and individuals as these excerpts suggest? I think not. In the previous Administration, I read the C.I.A. "debrief" of this man. My certain memory is that, while what he had to say was interesting, it did not provide such high-level insights into Soviet leadership activities. To the contrary, a more modest account was given of his (frequently) second and third hand access to individuals and decisions. At a minimum, some burnishing of experience has occurred to make for "sensational revelations." One presumes that Time's editors did not have access to C. I. A. documents on the case. But you do allow him to claim that he "sat at the same table with Brezhnev, Gromyko and other members of the Politburo."

(Incidentally, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was not a member of the Politburo until April 1973. Yet, in Time's introductory remarks of February 11, Shevchenko is identified as an adviser to Gromyko from late 1970 until early 1973 in which position "he was able to observe at first hand the inner workings of the Politburo." I simply don't believe



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this claim.)

2. Who wrote Breaking with Moscow? I do not believe the answer is obvious. (And I am tempted to ask in the same breath: Who sold Time on the idea of publishing an "advance look" at the book?) Indeed, as Mr. Talbott says in John Meyers' "letter from the publisher" of February 18, the project required a special approach "precisely because it does come from the world of espionage, where deception and illusion are commonplace." He goes on to say:

"Those of us working on the project thought it important to verify the bona fides of the author and, as far as it was possible, his story." What does this mean? The editor of Khrushchev Remembers tells us that he "went back to a number of sources from that realm (defectors, agents and double agents), some of whom, it turned out, had been watching Shevchenko closely for years. All indications came back positive."

Really? Were these sources in or out of the U. S. Government? As a former agent for the Central Intelligence Agency, and as a "consultant" to it today, Shevchenko would at least have had to submit his memoirs to "The Company" for review -- i.e. editing -- and permission to publish. (This is not to suggest that someone other than Talbott chose the excerpts of the completed work to be in Time.) In double agent parlance, just who is running whom here?

(By the way, Shevchenko should tell us again why he didn't just walk into the State Department office at the U. N. in 1975 -- or some other safe haven -- and declare that he wanted to defect. In other words, why feel trapped into playing ball with the C.I.A. for 32 months? He writes: "If the Americans could prove to the Soviets that I was a traitor, they could blackmail me. \*\*\*I realized I was trapped." This explanation does not wash, unless he thought the U.S. intelligence community would throw him back.)

3. Why is this "memoir" released at this time? I do not know. But there is an ingenuous attempt throughout Time's excerpts to discredit Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko just as arms control talks are about to resume in Geneva (March 12) and in the midst of another Soviet succession crisis. (This is not to say that Shevchenko or Time meant