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The Spy in the Russian Club

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As a result, this book, is utterly outdated, and nowhere does the reader have any sense of the momentous changes that were coming.

Today, it is strange to read about the vast Soviet menace, and the military plans that called for the Polish army to move on to the Netherlands and to Denmark. The ideas that the East German army is the best in Eastern Europe and that the East German soldiers would not hesitate to fight against their West German brothers strike one as absurd. Reading such curiosities reminds us that not only Mr. Moynahan misread Soviet strength. Most of us had an unrealistic world view.

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Kessler, Ronald. *The Spy in the Russian Club*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1990. 275pp.

Glen Michael Souther was a Russian-language major and a member of the Russian Club at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He was also a Soviet spy.

This book, so named because of Souther's club membership, is the first attempt to explain this navy-associated case of espionage.

Souther was a navy photographer's mate from 1976 to 1982, and appears to have become an agent for the Soviets while he was stationed in Italy in 1980. Two years later, after his discharge from the navy, he returned to the United States, deserting his

Italian-born wife and infant son. His wife made contact with an agent of the Naval Investigative Service at a New Year's Eve party in Gaeta that same year, with suspicions that her husband was a Russian spy. After a discussion with Souther's brother-in-law—a U.S. Navy lieutenant, who indicated that Souther's wife was embittered and trying to "get back" at her husband—the agent dismissed the incident. Only after the John Walker case made headlines in 1985 did Souther's brother-in-law begin to seriously suspect Souther and report to NIS.

Souther joined the Naval Reserve and drilled on weekends at the Fleet Intelligence Center in Norfolk, Virginia. It was here that Souther gained access to sensitive classified material such as satellite imagery and nuclear targeting plans. Such access required a special background check by the Defense Investigating Service, which cleared him.

In 1986, Souther was about to graduate from Old Dominion University and had applied to Naval Officer Candidate School. Again the NIS was approached regarding Souther. The FBI had jurisdiction over Souther, the civilian. However, assuming that the NIS did not believe Souther a threat, in 1986 the FBI merely interviewed him and warned him that he was under suspicion. He was never given a background check. Souther agreed to meet with the FBI again at a later date for a polygraph test; instead, he fled the country and eventually surfaced in Moscow.

Little is known about his espionage activity, his flight to Moscow, his appearance on Moscow television, and his subsequent suicide in 1989. Therefore, Kessler developed his character study of Souther from many interviews with former classmates, friends, and associates. He believes he has found evidence of the character flaws displayed by other recent spies. Indeed, much of Souther's behavior resembles the Israeli agent Jonathan Pollard, especially his exaggerated desire for attention.

Kessler's earlier book, *Moscow Station: How the KGB Penetrated the American Embassy*, published in 1989, discusses the espionage case that involved the U.S. embassy marine security guards. There are similarities between the two cases. While conducting his research, Kessler determined that the NIS and FBI practised poor and inept investigative techniques. He is right in maintaining that if the initial contact with the NIS by Souther's wife had been reported, his security access may have been denied.

He points out that there are many lessons to be learned by our counter-intelligence organizations from the Souther case, primarily regarding the existing attitude within the U.S. Navy towards security that allows individuals like John Walker, Jonathan Pollard, and Glen Souther to operate. In this regard I agree with Ronald Kessler. While John Walker exaggerated when he stated that "K-Mart spends more money guarding their toothpaste than the navy does guarding their secrets," there are existing

problems of understaffing, underfunding, and underemployment in the navy despite the incredible damage wrought by the spies of the 1980s.

Although it would have been more interesting to read about Souther's access and modus operandi, I recommend *The Spy in the Russian Club*.

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Dreyer, June Teufel and Iipyeong J. Kim, eds. *Chinese Defense and Foreign Policy*. New York: Paragon, 1989. \$29.95

There is an old Chinese proverb that says it is a curse to live in interesting times. Clearly 1989 and 1990 qualify as interesting times, both in a global sense and specifically with respect to China. Writing any book on China in normal times is a risky proposition, but writing a book about Chinese defense and foreign policy in "interesting times" can be downright catastrophic. *Chinese Defense and Foreign Policy*, which was written in 1987 and published in 1989, does not escape the wrath of the Chinese curse.

The eleven chapters that make up this book were originally papers presented at the conference "China in a New Era: Continuity and Change," held in Manila in August 1987.

Robert Ross's "Succession Politics and the Post-Mao Foreign Policy" provides a good survey of the succession options. But he portrays the