A part-time instructor in the University of Southern California (USC), known as Ignacy Witczak, vanished from a California beach in 1945. Several years later the U.S. Congress described him as an important Soviet spy whose true identity remained a mystery. The recently declassified documents and publications bring to light many details of the events and reveal the real name of Witczak, Zalman Litvin, and what happened to this enigmatic rezident of the Soviet military intelligence GRU in Los Angeles.

The story includes defection of a Soviet code clerk in Canada, the recruitment of agents by Litvin and his achievements as a USC student, fraudulent American and Canadian passports and the Spanish civil war, FBI investigation, and secret Venona messages. The Soviet homeland did not treat well the spy on his return. In the end, the state-directed anti-Semitism has brought him to a point of leaving the country that he had served so loyally all his life.

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