

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

August 28, 1950

Lt. Gen. Bedell Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear "Beedle":

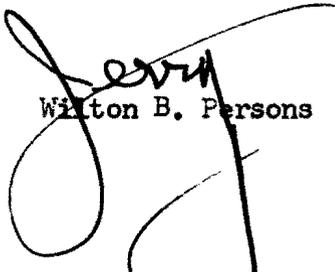
I want to tell you how pleased I am that you are in your present position and what a sense of comfort it brings to me in these critical times. I am not congratulating you on the job because I feel that the people of the country are the ones who should really receive the congratulations. I realize that it is a sacrifice to you and sincerely trust that it will not be the cause of any more trouble with that troublesome belly of yours. I judge that it is now thoroughly on the mend or you would not have had the temerity to take hold of this current "hot potato."

I come to Washington periodically to try to give a little help over in the Pentagon and want you to feel free to call on me if you think that I can give you a hand at any time. I have many friends in the Congress and would be very glad to get into that end of the picture in your behalf if you find such a situation advisable.

Let me hear from you at your convenience and perhaps Nora and you can find time to drive down to this pleasant place for a week-end after you get your feet under you. Allie and I just returned from a few weeks with Al and Dot Lodwick in Lakeland and the four of us often spoke of you. I understand that there are still some good bass left in those waters in spite of all the fishing you did while down there. Maybe we can all get down there in the not too distant future.

Allie joins me in wishing Nora and you the best of everything.

Sincerely yours,


Wilton B. Persons

WBP:t

7 September 1950

Major General Wilton B. Persons, U.S.A., Ret.
Stanton Military Academy
Stanton, Virginia

Dear Jerry:

I was delighted to get your letter of August 29th and am glad you are pleased about the new assignment. I am definitely not pleased, but it's one of those things as you realize only too well.

I think you can be of great help to me and I am jumping at your offer of assistance. I will be in Washington about October 1st and on your first visit thereafter please get in touch with me as I want very much to have a talk with you.

I had a letter from Al Lotwick the day before yesterday. Like yourself, I consider him one of the best people living.

Faithfully, your friend,

W. B. Persons