

*Kennedy  
ranch*


Alice at  
 June 8  
 Kelly at  
 Chris at  
 DEI file ER

1 February 1961

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am sending you herewith a photostat of General Washington's letter to Colonel Elias Dayton, a copy of which you requested last Thursday when you were here. This letter contains the following paragraph which particularly interested you:

"The necessity of procuring good intelligence is apparent & need not be further urged -- All that remains for me to add, is, that you keep the whole matter as secret as possible. For upon Secrecy, Success depends in most Enterprises of the kind, and for want of it, they are generally defeated, however well planned & promising a favourable issue."

I am also attaching a transcript of the full letter. This letter is addressed to Colonel (later General) Elias Dayton, then at Elizabeth Town, New Jersey. Colonel Dayton was a line officer who was also a trusted intelligence officer for General Washington.

This letter comes from the personal collection of one of our employees, Walter Pforzheimer, and, as far as can be determined, it is still unpublished. Mr. Pforzheimer would be pleased to have you use this letter or any quotations from it in any way you may desire. It is noted on the back of the letter that it is in General Washington's "own hand writing". It may actually, however, be in the hand of an aide. It is certainly genuinely signed in Washington's own hand.

- OCR/(C/HIC) WP:ji
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - C/HIC
- 1 - ER

Respectfully yours,

*Allen W. Dulles*

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosures

*White House*

*(Via reading)*