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UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1960

The Honorable Allen Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Allen:

I appreciate your comments in answer to my letter of April 1, 1960, concerning the publication of technical data of direct military value to our possible enemies.

As I believe you know, it has always been my view that the type and quantity of information given a security classification should be held to the absolute minimum and resorted to only when there is a direct national purpose to be served.

Too often the withholding of information is regarded by a journalist as a challenge and when information comes into his possession, he feels perfectly free to use it even though his source may not have been authorized to disclose it.

I think under these circumstances we should give some thought to the possibility of a conference with the editors and publishers of the nation's technical periodicals to discuss these problems with them and to invite them to assume a greater share in the responsibility of determining whether particular information should be published. I strongly believe that there is much greater chance of success through such a voluntary cooperative effort than through an attempt on the part of the Government to control further the dissemination of such information.

Sincerely yours,



A. S. Mike Monroney

~~(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)~~ *Completed*