

11 June 1968

Dear Ellis:

Your publisher was good enough to send me a copy of "Anatomy of Diplomacy".

I found the book most interesting. I want to express my appreciation for your fair treatment of the Agency and its people. I know this is an honestly held opinion, but it does help to have it appear in a balanced and serious volume written by an individual of your stature and experience.

If you get down to Washington at any time, I wish you would give me a ring for lunch or just an old-fashioned chat.

Cordially,

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms

PERSONAL

Mr. Ellis Briggs

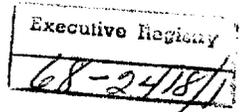
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27 May 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Comments on "Anatomy of Diplomacy"
by Ellis Briggs

1. Ambassador Briggs is an FSO's FSO and Part One (Environment and Ingredients) of Anatomy of Diplomacy probably should be required reading for all new appointees to the Foreign Service; probably also for all those who aspire to join the Foreign Service--some of them might change their minds. This part of the book is a breezily written account of how the US transacts its foreign affairs and how it has come about that the process works as it does. The role of the President, of the Secretary of State, of Congress, and of domestic political and economic factors are perceptively and one believes, accurately described.

2. Briggs deplores the encroachment on the diplomats' preserve of the "peripheral performers" (AID missions, MAAGS, USIS, etc.). His account of how it all came about, however, is objective and fair.

3. His treatment of CIA is friendly but it is from the vantage point of a Chief of Mission rather from that of a policy-maker in Washington. Thus, CIA's analytical function is barely mentioned and at one point Briggs clearly implies that CIA's only collection interest is "political intelligence." But the book is about diplomacy, not intelligence, and on this basis, Briggs' comments on CIA are fair enough.

4. Part Two of the book (The Contemporary Scene) is a curious mixture of sophisticated comment on the practices, frustrations, and limitations of diplomacy, superimposed on a dubious interpretation of recent history and a highly opinionated view of the world today. Briggs' views are essentially "Goldwaterish."

5. His chapter on communism and the cold war could have come straight out of the public utterances of John Foster Dulles. Useful, perhaps, for an FSO in discourse with his foreign counterparts but no contribution to a serious study of history. It all started, according to Briggs, with Russia's having won World War II while its erstwhile allies (except the US) had been "bled white." That Russia's casualties were vastly greater than those of its "erstwhile allies" apparently escaped Briggs' attention. He divides the Cold War into three periods: first, the Stalinist (or bi-polar) period; second, Khrushchev's Peaceful Coexistence Period; third, with the outbreak of the Sino-Soviet dispute, the period of "Dogmatic Disunity" (whatever that means). But for Briggs, the Cold War goes on and Communist's are Communists whether they are Russians, Chinese, Vietnamese, or bearded Cubans and they are all trying to do us in. He discerns a few contradictions within the "Communist World" but then comes this paragraph:

"It has been said many times that if the free world worked half so hard to remain free as the Communists work to enslave us, the free world would have little to fear. The fact is that the free world, cherishing moderation and tolerance and diversity, does not work that hard, and therein lies the danger."

6. A chapter on Colonialism and Emerging Nations is simplistic and superficial. Briggs' view of the multitude of non-viable emerging nations formerly under

colonial rule is strictly that of a striped pants diplomat. Things were tidier in the old days. The natives were better off, the economies were more productive. All true, perhaps, but scarcely relevant.

7. On Vietnam and Southeast Asia, Briggs propounds the domino theory, not as an arguable thesis, but as Revealed Truth. At this point, one wishes Briggs had quit writing while he was ahead, at the end of the book's Part One.

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Remarks:

Please have some competent officer breeze through this book to ascertain whether or not it is basically sound. The chapter on the Agency appears relatively balanced.

I want to write Ellis Briggs a note, but not until someone has verified the text.

1-2: Please handle RJS

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Richard Helms, The Director	20/5/68

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