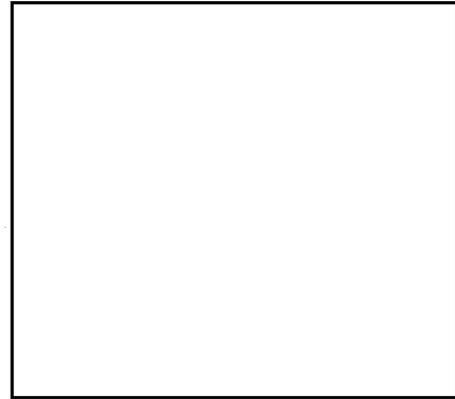


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*card*



Mr. T. William Heidner  
Program Chairman  
International Fire Chiefs Association  
Office of Fire Department  
Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Heidner:

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 December inviting me to speak before the annual conference of the International Fire Chiefs Association at Las Vegas, Nevada, on 26 September 1961.

I sincerely regret that I will be unable to accept your kind invitation. In view of my present position, it is necessary for me to restrict my speaking engagements to the various government service schools except on a rare occasion when I make an outside address. Unfortunately, I cannot make an additional commitment at this time.

Your courtesy in asking me to join you on this occasion is indeed appreciated and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in your conference.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

**Allen W. Dulles**  
Director

*SECRET*

O/DCI,

bak(15 Dec. 60)

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