

Executive Registry

60-4352

*card* 9 JUN 1960

Mr. Comer V. La Pierre  
Vice President  
General Electric Corporation  
570 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. La Pierre:

As Bill Webster has undoubtedly told you, I have had for a number of years a panel of experts under his chairmanship periodically review our intelligence and estimates on the Soviet atomic energy program. This intelligence field is among the most important with which we have to deal. Because of its highly technical nature, I have found it extremely useful to have advice from experts outside the immediate intelligence community.

I understand that Bill Webster has informally discussed with you the possibility of your assisting in this regard. I should very much like to urge you to serve on this advisory panel, since I feel that your past experience in the atomic energy development program and your broad background in many national security fields, especially in nuclear and defense systems, would provide tremendous help in our work.

If this association meets with your approval, Dr. Herbert Souville, our Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, will contact you regarding our security clearance procedures.

OSI/ [ ] pf:jml/ [ ] (3 June 1960)

- Dist: 2- [ ]
- 1 - DCI; 1 - DDCI; 1 - DD/I;
- 1 - Exec. Reg; 2 - AD/SI;
- 2 - NED/SI; 2 - NED Chrono

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen V. Dulles  
Director

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Asst. Dir./Scient. Intell Deputy Dir./Intelligence

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3 JUN 1960  
Executive Registry  
60-4352/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Webster Panel Membership

1. Enclosed for your signature is a letter to Mr. Cramer W. La Pierre, whom we are inviting to serve as a member of the Panel.

2. As you will recall, Dr. James Fisk resigned from the Panel about a year ago because of the press of other commitments. At that time, we invited Dr. James W. McRae to serve as a member; however, his subsequent untimely death has continued a vacancy on the Panel.

3. We have recently completed the Panel review of our 1960 estimate. During the review Mr. Webster discussed the need for an additional member and it was determined Mr. La Pierre would be a logical choice.

4. Mr. La Pierre is now Executive Vice President of the General Electric Corporation and also Group Executive for Electronic Atomic and Defense Systems. He graduated from the University of Missouri School of Engineering in 1925 and has come up through the ranks in General Electric since that time. He has been directly in charge of GE nuclear propulsion research, the largest project of its kind in the country, and has directed most of GE's exotic type research in the past several years.

  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

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Enclosure  
Letter to Mr. La Pierre

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Vice President  
General Electric Corporation  
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If this association meets with your approval, Dr. Herbert Scoville, our Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, will contact you regarding our security clearance procedures.

OSI/ [ ] pf:jml, [ ] (3 June 1960) Sincerely,

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- 2 - NED/SI; 2 - NED Chrono

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CONCURRENCE:

[ ]

Asst. Dir./Scient. Intell.

Deputy Dir./Intelligence

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HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure  
Letter to Mr. La Pierre