

ER 60-5016/ε

7 July 1960

Mrs. William Walter Shoaf

[Redacted]

Dear Mrs. Shoaf:

We greatly appreciated your bringing to our attention the indiscreet statements made by a young lady who might be a present or prospective employee of this Agency. The incident you described is being thoroughly investigated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

[Redacted]
Executive Officer

OS/PSD/[Redacted] mab 6 July 60

Rewritten for JSE signature: EO/DCI/[Redacted]:blp 7 July 60

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

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6 JUL 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : SHOAF, William Walter (Mrs.)

1. This memorandum suggests action on your part. Such requested action is contained in paragraph four.

2. Mrs. William W. Shoaf of Arlington, Virginia, sent you a letter on 27 June 1960 in which she described overhearing an unidentified young lady mention this Agency and that she was being sent to Africa.

3. With the cooperation of the Africa Division, this Office has screened all female employees scheduled for tours in Africa. We were unable to develop any leads which would indicate that any of these employees were in that store on the day of the incident described.

4. It is recommended that you sign the attached letter to Mrs. Shoaf.


✓ Al Sherrfield Edwards
Director of Security

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Attachment:
Proposed Letter

June 27, 1960

Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700060109-8

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As a patriotic citizen and a former employee of the Naval Intelligence Department, I am appalled at the careless talk of one of your employees.

I had supposed that those individuals (who were fortunate enough to obtain positions of great responsibility with regard to national security) would be discreet enough to refrain from such behaviour, especially within the walls of a large, public organization. In this instance, the place was Sears, Roebuck, 4500 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington; the time, Saturday afternoon, June 26, 1960. While shopping for an alarm clock in this firm, I was startled to overhear a young lady holding an animated chat with the young salesman, during which time she stated quite nonchalantly that she was either 'with'-or'going to work for'-CIA, and that "they" were sending her to Africa! I could hardly believe my ears, but I assure you that it was loud and clear, and I was standing within three or four feet from the person who said it. I do not know if she was a customer or an idle saleswoman on duty perhaps for Saturday work. While one like myself must consider the foolishness of youth, it is certainly vital to the security of this nation that such individuals be made aware of the necessity of silence when they are engaged in such duties, no matter how insignificant they may consider themselves even though their rating may be merely clerical. Since she was fairly young, it is hardly possible or likely that she would be assigned to a high position.

I have lived with an awareness of danger since I served with the 15th Naval District in the Canal Zone, during World War II. My husband still holds his Naval commission as a Commander in the Reserves, as well as being engaged in work of a highly confidential nature with a national, reputable firm in Washington, relative to defense. I was a private secretary for the Naval officer in charge of cable censorship in Balboa, Canal Zone. I also held previous jobs as private secretary to the President and Manager of the Chase Manhattan Bank in Balboa, Canal Zone, in which position I handled innumerable matters related to G-2 activities. Later, having been evacuated as a dependent to the States, I was private secretary to the Port Director of Baltimore, also involving national security and then controlled by the Navy Department. In addition, I have had a splendid education and have lived in Europe as a private citizen (after the war) where I had some hair-raising experiences with regard to Communists in Paris, and more especially in Rome, shortly after theogliatti problem began.

I have told you these details in order to convince you that this communication is not the work of a mere crank. I have not written this letter to impress you with my own personal ability, but I should welcome the opportunity to find myself engaged once again in serious work, involving the protection of my country which I love.

Yours very truly,

Blanche V. Shoaf

(Mrs.) William Walter Shoaf (Blanche Vandenberg)

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