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4706 Hunt ave.
Chevy Chase 15, Md.
May 6, 1958

Mr. Allen W. Dulles,
Director, CIA,
2430 E Street, N.W.,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I was very much impressed by the comments you made about Soviet industrial progress in your address to the Chamber of Commerce on April 28. I am aware that the figures you cited are not new, except in the context of the current decline in the U.S. economy.

In the past, I have been a close student of Soviet propaganda techniques, and I concur heartily in your statement that "a recession is an expensive luxury."

There is a strong tendency in the United States, as you have said in several public speeches, to swing violently from underestimating to overestimating the nature of the Soviet threat to the Free World. I fear that the general public is now swinging back from the alarmist period set off by the orbiting of Sputnik I. If this is so, your most recent speech is a welcome warning against complacency.

But it seems to me that your speech leaves many questions unanswered. As Director of CIA, of course, the formation of internal U.S. policy is outside your sphere. But as an eminently qualified private citizen, I wonder what positive courses of action you would recommend to assure America's continuing pre-eminence as the world's No. 1 power.

You discussed at length Soviet economic infiltration in non-Soviet areas. Do you think that the United States is doing all that it can to counter the Russian economic offensive? Should our foreign-aid policy continue as at present? Should it be expanded? Should there be a shift of emphasis from chiefly military to primarily economic aid? Should there be a geographic shift in the foreign-aid program?

Granted that "a recession is an expensive luxury," what steps would you recommend to bring this ~~a~~ slump quickly to an end and to minimize further setbacks? Do you think that the Administration is moving quickly enough and effectively enough with antirecession measures? Or ~~do~~ you think that the prime responsibility in this area is with industry and labor?

You note in your speech that the USSR is investing a "significantly higher" proportion of ~~k~~ its gross national product~~in~~ in industry than the U.S. If this situation continues at the pre-recession rate, it is a matter of simple mathematics to predict when the Soviet Union will catch up with and pass the U.S. in heavy-industrial production. In an uncontrolled economy, it is ~~it~~ difficult to match the Soviet effort. But there are specific things that this or any Administration could do, for example, such as changing the corporate-tax structure, changing depreciation allowances, instituting controls of various kinds on consumer credit such as Regulation W, subsidizing production of strategic minerals, etc. Would you ~~x~~ recommend any of this program?

In a speech at Columbia University on June 1, ^{1955,} you pointed out clearly that the Soviet Union even then was surpassing the United States in the turning out of university graduates in the sciences and engineering--by a ratio of 120 to 70. At this time, almost a year and a half before Sputnik I, you warned: "Unless we quickly take new measures to increase our own facilities for scientific education, Soviet scientific manpower in key areas may well outnumber ours in the next decade."

In a speech on February 3, 1958, ^{denied} at Yale University you modestly that all would have been well with the United States "if only the Central Intelligence Agency had been believed." It is becoming of you to say, as you did then, that CIA has had a ~~change~~ chance to sell its wares, even if one must accept the concurrent implicit admission that CIA failed as a salesman of hard intelligence.

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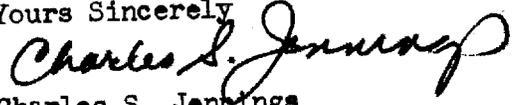
It was kind of the Russians to shock us out of our complacency with their Sputniks, but can we be sure that they will always be so obliging? The internal communications of CIA and details of its relations with other divisions of the Government are quite properly matters to be held in strictest confidence. But do you not think that the public is entitled to some information on how the CIA has improved its "salesmanship?"

There are rumors current in Washington that your personal views on foreign policy are at variance with Administration policies. I do not recall the source, but recently I heard that your position on the ~~xxx~~ situation in Europe was somewhat closer to that of George Kennan than to that of the Secretary of State. Are you able to discuss this?

I am aware that you may not feel free to ~~discuss~~ discuss any of the above matters in a letter to a private citizen. If this is so, may I suggest that you might take up some of these questions in the next speech you make for public distribution.

Believe me, sir, that I write in a friendly spirit, from a deep admiration and respect for CIA and for you as its director.

Yours Sincerely


Charles S. Jennings

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