

Executive Registry

10-5551

Savoy Hotel

DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA

GOYA, 3

SAVOYOTEL

MADRID

TELEFONO 36-08-00

July 15, 1958

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

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I got a chuckle out of hearing today that the New York Herald Tribune finally got around to running the series on the CIA which I wrote last fall--with some updating by Bob Donovan.

You might be amused by a little of the background: after I had completed the series, a certain executive known as an "idea man" complained that I should have ripped into the CIA for its "failures"--and he proceeded to cite some of the alleged failures. Actually, he had dredged up old rumors and complaints which would have been an actual distortion of the Agency's work. I refused to change the stories--and they were still lying amused when I resigned as Bureau Chief.

Then several weeks ago I received a cable from New York asking my permission to use the series, with the promise that they would not be changed except for necessary updating to be done by Donovan. On this basis, I agreed.

I had left Washington on March 1 for a round-the-world trip during which I am gathering material on crime, espionage, and law enforcement problems around the world. So far the project is progressing nicely. I have yet to visit another nine countries in Europe before coming home, about Dec. 1.

While talking police problems with the Spanish police, I learned that there is quite a project underway here in screening hundreds of Spaniards who returned here after going into Russia at the end of Spain's civil war.

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It seems to me the time has come to give the American people a greater understanding of the importance of our intelligence operations abroad--and how very much the safety of the nation and the soundness of our policy depends on intelligence, and its proper use.

I realize, of course, the sensitive side of the story--but I still think it could be done.

Perhaps there is some other story that might be better than the Spanish story for this purpose. If you should approve this undertaking--the Spanish story or any other--I will arrange my European schedule accordingly. I am leaving here July 17 for Frankfurt, Germany, where I'll be until July 31. Then Mrs. Whitehead and I will travel through Europe until about Dec. 1, when we'll return home.

My best wishes to you--and please give my regards to Stan.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Whitehead

P. S. In Frankfurt, I can be reached c/o American Express.