

7-8012/A

14 January 1956

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I desire to acknowledge your letter of January 11, 1956, advising me of the appointment of a Board of Consultants to review periodically the foreign intelligence activities of the Government, including in particular the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. This action is welcomed by all of us in the Agency and we believe that the calibre of man designated to serve on the Board will insure constructive work. I assure you that we will afford the Board our fullest cooperation.

Respectfully,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/IG/LBK:rm (14 Jan 56)

Rewritten: AWD/at

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Board of Consultants
White House

C O P Y

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 11, 1956

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In the Hoover Commission Report submitted to Congress on June 29, 1955 relating to the intelligence activities of the Government, there is a recommendation that I appoint a "committee of experienced private citizens who shall have the responsibility to examine and report" on the work of the Government's foreign intelligence activities. I have noted your concurrence.

In accordance with this recommendation, I am constituting a Board of Consultants to review periodically the foreign intelligence activities of this Government, and to report their findings to me. While the review would concern itself with the sum total of these activities, it would be expected that major attention would be concentrated upon the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. A copy of the letter which I am sending to the prospective members of the Board is enclosed.

The work of this Board together with the regular reviews conducted by the appropriate Committees of the Congress will help to provide a method for assuring the Congress, the public, and the Executive Branch that this highly important and sensitive work is being efficiently conducted.

I know that you will afford the Board of Consultants the fullest cooperation in its work.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

January 11 1956

COPY

Dear

I am establishing a Board of Consultants on foreign intelligence activities of this Government for the purpose of providing me periodically with independent evaluations of the work of the organizations involved. This Board will consist of eight outstanding citizens in whose high qualifications and discretion I have the fullest confidence. I would like to have you serve as one of the members of this Board.

It is my desire that this Board should meet not less often than once every six months to analyze carefully the work of the Government's foreign intelligence activities. These sessions might involve meetings over a period of several days. While the review by your group would be concerned with all Government foreign intelligence activities, I would expect particular detailed attention to be concentrated on the work of the Central Intelligence Agency and of those intelligence elements of key importance in other departments and agencies. I am particularly anxious to obtain your views as to the over-all progress that is being made, the quality of training and personnel, security, progress in research, effectiveness of specific projects and of the handling of funds, and general competence in carrying out assigned intelligence tasks.

It is my sincere conviction that prompt and accurate intelligence is essential to the policy making branches of the Government in the field of national security and foreign relations. By serving on the Board you can make a real contribution to the task of Government.

It is my hope that you and the others whom I am inviting to serve will be able to meet with Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence, and me in the near future to determine the scope of your review of the work in the foreign intelligence field and to draw up terms of reference to permit you effectively to carry out your assigned task.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER