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28 March 1956

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The Honorable Carl Hayden  
Chairman Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize recent actions and report the present status of planning for the new Central Intelligence Agency headquarters installation.

You will recall that Public Law No. 161 (84th Congress) authorized the construction of this installation, together with facilities, appurtenances, utilities, and access roads, at a cost of not to exceed \$54,500,000, of which not more than \$8,500,000 was authorized for acquisition of land for and construction to extend the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the present site of the research station of the Bureau of Public Roads at Langley, Virginia, in the event that this site was finally selected. The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1956 (Public Law No. 219, 84th Congress) appropriated \$5,500,000, to remain available until expended, for financing the preparation of plans and specifications and other preliminary actions towards the construction authorized by Public Law No. 161.

In its report to the Congress on this matter the Senate Appropriations Committee suggested that a further careful study be made prior to the final selection of a site for this installation. We thereupon engaged the firm of Clarke & Rapusano, consulting engineers and landscape architects, to undertake a thorough study of our site selection problem. Their report, issued on 25 October 1955, concluded that Langley was the best site available which met the established criteria for the location of our building. The Central Intelligence Agency concurred in this report and forwarded it to the National Capital Planning Commission, in accordance with applicable laws, for its consideration on 29 October 1955. After long and careful consideration of the matter, the National Capital Planning Commission approved of the selection of the Langley site on 3 February 1956 and submitted its final report to this Agency on 2 March 1956, a copy of which was forwarded to you by Mr. Dulles on 6 March 1956.

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As a result of the foregoing actions by the Congress and the National Capital Planning Commission, the Central Intelligence Agency was free to proceed with its plans for establishing its headquarters installation at Langley. Following receipt of the Planning Commission's final report, we have made every effort to expedite action in order that we might be prepared to support our request for necessary additional appropriations during this session of the Congress. We have authorized our principal architect, Harrison & Abramovitz, to prepare preliminary plans and specifications and that work is now well under way. We have signed an agreement with the General Services Administration as to how the basic contract will be administered. The Bureau of Public Roads has agreed to transfer 140 acres of Government property at Langley for our use. Fairfax County has agreed to furnish adequate sewerage facilities. The State of Virginia has agreed to widen a portion of Highway 123. The City of Falls Church has agreed to provide water. Public utilities companies have given us assurance that power, telephone, bus service, etc. will be available in ample time to meet our needs.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, we are moving ahead as rapidly as possible with the preliminary work on locating our new installation at Langley, Virginia. The construction of our facilities has been authorized in full by the Congress. Preliminary appropriations have been made by the Congress, and we fully expect to request the remainder of the necessary funds during the current session. I hope that this serves to give you a clear picture of where we stand at this moment.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. K. White  
Deputy Director

DD/S:LKW:laq

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