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CONFIDENTIAL

Reinhard Gehlen

Munich, May 12th, 1953

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I take the opportunity of Mr. [redacted] trip to 25X1A the States to give along this letter. In this first letter to you as to the new Chief of the US Intelligence Service I may express my congratulations to your present position and may wish you good luck. Your very well-known understanding for all German problems, especially proven during the years just after the war, will guarantee also for the future the necessary basis of confidence for the cooperation in the intelligence field between the United States and Germany.

Nearly seven years of close cooperation between the US Intelligence Service and this organization have passed. These years created a well-founded investment of good will on both sides. They gave us the feeling to have worked successfully in paving the basement of a future German Intelligence Service. We are especially thankful that the trend during the last months was to give us more freedom and responsibility in the control of our operations. You know from your own long experience that too much paragraphs, regulations, SOP's, and red tape mean the death of all intelligence activities. Therefore, I would welcome an intensification of this tendency. I know that there have been many reasons which did not make it possible to follow this trend earlier. Therefore, I appreciate very much the understanding and help of Mr. [redacted] and his superiors 25X1A to create the presupposition for more self-responsibility of our organization, which will increase our efficiency considerably.

Mr. [redacted] knows all about our present and future problems, so that he is able to give you detailed information. As soon as you should visit Europe again, I would appreciate very much to have the opportunity for a discussion with you yourself about some basic problems.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

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*R. Gehlen*

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30 December 1952

(handwritten) Dear General Gehlen

Thank you most sincerely for your letter. I appreciate particularly your personal assurances of future cooperation with this Agency. As I told General von Mellenthin, a few weeks ago, we look forward to an increasingly close working relationship with your organization

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[redacted] P. I am thoroughly convinced that as long as we are confronted with a "cold war", our organizations must work together closely in order to achieve maximum coverage of our mutual intelligence goals, and as I said to you when you were here, the objective is sufficiently difficult to demand the utmost of our united efforts. You are closer to the point of impact and as your organization gains in strength and prestige I foresee your becoming the spearhead of the main effort in certain directions.

I have noted with particular interest your comments on Soviet capabilities and intentions. These comments seem very sound to us. I was also pleased to learn that you will have answers to the questions in my previous letter in the foreseeable future. I hope you will continue to give me your personal comments and estimates. They are valued highly.

Faithfully,

(handwritten)

s/Bedell Smith

General Reinhard Gehlen  
Germany

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