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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DEC 9 1950

The Honorable F. J. Lawton  
Director  
Bureau of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lawton:

Reference your letter of 9 November 1950, Subject: "Planning for continuity of operations under emergency conditions". This letter was not received in my office until 23 November 1950, and therefore an earlier reply was not possible.

The question of the location of this agency on the basis of decentralization, dispersal, or in the central area has been thoroughly considered, together with all questions raised in your letter. After due consideration, it is my recommendation that CIA be dispersed to an area outside of Washington. The reason for this is that the day-to-day relationship with other intelligence agencies of the Government, the National Security Council, and the President, is such that decentralization could not under these circumstances be considered. On the other hand, the functions assigned to this agency are of such vital importance that location in the central area, with the prospect of complete destruction, is obviously impossible.

In considering the relative priorities of the various organizational units of this agency, I have come to the conclusion that the objective with regard to the dispersal of CIA activities must be to disperse the entire agency. Each organizational segment is essential to the production of both current and long-range national intelligence estimates and should be relocated as a complete unit.

At most, the agency will require from 5,000 to 10,000 square feet of space in the central area for prompt and efficient liaison to other intelligence agencies. The overall space requirement to house this agency on the basis of a dispersal plan will be

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Action has already been taken to protect the vital records of this agency and provision is now being made for the protection of such specialized equipment as may be required in the event of a surprise attack. Further, interim measures have been taken to assure continuity of operations in the event of a devastating attack without warning and, also, delegation of command authority.

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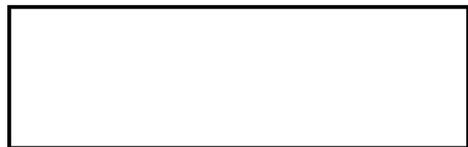
Certain of the information which you requested in regard to organizational units and personnel have been omitted from this letter. However, this information will be made available verbally by [redacted] whom I designated as the CIA representative in connection with this matter in my letter of 5 December 1950.

It is my sincere hope that the selection of a specific site and construction of necessary buildings may begin at an early date.

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Sincerely,

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WALTER B. SMITH  
Director

*Comptroller*

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[redacted] :vm (14 Dec. 50)  
cc: Courtesy  
Signer (2) ✓  $\frac{2}{2}$   
Asst. to the Dep. for Adm.  
Dep. Dir. for Adm.  
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