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18 August 1948

Mr. Fletcher Pratt  
32 West 58th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Pratt:

I read with a great deal of interest your article in last Sunday's "Times Magazine" on "The Real Spy, the Researcher," and I should like to congratulate you on such an excellent presentation. That article is one of the most factual that has appeared recently. All too often the real truth, as you set it forth, has been hidden behind the more romantic features of the long cloak and the false beard, and it is particularly pleasing that some factual truths are now being put forth.

Incidentally, I have just received a copy of a letter from Mr. Howard Watson Ambruster to you in which Mr. Ambruster, as he says, has taken my name in vain. I wish to assure you that I have never seen Mr. Ambruster, have never read his book, and, until I received this letter, did not even know of his existence.

Again with congratulations on your excellent article.

Sincerely,

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

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Distribution:  
✓ Director  
Central Records (then DD + CR)

Note for Record: Reply received 9/3/48, ER O-1108, as follows: "I am naturally delighted that you, at the center of the whole intelligence picture, should have found the little piece I wrote for the NY Times Magazine to be accurate and that you approve ~~of~~ its point of view. As to Mr. Ambruster, I did not even answer his letter, though I normally make a practice of replying to all mail. He seems merely to be trying to work up a row."

Sent to CR for file thru DD on 9/10.

DOCUMENT NO. 57  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS   
CLASSIFICATION  
DATE 10/4/81 REVIEWER:

File: Press,  
Fletcher Pratt

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