

Executive Registry
3-3682

27 October 1952

card

Mr. George Haig



Dear Mr. Haig:

General Smith has asked me to acknowledge your letter of October 24th and thank you for the consideration which prompted you to send us your ideas.

Sincerely,



Assistant to the Director

REL: aml
Distr: Orig - addressee
1 - signer
1 - reading
1 - official w/basic ✓

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George Haig

October 24, 1952

General Walter B. Smith,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington 25, D. C.

Sir:

I am taking the liberty to write to you about a very important matter which may interest you as Chief of C I A. Here it is:

What are we going to do in the event of Stalin's death?

It is possible that if we act promptly and properly we may destroy this enemy of mankind, Communist Russia, without going to war.

The reason I am bringing this problem to your attention is that in the past our government, and many other governments of the democratic world have set tight and watched-to-see-what-happens in such important events - like when Lenin died.

But it is logical to assume that in the event of the removal of the head of such a big power, surrounded by jealous and unscrupulous individuals, there is bound to be a struggle for the top position and power. If this struggle meets a strong opposition by an opposite faction it is also possible that they destroy each other, or break up their own giant power structure. History is full of such breaks.

We may do one of two things in the event of Stalin's death:

- 1- We may sit tight and see what happens. Let us see what may happen if we let them alone, and do nothing:
 - a- They may obediently and peacefully elect one of their ablest leaders to take the place of Stalin and work more efficiently than before and keep on fighting us in cold and hot war and try to defeat us.
 - b- They may divide into two or more factions, each one trying to take the leadership. If this happens it is possible that they keep on fighting among themselves so hard that they may destroy each other and break up the power of Soviet Russia and thus eliminate themselves as a threat to the world peace, and even abolish communism. This is too optimistic.
 - c- It is also possible that one of the gang destroy the others, liquidate all opposition, (like Stalin did after Lenin) take the helm and continue their fight against us, etc.

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- 2- Instead of waiting to see what may happen, we can formulate

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definite plans, several plans, to act promptly in any contingency to destroy the Communist Russian power the minute Stalin dies, and thus eliminate this threat to the peace of the world.

We should study now, and learn who could be a possible opposition leader to the new leaders and their cohorts in case of Stalin's death, and encourage him and help him directly or indirectly to wage a stronger opposition to his opponents.

Of course we must assume that when Stalin dies they may not make it public until their new house is in order. To avoid this we should have closer watch on him. Naturally this project, (let me call it Operation Time Table) may call on all the logical agencies of our government, such as the FBI, Voice of America, Depts. of Defense and State, and may be others. It may be that actual warfare too be included in this operation.

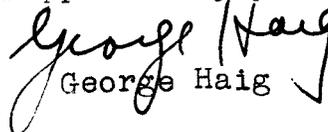
Well, I am merely suggesting. It is not for me here to present a plan. I am sure that in our government, military and civil, and also among the civilians, there are many keen-minded and able individuals who can prepare a time-table like program, with definite information on the subject, persons and personalities involved in Russia, so that we will do something instead of sitting this one out too. By doing this we may prevent a catastrophic world war.

Let me add that I would like to be included, if I am considered desirable, to work on this project, Operation Time Table, as I am well equipped to assist in such matters. Naturally you may wish to know something about me and my background.

You will find, in the files of CIA, a record of my background which I am sure will give you ample information about me.

If my services not to be used by CIA I do not desire to know further about this matter, whether you like my suggestion or not. Because I realize that anyone who is not with CIA, or who is not assigned to this project should ^{not} know whether such a project exists in our plans. However, I would like to know whether you have received this letter or not. I further wish to assure you that, whether you liked my suggestion or not (which I will not know) whether you answer my letter or not, I will not reveal the contents of this letter to anyone, until long after Stalin's death, and ~~that~~ if it is necessary.

Respectfully yours,


George Haig