



August 30, 1950

Dear Bill:

I just got back last Saturday from a couple of months in Europe and have only just heard the good news of your job in the CIA. I am more than delighted to get this news for a great many reasons.

You know of my intense and continuing interest in intelligence. I have always felt that very few people understand the meaning of the word and that it has been very sadly neglected in all branches of our government. I was interested in reading an editorial in the Tribune this morning which says:

"The valid, and therefore the convincing, criticism of Administration policy in the Far East is not that it has been treasonable or underhanded, but that it has been blundering, vacillating, temporizing, ignorant, or at best inadequately informed, falling from one crisis into another with a minimum of preparation or foresight."

From what I saw of some of the individuals in charge of intelligence during the last war, I am not surprised that the government is badly informed.

I received a letter the other day from the Navy Department asking if I would be willing to volunteer for active duty. My answer is definitely No. Just between you and me, I frankly have no confidence that by volunteering for active duty I would be placed in a position by those in command of the Navy where I can be of any real service to the country.

If at some future date the situation becomes so acute that services of people like myself are needed, I certainly think I could be of more use working for and

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with someone like yourself who understands the problems of intelligence better than any Naval officer ever will. I sincerely hope that day is very far off. If, in the meantime, I can do anything, please let me know.

I suggested to your secretary that it would be good to have lunch with you and talk things over.

Yours,



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Mr. William Harding Jackson



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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REMARKS: