

1-7057

3 April 1951

Mr. S. N. Wolen  
Tuscaloosa Junior High School  
Office of Principal  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wolen:

General W. B. Smith, the Director of Central Intelligence, has asked me to reply to the letter from Miss Mary Jane Pickens requesting information on the functions of this Agency, to be used by the Tuscaloosa Junior High School in connection with a study of the laws and law enforcement agencies of the United States.

Actually, the Central Intelligence Agency is not a law enforcement agency. On the contrary, we are precluded by public law from having any "police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers, or internal-security functions". Briefly, our mission is to coordinate the intelligence activities of the several government departments and agencies in the interests of national security.

For reasons which you will understand, our organization and a good part of our operations must necessarily remain secret. For this reason I am unable to furnish an organizational chart or a detailed breakdown of our duties and functions. I am, however, enclosing some mimeographed notes outlining the general functions and responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Agency as prescribed by the National Security Act of 1947. It is hoped that the information contained in these notes will prove helpful.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Assistant to the Director

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Encl:

"Notes as a Basis for Discussion of  
Functions and Responsibilities of  
The Central Intelligence Agency"

HJM:rgo

Dist: 2 Signer ✓

*Official*

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