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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

82-1442/V

Dr. William G. Bowen, President
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dear Dr. Bowen:

Relations between the Intelligence and Academic Communities in the United States have traditionally been close. Academicians played a prominent role in the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency, as they had in the establishment of its predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services. Many of those who came from the campuses to assist in the founding of those organizations remained here to complete distinguished careers as intelligence officers. Over the years, we in this Agency have relied on the colleges and universities as the almost exclusive sources of recruitment for our professional staff personnel. We have also established contractual relationships with both academic institutions and individual scholars to assist us in our analytic effort. In turn, we believe that our academic counterparts have profited from the exchange of information and insight that results from these contractual relationships. Additionally, in recent years we have made a number of our unclassified reports and statistical summaries available for use by those in academe. The relationship, in short, has been symbiotic, truly beneficial, I believe, to both partners.

As you know, in the late 1960s and 1970s, strains arose between the Agency and many colleges and universities. Fortunately, these strains have dissipated as most of the problems have been resolved. As I stated during my confirmation hearings, I intend to ask American scholars to serve their country by sharing their scholarship and insights with those in the Intelligence Community who are responsible for preparing the analyses used to develop foreign policy and defense strategy.

In an attempt to further the restoration of mutual confidence between the Academic and Intelligence Communities, I am inviting a small number of college and university chief executives, including you, to join with me at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, on 13 October for an exchange of views. I envisage a basically informal meeting beginning at about 9:00 a.m. and continuing to around 4:00 p.m.

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I hope to greet you upon your arrival and meet with you again prior to your departure. In the interval between those meetings, you will meet and be briefed by a number of senior officials of the Agency on the activities involved in carrying out our assigned role in government. Out of these exchanges, I would hope that you would find answers to any questions that you might have regarding our work. More importantly, I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions on how this organization might better accomplish its primary mission of providing our nation's leaders with the best possible intelligence. From our meetings that day, I believe will emerge a greater awareness on the part of all involved of the benefits to be gained for our respective organizations and our nation from even closer cooperation in the future.

I am aware of the busy schedule that you undoubtedly face, but I would be most grateful if you could find time to join me on 13 October. My Coordinator for Academic Affairs, [redacted], has already been in touch with a member of your staff and he will be available to discuss details in connection with your visit if, as I hope, you can accept this invitation. STAT

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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