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OFFICE OF

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Washington 25, D. C.

6 MAY 1961

The Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are aware, National Security Council Action No. 2377 of 12 January 1961 (approved by the President on 18 January 1961) endorsed certain recommendations of the Joint Study Group on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States Government. This included recommendation No. 29 which states, "The Director of Central Intelligence should be supported in taking leadership and initiative to develop solutions for the problems of coordination by the establishment of a Coordination Staff, under his personal supervision and separate from any operational responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Agency or other department or agency...."

The National Security Council action cited above enlarged upon the functions initially envisaged for a Coordination Staff by directing that it also analyze and propose solutions to non-substantive community problems; review future plans and programs of community members; and review the functions and activities of the several committees and subcommittees of the United States Intelligence Board.

In explaining its concept of the Coordination Staff, the Joint Study Group proposed that it be a "full time group of intelligence professionals owing primary allegiance to the intelligence community rather than to any one member agency. Membership on the Staff would be drawn from the foreign intelligence community-at-large."

Having previously appointed an Assistant for Coordination, I have now approved the assignment of a senior Deputy Assistant, three senior intelligence professionals and secretarial support from the Central Intelligence Agency. This nucleus of a composite

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coordination staff has begun advising and assisting in the initiation of action to implement a part of the Joint Study Group recommendations, and has prepared the first quarterly progress report on the status of these recommendations.

As the Department of State has implementing responsibilities for, or a major interest in, about 35 percent of the recommendations, it is imperative that my Coordination Staff assume a community-wide character through the assignment of a qualified senior intelligence professional from the Department of State as well as professionals from the Department of Defense.

It is my hope that the experienced individuals from the Departments of State and Defense, when associated in one staff with like individuals from the Central Intelligence Agency, will together provide the necessary diversified experience in each major field of intelligence so essential to practical and acceptable solutions of over-all foreign intelligence coordination problems.

I had not previously requested such assignments because I was awaiting the results of the studies of the intelligence organization within the Department of Defense. Without prejudice to any decisions which may be taken as a result of those studies, I would now like to request your nomination of a properly qualified individual to be administratively detailed to the Office of the Director of Central Intelligence for a tour of duty with the Coordination Staff. Your nominee should have a Top Secret security clearance from the Department of State.

I shall provide secretarial support, travel funds, office space, supplies and related support for the Coordination Staff. However, inasmuch as this Staff will be of service to, and in part representative of, the entire intelligence community, I am requesting that salaries and related personnel costs be borne by the agencies and departments for their personnel provided to the Coordination Staff. This, I believe, is consistent with the support called for in Joint Study Group recommendation No. 29.

With your approval of this proposal our representatives can then work out detailed arrangements. I have designated Brigadier General Jesmond D. Balmer, U. S. Army, Retired, who is my Assistant for Coordination, as my representative on this matter.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence

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