

9  
August 1953

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Dear GWR:

1. Things are progressing as smoothly as could be expected at this point. I have not seen either [ ] or [ ] since your departure but expect to see both of them next week. As I feared, [ ] did not get our instructions correctly. Two letters were received from him (presumed to be from him), the first saying: "I am going to America," and the second saying: "I am not going to America." A book was received on Wednesday, 5 August, so I presume that the meeting of the 12th will proceed as scheduled.
2. [ ] came in this week and I briefed him as thoroughly as possible regarding the [ ] contact. [ ] appears to have conquered much of his early anxiety with respect to operations. I rather suspect that his own self-respect plus his concern for the future has obliged him to assume a more courageous approach, particularly in view of the fact that he is now dealing with a person considerably younger than himself. However, I do not for the present anticipate any difficulty in keeping him in line. [ ] pressed me on the point of obtaining permission to recruit two of his contacts. I am writing a dispatch in the same pouch, as I would like some instructions either from you or from the desk regarding this point. The security of the [ ] operation and the potential productivity of [ ]s proposed agents appear to be the primary considerations. With regard to the student, [ ] still appears to be thinking in terms of helping the boy get a scholarship to the States, paying his transportation, etc. I told him that I took a very dim view both of the idea and of the likelihood of its being approved. Unfortunately, he appears to have already made some hints along that line to the boy. Knowing very little about either the student or the man in the Agriculture Department, and having very little time to wade through the [ ] file in an effort to dig out material previously submitted, I told [ ] to lay low from these prospects for the time being, to stall them as much as possible, and not to expect any positive answer for "several weeks." [ ] also inundated me with a massive sheaf of vouchers. At the moment I am at a loss as to what disposition should be made of these, but I am wading through the Regulations and will handle it in whatever way seems best. I told [ ] it would be some time before he could hope to get any money from them.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Secret

Letter to GWR, <sup>9</sup> August 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION Page 2

3. The NOSTRIL operation is not proceeding as smoothly as we had hoped, although I have seen NOSTRIL twice and have established a very amenable, if somewhat ambiguous, relationship with him. A perusal of Headquarters "CM" file will reveal what has transpired since your departure. I hope, by the time you read this, the Beirut episode will have taken place. The only point that I want to make here is that it has been increasingly difficult, and eventually may become impossible, to preserve the fiction that I am merely "your trustworthy but disinterested friend." Also, it would be helpful if you could emphasize to the people concerned that as a result of your handling of the affair to date as well as the smoothness with which the "LCFLUTTER" episode took place, NOSTRIL now has a very high regard for our professional competence and that it would be most unfortunate if, as a result of the delay caused by such incidents as the misunderstanding concerning [ ] recruitment, this impression were changed. What I am driving at is that it has been difficult to avoid letting NOSTRIL get an impression of uncertainty or lack of firm control. I believe that I have managed to prevent this successfully so far by emphasizing the need for "doing the job correctly rather than quickly."
4. I am a little bit worried about [ ]'s inherent affinity for "cowboy" operations. I have tried to squelch him as much as possible, using your name as judiciously as I could, and he has vowed to proceed with the utmost discretion.
5. The story about the King's attempted assassination of Mustapha al Tahir, fantastic as it may sound, appears to be essentially true. A notice appeared in the press to the effect that Tahir would be tried, and it will be interesting to see how the Government handles it, if it does.
6. I sent the note to [ ] as per your instructions.
7. I finally managed to get our burn-bag disposed of. I am still wading through the mass of miscellaneous material and finding it very slow going indeed. I am suffering from much the same problem that you did in the early days--too much cover work. If it is any reassurance to you, you will be happy to know that I am unfortunately having to devote at least 25% of my time to cover activities. The only fortunate result of this situation

Secret

SECURITY INFORMATION

Secret

Letter to GWR, 12 August 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION  
Page 3

is that I have managed to establish very good rapport with the [ ] and that my cover appears to be intact.

8. [ ]'s address is enclosed. Your letter has been forwarded.

[ ]

[ ]

Enclosure:  
1 - as listed above

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Secret  
SECURITY INFORMATION

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page 4 of letter to GWR SECURITY INFORMATION. 13 August 1953

It now appears that the Nostril expedition to Beirut will not proceed until September - a great disappointment to me. I am not particularly encouraged by SMUNI's handling of their end of the thing, but was pleased by the support received from Headquarters on most of the points at issue.

Please note NJA-A-202 - [ ] is back with a complete report which will be forwarded next week. What I would like you to note is para 3 re finances. Is this in line with your understanding with him? Also, according to his statement, and last month's accounting, his July Salary was not paid. This means that including the Beirut balance, his July salary, July expenses, and August salary and expenses, he's got around 90 JDs coming to him a/o our next meeting. Even if I delay the August payments until the meeting after next, we owe him almost 50 JDs.

Haven't had time to write the dispatch referred to in para 2 re [ ] potential recruits. He says he's submitted complete info on both the Student and the Dep't of Agriculture man in the past. Would very much appreciate your suggestions re this point if you have time on your arrival. This should hit Hqs at about the same time as your arrival.

Lynch has shown himself to be most unsympathetic to us, but due to having been squelched in the past and to my efforts to flatter him and do a little work for him, he has not and probably will not make any positive attempt to interfere with my activities. I'm not certain that he would not welcome an opportunity to torpedo us, if one came along. Am making ~~every~~ every effort to avoid giving him any such opportunity. Believe his attitude might be cited as an additional argument for your DC proposals, as his resentment is not so much towards either of us personally as toward the idea ~~of~~ of the threat to [ ] posed by our presence.

Have a good vacation. Regards to Mrs. R.

CNM

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SECURITY INFORMATION