



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy,
Belgrade, Yugoslavia,
August 21, 1950.


Dear Bedell,

The news that you have agreed to take over CIA is the best we have had in many a day. My heartiest congratulations to you and the Government!

I also want to express my appreciation for the excellent testimony you gave Congress on behalf of the increased appropriations for the Information Service. Yours was the most telling evidence I have seen.

With all due regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,


George V. Allen,
American Ambassador.

Lt.General Walter Bedell Smith,
Director,
Central Intelligence Authority,
Washington, D. C.

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AMERICAN EMBASSY
BELGRADE
AUG 22 1950

7 September 1950

The Honorable George V. Allen
American Ambassador
American Embassy
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear George:

Thanks sincerely for your very kind note of August 21st. As you can well imagine, I ducked the new job as long as I could. I have no illusions about it, but the pressure got too strong, particularly in view of the Korean situation and I finally felt constrained to accept. I hope you and my other friends will be prepared to identify the body when it finally emerges from the Washington mill.

There is one thing you can do for me. I assume you have in Belgrade, as we did in Moscow, some of the personnel in whom I will shortly have a direct interest. I would be grateful for your personal and secret estimate of their capabilities and qualifications. My experience in Moscow was not particularly reassuring.

All the best and hope to see you before too long.

Faithfully,

JS/Chase

Sent via State Dept
in inner envelope.