

Ottawa, 21st August 1950.



PERSONAL.

My dear General,

The Ottawa Evening Citizen of August 19 brought the news of your succession to the office Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter held for some years.

I really hesitate whether I should congratulate you because I know what it means to hold a job of that kind, but I certainly do congratulate your country on having found you ready to become the director of its central intelligence.

May I wish you all the success one can think of and at the same time add an advice from my experience which is: do not overdo it; a man needs a minimum of sound sleep of 5 to 6 hours out of 24.

My wife and myself hope very much that you and Mr. Bedell Smith are well. I am now Ambassador to Holland in Canada. We should very much like to meet you both again and if we come to Washington one of these months we certainly will make every endeavour to come and see you both.

We were very interested to read your articles in the New York Herald Tribune last year. We were then living in Djakarta, where I was High Representative of the Crown (the most difficult job I ever had) and they brought us back to the Moscow days, which were made ever so much more pleasant by your friendship and the hospitality of Spasso House.

What a world we are living in again now. I would give anything to have a little talk with you, especially about the situation in South East Asia. Having been so long in that part of the world, before the war as political adviser to the Governor-General and head of Intelligence then in London as Secretary General to the Prime Minister then in China and in Moscow as Ambassador, then Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and then again in South

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al Walter Bedell Smith



East Asia in my last position before this; the kaleidcope of jobs turns my thoughts continually on the course of future events. I have fought communism more or less since 1925, when I was assistant to the Commissioner of the International Maritime Customs in Hankow during Borodin's time and in my mind there is no doubt about it that the Russians would like it to be this way i.e. to fight a battle for world domination and, for that matter, mostly with the U.S.A., "to the last Chin

Yesterday an old Chinese friend, who was "de passed" in Ottawa and whom I knew very well during my Chinese office, made a rather true remark when he asked me what I thought the Asiatic world would do if a third World War broke out now that the Western countries shout from the tops of the roofs that the European continent cannot be held at all in case of a Russian aggression, at least not within the coming year, unless one starts throwing atom bombs about, which is not so very important in Asia, where a million people more or less does not matter so very much. A weird remark, but, whichever way we look at it, in Asia the philosophy still holds true that right is might and might is right.

Forgive this little bit of shop in a letter of this kind but it made rather an impression on me.

If ever I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With all our best wishes and kindest regards to you both,

Very sincerely yours,

A.H. Lovink

A.H.J. Lovink

30 August 1950

His Excellency A. H. J. Lovink
Royal Netherlands Embassy
Ottawa, Canada

My Dear Friend:-

How kind of you to write about my new appointment. As you may imagine, this assignment is one which I willingly would have avoided and, in fact, had declined it on two previous occasions. However, with the development of the Korean situation I did not feel that I could continue to avoid a duty which the President apparently was anxious that I assume.

I am under no illusions about the job. The American people expect miracles from their servants and as you well know, intelligence people are usually the scapegoats when anything unpleasant happens. However, one does the best he can. It is encouraging to know that you are close enough so that I may have the opportunity of seeing you occasionally and, as in the past, may draw on your knowledge of the common communist enemy. I will be in Washington for duty about October first and I do hope you will let me know whenever you expect to visit there as I am most anxious to see you.

Mrs. Smith joins me in most affectionate good wishes to Madam Lovink and yourself and she looks forward as I do to renewing the friendship of Moscow days.

Faithfully,

15/ Bedell Smith