

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES ANTILLES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT BROOKE, PUERTO RICO

21 August 1950

Lt. Gen. W. B. Smith
Headquarters First Army
Governor's Island, N. Y.

Dear Bedell:

I can't tell you how glad I am to hear of your acceptance of the CIA job. I know of no better defense news in these trying times. Those knowing you and the significance of the appointment can now feel more secure. You will bring to the job what has long been needed and I don't need to spell out what I'm talking about.

You are especially to be congratulated on your selection of a deputy. Bill Jackson served with me during the European campaign and I think I've said enough when I say that he's the smartest fellow I know and that he's the best informed civilian on the general subject of high level intelligence. Added to that, he is stimulating, excellent company.

All of the very best of luck in your new assignment. I am sure that you appreciate what a tough racket you're getting into.

Remember that when you get thoroughly fed up, I still have that fishing boat down here at your disposal.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,



EDWIN L. SIBERT
Brigadier General, U. S. Army

28 August 1956

Brigadier General Edwin L. Sibert, USA
United States Army Forces Antilles
Fort Brooke, Puerto Rico

Dear Eddie:

Thanks sincerely for your thoughtful note congratulating me on my appointment to the Central Intelligence Agency.

It's going to be a rough job and, frankly, I am not too delighted with the prospects. There is some comfort, however, in the knowledge that I am taking over at a time when the administration and the general public are very much aware of the need for an effective intelligence organization and I can confidently expect to receive wholehearted support and assistance from every quarter. I am, of course, delighted that Bill Jackson is going to be with me. He is my first choice and I have every confidence in his ability.

I have kept in mind your kind offer of the house and fishing boat in the Virgin Islands. This sounds like an ideal hide-out and I may be desperately in need of such a sanctuary before long. Forgive me for not acknowledging it sooner. I have thought of it many times.

Faithfully,

|S| Bedell