

HEADQUARTERS
ILLINOIS MILITARY DISTRICT
NAVY PIER
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

Noted by CG
23 Aug 1950

21 August 1950

Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith
Commanding General, First Army
Governors Island, New York



My dear General:

Please add the enclosed clippings to your voluminous scrapbook.

Last week, I received a letter from a good friend of mine now in Congress, who said that G-2 service now is the most important assignment in the Armed Services, for it can either break or make a war.

I still have contact with the people, both Poles and Czechs, whom I discussed with you in SHAEF concerning intelligence about the Soviets. At the time you directed me to Strong and Betts and some action was taken, but I do not know what it was. I believe they can be of use to us.

Yours is a difficult assignment because people will expect you to call the cards.

May I wish you continued good health.

Sincerely,

Red

HENRY I. SZYMANSKI
Colonel, Infantry

*Acknowledged
Hear Red-*

Gen. Smith To Head U.S. Intelligence

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Walter Bedell Smith, the American general who spent three years watching the Russians from the U.S. embassy in Moscow, is going to be the new chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The priority job of that agency is to learn what the Soviets are up to now.

ANNOUNCEMENT was made Friday night that Smith, who was U.S. ambassador to Russia from February, 1946, to March, 1949, would become director of the top political-military intelligence unit late in September.

President Truman was reported to have long wanted Smith, with his background as a soldier and his service as envoy to Russia, to take the CIA post.

However, Smith had been ill and the appointment awaited his recovery.

Smith, 54, succeeds Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter.

CHARLES BOSS, White House secretary, took pains to declare the change does not reflect any presidential dissatisfaction with Hillenkoetter's work as CIA director.

He said the admiral had requested months ago to be relieved so he could take sea duty with the Navy. Hillenkoetter will take command of a cruiser division when he leaves CIA.

Smith, 54, and veteran of Army service beginning in World War I, was chief of staff for Eisenhower in World

'BEETLE' SMITH NAMED TO HEAD U.S. SPY AGENCY

General Succeeds Hillenkoetter

Washington, Aug. 18 (AP) — President Truman today named Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith director of the nation's central intelligence system.

Smith, 54, known to military associates as "Beetle," was United States ambassador to Moscow from 1946 to 1949 and was chief of staff to Gen. Eisenhower during World War II.

The White House announced Smith will succeed Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter late next month. The appointment followed recent demands in congress for a shakeup in the agency as an outgrowth of the Korean war. Some legislators have contended that United States intelligence was caught flat footed by the communist invasion of South Korea on June 25.

Hillenkoetter Recalled

Hillenkoetter testified before a subcommittee on July 20 that American agents knew the North Koreans were passing land and troops along the North Korean border as long as a year ago and that it was impossible to predict the "zero hour." Lawmakers

Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross told newsmen Hillenkoetter has been "trying for months to get back to sea duty." He will take command of a cruiser division when he leaves the central intelligence agency post.

The CIA is the clearing house for all United States intelligence activities. It screens reports from diplomatic, military, and all other sources to safeguard the national security against surprise attacks. The agency was set up in 1947.

Smith spent three years in Moscow and learned to know Premier Stalin well. When he resigned ambassador last year, he wrote a book saying most communist statesmen seem convinced that the United States and Russia would eventually go to war.

From Deputy Director

Immediately after the announcement of his appointment Smith picked William H. Jackson, 49, a partner in the New York investment banking firm of J. Whitney & Co., as his deputy director.

Jackson, a native of Nashville, Tenn., was deputy intelligence officer on the staff of Gen. C. Brady in Europe during the war. He attended Princeton and has his law degree at Harvard.

Smith has been serving as commander of the United States army, with headquarters in Governor's Island, N.Y., since the Moscow ambassadorship.

His appointment as CIA director was held off until he recovered from a serious illness. He suffered for years from peptic ulcers and on May 2 underwent operation at the army's Walter Reed hospital.

Born in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1895, Smith never went to sea but has followed a military career since he was 15.



24 August 1950

Colonel Henry I. Szymanski, Inf.
Headquarters Illinois Military District
Navy Pier
Chicago 11, Illinois



Dear Ned:

Thanks sincerely for your kind letter of August 21st and for your thoughtfulness in sending me the clippings.

This will undoubtedly turn out to be as difficult as anything I have yet undertaken, but I am confident that now, as in the past, I will receive the assistance and support of some first-rate people and that together we will make a go of it.

With warmest personal regards,

Faithfully,

15/Bede Q