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August 21, 1950

General W. B. Smith
Headquarters First Army
Office of the Commanding General
Governors Island
New York 4, N. Y.

Dear General Smith:

May I first, on behalf of myself and your colleagues in the American War Correspondents Association, offer our sincere good wishes on your appointment by the President to head the CIA. No one group in the country is more aware of the tremendous nature and responsibility of your appointment than the War Correspondents, and I might add—more gratified that this job has been handed to you.

Perhaps this may not be in order, but I would like to offer a suggestion for a short-cut to the recruitment and training of some valuable men for your Service. While many of our members are currently active in Tokyo, Korea, Germany, etc., the greater number are on the job here at home. This group, we believe, constitutes a valuable reservoir of manpower for your organization both in the active ranks and in advisory capacities. Within this outfit we have many men with an intimate knowledge of particular areas—Germany, West Europe, Middle East, Far East, India, South East Asia, the Balkans, etc. Many specialists in propaganda, languages, and investigation are to be found in these ranks. All of these men have been screened and accredited in the past.

At any rate, General Smith, the AWCA would like to go on record as being ready and willing to cooperate in any plans which you may devise for the intensification of the work of the CIA.

If the aforementioned suggestion is at all in line with a practical and realistic approach to the problem, we are at your disposal.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Burnet Hershey
President

BH:d

23 August 1950

Mr. Burnet Hershey, President
American War Correspondents Association
13 West 54th Street
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hershey:

Your congratulations and sincere good wishes on the occasion of my appointment as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency are sincerely appreciated.

I have no illusions as to the difficulty of the position I am shortly to assume but am encouraged and heartened by the confidence the President has seen fit to place in me and by the generous public support of good citizens which has been made evident by such letters as yours.

It is gratifying to know that I can count on help from you and the members of your association when I need it. I can think of no finer pool of clear-thinking people with widely diversified knowledges of all parts of the world. You can depend that I will call on you in the future.

Again, my sincere thanks for your thoughtful letter and with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. B. SMITH

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