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August 22, 1950

Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

May I congratulate you on the appointment of Bedell Smith as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency? When I was in the State Department, there was no Ambassador whom I admired more. I could go further, but I won't, because I do not want to be disparaging about anyone.

The tremendous importance of this agency warranted drafting him into it, and he has again shown the high order of his own patriotism, after his recent and acute illness, by accepting your call to duty.

It is my own opinion that there is no better man for this post, anywhere throughout the country, and it is seldom indeed that the perfect man can be chosen, and can be prevailed upon to accept.

Very sincerely yours,

William Benton
U. S. Senate

cc
General Smith

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1950

Dear Bill:

You were more than kind to write to me as you did on August 22nd. It pleases me to know that you think so highly of the appointment of Lieutenant General Walter Bedell Smith as Director of Central Intelligence. Thank you for your generous words of approval.

Very sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable William Benton
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.