

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Noted by CG
28 Aug 1950

Military Assistance Advisory Group - Belux
The American Embassy Brussels, Belgium

Personal

22 August 1950

Lieutenant General W. B. Smith
Director, U. S. Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bedell:

I don't imagine that you are taking on this new job with any great degree of relish. But in spite of that, I think it's one of the best breaks the United States has had in a long while. If there's any man in the Military Establishment today who can put an operation like that together and make it pay off, you're that man. Now, by God, they should put that other star on your shoulder that belonged there a long, long while ago.

Please give my best love to Norrie and, if Bob Murphy knew I were writing, he would certainly ask me to send his best to both of you. Good luck, best wishes, and give 'em hell.

Affectionately,

Buck

C. T. Lanham
Brigadier General, GSC
Chief

P. S. This is an interesting job, and Bob Murphy is a swell boss. But now that the shooting has started and the Army is beginning to expand, I am so damned restless here I can't sit still. I would give my right arm for a command.

C. T. L.

29 August 1950

Dear Buck:

Thanks sincerely for your kind note of August 19 with its good wishes on my new assignment and your very generous remarks relative to my qualifications for the job.

This promises to be as difficult as anything I have yet undertaken and probably the least rewarding. I feel rather like a local boy being pushed into the prize ring at a county fair—although extremely grateful for the confidence and plaudits of the crowd, not entirely delighted with the prospects.

I can understand your restlessness to get a command but the job you have now is a most vital one and shouldn't be under-estimated. As you say, you couldn't ask for a better boss than Bob Murphy. Please give him my best.

Nory joins me in sending our love to you and Mary.

Faithfully,

15/Bedell

Brig. General C. T. Lanham
The American Embassy
Brussels, Belgium