

William H. Eaton
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

24 August 1950

Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith
Hdqrs. First Army
Governors Island
New York 4, New York

Dear General Smith:

The announcement of your appointment as Director of Central Intelligence Agency was very pleasing to me.

A few years ago, because of my experience in Positive Foreign Intelligence, I was requested by CIA to assist in recommending sources of information and to act as liason between CIA and important manufacturing companies in this vicinity, which operate in various foreign countries.

Therefore, I have been in the position of being on the outside looking in, so to speak, enabling me to make rather intimate observations of the policies and of the operation of CIA.

So I can say to you with considerable knowledge and understanding that your appointment will create confidence at a time when confidence is needed and that it will bring about closer understanding and cooperation with other Government Agencies so essential to the success of CIA.

The enclosed editorial from our local paper will be an indication to you of the confidence in you and the understanding of the importance of your leadership, in this conservative section of Massachusetts.

If there is anything that you would like to have me do at any time, that might be of assistance to you, I hope you will feel free to call on me.

Will you please give my very best wishes to Mrs. Smith in which Mrs. Eaton would join me if she knew I were writing to you.

Very sincerely yours,


W.H. Eaton
Colonel Retired

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7 September 1950

Colonel William H. Eaton, U.S.A., Ret.
Chairman of the Board
Eaton Paper Corporation
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Dear Colonel Eaton:

It was very kind and thoughtful of you to write me as you did and I am delighted to know that you have already had some contacts with the Central Intelligence Agency. I am going to take you at your word and call on you for help if it develops, after I have had a look at the organization, that I will need to impose on you.

I want to take this opportunity also of thanking you most sincerely for all you have done as a member of the Army Advisory Committee. I doubt if you realize how helpful you have been to us in what you yourself call "this conservative section of Massachusetts."

Please give Mrs. Smith's and my very best wishes to Mrs. Eaton. Nory became very fond of Mrs. Eaton on short acquaintance and I hope that circumstances will permit us to know you both better.

Faithfully,

W. H. SMITH

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

1 NAME OR TITLE <i>Col Muller</i>	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>ADC</i>	DATE		CONCURRENCE
2			FILE
3			INFORMATION
4			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Col Eaton is on Army Advisory Committee, Chairman of Board of Eaton Paper Company - and has been a big help to Army in Mass



FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

21 November 1950

Colonel William H. Eaton
Chairman of the Board
Eaton Paper Corporation
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Dear Colonel Eaton:

It has been brought to my attention by the manager of our Boston field office that your efforts in our behalf in the western New England area have been of great value to our organization. It is gratifying to know that we have the wholehearted cooperation of men of your standing in the community, and I wish to take this opportunity to express my keen appreciation of the important contribution you are making to our work.

Sincerely,

R.H. Hillenkoetter
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

General Walter B. Smith An Admirable Choice for CIA

The appointment of General Walter Bedell Smith to be head of the Central Intelligence Agency is most welcome.

It has been evident for some time that the CIA was doing a faulty job. It has failed in some instances to get advance information on important developments; in others, when it has secured vital facts, it does not seem to have known what to do with them. As an example of the first, there is the break between Tito and Stalin, which the CIA knew nothing about; as an instance of the second,



there is the North Korean attack June 25, which the CIA should have been able to foresee with the information it had, but which nevertheless came as a complete surprise when it occurred. The fault may not have been Admiral Hillenkoetter's; but even if the liaison between the CIA and the armed services is due to the direction of the latter, it looks as though someone was needed at the head of Intelligence who had force enough to make the top Army and Navy brass listen to his warnings.

From his experience, training and character, General Smith looks like an admirable choice. He served as chief of staff to General Eisenhower through the African and European campaigns. Upon his return to this country in 1945, he was appointed ambassador to Moscow, a post which he held for three years, an account of which he has given in his excellent book, "My Three Years in Moscow." He has a first-hand acquaintance with the organization and leadership of the Red Army. What is even more important he had three years in Moscow in which to study the thinking and the structure of the Soviet government, even when his contacts with Stalin and other members of the Politburo were as infrequent and as unsatisfactory as they are for all foreigners. He therefore takes over the CIA with a background unequalled by any other American, combining both military experience in a position of high authority and knowledge of Russia based on three years in diplomacy. He has not only a unique and comprehensive knowledge of the subject, but the force of character that make his opinions be heard, and the confidence of his associates and the people of the United States. Taken all in all, his appointment is the best the Truman Administration has made in a long time.