

COMMANDING GENERAL  
FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

30 August 1950

Lieutenant General W. B. Smith  
Commanding General  
First Army  
Governors Island  
New York 4, New York

Dear General,

May I offer my congratulations on your selection for the most important appointment as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

My pleasure in learning that your great abilities again have been recognized is dampened by the realization that this selection means you will no longer be our Army Commander. It has been a real pleasure to serve under you again and to feel--directly and indirectly--your personal courage, admonition, and insistence on constructive improvement.

May your duty with the Central Intelligence Agency and your service in Washington bring to you and Mrs. Smith many years of contentment and happiness.

Very sincerely,



F. H. LANAHAN  
Major General, United States Army  
Commanding

5 September 1950

Major General F. H. Lanahan, USA  
Commanding General  
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

Dear Duke:

Thanks sincerely for your thoughtful note of August 30. I hate like the very devil to leave First Army but, of course, in these uncertain times none of us are sure of being anywhere very long.

I am under no illusions about this job and expect it will be at least as rough as anything I have yet undertaken. The American people seem to expect miracles nowadays from their public servants, and I am painfully conscious of my own limitations in the field of the miraculous. However, I am for it now and will do the best I can. Notes of confidence like your own help the morale a great deal.

Mrs. Smith joins me in best wishes to you and Mrs. Lanahan, and in expressing our deep appreciation for the courtesies you have shown us during the past year and a half.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

15/Bedell