

THRIDGE, Publ

EDITORIAL
BRANDEN, M

BERRY BINGHAM, President.

Editorial Writer.

PAGE, JOHN ED PEARCE.

Noted by CG

6 Sept 1951

Still G

Dual Qualification of Gen. Bedell Smith

'Time To

To the Editor

There is a great deal of difference between military intelligence and civil intelligence. The primary concern is discovery of what the enemy does, what forces he has with which to do it, and how he plans to do it. The second involves a much larger field: what productive resources the enemy possesses, what political currents and trends flow in them, where their resources are, who are their leaders, potential leaders and reserves. In short, civil intelligence seeks to find out anything.

from surprise attack the C.I.A. obviously will direct attention to the Soviet Union. General SMITH's three years as Ambassador to Moscow from 1946 to 1949 give him peculiar qualifications for this job.

Never in faced more United Nations the destiny of

For these reasons, we would feel under ordinary circumstances that a civilian rather than a military man might be a better chief of the Central Intelligence Agency. But these are extraordinary circumstances, and General WALTER BEDELL SMITH, President TRUMAN has just named chief of C.I.A., is not an ordinary military career man. The fact could not have been better not, of course, a surprise. Admiral ROSCOE H. HILLEN has desired relief from his post as C.I.A. chief for many years and only the question of General SMITH's appointment now apparently much improved, has delayed his appointment.

Moreover General SMITH, for all his military toughness bred of a lifetime in the army, is a man of intense curiosity about how people think and what they think about. Unlike many another army career man, he is no political eunuch, and is sharply aware of the ideological conflicts which form the bases on which wars are waged.

It seems which the U regarding the toward Russia the United N or boycott a mongers, and force those their will an United Nation controlled sta



Smith, Dwight D. Eisenhower

Under the conditions which the United States must face today, however, there is need for expert military experience in the C.I.A. as well as political wisdom. During World War II General SMITH proved himself such a valuable man as U. S. Secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee that it was with great reluctance that General GEORGE MARSHALL released him even to become General DWIGHT EISENHOWER's chief of staff for the invasion of Europe.

To aid th suffer from states, the n develop a pr to each other Eastern Euro nishes money trade with P be able to munism. T Similar develop an e down distur should the armament Nations.

The C.I.A. is the nation's overall intelligence. It assembles, correlates and evaluates reports on military, diplomatic and other intelligence. In its responsibility to protect the nation

The United States has had less experience than most of the other powers in the business of strategic intelligence. Cloak-and-dagger aspects of international intelligence have been so exaggerated by the novelist and movie-maker that there is a general inclination to regard that facet of information-gathering as paramount. This is a mistake. The job is often as tedious as the actuarial functions of an insurance company. But it is more vital to the United States than it has ever been before, and we are glad WALTER BEDELL SMITH is entrusted with it.

A Dep: only in ti United Na gram. The nial of R aggressor majority determine and the world.

6 September 1950

Mr. Barry Bingham, Editor
The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Bingham:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me your kind editorial regarding my recent appointment.

I am grateful for your remarks regarding my qualifications, but am under no illusions as to the difficulty of this new assignment. The public generally expects miracles from its servants in times like these and I am increasingly conscious of my own limitations in the field of the miraculous.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

W. B. SMITH