

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY

ROLAND PARK  
BALTIMORE 10, MARYLAND

Noted  
27 Sept 1950

September 21st, 1950

Dear General Smith,

At the time your appointment as Chief of Overseas Intelligence was announced in the press I was away from my desk and only now find it convenient to write you this word, belated indeed, of congratulations and best wishes in your new post.

That your job is tough, no one will deny. Yet your record in Moscow as Ambassador is enough to reassure those of us who are sincerely and radically interested in knowing what the Kremlinites are plotting and executing both abroad, your special province, and here at home. So much appears to be needed by way of sound, reliable, competent intelligence. It is heartening to realize that a man of your calibre is taking on a major section of the job; as you probably realize, General, Americans like myself are pretty sick of being perpetually called "naive" as a Nation when it comes to dealing with the wiles of Stalin's henchmen. That's why it was so cheering to know that man of your understanding and grasp of World Communism is now in a position to do something about it by way of collecting valuable information. The reaction on the home-front cannot but be good.

God speed you and enlighten you in your new post.

Respectfully and sincerely yours



*John L Bazinet*  
(Rev) John L Bazinet SS  
Prof of Apologetics

Lieut-General Walter Bedell Smith, U.S.A.  
Chief, Military Intelligence for Overseas  
Department of the Army  
Pentagon Building  
Washington, District of Columbia

PERSONAL

*acknowledged  
Rev. Father Bazinet*

27 September 1950

Reverend John L. Basinet, SS  
St Mary's Seminary  
Baltimore 10, Md

Dear Father Basinet:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of congratulations and kind remarks on my new appointment. Notes of confidence like your own help the morale a great deal.

I am under no illusions about this job and expect it to 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.

With kindest personal regards,

Faithfully,

W. B. SMITH

DMB