

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6 October 1950

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you for acceding to my request to return to active sea duty with the Navy and to inform you that on tomorrow, 7 October 1950, I shall turn over the duties of Director of Central Intelligence to General W. B. Smith, whom you have designated as my successor.

May I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the understanding, consideration, and support you have always so generously and so cheerfully given me during the time I was Director of Central Intelligence.

With the very best of personal regards, please believe me,

Most respectfully,

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

etc

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Rear Admiral R. H. Hiltenecker, USN,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington, D. C.

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Very sincerely yours,

With every good wish,

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With foresight, tenacity, and discretion you performed manifold duties in a manner designed to serve the national interest rather than that of any particular group. So I say to you as you return to active service with the Navy: Well done.

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I cannot allow you to return to sea duty with the Navy without assuring you of my heartfelt appreciation of the splendid service you have rendered as Director of Central Intelligence. The work which you did in developing this agency into an effective foreign intelligence service for the President, the National Security Council and other executive departments and agencies concerned with the national security, is worthy of highest praise.

Dear Admiral Hiltenecker:

October 10, 1950

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