

Noted by DCI  
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Acknowledged

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1953

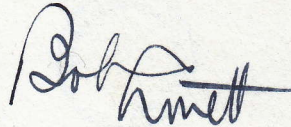
Dear Beetle:

Just a few minutes ago I signed an approval of your retirement from the Army as in the national interest, that you may accept the appointment tendered by President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower as Under Secretary of State.

I signed the paper with mixed feelings knowing of your regret in leaving the active military service after all these years. However, I admire and respect your willingness to accept this new post of great responsibility. You will give to it the vast experience and knowledge which you have gained over many years in positions requiring the maximum of intelligence and understanding. Your decision to take on this job is just another example of your devotion to your country.

Before my term of office expires I want you to know of my gratitude for all of the help that you have given to me in the Department of Defense. Your friendship means a great deal to me and while I may be separated from the scene of activity I do hope our paths will cross frequently. You have my congratulations, my every good wish, and a goodly portion of sympathy, for I know full well of what the future has in store for you.

Very sincerely yours,



General Walter B. Smith  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency