

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.

November 24, 1950

Dr. Irvin Stewart
Chairman
President's Communications Policy Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Stewart:

The President's Communications Policy Board Publications Numbers 1 and 2 have been studied in this Agency in connection with the letter from the Board dated 16 October 1950 requesting our views on matters considered to be relevant to the broad mission of the Board.

In the opinion of this Agency, the establishment of an independent Communications Policy Board within the Executive structure of the Government is necessary. Such a Board would provide a means, now lacking, to formulate and supervise the execution and administration of national communications policy essential to the national security.

The present situation of the United States in world affairs requires a strong and highly efficient system of overseas communications controlled by United States interests and policy. Merger of our overseas commercial communications facilities appears desirable as a major step in this direction from the standpoint of both competition with foreign controlled systems, and provision for any necessary emergency support of military operations.

A further necessary step involves provision for reliable and secure Government owned and operated facilities overseas for the transmission of certain diplomatic and other non-military, high priority communications where security may be a primary factor and neither commercial nor military facilities are adequate or sufficiently secure.

If considered desirable, I will be glad to designate a representative to discuss in more detail the basis for the statements above. Meanwhile, we appreciate the opportunity afforded to state our opinion in this most important field.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. SMITH
Director