

October 5, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Kent, AD/NE

SUBJECT: Article "A Bad Book by Andrew Tully" by Sherman Kent
and

Reference your request this morning that I approve publication of the above mentioned article in a future issue of Studies in Intelligence, it is my opinion that publication of the article would do little, if any, good because the article would not reach the people who might be influenced by "domestic or foreign re-plays." There are of course many inaccuracies in the statements in the book, and I therefore endorse the title of your article. For this reason there is a strong desire on the part of those close to CIA to correct the impressions. However, this is difficult, if not impossible, and one runs the very decided risk of drawing increased attention to the book, stimulating sales, and otherwise aggravating a situation which has pretty well run its course, if an attempt is made to "straighten out the record."

Furthermore, Sherman, I have talked to quite a few people, not connected with the agency or the intelligence community, who read the book and felt that CIA was quite well treated. In fact some readers said that they were amazed at the scope of CIA activity and the scale of their operations. They were furthermore amazed and pleased that an enormous government agency such as CIA could operate so extensively with such little publicity and knowledge on the part of the public.

In addition, time is an important factor. The book was published early this year, it enjoyed a flurry of sales, and now has disappeared. I am afraid your article would have the effect of stimulating new interest in the book (the publisher and author would see to this) and hence damage caused by the book would be further extended.

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I see no reason why your views on the book should not be used in answering requests for guidance such as those received from Oslo or Leopoldville, but I think they should take the form of a personal communication to the inquirer.

I have discussed the subject with General Carter who concurs in the decision.

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John A. McCone
Director

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