

61-8990 /a

23 July 1961

*card*



STAT

Dear Mike:

The White House passed on to me your letter of June 27 and I also have now heard from you directly.

I agree enthusiastically that you would be an excellent candidate for the job in question but I don't know exactly what I can do about it at the moment.

If you get over here before the die is cast, drop in and see me.

Sincerely

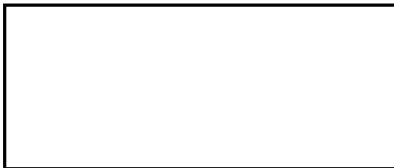
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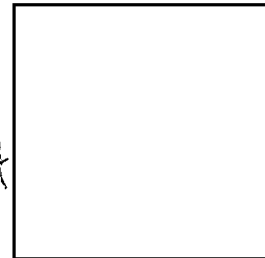
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61-8990



(4)  
CIA

June 27, 1961

My dear Mr. President:

Much has been written and said recently about the possibility of Allen Dulles's retiring. If and when that should happen and you are considering candidates for his post, I would feel compelled to suggest that I could run the CIA as well as anyone I know.

That must seem a bald and artless suggestion coming from an unknown quarter. But the crudity of so direct an approach may perhaps be mitigated by the seriousness of its purpose. It deserves consideration only if young new leadership is to be sought from outside the Agency.

I served more than three war years as a junior officer with OSS (Navy Cross, Silver Star) and in a senior CIA post from



June 27, 1961

1951 to 1954. My credentials can in part be checked with Allen Dulles for whom I hold unlimited affection and respect. Perhaps to lend this note further perspective I should add that I am now head of the Columbia Broadcasting System in Europe.

If my suggestion comes to nothing, it will at least have eased my citizen's conscience which would have remained sore indeed if, alert to the grim prospects facing us, knowing something of the intelligence situation and assessing my own potential usefulness with some objectivity, I had taken no action whatsoever.

Most respectfully,



64-598716

July 13, 1961

Executive Registry  
64-899016

[Redacted]

Your recent letter has been received by the President and read with appreciation. He asked me to thank you for your kind offer of service which is being brought to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely,

||  
Lawrence F. O'Brien  
Special Assistant  
to the President

[Redacted]

REFER TO CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

wmt

MCA 12 11 35 AM '61

FR-61-5984



Telephone: 272457  
Cable: CBSEUROPE

Dear Mr. Dulles,

Hearing persistent rumors  
that you might retire next  
year, I had the honor  
to write the President  
putting myself forth as  
a dark horse candidate  
for the Director's post.

Of course I will

naught. I am, believing

I have the capacity, I  
felt compelled to state  
my willingness. At least  
to have done so eases  
the conscience a little in  
these grim days.

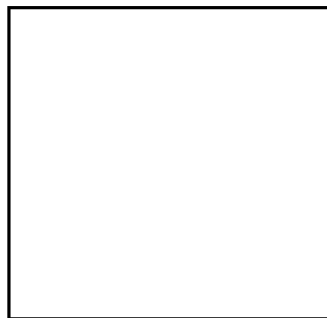
In any event I  
hope your rumored  
reirement is a long way  
off. Any replacement must  
fill shoes of your

our unique abilities  
and knowledge.

A recent letter from  
Sam Griffith told of his  
very pleasant visit with  
you. It was good to  
receive the A-1 reports;  
most of the news items  
and I get of you

is found on foil  
hand → or unsatisfactory  
fragments in the mess.

Wanted personal  
regards.



*[Faint handwritten text]*

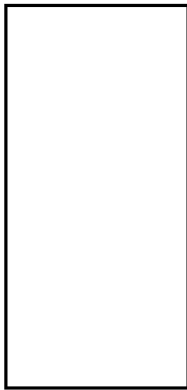


PERSONAL

Allen W. Dulles, Esq.  
Director, Central Intelligence  
Washington D.C.  
U.S.A



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