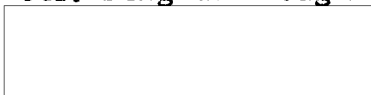


copy for

2 July 1970

Mr. Kingman Douglass



Dear King:

I was very sorry to hear from Larry Houston that you have been in a severe motor accident. I trust this letter will find you well on the road to recovery with no ill effects.

Because many of our senior people have retired or have indicated intentions to do so, we are making a considerable effort while they are still available here to turn out solid (but classified) histories of the Agency and its components. In the course of this work, certain chronologies and dates and facts are, from time to time, either missing or in dispute. People keep coming to me on some of these problems because I have been here so long (and still have four years to go until retirement). Only today we were trying to nail down the dates of tenure of Directors and Deputy Directors, and found it was not a simple thing.

The specific question I have in mind arises from the fact that a list before me carries you as Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from 2 March to 11 July 1946. A note under this entry states that

"Mr. Douglass first appeared as a member of the Office of the Director in a personnel roster dated 25 February 1946. However, he was not appointed DDCI until issuance of CIG Personnel Order No. 2, dated 2 March 1946, effective as of that date."

That Personnel Order lists you as "Acting" and we can find no subsequent order which eliminated the "Acting." On the other hand, Larry

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Date 4/20/92 HRP 89-2

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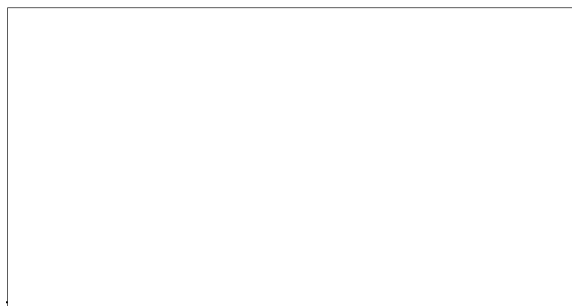
Houston and certainly I have no recollection of your being "Acting" but rather recall you as the Deputy Director all the way through. Jimmy Lay's recollection is hazy on this point but he seems to believe that Admiral Souers was reluctant to appoint a regular Deputy Director because he felt that his own tenure as Director would be short. Therefore, he thinks that Admiral Souers picked one of his Assistant Directors, namely you, to be the Acting Deputy Director. Could you clarify this point for us?

With kindest regards and best wishes for a speedy recovery,
I am

Sincerely yours,

Walter Pforzheimer

STAT



7-18-70.

Dear Walter -

It was nice to hear from you after several years of silence.

Harry Houston is correct. In early February I had a very serious motor accident from which I shall never fully recover. However I find life worth living even with canes and wheel chairs. As to early CIA history, Jimmy Ray's report

and Larry Houston are quite true. I was never appointed deputy director but remained acting deputy until I resigned about the first of September 1946.

I believe I returned to CIA in December 1950 as Assistant Director and resigned in July 1952.

As I expect to be back in New York in September, give me a ring at the apartment.

Give my best regards to my old friends.
Best wish to you,
Sincerely,
King -