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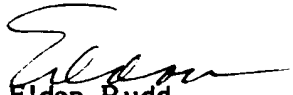
Dear Ed,

I spoke to Dr. Robert M. Gates this morning who was sworn in yesterday as No. 2 man. He told me that he had been waiting to see if he would be confirmed for the Post prior to making any commitments. He said he very much wanted to speak to you during the period of your May 23/24 briefings here in Washington. He also said that it would not be possible to firm up such a commitment for at least another week or so and that he would get back to you as soon as he was able to make that determination.

Enclosed for your information, is a clipping in today's Washington Post with a picture of Dr. Gates.

Best good fortune in your upcoming trip and if I can be helpful in any way, please advise me.

Very Sincerely,


Eldon Rudd
Member of Congress

Mr. Edward Eisele
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ER:ew

Enclosure

✓ cc: Dr. Robert M. Gates ✓