

JCK file

19 June 1953

Your letter of 11 June, giving your point of view on the recon, was most helpful. From many angles the operation was a success, because the purpose of it was to learn and there is no question but what we have learned a great deal. First of all, even the best of us remember things differently at times, and the only sure way of having an operation carried out exactly as we envisage it will be to put in a written order everything to be done. This will be our procedure on the next recon and the final operation if it takes place.

We erred in our cabled instructions on the command of the ship by using the word "should" instead of the word "will". The person whom we sent down with the intention that he take command had been instructed to reconnoiter for alternate sites and there therefore would have been no question on this point.

After a thorough debriefing of the two who have returned to Headquarters, we are convinced that ICFANGLED is not compromised. The bearer of this, in case you are interested, will be pleased to explain our reasoning.

Although all future operations of this project will be spelled out in detail by Headquarters, we will of course continue to expect your total and wholehearted support and trust you will be able to make available all necessary assistance to the bearer so that he may put the ship in even better condition than before.

Cordially yours,

J. C. King

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

g.c.
1. I was certain that "remembering things differently" was an honest mistake. I make my share of them. I could not in good conscience, whether it applied to me or another, allow the written record to go uncorrected.

2. Am glad you caught "should" as opposed to "will." Carefully studied, "should" meant a recommendation. Compared, point by point, there is no comparison between the two men. The man sent to us told me he had been a first and a second mate; that he was not sufficiently experienced to give orders to engine room or crew. He repeated that to our man, who had not then and has not yet known of the message we received naming the job of this new man. The new man is a navigator, that's all. Our man is a full Commander in the Navy with some real experience and by far superior to the new man. However, whomever you designate, we will put in command.

What change did he have?
3. The new man never mentioned to me or others here, anything about the instructions you gave him to reconnoiter for alternate sites. That is absolute. Otherwise, it would have been done.

4. Have talked at length with your courier and he assures me he has given me all he knows.

5. You will have that total and wholehearted support from me and I hope you will never doubt it. We'll put that "stuff" anywhere you direct. Frankly, though, different ones coming and leaving, with different ideas -- all amounting to theory and discussion only, has at times been confusing.

? 6. Your courier is undoubtedly a good man in his field and he has had full say as to what should be done mechanically. He is, however, as all here know, quite temperamental and at times has to be humored and petted. When he first arrived, the Personnel Officer put him in the bachelor quarters. Next day, I asked him how he liked it. He replied, "Just fine." Recently, he asked me why he could not stay in the guest house. I told him, "No reason whatever; move right in." He did so. Did not know he had a complaint. We will continue to give him complete support. He has had every man he asked for, and I have approved every parts order and every work order without hesitation.

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