

Chris —

File in our files as an  
indication, even in 1944, that  
there was a definite need for  
centralized Secret Intelligence

ED

BRITISH SECURITY CO-ORDINATION

BY SAFE HAND.

630 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL.

15th November, 1944.

*Dear Bill*

The visit here of your very able representative in                      reminds me of the fact that when I was in London recently I had the opportunity of going into the history and product of the                      traffic. This is certainly one of the greatest secret intelligence achievements of this war. I mention this exceptional case but I must also express my most sincere admiration for the way your whole S.I. organization has been developed in what is, compared to the development of the various established secret intelligence organizations elsewhere, a phenomenally short space of time. I say nothing at this moment about what I have seen of the operations of your other departments, which are no less outstanding, but I cannot help recording my delight that your "I" side — which, after all, is the most delicate operation in foreign fields — has been so amazingly successful. All those with any real experience who know something about its operations and achievements are astonished at the progress which has been made.

You have cause for pride in the accomplishment, and those concerned deserve every congratulation, but I look beyond the satisfaction which has been given me to play some role of minor assistance in its beginnings, to a profound hope and faith that the organization which you have so effectively created and developed will continue into the days of peace.

- Page Two -

After this war you and I will probably be following our normal peacetime preoccupations. You well know my views about the importance of the United States Government having its own world-wide secret intelligence organization. It may be that other Governments, possibly with evil intentions, would not welcome the continuation of an U.S.G. secret intelligence organization, but I, personally, have always had the deepest conviction that if such an organization as yours had existed in the years following the last war this war might have been averted. There is no need to go into the details of what I consider to be absolutely irrefutable arguments in support of this contention, because they are known to you and I think that you completely agree with me.

I write you this letter not only to express my admiration for the pages of history which you have already made but also to say once again that I hope and trust that your achievements of the past are to be but the sound foundation for the future S.I. organization of U.S.G.

*Yours ever*



W. S. Stephenson  
Director

Brigadier-General W. J. Donovan,  
Director, Office of Strategic Services,  
25th and E. Streets, N.W.,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.