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CHARLES S. CHESTON
1421 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia

June 2, 1947

The Honorable Chan Gurney, Chairman
Senate Armed Forces Committee
The Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Gurney:

You will recall I called on you two weeks ago today to discuss that section of the Unification Bill dealing with the Central Intelligence Agency. During the war I served as Assistant Director to General Donovan, the Director of OSS. I left with you a memorandum which I prepared after receiving a letter from you, asking if I would appear before your Committee.

To refresh your memory the three points that I raised with you at the time of our meeting two weeks were:

This document has been approved for release through the HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM of the Central Intelligence Agency.

1. That the Central Intelligence Agency should be headed by a civilian;
2. That the Agency should have its own independent budget;
3. That the Director should report to an individual, viz., a Secretary of Defense, and not to a Committee.

Date 20 DEC 1990

HRP 8-2

I also discussed this matter with Senator Saltonstall, and I have had several talks with the Senator since my meeting with you. On Memorial Day Admiral Hillenkoetter came to Philadelphia to see me to get my views on the subject. I believe he was directed to do this by either you or Senator Saltonstall, for which I am grateful as I feel we had a very satisfactory meeting of minds. I am happy to report that Admiral Hillenkoetter is in entire accord with the three main points that I raised with you, and referred to above.

He asked if I had any objection to a Director being appointed who was a Naval officer or an Army officer, provided that upon accepting the appointment, such officer would resign from the service and forego all his rights. I told him that I had no objection whatsoever, provided that the officer appointed would definitely resign for all time from the service, and would look upon it as a career job and not as a stepping-stone or another tour of duty.

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The Honorable Chan Gurney

I am writing to ask when the Bill comes up for final passage on Wednesday that the part dealing with the Director of a Central Intelligence Agency be changed to read "that he shall be a civilian" and not have the passage read "He shall be a civilian or a Naval or an Army officer".

Admiral Hillenkoetter tells me that he is completely in accord with this point of view, and that he personally is prepared (if your Bill goes through and he is offered the position as Director of the new Central Intelligence Agency) to resign from the service. He further stated that he felt this was necessary to assure continuity and to carry out the job as a Director in the best interests of our country. On the telephone this morning Hillenkoetter stated that he planned to see you between now and Wednesday, and tell you that he agreed fully with Donovan and me on the above points.

I sincerely trust that the Committee's proposed Bill to be offered on the floor Wednesday can be modified in this respect.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Charles S. Cheston

CSC/R

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