

THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 24, 1950

Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith
Headquarters, 1st Army
Governors Island
New York 4, New York

Dear General:

I do want to take this opportunity to express my congratulations on your appointment by President Truman as Director of Central Intelligence. You have my best wishes for success in your new position and I do hope you will not hesitate to call on me at any time we of the FBI can be of service.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

30 August 1950

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It was both kind and thoughtful of you to write me about the new appointment. I know I shall have tough going for a while and I am going to take you at your word and come to you for help and advice, both of which I am going to need badly. Your own Bureau I have always thought a perfect example of what personal leadership can do in building up morale and esprit de corps within a group of public servants even to the extent of attracting talent and ability which could command much higher remuneration elsewhere. Something of the same sort must be built up in the Central Intelligence Agency but it's like making a good golf swing -- the explanation is simple but it's a different matter to put it into practice.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine cooperation First Army has always had from your people in New York. They are a first-class group and we like to work with them.

Sincerely,

W. B. SMITH