



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy  
London, England, August 25, 1950

Dear Bedell:

I received the news of your appointment as head of CIA with mixed emotions: I was delighted that at last the right man had been appointed for this extremely important job, but I was concerned on two counts-- first, that this takes you out of the military establishment at a time when your talents there might be very effectively employed; and second, about your health. I have had reports from mutual friends that the operation they did on you was a success and that you were rapidly getting back to your old form. I sincerely hope that such is the case.

As Neal Wickersham has no doubt told you, our old friend Grasett, who has been Governor of Jersey since the end of the war, is going to the United States and is looking forward to seeing you.

I have just come back from a marvelous week with Philip Swinton in Yorkshire where we shot driven grouse for three days. I remember we talked about this at various times when we were in London during the war, but I don't believe you ever got a crack at it. At least I never had any shooting that compared with it. Seven guns got 371 brace in three days' shooting. You will note that I carefully refrain from giving you my percentage of the total bag.

I hope that this letter finds your strength restored and Norie in good form. Hennie and I send our best love to you both.

Ever yours,

General Walter Bedell Smith,  
Headquarters First Army,  
Governors Island,  
New York

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
HEADQUARTERS FIRST ARMY  
DATE RECEIVED  
SEP 1 1950

2 September 1950

General Julius C. Holmes  
American Embassy  
London, England

Dear Julius:

Thanks sincerely for your note of August 25. As you can probably guess, I was very reluctant to take over the intelligence job and succeeded in dodging it for quite a while. However, the Korean situation changed everything and I did not feel that I could say "no." I dare say I can make the grade physically, as when the surgeons cut out my ulcers they also removed the source of reaction to frustration and irritation. Thus, while some of the old habits linger, I do not really get violent any more except on extreme provocation.

We have bought a very nice house in Spring Valley and I dare say that I will eventually retire and do this work as a civilian. I had intended to retire and go into business sometime next Spring. The latter, of course, is indefinitely deferred.

Neal told me that Grasett would be here shortly and that he was arranging a pheasant shoot, to which I was looking forward. Your grouse shooting must have been marvelous, and I have always regretted never having had a chance to do any of it. I still may do so one day.

Mory joins me in love to you and Henrie. Our Washington house is large. You would be most welcome guests.

Faithfully,

15 / Beadell

WBS,