

~~TOP SECRET~~

Dulles, Allen W.

Interview

by a Boardman

February 14, 1953
Saturday A.M.

DOCUMENT NO.

089159

By: _____

No Change in Class.

Declassified

Class. Changed to: TS (S) C

Next Review Date: _____

Auth.: HR 70-3

Date: *20 Aug 91*

The History
of
Smith's Regime

He looked over an outline of the history by chapters and subdivisions. Several topics caught his eye; among them, Bogota, Cassidy, and the plan for the eighth chapter on the investigation of the Agency. He asked immediately if my concept were to have this study close at the beginning of the Smith regime. I said yes and explained why it was too soon to write an historical analysis of the period. I said that several of General Smith's plans, although underway, were still in a highly formative condition and might experience great change. Dulles nodded assent.

Cassady
and the
"SPG"

In regard to Cassady's "SPG," Dulles asked if it were a failure. The inference was of course that, according to Dulles' memory, Cassady probably was not successful. I did not go into detail at the moment. I did say that I had read through the papers and I was not so sure that Mr. Cassady had made a failure of the "SPG." Dulles said nothing further except that he would be extremely interested to read what I had written when it was ready.

The first seven chapters, I said, were in process of final revision and footnoting. The secretaries were at work upon them. The historical research and some writing had been done for chapter 8, but there is a great deal more still to be found. Dulles then remarked that Mr. Blum was "back in town" working for the Jackson Commission, and asked if I would like to see Mr. Blum. I expressed pleasure and hope that I might. Mr. Dulles said that he would see

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Date: *13 Dec 1988*

HRP *81-2*

Blum
and the
Dulles Report

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to it that I did. Blum, he said, had done most of the work on the "Dulles Report" for the Intelligence Survey Group. Jackson, Correa and Dulles had put a great deal of time and thought into the survey; but as is customary, of course, one man did most of the investigation and writing.

Documents
and
Interviews

Hillenkoetter's
Candor
and
Interest

My remark that the study would be thoroughly documented led us to the third topic before him, the Director's Historical Collection. I explained this with some care and stressed the interviews. He was quite interested to learn whom I had seen. I gave their names. He asked about Admiral Hillenkoetter and I said that the Admiral had given me a great deal of time, entire candor and personal interest. He had written a paper for me; I had the only copy of it. I said this to indicate to Mr. Dulles how much Admiral Hillenkoetter had put his confidence in the enterprise. Dulles was pleased. He asked, "Ought I not to write and thank the Admiral?" I replied that it would be fine if he would. He summoned his secretary and dictated a note to Admiral Hillenkoetter thanking him for his help to me and expressing personal desire to talk with Admiral Hillenkoetter about his own problems as the incoming DCI. Dulles asked if I had seen General Donovan. I said that I had not as yet; he was hard to meet, but I was going to New York whenever I could get a conference with him. Mr. Dulles nodded assent.

Interview
with
Donovan

Then we came to the problem of classification and distribution. I explained my view that the DCI, and he only,

Classification
and
Distribution
of the
History

could make the decision because of obligations to other agencies, such as the Joint Chiefs, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Security Council; besides, the interviews with Souers, Leahy, Vandenberg, Hillenkoetter and others, which would be in the Director's Collection, should be handled with discretion. Mr. Dulles approved my plan at once, though I suggested that he might wish to defer his decision. "Who are the advisors you wish me to have?" I named Houston, General Counsel, and Montague of ONE because, as I said, he had been concerned with central intelligence since the days when he was Secretary of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Dulles' response was full appreciation of Montague's experience and position. He said, "All right, they will be your readers to advise me. Of course, this should be Top Secret, at once." I replied that it should be more than that; it should have limited distribution.

Houston
and
Montague

Advisors

No one as yet had been allowed to read the whole of it, I said, except of course the secretaries who worked on the manuscript. He said that was exactly right. I then stated that I had transcribed quite a number of "Top Secret" documents for the Director's Collection, advisedly; the whole group would have to be validated by him because of the regulations regarding Top Secret control. He agreed. I then spoke of a possible representative of covert operations in this reading committee, but said that I was not ready to suggest anyone because of uncertainties in that part of the Agency with which of course he was familiar. His reply was, "When you are ready, let me know whom you wish to name."

Transcriptions

Covert
Operations

Dulles'
Papers

As for his own papers, Dulles said most of them were in a warehouse in New York. He hoped to get them down here soon. At first he could not recall the meeting in the summer of 1946 with Vandenberg and Donovan. He doubted that he had ever sat with Donovan in the meeting at the time. It is likely that there was no such meeting. He did recall that Vandenberg had asked him, probably with others, to serve as an advisory council. He could not recall any prepared statement. He said that the council proved of little use. I reminded him of his talk with the technical advisers on scientific intelligence (JRDB). He remembered that he had met with them at the request of Mr. Bush. He thought he might have some notes somewhere. If he had a moment he would try to find them for me.

Vandenberg's
Advisory
Council

Scientific
Intelligence

Bush

Dulles
before
Congress

I then reminded him of his statement before Congress in the spring of 1947. This he evidently has somewhere. The public statement of course has probably been printed and is to be had in Government documents. I meant his testimony in the Secret Hearings of the House Committee. Mr. Dulles smiled and he asked me if I had anything about Kroner and Grombach. I replied that I did for there was a photographic copy of the secret minutes in my safe. He laughed and asked if he might see it. I said, "Well, sir, if you don't mind, I shall hand-carry it to you."* His rejoinder was that he was going to have some business with those fellows and he would rather like to know what they had said.

Secret
Hearings

Kroner
and
Grombach

*Monday P.M. I told Pforzheimer and returned the Hearings to him, so he could send them to Dulles.

1. The Historical Study

Chapters and Sections
The Documents

2. Classification - The DCI

His Advisors

Limited Distribution

Obligations

- Papers of other Agencies
- Interviews

3. The Director's Collection

Documents and Transcriptions
Interviews by the Historian
Special Papers

4. Mr. Dulles' Own Papers