

Statement of the Alexandria Delegation  
In Regard to Funds for the C.I.A. Building

To The Honorable Dennis M. Chavez  
and Members of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee

Gentlemen:

We appear before you today in the interest of the City of Alexandria with regard to having the C.I.A. building located in our City. I am Ira F. Willard, City Manager of Alexandria, Virginia, and I will be the spokesman for the Alexandria delegation, which is composed of Vice Mayor Joseph M. Pancoast; Councilman James M. Duncan, Jr.; and Mr. David S. Haddock representing the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor of the City of Alexandria would have been present but prior commitments made it impossible for him to attend, but he is vitally interested in this project.

Several months ago word was received in the City of Alexandria that the C.I.A. was looking for a site on which to locate a new building, which is the topic of this meeting this morning. Articles appeared in the newspapers indicating that their first interest had been in a site at Langley, Virginia, and that the citizens of that area had objected to locating the building there.

Realizing that the City of Alexandria had many advantages to offer, a delegation called upon the authorities of the Central Intelligence Agency at which time they were greeted with this statement from the C.I.A. officials: "We are glad that somebody wants us." Since that time the position of the City of Alexandria

Statement of Alexandria Delegation

-2-

has not changed. We do not know whether the position of the other parties in interest to this matter has changed or not. We hope that it has not.

When our delegation explained to the C.I.A. officials what advantages we had, they were interested and requested that no information be made public as to this matter due to the highly secret nature of the operations of that Agency. Out of deference to their request all meetings, conferences and official acts of the City of Alexandria had not been made public and no official statement has heretofore been made by any official of the City of Alexandria. We would still continue to respect the request of the Central Intelligence Agency were it not for the fact that we feel at this time that the case of the City of Alexandria should be publicly presented for the benefit of this Committee. So with your kind indulgence I would like to briefly review the advantages which we consider the City of Alexandria has to offer for the location of the building in our City.

I would like to show you a map of the Metropolitan Area which shows both sites -- Langley and Alexandria. You can see from this map that the Alexandria site is six (6) miles distant from the White House and four (4) miles distant from the Pentagon Building, whereas the Langley site is seven (7) miles distant from the White House and seven and a half (7-1/2) miles distant from the Pentagon. Mr. Dulles stated before the Committee that the distance of the proposed building should be within 10 or 15 minutes from the White House. He later stated that the volume of business which the

Statement of Alexandria Delegation

-3-

Agency conducted with the Pentagon was two or three times greater than that conducted with others. In either event, the Alexandria site more than meets the specifications so far as distance is concerned.

The Alexandria site also has an adequate road net extending in all directions; bus transportation is available through an existing transit company which is amply equipped to serve this area; adequate power lines are available; water mains are already in existence which will serve this area; a trunk sewer is already in existence and another trunk sewer is being completed into the site connecting with a \$9,000,000 sewage treatment plant which will go into operation in the City in July 1956; a new telephone exchange building is being completed by the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company to expand the service in this area; new housing facilities for the employees of the Agency, constructed within the last five (5) years, includes 8300 apartments within 5 minutes of the Alexandria site which rent from \$65.00 to \$125.00 a month. There is also new housing which includes 3700 houses within 15 minutes of the site, and at present 300 more are under construction. Extensive, older housing is available for sale or rent in Alexandria and adjacent Fairfax County. Adequate public and private schools are available for all of this housing, and already the City of Alexandria has projected additional school buildings in undeveloped land of the City in anticipation of further development of the City. Within 500 yards of the proposed site is a new high school which has cost in excess of \$2,000,000, and is one of the most modern high school plants in the United States.

Statement of Alexandria Delegation

-4-

In connection with accessibility it is important to note that the Alexandria site is on the Shirley Highway and traffic to and from the site during rush hours will run counterwise to the prevailing heavy traffic into and out of Washington.

I do not wish to deprecate the Langley site to the Committee, but the statement which I want to make is merely for the purpose of comparing the two sites. At Langley there are no roads of fair capacity; bus transportation is inadequate; no power, water or sewage services are available; no sizable telephone facilities are in existence and none planned to my knowledge; and there is no comparable housing available in this area as indicated by the rural nature of this area on the map, and due to the rural character of this Langley site it is reasonable to expect that few, if any, school facilities are available.

The cost of locating the site in Alexandria is nominal compared to a cost running into millions for providing access roads, utilities and facilities which will be required before this proposed building at Langley could be used. With this in mind it is hoped that the Committee will appropriate the money needed for building the structure at once and that the structure be located in Alexandria where all things needed for this building are already in existence.

Now, gentlemen, we have wanted the building from the very beginning, and we still want this building. There has been no word of official objection to the location of such a building in Alexandria and, to my knowledge, no unofficial objection has been

Statement of Alexandria Delegation

made to the location of the building in the City of Alexandria. The reason for this, I believe, is that the site which we propose is entirely adapted to the use for which the land will be put and no citizen of the City or any other place will be inconvenienced as the result of the building being located there.

Contrarily, numerous complaints and objections have been registered by the McLean-Langley residents in connection with the location of the building at Langley. I am sure that the members of the Committee are acquainted with these objections because they have been made for a long time and are still continuing to be made.

(Comment re open letter published by McLean  
Citizens Association)

It is the hope of the City of Alexandria that the Committee will give favorable consideration to the many advantages which the City of Alexandria offers for the location of the building in this City, and that such will be the recommendation of the Committee for final adoption by the Congress.

In summary, let me quote testimony of Mr. Dulles before the House Appropriations Subcommittee as follows: "We would be rather handicapped, for example, if the authorization were only for what we expect to expend next year. If we had the funds in hand for the building we could proceed with assurance." Point number 1, therefore, is that C.I.A. needs their building now, for a variety of reasons which Mr. Dulles gave to the House Subcommittee, and he desires that all funds required for the building be appropriated at this time. Point number 2: Because of distance to the White House and Pentagon, it appears that a site in Maryland would be unsuitable.

Statement of Alexandria Delegation

Point Number 3: The Langley site appears unsuited for further consideration because it is uneconomical, because of the lack of site facilities at Langley, and because of the strong opposition of local residents in the area. Point Number 4: The Alexandria site is entirely suitable and is available for immediate commencement of construction, if funds for the land and building are fully appropriated at this Session of the Congress. Point Number 5: There does not appear to be any compelling reason why the authorization of \$8,500,000 for the George Washington Memorial Parkway should not be eliminated from the appropriation, and no reason appears why the present Congress should not appropriate the full amount for the land and the building in order that construction could be begun immediately for the C. I. A. in the Alexandria area.

Thank you very much, gentlemen, for your courteous consideration in this matter.