

Mr. Frederick J. Lawton, Director
Bureau of the Budget
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lawton:

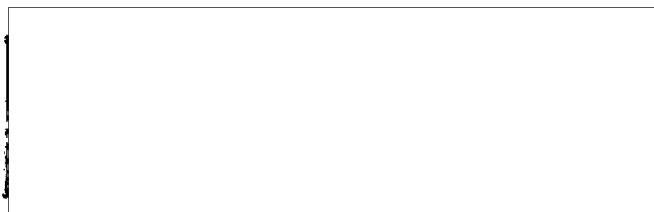
This is in reply to your letter of 26 December 1950 regarding the establishment of a Board to exercise the President's war and/or emergency powers under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

The Central Intelligence Agency concurs in the proposal to create a successor to the Board of War Communications of World War II. The establishment at an early date of a body within the executive structure of the Government to provide for the most effective use and control of our national telecommunications resources is considered essential to the national defense and security.

It is believed this Board should be established by Executive Order and authorized to perform substantially the same functions assigned to the former Board of War Communications. Membership on the Board should be limited to those Departments and/or Agencies of the Government having a primary interest in telecommunications from the standpoint of national defense.

The opportunity to comment on this important aspect of our national preparedness program is appreciated.

Sincerely,



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

Washington, 25, D. C.

26 December 1950

My dear General Smith:

The Bureau of the Budget has received several proposals to establish a Board similar to either the Defense Communications Board or the Board of War Communications of the World War II years. The Defense Communications Board was charged with planning to implement the President's responsibilities under Section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, while the Board of War Communications executed these Presidential responsibilities, and also supervised execution of the responsibilities under Section 301 of the Act.

Presumably, composition of the proposed board would parallel that of its predecessors modified to reflect changes in the Government's structure since 1945.

It is requested that your views on this subject be submitted to the Bureau of the Budget not later than January 4, 1951. It is especially desired that these views include comments on the need for such an agency, the kinds of questions such an agency would have to consider, and the desired composition and status of such an agency.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ F. J. LAWTON
Director