

Executive Registry  
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19 July 1965

*L. B. Johnson*  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent selection of [redacted] from this Agency to serve on [redacted] does great honor to this Agency and to me personally.

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Since assuming my present position, I have been greatly impressed by the dedication and competence of personnel in the intelligence profession -- and the selection of [redacted] typifies in one respect the request for services and personnel which have been levied on this Agency. I remain mindful of your instruction to me to leave no stone unturned in building the finest intelligence service in the world. Let me assure you that my every action will be directed toward that goal.

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To maintain the quality of our personnel, we have long had an imaginative recruiting program designed to bring into the Agency the highest qualified and best motivated young men and women from our best colleges and universities and other sources.

To improve the knowledge available to this Agency, we have had continuing associations throughout the industrial and academic communities, and we have recently decided to expand this kind of contact. In this connection, we have recently approached the President of the National Research Council and the President of the National Academy of Sciences to enlist their cooperation in an exchange of information which should enable us to meet better the unexpected challenges in the present day world.

In response to your expressed desires, I have undertaken to associate myself closely with Mr. Clark Clifford and the members of your Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. From my point of view, this has so far been a thoroughly helpful relationship. I find their guidance and counsel of great benefit.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *White House*

Perhaps our most important project designed to improve the United States foreign intelligence effort is a planning exercise which seeks to define intelligence requirements ten years from now -- and to make recommendations for the capabilities which we will need to meet their objectives. As Director of Central Intelligence, I shall invite the participation of all elements of the United States intelligence community by pin-pointing geographical areas and by refining the first five years into annual plans and programs. We believe that we can thereby emphasize the higher priority objectives and at the same time focus on those lower priority programs which can then be phased out.

We are building on a solid base. If we are not the best intelligence service in the world, certainly our standing is very high. It takes something on the order of 15 years to build up a professional intelligence service, and I am pleased to report that the heads of some 50 of the Agency's major components have accrued 18 or more years of intelligence experience. Moreover, their academic credentials are impressive. For example, 80% of these component heads have at least one advanced degree; about 1/3 have two or more degrees; and 10% hold doctorates.

I should be glad to send you information or talk to you in more detail about the professional competence in this Agency -- including the fact that we can operate in some 122 foreign languages and dialects. But I believe it more important at the moment that you have my assurance that we are not resting on our laurels and intend to recruit the best people and exploit the best sources of knowledge in the world today.

Respectfully,

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W. F. Raborn

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