

ER 61-4562/a

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Mr. Harry W. String



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Dear Mr. String:

This will acknowledge and thank you very much for your letter of 31 May.

We have read your suggestions with interest and your thoughtfulness in writing to us as you did is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Signed



Assistant to the Director

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O/DCI,  June 61)

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HARRY W. STRING

Executive Registry

May 31, 1961

61-4562

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Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

Call me crackpot if you will but let me outline briefly a plan wherein we acquire our 51st state. A few miles from our Florida coast is a country we helped free from domination by a European power some years ago. At that time it may have been the sensible thing to do but precedent for statehood of areas away from the mainland had not yet been established.

On this island is a fortified area still controlled by our military forces. A sudden and heavy influx of military personnel, a news blackout for several days while acquisition is effected, a plebiscite (?) by the populace expressing a desire for statehood and PRESTO! -- the end of any hemispheric threat. It is possible is it not that the plebiscite could be managed to bring about the desired results?

On another subject and in the African area can we not make some advantageous use of a wonderfully presentable propaganda tool we know as the Republic of Liberia? I'm not at all sure and have no ideas on the subject but Liberia is there, in the midst of an independence movement and should have the means to become a leader in the African independence movement. Perhaps even calling attention to its existence with some sort of Pan-African meeting there and blowing it up big for the whole world to read about, its history, politics, form of government etc. would be a powerful propaganda weapon by itself.

Don't think me presumptuous for making suggestions but somehow quite simple suggestions and ideas are often missed and, who knows, some of us common people might come up with a good one.

Sincerely yours,

Harry W. String
Harry W. String.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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