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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1946

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Colonel William W. Quinn
Director, Strategic Services Unit
War Department
25th & E Streets, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Colonel Quinn:-

Through an oversight in my office your memorandum of June 3rd came to my attention only today. Slips of this sort are not common with us, and I am very sorry to have had this occur. I hope you will pardon it.

With regard to the substance of this memorandum, I am perfectly willing to take up with the proper authorities here your request for permission to extract material from the State Department cables. I do think, though, that before proceeding along this line, you would be well advised to take the matter up with General Vandenberg. It is, after all, one of his functions to see that the various intelligence agencies have such material made available to them as they need in the conduct of their operations. I should be greatly surprised if General Vandenberg were not able to make the necessary arrangements, either through his own staff or through MIS.

My hesitancy about taking up this matter in the Department derives from the fact that the Army and Navy are already performing the exact task which you propose. I am almost sure that a reply to your request would be that since this material already goes to the Army, and since SSU is a part of the Army, the obvious thing would be for you to get the material through MIS.

As I say, I am quite ready to do whatever you wish but just because I understand your problem and hope for a solution of it, I would recommend that you take the matter up with General Vandenberg in the first instance.

Sincerely yours,

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William L. Langer
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for Research and Intelligence

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Date

HRP