

Honorable Edgar W. Hiestand
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

18 NOV 1959

Dear Mr. Hiestand:

Mr. John Warner has written to you previously in connection with a letter you received from a constituent regarding Khrushchev's remarks in Los Angeles. Inasmuch as you may have received other inquiries concerning the subject in addition to that letter, I am taking the liberty of writing you further about this matter.

Khrushchev's comments about intelligence activities and the Central Intelligence Agency, in our mind, represent part of a deliberate campaign to discredit U. S. intelligence and thus leave a clearer field for Communist subversion. If there is a thaw in the Cold War, Khrushchev obviously would like to deprive the United States of one of its principal weapons for combating Communism. You have noted, of course, that in all of his talk about desiring peace, Khrushchev has stated that Moscow has not renounced and will not change its objective that all of the nations of the free world should and shall become Communist.

As far as Khrushchev's specific claims are concerned, I would point out first that one of his motives was to draw out any information that any official reply or action might supply. You recognize, of course, that from time to time agents are exposed and apprehended. This often happens to Soviet agents. These agents sometimes carry both money and ciphers known as one-time pads. These pads are useful solely for communications between that agent and his home base, and do not affect any other communication system. As far as we are concerned, Khrushchev has not got much comfort out of us in this respect; in fact, nothing comparable to what we have gained from Soviet defectors and agents.

As far as the general communications systems of the U. S. Government are concerned, they are protected between sender and recipient by a variety of means, none of which were made suspect by Khrushchev's remarks. We are constantly calculating the protection given to such communications by the inherent security of the devices used and are constantly alert to interpret and exploit any information which would alter our calculations. Khrushchev's remarks were limited to matters which did not give us any new information of this sort.

In general, we would say that for the United States to react to Khrushchev's remarks as certain quarters have suggested would be to play into the hands of the Soviets.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC/LC/GLC:jmd (9 Nov 59)

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(47)

MEMORANDUM FOR: **The Director**

Except for the first paragraph, the attached letter to Congressman Hiestand is identical to those sent to Senator Lyndon Johnson and others on the subject of Khrushchev's comments on code books. Hiestand is one of the group of California Congressmen who have been reported as favoring a Congressional inquiry into Khrushchev's statements. (He is also reported as saying that this is another reason for him to push his joint committee bill.) Hiestand's office here wrote to us concerning an inquiry from a constituent on the same subject. Mr. Warner wrote Hiestand at that time declining further comment. I believe it is

MEMORANDUM FOR:

advisable to bring Hiestand up to date now by sending the attached letter.

S/

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

16 November 1959
(DATE)

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