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3 August 1954

Mr. Dulles:

Mr. Wisner called and asked that the following message be given to you at the IAC meeting.

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"The Secretary of State just called me having been unable to reach you and asked me for the 'party line' on the John disappearance -- more specifically whether we still tended to the view that his disappearance was not the result of a purely volunteer act. He said that he was about to have a Press Conference and anticipated questions on this subject.

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" I replied, emphasizing heavily the tentative nature of our conclusions of the moment, that we felt there was more evidence to indicate entrapment -- a cleverly baited trap -- then there was to indicate either voluntary defection for moral reasons or kidnapping. I also ~~reminded~~ reminded him of the series of defeats which the other side has sustained through all of the defections from their ranks. I said that I could not advise as to the wisdom of the Secretary of State indulging in any speculative remarks, but that for his background information it was my feeling that the Soviet Intelligence people must have become pretty desperate and therefore perhaps over-eager to score a triumph of their own.

If there is anything wrong in what I said, you might wish to ~~call~~ correct it with the Secretary."

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