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REGISTRY NO.

(b)(6)

HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
CHINA THEATER
APO 627

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 08-Jun-2011

SI Branch
22 May 1945

Major Duncan C. Lee
Chief, Japan-China Section
Far East SI
Washington, D. C.

Dear Duncan:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4 May. Needless to say I am delighted at the prospect of your coming out here with the General so that you can see what is going on in the theater. We are all looking forward with the greatest anticipation to your arrival.

With respect to the question of your coming out here for field duty, I must frankly admit that I am torn between two desires. On the one hand I feel that you would be of inestimable value here, and on the other hand I feel that your acting as backstop in Washington is extremely important to the proper functioning of SI in this theater, since despite the fact that you have competent personnel to assist you there, I question whether any of them can really pick up the ball and carry it as effectively as you do in the event you come to the field.

From a purely personal standpoint I feel that field duty in China may not be as attractive on mature consideration as it is on first blush. In my opinion any SI personnel who come out here and occupy top jobs may just as well reconcile themselves to a minimum of eighteen months' duty before they can possibly return to the States, and eighteen months in modern China is not the most pleasant eighteen months imaginable.

I have taken the liberty of discussing the matter with Colonel Heppner, and he feels, as I think I do, that your presence in Washington is of extreme value to SI activities in this theater, and he also feels, particularly in view of personal reasons you have against going overseas, that to take a long field assignment here in China might not be the right thing to do so far as you personally are concerned.

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[Redacted]

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Major D. C. Lau

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44-572
22 May 1945

I agree that it is rather difficult to make a final decision prior to the time that you actually come out here with the General, but putting any personal desires of mine to one side, I think that you would do well indeed to think long and seriously before you put yourself into a job here in China that will last until some dim and indefinite date.

Sincerely yours,


Paul L. E. Helliwell
Lt. Colonel, F. A.
Chief, SI, OSS, CT

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