Secret-Security Information

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Mr. Frank G. Wisner Washington, D. C.

Dear Frank:

I am taking advantage of the return of [] to drop you a note. I am sending back by [] to [], []' report to me of his examination of the evidence in the BDJ flap. [], I am sure, will either show you my letter or discuss with you my remarks concerning the flap.

Except for the publication of the "white book" which Zinn proposes to come out with, the flap can be considered as terminated. Personally, I do not think that too much damage has been done, but I think that much less would have resulted had Donnelly handled the matter more firmly.

[], and I briefed Donnelly on CIA activities in length after his arrival. We had not, however, been able to give him the detailed briefing on all of the various operations. In consequence, Donnelly has felt, I think, that we are free-wheeling; at least, he has told me that he did not feel that he was adequately informed or that information concerning our activities was available within HICOG to answer the numerous charges that came to his attention. Yesterday afternoon [], [1, and I gave him the rundown on our German operations with only Donnelly and Debevoise present. It was well received, and I am hopeful that it may allay his fears somewhat. However, I am confident that the first time the SPD makes another wild allegation that his nerves will be on edge and he again be fearful. It is most unfortunate from our point of view that McCloy was not here when this recent flap broke. I think there would have been no publicity whatever.

As I cabled you, Donnelly suggested the desirability of the conferences in Washington to discuss the policies with respect to our operations here. I told him that at the time I would be advised of Reber's conferences in CIA there and pointed out that I was sure you would discuss the whole field with him. I also pointed out that Reber is an intimate friend of Dulles, yourself, and others in CIA and that everyone in CIA who dealt with policy matters held him in high esteem and valued his opinions. I also said that if he wished to make the recommendation and that State and CIA there thought any useful purpose would be served, I was wholeheartedly willing to return for any such discussions as might be desired. Personally, I do not see that such talks would serve any very useful purpose at the present time.

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As I wrote [], I am inclined to think that this incident may be a blessing in disguise in the final analysis. It will expedite the review of our missions here and result in an adequate readjustment far more rapidly than would otherwise been the case. Personally, I am inclined to think that we will be able to carry on still fewer West German operations than we have heretofore expected. The flap has no doubt been disadvantageous in this respect.

We are pressing our review of operations and the reorganization in accordance with the Director's instructions. You will hear from us in the near future. I would be glad to hear from you and to have any personal views concerning these problems.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours.

L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR. Lt. General, USA, Retired