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^{Bureau of the Intelligence}
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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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S - The Secretary

U - The Under Secretary

Mr. Russell's memorandum of April 18 on the intelligence problem was a surprise to me. Tyler Wood, with the consent of Mr. Russell and myself, had undertaken to work out a compromise plan satisfactory to all parties, and he had reported yesterday that he was making good progress.

I do not know what Mr. Russell means by "renewed bitterness." If there has been "bitterness" on this subject, it has not been on my side. I have limited my action in this matter to stating my position in a paper written for the Staff Committee under date of February 12. I made no answer to Mr. Russell's memorandum of February 25, in spite of its mocking and rather personal tone, which I simply put down to my old friend Joe Penuch's style of writing.

There has never been a time when I was not willing to make concessions to meet the substantive points raised by the Political Offices. Specifically, I have been willing to attach personnel to those Offices to do their spot research; to put one or more representatives of the Political Offices of the Intelligence Coordination Committee of ORI, which supervises projects and determines priorities; and to put the distribution of intelligence reports on a basis that would insure that no report could get to the Secretary or Assistant Secretary level without the Political Offices' knowing about it and having an opportunity to examine it and present their views.

Finally, I am willing to accept as the ultimate goal, should the Department be reorganized to strengthen and expand the Political Offices and set them on a General

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Staff basis, the establishment in each Office of a well equipped intelligence section, subject only to coordination and general supervision by the ORI. I have never claimed that ORI should have a monopoly of research. On the contrary, I believe that the more research the Political Offices can do the better.

The only position that I adhere to firmly at the present time, and from which I will not deviate, is that no plan can be successful at this time if it either (a) puts the constituent parts of the research organization under the command of the other Offices of the Department or (b) interposes a board or committee between myself and the Secretary, the NIA and other agencies outside the Department. Somebody else might be able to get a good intelligence organization under way in the face of those conditions, but I know that I could not do it.

Alfred McCormack

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