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March 11, 1948

My dear Mr. Webb:

The Department of State has examined the draft bill, "To provide for the administration of the Central Intelligence Agency, established pursuant to Section 102, National Security Act of 1947, and for other purposes," submitted by the Central Intelligence Agency, and has found it to contain nothing which in its views would not conform to the program of the President, excepting the provisions of Section 8(h), Entry Permits, which would in certain cases extend authority for granting visas to the Central Intelligence Agency. It is our belief that this grant of power is too broad and would appear to be incompatible with necessary immigration regulations. As it has done in the past with other American intelligence agencies, the Department of State will be glad to cooperate with CIA on specific requests for visas. However, each case should be handled on its merits. The consular officer and the Department should continue to exercise discretion in the matter.

It is the Department's view that extreme care must be taken when consideration is being given to the use of permanent entry and eventual American citizenship as a payment for services rendered by an alien. From a security standpoint the practice is dangerous.

The Department suggests that Section 8(h), Entry Permits, be eliminated and that attention be given to the provisions of H. R. 3255, a bill introduced by Congressman Harter, which would authorize the use of the first ten percent of the quotas for security and other cases involving the national interest.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert A. Lovett

The Honorable

James E. Webb
Director

Bureau of the Budget

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