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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 2, 1951

My dear General Smith:

The Presidential Directive of April 4, 1951, establishing a new Psychological Strategy Board composed of the Director of Central Intelligence, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Under Secretary of State gives the Secretary of State authority to make such adjustments in organizations established under NSC 59/1 as he deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of that directive. I understand that representatives of the agencies concerned with the U. S. foreign information program are in agreement that the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Staff, established under the terms of NSC 59/1, has not proved to be a completely satisfactory instrument. As a first step toward development of a more satisfactory arrangement, this Staff will be dissolved as of May 7, 1951.

After May 7, the functions prescribed in NSC 59/1 will be carried on by the body presently known as the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization (IFIO), except insofar as some of those functions are assumed by the new Board established by the Presidential Directive of April 4. Also after May 7, the name of IFIO will be changed to Psychological Operations Coordinating Board (PCB).

In order to provide a strong Executive Secretariat for PCB, in place of the IFIS arrangement, the Central Intelligence Agency is requested to make available to the Secretary of State a CIA representative for duty as required in connection with psychological warfare.

This officer will not be expected to represent the formal views of the Central Intelligence Agency. Nevertheless, it is desired that he be prepared to provide such responsive advice from CIA as may best provide truly interdepartmental thinking at a working level. Such formal clearances of papers as may be necessary will be obtained through the appropriate channels.

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Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith,  
Director of Central Intelligence.

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Although IFIS has suffered from many imperfections, it should be noted that it has accomplished a great deal of valuable and painstaking work, and has made very appreciable contributions to the national psychological effort. I should like to extend thanks, on behalf of the Department of State, to the Central Intelligence Agency for having contributed to this staff.

Sincerely yours,

*James E. Webb*

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