

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

2-3-69

Return to
Mr. Ford

TO : Mr. Vaky *[Signature]*

FROM : Mr. Ford *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Transition 1952-53

DATE: 2/3/69

You have no idea how tranquil a transition 1968-69 has been. Some old newspaper clips I found in a trunk this weekend brought back memories of 1952-53 when I was practically under constant subpoena to various Congressional committees particularly Senator McCarthy's. I returned from Paris in October 1951 preparatory to taking over as Director of the Office of Security. You might be interested in the following sequence:

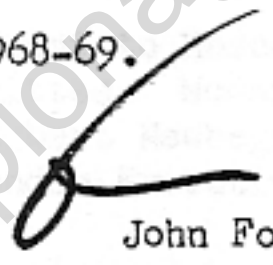
1. Before returning from Paris, I had been two months in Moscow trying to assist British and Canadian Govt's in the location of a new type electronic microphone the Soviets were using against them. Our eventual location in Spasso House of the type device they were using, resulted in numerous appearances before Congressional Committees interested in clandestine listening equipment.
2. "Chip" Bohlen's assignment to Moscow was held up by the Foreign Relations Committee. McCarthy was demanding the SY files of Amb. Bohlen, Robert Newbegin, and Willard Beaulac. I refused repeatedly under Executive privilege.
3. The Metropolitan Police claimed to have a "tape" recording implicating Amb. Bohlen. Secretary Dulles called me to his office, and with Senators Taft and Sparkman present had me arrange to play back the "tape" allegedly with Chip's voice thereon, in order to prove it was not the Ambassador's ~~off~~ voice at all. Secretary Dulles allowed the Senators to review the entire SY file on Amb. Bohlen "in his office" with understanding this did not violate the Executive privilege. Amb. Bohlen was promptly thereafter approved.
4. A leak occurred. A message from Korea's President to President Eisenhower appeared in the press before our President had had an opportunity to read it. Secretary Dulles ordered a one day investigation using over thirty of our Agents. Luckily a newspaper man confided in me that he had gotten his story from the Korean Ambassador in whom Secretary Dulles had confided the day before the leak appeared in the press.
5. One of my agents (still with SY), confessed having taking excerpts of Amb. Bohlen's, Bob Newbegin's, and Willard Beaulac's files to the McCarthy Committee. I removed the Agent from access to such files and was promptly subpoenaed by McCarthy who claimed I was interfering with a Congressional witness.



6. I was ordered by my superiors at the time to employ Otto Otepka and my own security evaluator (still employed today by USIS), was removed from his position with me.
7. McCarthy through his right hand man on the Committee, Roy Cohen, claimed I was responsible for the presence of American Communists in the United Nations Secretariat. I arranged with the then Congressman Keating to be subpoenaed in order to testify and prove that the Department had acted wisely under a secret arrangement made with the Secy Gen of the UN. This made McCarthy very angry.
8. The New York Grand Jury subpoenaed me to testify on the UN matter following my testimony before Congressman Keating.
9. USIS employees were under the Security program of the Dept of State and McCarthy began a full scale inquiry of the Voice of America where Foy Kohler had been in charge for several years.
10. An employee of the Voice, shortly before testifying before McCarthy, killed himself by jumping in front of a truck in New York City.
11. Foy Kohler, returning from a local cocktail party in Washington, ran into a tree and was arrested by the Arlington Police Department. He reminded the police that he had classified documents in the trunk of his car. Before we could arrive at the Arlington Police Department in time, newspaper men had the story. Dulles ordered that Foy Kohler was not to be promoted for the next five years.
12. The Finish Desk Officer, John Montgomery, killed himself in his Georgetown home, touching off another wave of accusations that perhaps another Alger Hiss case was in the background. Again I was subpoenaed along with General Hershey of the Selective Service.
13. An employee of the Personnel Office, under Bob Ryan (now Amb. Ryan), claimed personnel files were being stripped. There came to light that John Stewart Service had been used in temporary employment to review personnel files in order to remove duplicated material. This had all kinds of reverberations.
14. Special Agents brought in by McLeod interrogated me for a total of 16 hours attempting to prove I was "ditching" files.

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15. Scott McLeod, suspecting that a certain safe in the Dept of State contained material compromising and embarrassing to a member of Congress, called in a safe expert to attempt to open the safe, after hours. Damaging the safe drawer beyond repair, and fearing an FBI or police inquiry, the damaged drawer was dumped off the 14th Street bridge into the Potomac.
 16. McCarthy demanded I be removed from my job, claiming I was an uncooperative witness and holdover of the Acheson clique.
 17. Befuddled Don Lourie, then Under Secretary for Administration, said he had no alternative but to put me on probation in order to satisfy McCarthy. I was subsequently removed from my job and sent to the Philippines for two and one-half years.
 18. Both Sam Boykin my immediate chief and I were deluged with postcards and letters accusing us of being Communists.
 19. Drew Pearson and other reporters attempted repeatedly to interview me on internal matters of the Dept during this transition period but I refused. They continued to pester my wife who remained here in Washington for eight months before joining me in the Philippines.

Oh for the tranquility of 1968-69.



John Ford

Please return

Kevin D. Murray
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