

MSI PATCH SHEET

Forrestal, James





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

JUL 19 1984

Washington, D.C. 20535

Mr. Hugh O'Neal
Apartment 247
4219 West Olive Street
Fairbank, California 91505

Re: James V. Forrestal
FOIPA No. 237925

Dear Mr. O'Neal:

In regard to your request for information pertaining to James Vincent Forrestal we have located 76 pages of pre-processed material, copies of which we are enclosing for your review.

Sincerely yours,

James K. Hall, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure

JAMES ORRESTAL

*A Study of
Personality, Politics, and Policy*

ARNOLD A. ROGOW

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not just for the author's candor in discussing Forrestal himself, but for the provocative questions he raises about the possible consequences of mental illness in high government positions.

ARNOLD A. ROGOW, Associate Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton. He is the author of four books and more than thirty articles in many popular and professional journals.

The Macmillan Company
60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Jacket design/H. Lawrence Hoffman

enlarged Air Force. Finally, there is the agonizing story of his last months in office, the conflicting accounts of his "resignation under fire," and the refusal of official Washington to admit the real nature of his illness—even after his death.

The story of James Forrestal's involvement

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ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1947, exactly one week after taking the oath of office as Defense Secretary, Forrestal registered a Smith & Wesson revolver with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington. While no one can say with precision what was in his mind on that occasion, the action was at least symbolic of Forrestal's deepening apprehension at the state of the world and the nation's security. Three years earlier, when he was awaiting congressional action on his appointment as Navy Secretary, Forrestal had been amused by a telegram from some of his Princeton classmates that read: "Stop worrying. Princeton Class of 1915 ratified your appointment." Apparently the Class of 1915 did not send a similar wire in 1947, and had it done so it is doubtful that Forrestal would have found it as amusing as the earlier communiqué.

Although the nation was at war in 1944, it was a war that

21 September 1945 (cont'd)

5. Dean Acheson (Acting Secretary of State): Saw no alternative except to give full information to the Russians, however for some quid pro quo in the way of a mutual exchange of information. Could not conceive of a world in which we were hoarders of military secrets from our Allies, particularly this great Ally upon our cooperation with whom rests the future peace of the world.

6. Secretary of the Navy: I expressed my views in accordance with the attached memorandum. In addition I said I was forced to differ with Acheson as to there being no alternative. I said that it seemed to me that trust had to be more than a one-way street, just as certain nations were proposing to exercise trusteeship over certain areas of the globe on behalf of the United Nations, so it seemed to me that we could exercise a trusteeship over the atomic bomb on behalf of the United Nations and agree that we would limit its manufacture for use on such missions as the United Nations should designate.

7. Clinton Anderson: He said it was most important for the President that he retain the confidence of the Country on his ability to handle and deal with the Russians. He felt that giving our atomic energy and bomb knowledge to the Russians would weaken that confidence - in his opinion dangerously. He needs to keep the great position he now has with the people to implement many matters of policy. In his recent speaking tours both in New Mexico and Illinois he found universal disapproval of any idea that we should share our advantage with the Russians. Russia sold Alaska not because of good will to us but because of the frustration of their efforts to get control of the West Coast. The Russians have not yet demonstrated any reciprocal attitude of trust toward us.

8. Henry Wallace: Completely, everlastingly and wholeheartedly in favor of giving it to the Russians. Commented on Anderson's statement that Russian ambitions in China, Korea and Mongolia have not yet been sufficiently defined for us to have trust. He said the real reason for the Chinese-Mongolian disaffection was that the Chinese were primarily a farming people and the Mongolians a cattle breeding or livestock people. Science cannot be cribbed, cabined or confined; scientific knowledge is bound to spread over the world. He questioned the statement that the Russians were Orientals. He said that particularly in Mongolia they had a Western viewpoint in contrast to that of the Chinese. Failure to give them our knowledge would make an embittered and sour people.

9. Lewis B. Schwellenbach: Asked Bush whether Russia heretofore has exchanged scientific information. Bush said within the limitations of language and understanding they had from 1917 on. Schwellenbach said that in view of this he was for giving it to them.

21 September 1945 (cont'd)

10. Patterson: Shares the view of the former Secretary of War. Felt it impossible to keep this as a secret because everybody would in due course know about it.

I observed on that point that we knew about the Diesel engine as a development of marine propulsion but actually that the Germans had been for a long time ahead of us in Diesel manufacture and indications were that toward the end of this war they had gone ahead of us again.

11. McNutt: Agreed with the principle of keeping your powder dry but said in this case it looked to him as if we couldn't keep our powder dry because of Bush's statement that our atomic power knowledge must necessarily eventually be equalled by the Russians.

12. Crowley: Impossible to separate our decision on the atomic bomb from our other relationships with Russia. Impression he has is that the Russians think we are softies, afraid to deal realistically and hardly and decisively, that whenever we do they respond and start negotiations on a give-and-take basis. In short, he would give them nothing until they have demonstrated a willingness to work with us.

13. Blandford: Would give it to the Russians and wouldn't even try to get any quid pro quo, which both Stimson and the President indicated earlier they meant to give.

14. Senator McKellar: If we give it to any of our Allies we must give it to all of them. He had some misgivings about the fact that American money had paid for this development and we were now proposing to give it away.

15. Krug: Discussion had led him to the conclusion that we should await developments and not act precipitately; that we could tell better about Russian relationships in six months' time.

16. John Snyder: Agreed with Krug; wait and see.

17. McKellar: Final advice to the President - follow Krug's and Snyder's judgment.

The President said he wanted to invite a memorandum from all hands summarizing the views they had expressed; he said he did not propose to act without the concurrence of Congress; that he had taken an obligation however to send a message with his recommendations. He said there would be another discussion next week at which time he would announce his own conclusion.

C
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Put in Forester's file HST

March 31, 1949

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

4-12-74
OSD letter, May 6, 1974By ALH/HW, NARS Date 4-4-75

This report is submitted in regard to a secret investigation predicated upon Mr. F's expressed belief that the telephone wires in his home had been tapped and that it is possible certain unidentified documents had been removed from the desk located in his bedroom.

The investigators were informed that Mr. F's butler was a trusted employee. Consequently on March 30, 1949 at 4:30 p.m. he was personally interviewed at Mr. F's residence. Preliminary discussion concerning the butler's background, duties, and attitudes indicated him to be a loyal and trustworthy individual, whereupon the matter under investigation was discussed. He stated that he and three other household servants have all been investigated and cleared by the investigation unit of one of the government departments.

Initially the butler was reluctant to express any opinion other than that Mr. F's suspicions were unfounded. However, after some discussion, he confided that during the past six weeks Mr. F has become exceedingly nervous and emotional to the extent that it was commented upon by the other servants. He disclosed that within the last four days this condition became so pronounced that it appeared to be affecting his thoughts and actions. For instance, on Monday morning, March 28, 1949 Mr. F approached the butler and asked him if he had, at about 7:15 a.m., seen four men enter the driveway leading to the family garage. The butler's bedroom is over the garage, with windows facing the driveway. He had arisen at 7:00 a.m. and was moving about in his bedroom until approximately 7:30 a.m.; however, he failed to notice the presence of anyone in the vicinity of the garage. Mr. F also checked with the handyman-guard, with negative results, following which he personally checked the fence and yard surrounding the premises. The butler disclosed that while engaged in his usual duties he recently happened to hear a telephone conversation in which Mr. F stated he had been reading about a New York City wire tapping case and disclosed that it had occurred to him that someone might have tapped his telephone; he later told the butler that he thought that the strangers mentioned might have entered the garage for this purpose. The butler stated that recently Mr. F had become

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 12, 1974

By AST/ML, NARS Date 4-4-75~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

Mar. 31, 1949

so overly suspicious that whenever the front door was opened he would come to the vicinity to ascertain the reason for its being open. It was revealed that during the last week Mr. F appeared to have slight lapses of memory concerning insignificant matters. As an example, on one occasion when the servants were all eating a meal at the kitchen table Mr. F, wearing a hat, walked into the room and inquired as to the butler's whereabouts, even though the butler was then seated within sight at the table. Upon the butler's identifying himself, Mr. F apparently could not recall the purpose of his inquiry and departed without comment.

Mrs. F has been in Florida for a short time and her husband was persuaded to join her there for a short rest. As a result of his apparent lack of ability to make a positive decision and carry it out, he was assisted and escorted to the plane by two friends and former associates. When Mr. F exhibited a last minute reluctance to make his departure, one of the friends reportedly said to the other: "We have to do something--we can't keep him around here."

The butler expressed some concern as a result of his having found, after Mr. F's departure, his Last Will and Testament lying on a desk in his bedroom together with seven or eight sleeping tablets, apparently very potent. However, the butler added that during recent weeks Mr. F, as a result of restlessness and inability to sleep, had been consistently resorting to the use of such tablets. Investigation tended to indicate that the empty bottle, which had originally contained the tablets, had been left in an adjoining room and that the identifying label had been removed therefrom. The label was also partially obliterated on another bottle which was also left in the adjoining room and had apparently contained a number of tablets of like nature.

The butler advised that an electronic specialist named Morgan, acting under the direction of the Navy Department, came to the house on March 28, 1949, and, after talking to Mr. F by telephone at his office, proceeded to check the telephone circuits in Mr. F's bedroom. Upon completion of this examination he indicated that he had found no evidence of tampering or wire tapping. On March 29 and 30, a Mr. Corbett, who identified himself as being an employee of the F.B.I., re-examined and checked all telephone, electric light circuits, and other wiring in the house. Before his departure he confirmed the findings of Mr. Morgan.

January 11, 1949

Memorandum for: James Forrestal
Secretary of Defense

From: The President

Thanks for the report of the Secretary
of the Navy. I've received the Air Force report and
am looking forward to receiving the Army report.

A.L.T.

Reports are in the President's office

copy filed -
Secy. of the Air Force

February 26, 1949

Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense

From: The President

Thanks for the memorandum on biological warfare and the proposed official statement concerning the potentialities of biological warfare. I read both with a great deal of interest.

Correspondence referred to Mr. Clifford.

HST

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
4-12-74
OSD letter, May 8, 1974
By ALM/ALG, NARS Date 4-3-75

C
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See China

~~TOP SECRET~~

Oct. 18, 1948.

MEMO TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:-

After conversations with the Director
of E.C.A. and his representative in China,
I would suggest that the withdrawal from
Tsingtao not take place at this time, and
that aid to North China be expedited.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

(The original of this memorandum, which was in the
President's handwriting, sent to the Secretary of
Defense).

January 8, 1949

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing the Budget of the French King for 1743. It certainly is a most interesting document and I appreciate the privilege of reading it.

He seems to have had almost as much trouble with that Budget as I have been having with mine and then he didn't get it balanced.

Sincerely yours,

A.S.T.

Honorable James Forrestal
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Book - "An Account of the Numbers of Men able to bear Arms in the Provinces and Towns of France, taken by the King's Orders in 1743. and also Of the King of France's Revenue and Expences in the Years 1741, and 1742, (with a Table, shewing the State of his Revenue in the different Years of 1712, 1734, and 1740) in which may be seen the Amount of each Article of the publick Expence, and the Produce of each particular Tax laid on that Nation, etc. -- Name of book - "Men able to bear Arms in France"

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President's Secretary's File

March 5, 1949

Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense

From: The President

Thanks for your letter of the fourth,
transmitting the report of the National Military
Establishment, referring particularly to the
report of the Secretary of the Army.

H.S.T.

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President's Secretary's File

May 4, 1949

Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense

From: The President

Your suggestion of March twenty-third
as National Defense Day seems to me to be a very
satisfactory date if this suits all the Services.

H.S.T.

January 10, 1948

Memorandum for: James Forrestal
Secretary of Defense

From: The President

I certainly appreciated your memorandum
of the sixth very much and, of course, I'll be happy
to receive any memorandums you see fit to send me.

H.S.T.

The President has the memorandum
received from Secy. Forrestal.

April 22, 1948

Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense

From: The President

I appreciated your sending me the excerpts from the telephone conversation between you and Senator Hickenlooper.

He came to see me and I had a very pleasant conversation with him, but it is the same old program of this Republican Congress trying to prevent the President from exercising his functions as Executive.

I sent the appointments down immediately so there would be no question as to the Congress having time to act upon them.

H. S. T.

February 19, 1952

Dept of
Defense

Memorandum for: Donald S. Dawson

From: The President

The attached shows that some of our people are not in sympathy with what we are trying to do. I suppose we should take some concrete action on the subject but I just don't see how we can at this time.

H.S.D.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

DECLASSIFIED
EO. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, 4-11-74
May 3, 1972
By ~~ALL-NL~~, NARS Date 4-7-75

2 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FORRESTAL

SUBJECT: Synopsis of Major Recommendations of the Gray Board.

1. Establish one federal reserve for each service; incorporate National Guard and Organized Reserve Corps into Army reserve force as National Guard of the United States; incorporate Air National Guard and Air Reserve into Air Force reserve force as the Air Force Reserve.
2. Integrate reserve forces completely with the regular establishments under the direction of the civilian and military heads.
3. Provide service reserve policy committees and from their membership a joint committee to report to the Secretary of Defense.
4. Establish common structure for the reserve forces; divide the active reserve of each service into four groups in accordance with participation in required training.
5. Authorize the states to organize and the armed forces to assist in the training and equipping of required home military internal security units.
6. Give to the reserve forces the common mission of providing units and personnel for the reinforcement and expansion of the services in wartime until new training then initiated can bring the forces to full strength and limit the size of the reserve forces accordingly.
7. Help make the reserve forces capable of performing required missions by providing pretrained personnel for the reserve forces.
8. Help make the reserve forces capable of their required missions by concentration of pretrained personnel, facilities and equipment on priorities set by mobilization plans.
9. Provide unit, training unit or mobilization assignments for reserve personnel.
10. Consolidate requirements for affiliated units and present them as a program of the military establishment.
11. Provide higher levels of training by:— a continuous flow of pretrained personnel; assignment of full-time personnel; providing the best instructors; initiating the development of standard and uniform industrial policies for military leave; encouraging week-end training; increasing availability of courses; and providing proper training aids.

~~SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

28 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am seriously concerned about the legislative situation in connection with Selective Service. It is obvious, I think, that Congressional failure to act would seriously affect both our military strength and our foreign policy.

Les Biffle was in my office this morning to attend an award ceremony, and I discussed with him the legislative situation. I also discussed with him the possibility of my issuing a press release in connection with Senator Russell's proposed amendment. A copy of the suggested press release is attached. Les felt that such a release would materially help the situation on the Hill.

You will note that I have included in the proposed release a reiteration of our intention to make further progress in the armed services in the field of inter-racial relations. Clark Clifford has undoubtedly told you of our most recent discussion on this subject, and of the fact that we are planning to create an advisory board to recommend specific steps which the military can take in this regard.

The proposed press release could take the form of a letter to Senator Gurney, for release by him—if you should think that such a course would be preferable.

Senate debate on Selective Service may begin Tuesday. If you have no objection to the course I have outlined, I propose to go forward with a letter or a press release, for issuance on Monday, for Tuesday a. m. newspapers.

Respectfully,

James Forrestal

James Forrestal

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary of State
Washington

September 23, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subject: Your memorandum of 11 September 1947
regarding the National Security Act
of 1947.

1. I am in agreement with your recommendation (1-a) to the effect that all directives of the National Intelligence Authority and of the Central Intelligence Group be continued in full force and effect until the National Security Council has had an opportunity to study the problem and to make any changes that they may consider desirable.

2. I also approve your recommendation (1-b) to the effect that the Director of Central Intelligence Agency submit, within sixty days, his proposal for National Security Council directives to bring the former directives of the National Intelligence Authority and of the Central Intelligence Group into line with the National Security Act of 1947. In this connection, however, I would suggest that this report by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency be coordinated with the Intelligence Advisory Board to insure the prior consideration of the problem by the chiefs of the intelligence services of the several Departments whose concurrence would thus be expedited.

3. With regard to recommendation (1-c) to the effect that a subcommittee of the National Security Council be established to act similarly to the previous National Intelligence Authority, with special responsibility to direct the Central Intelligence Agency, it would seem to me that, in principle, this is a very useful and practical suggestion. In view of the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency will

SIC HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION

REASON FOR DECLASSIFICATION

DATE OF REVIEW

CLASSIFICATION TO BE APPLIED

REVIEWER'S NAME

REVIEWER'S TITLE

DATE 23 Jun 82 REVIEWER: 049204

STATE DEPT. GUIDELINE 3-2.43 E.O. 12356

BY H.C.-NLT 1-23-84

ENCLOSURE (A)

CONFIDENTIAL

100-26016

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-2-

be the only inter-departmental intelligence agency authorized to coordinate peacetime political and economic intelligence with the intelligence programs of the Armed Forces, it would seem to me very important that the Department of the Government, responsible for foreign affairs, the protection of our foreign commercial interests, and the maintenance of friendly diplomatic relations with all other countries, should be fully represented. The Armed Forces, for their part, have a further coordinating, and common intelligence agency, in the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I would, therefore, suggest that the proposed subcommittee to direct the Central Intelligence Agency be composed of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of National Defense, with a personal representative of the President, if that should be the President's desire. It will be recalled that the National Intelligence Authority included the Secretary of State as Chairman, and a personal representative of the President.

4. With regard to the recommendation contained in paragraph 2, it would seem to me essential that the Director of Central Intelligence be present as a non-voting member at all meetings of the subcommittee of the National Security Council established to direct the Central Intelligence Agency. It would seem to me also desirable that he attend meetings of the National Security Council as an adviser or observer.

/s/ ROBERT A. LOVETT

Acting Secretary

OCT 3 5 08 PM '45

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5

NSC General

1437 used in original letter

December 19, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The enclosed letter to the President from Margaret M. Wall, dated December 5, regarding the continuance of the Office of Strategic Services, has been referred to the National Security Council by Mr. William D. Hassett, Secretary to the President.

It is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency reply directly to the enclosed letter.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Assistant Executive Secretary

cc: Mr. Hassett

5

NSC General

01443

December 19, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The enclosed letter to the President from Mr. C. H. Quinn, dated December 4, regarding the reactivation of the Office of Strategic Services, has been referred to the National Security Council for consideration and acknowledgment by Mr. Matthew J. Connally, Secretary to the President.

It is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency reply directly to the enclosed letter.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Assistant Executive Secretary

cc: Mr. Connally

(6) 100

SEE: 1290-D

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

ebf

1290-B
Date: May 29, 1951

Name: SMITH, Hon. Walter B.,
Director,

Organization: Central Intelligence Agency

Address:

Regarding: On above date Admiral Souers sent memo to Admiral Dennison transmitting ltr to the President from Mr. Smith with which he attached draft of ltr to Hon. Gordon Gray, Pres., UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Chapel Hill, N.Car., for the President's signature and which was prepared at the President's suggestion. —5/31/51 the President wrote Mr. Gray (Dear Gordon) it is his understanding Mr. Smith spoke to him re becoming Director of the psychological warfare activities of the Govt., operating under the National Psychological Strategy Board, established 4/4/51. Realizes that the trustees of the Univ. of N.Car will be reluctant to lose him even temporarily, but feels justified in asking him in these critical times and suggests he take a year's leave of absence. —Pencil notations. Gordon Gray commissioned 6/20/51. — Delivered by hand to Mr. Gray at the Mayflower Hotel 6/1/51.

See:

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Papers of Harry S. Truman
Records of the:
National Security Council

~~TOP SECRET~~

NLT (NSC) 812

September 1, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The President has directed that an official monthly check be made on the status of all current projects on which action by the National Security Council is deferred pending receipt of a report by any department or agency.

Accordingly, it is requested that you inform this office as to the present status of the following project on which Council action is awaiting a report by the Central Intelligence Agency:

APPRAISAL OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE
REQUIREMENTS, FACILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS
RELATED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY

(Memo for Director of Central Intelligence
from Executive Secretary, same subject, dated
March 3, 1950)

JAMES S. LAY, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Declassified/Released on (F86-702) 6-9-86
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by N. Menan, National Security Council

~~TOP SECRET~~

(Not for general distribution)

To Mr. A. Hall
 National Security
 Resource Board
 4E674

MINUTES OF PRESS CONFERENCE

HELD BY SECRETARY FORRESTAL

12 November 1947 - 10:30 A. M.

Secy of Defense
 12/12/47

Participants: Hon. W. Stuart Symington
 Dr. Vannevar Bush
 Mr. Thomas J. Hargrave
 Mr. W. J. McNeil
 Mr. John H. Ohly
 Mr. Marx Leva
 Major General Floyd L. Parks
 Captain R. W. Berry
 Mr. James C. Evans
 Mr. Stephen F. Leo

SECRETARY FORRESTAL: Good morning. I shall read this document at the risk of boring you by re-reading it, but I thought I might make some comments as I go along and ask Mr. Hargrave and Dr. Bush, Mr. Symington, and others to interrupt me as they see fit and to make any elaboration of what is in this statement that they think is called for.

This summarizes the activities of the non-departmental agencies of the Military Establishment since it was set up on September 17. It became a part of the Government on September 17, 1947.

This Establishment is charged specifically with the following responsibilities:

1. The establishment of general policies and programs for the National Military Establishment;
2. The exercise of general direction, authority and control over the National Military Establishment;
3. Taking appropriate steps to eliminate unnecessary duplication or overlapping in the fields of procurement, supply, transportation, storage, health and research;
4. Supervision and coordination of budget estimates and budget programs.

In compliance with these directives, a number of accomplishments and many projects have been initiated. I think whether they're

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT
OFFICE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25 D. C.

NO. 176-48

FOR RELEASE TO PRESS AND RADIO
7 P. M., EASTERN STANDARD TIME

RE-6700 EXT. 3201-3202

OCTOBER 5, 1948

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal wrote the following letter to Dr. Vannevar Bush on the occasion of his resignation as Chairman of the Research and Development Board, National Military Establishment;

Dear Dr. Bush:

Although the President has already clearly reflected the feelings of all of us when we learned of your intended resignation as Chairman of the Research and Development Board, I would like to express my own deep gratitude for your assistance to me and to voice my sense of personal loss in your departure.

I can speak of your accomplishments with a conviction that springs from our long and intimate association and from my detailed familiarity with your work. No one is more aware than I of the extent to which you were responsible for equipping our wartime forces with the most modern and effective weapons and of the thousands of American lives which were saved as a result of your work. Nobody, I am sure, has a better understanding of the degree to which your efforts have made the Research and Development Board an indispensable part of the National Military Establishment and have contributed toward the effective integration of its work with that of the other military agencies. And I can speak with real personal knowledge of the value to me of your continuous counsel in meeting the varied and difficult problems which we have encountered during our first year under unification.

MORE

I am most happy over your willingness to remain temporarily with the Board as Deputy Chairman in order to assist Dr. Compton in assuming his new duties. Both Dr. Compton and I are grateful for your agreement to undertake this additional burden at a time when I know you are most anxious to devote your full energies to your other work. This represents but another of the long series of things for which you will always have my sincerest thanks,

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal

Dr. Vannevar Bush
Chairman
Research and Development Board

Attached is a biography of Dr. Bush.

*File -
Military - Personnel - Data*

22 July 1948

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE:

In consideration of the provisions of the recently enacted Selective Service Act of 1948, as it affects men liable under the Act who are now deferred because of being enlisted or commissioned in reserve components and those 18-year olds who will complete their service in 12 months, also those 19 through 25 who will be when released transferred to reserve units after twenty months' service and all other reservists I desire the following information. I desire this information from all three Services as regard to the Reserve Program, exclusive of the National Guard:

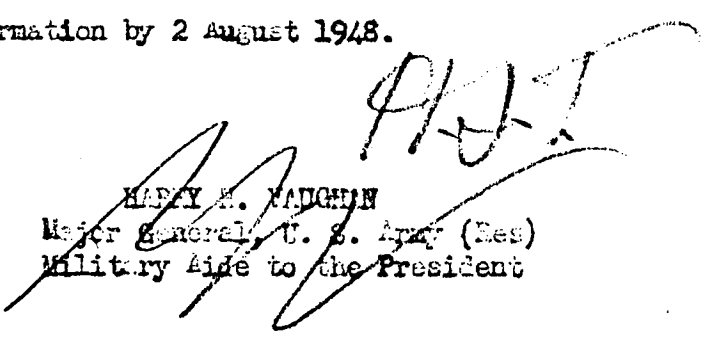
1. How many reserve units are now in being that are capable of carrying out the training program of 35 drill periods and two weeks in training in camp or on cruise?
2. How many qualified reserve officers and men are now assigned to such units?
3. How many reserve officers and men are at present unassigned or are now assigned to so-called "pools"?
4. What time limit has been placed on the assignment of these officers and men now so unassigned?
5. Upon the assignment of all reserve officers and men to units to be established through the Nation, what provisions and plans are in being for the facilities and equipment to carry out the contemplated training program as established in the minimum of 35 drill periods?
6. I note that the reserve promotion program has been announced by the Navy. What plans are now contemplated for a similar program by the Department of the Army and of the Air Force?
7. How many of the officers and men now in reserve are classified as effectives in the event of mobilization?
8. Give the type and character of units to be organized in the reserve in all Services, as well as those that have been organized and are now in operation.
9. What is contemplated as to the employment of these reserve units and organizations in event of mobilization?
10. Do present plans clearly demonstrate a maximum utilization of this reserve strength if within the foreseeable future the Nation is called upon to again defend itself?
11. What is the state of readiness of these reserves including their present morale and what steps are being taken to insure this maximum efficiency?

Page 2 - continued

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE:

22 July 1948

12. I desire this information by 2 August 1948.


HARRY H. VAUGHAN
Major General, U. S. Army (Res)
Military Aide to the President

There was a meeting with Royal, _____, and Sullivan, Eisenhower, Nimitz, Spaatz, _____ on 22 Sept. Talking about the War Council and the Security Council.

Tues., 23 Sept.

09:45, Bureau Chiefs and Mr. Sullivan's, Office Navy

10:00, Navy Dept., official departure from

10:30, Admiral Lewis Straus

11:00, UMT presentation, Secretary Royal's office

12:45, Lunch, Senator Ferguson, Royal, Towers

14:30, General Elliot, Hillenkoetter, Inglis (who was head of Naval Intelligence), Hill

15:15, Photographers

15:30, Press Conference

Wed., 24 Sept., 1947

08:00, Mr. Lou Holland, Breakfast

10:45, Mr. John Dwight Sullivan

11:00, Dr. Bush

11:30, The President with Dr. Bush

15:00, Cabinet Meeting

16:30, TD National Airport for Laguardia

19:00, Cocktails preceding dinner

19:30, Dinner, Navy Industrial Association of Waldorf Astoria, black tie

That apparently was the crucial meeting. It's interesting that he met first with Bush 11:00 and at 11:30 the President with Dr. Bush. Next appointment wasn't until 15:00 (a Cabinet meeting).

Thurs., 25 Sept.

10:30, Mr. Fitzpatrick

12:30, Stop in at Navy League Luncheon

12.45, Cabinet luncheon

15:00, War Council meeting at the Secretary of Defense's office

The next page, 1835, is rather peculiar. It says 25 Sept. 1947. Saw the President today with Mr. Bush, but his calendar shows Wed. 24 Sept., 11:30, the President with Dr. Bush. I have a copy of page 1835, I believe--obviously, the date should be 24 Sept. because he's got 25 Sept. 47 - Cabinet luncheon - _____, Harriman, Krug, Lovett, Sullivan, Royal, Clifford, Clark, and Anderson. Talking about the Food Program.

Fri. 26 Sept.

10:00, White House, Swear In Admiral Souers, Hill, Hillenkoetter. National Security Council meeting immediately afterwards

12:00, Senator Connolly, Congressman A. Thomas Lyle, Corpus Christie

12:45, Lunch, Knowland, Mr. Hill, Mr. Marbert?

14:30, Langer, Swearing In Mr. Barale Zuker Woodney

16:00, The President, off-the-record with Mr. Atchison, Webb, Stilman

Pg. 1939.....1839

26 Sept., National Security Council, First Meeting

President, Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Hillenkoetter, Hill, Souers, Lovett, and myself.

June 1948

MEMORANDUM TO HONORABLE JAMES FORRESTAL,
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

1. There are approximately 525,000 citizens, who hold reserve commissions in the Army and in the Air Force; and, there are some 835,000 citizens, who have enlisted in the reserve. Most of these officers and men belonging to the Army and Air Force Reserves are highly trained veterans of World War II in the specialities in which they served while on active duty.

2. It is my desire that you direct the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force to organize these 1,130,000 patriotic citizens, who are already skilled in the art of national defense, into units established in their respective services so that each one of these citizens will have an assignment to a real as distinguished from a paper unit.

3. It is my wish that you organize these reserve units of the Army and of the Air Force as far as practicable in every community of the United States so that the civilian pursuits of these loyal reservists will not be unduly interrupted.

4. The organization of these reserve units should be completed by 1 September 1948.

5. Plans for the training, equipment, and filling up of these units should be completed and announced by 1 September 1948.

6. You are requested to give me by 15 July 1948 a report on the present organization, training, and equipment of the Naval, Marine, and Coast Guard Reserves so that I may determine then what, if anything, is necessary to be done to improve the efficiency of those citizen components.

President

MEMO FOR
PRES.
SIGNATURE

June 1, 1948

Memorandum for: Secretary of Defense

From: The President

I appreciated your note of May thirty-first about your interview with Senator Taft; your memorandum of May twenty-eighth on the Selective Service situation and a copy of your memorandum to the Press. I hope things will work out as they should in this regard.

H. S. T.

To: VB
11 December 48

"I am fully aware that the election to the Board of Trustees of the Institution is one of the doings of V. Bush, and it merely adds another to a long list of obligations that I am under to that individual. The only misgiving I have is whether or not I can make a contribution which will justify your confidence in proposing me; however, I will do my best."

Another subject. "I have had a couple of letters from Brad Dewey, copies of which I am enclosing. Your moments of reflection, I wish you would let me have your own view on the question of the release of the Bikini report, with the deletions, of course, of 2 or 3 particular paragraphs with which you are familiar." Dewey was president of Dewey & Almay Chemical Company in, of all places, Cambridge, Mass.

As a Note From Bush to Jim, Dec. 10, 1948

Dear Jim:

Probably in the same mail with this note, you will receive formal notification of the action of the Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institute, Washington, at their annual meeting today in electing you to membership. I wish to express my personal pleasure that you were selected and hope that you will find it possible to accept. The group is a distinguished one. Your duties will neither be onerous nor time-consuming, and I would be delighted to have this additional association with you.

V. Bush

29 July 1948, Dr. Bush,

Does this mean that there is a chance of developments which will block the use of radar? Attached to an article from the Washington Evening Star, 29 July 1948, Wall Against Radar Experiments Told (the article deals with basically nuclear-magnetic resonance, which is really not related, but interesting). It should be noted that the correspondence files are alphabetical, which they were not for Menzel.

Straight Telegram, 05 Oct. 1948, To: Karl T. Compton, President MIT
I am delighted that you have decided to accept Chairmanship, Research & Development Board. I will be most grateful if you will express my appreciation to your Board.

Best Regards, James Forrestal

Note: Sort of Trivial Stuff, To: Conant, From: Forrestal, 15 September
Contains a remark - I enjoyed seeing you yesterday.

Note:

Dear Jim

16 Oct. 1948

From: James Forrestal

Much interested in your most recent paper at the War College. Would like him to give a talk on preventive war.

31 MAY 1948CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR TAFT

Senator Taft came to my house Sunday evening at my request. I told him I was very much concerned about the fate of Selective Service; that it was manifest that there was a growing apathy throughout the country on this matter which reflected the conciliatory gestures of Russia, the speeches of Wallace and the general easing of tension since last March.

I said that without Selective Service our defense establishment might really become a hollow shell as a result of the competitive wages offered by industry, the "peace" campaign of Wallace and many other considerations, it was very doubtful whether the services, and in particular the Army, would be able to bring their strengths up to required levels and if that proved to be the case, I remarked that we would be unable to make contributions to forces of the United Nations or any other organization, without absolutely stripping ourselves of any reserves in this country.

The Senator said that the bill would probably come up for debate on Wednesday, provided the Displaced Persons Bill could be disposed of Tuesday -- which he expected it would even if the Senate had to hold a night session. He thought that Senator Russell's stand on segregation would not hold-up the bill but had somewhat greater misgivings about Senator Langer. I asked him if it would do any good for me to talk to Senator Langer and he said that he would prefer to withhold judgment on that until Tuesday or Wednesday.

I repeated the substance of my conversation with Taft to Senator Gurney Monday morning. He expressed optimism on the outcome of the Senate debate this week. (Incidentally, I told him that Senator Taft had also told me he had the impression that the House was reluctant to vote on the bill until they were clear, that it would not be held up by a filibuster in the Senate - would leave the House in the position of having gone on record without getting a law.)

---000---

JF:JEC
5-31-48

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1974

By ALAC, NARS Date 4-3-75

12. Concentrate available funds on units and personnel most needed in an emergency.
13. Provide joint control of allocation of reserve units to various localities.
14. Establish a common classification system.
15. Provide a uniform ROTC to produce reserve officers, reserve officers for extended active duty and regular officers for all the services.
16. Increase number of ROTC units in the Negro colleges.
17. Encourage commissioning from enlisted grades.
18. Adopt promotion policies to provide qualified officers in numbers commensurate with mobilization requirements.
19. Eliminate excess and overage personnel by rigidly enforcing promotion and age-in-grade policies.
20. Authorize additional paid drills.
21. Repeal legislation now providing bonuses for some flight personnel.
22. Adopt standard policies for uniform allowances, awards and post-exchange privileges.
23. Adopt standard disability benefits.
24. Eliminate credits for nondisability retirement pay based on drills and extension courses. (P.L. 810, enacted by 80th Congress, includes such credit.)
25. Provide full and up-to-date information to reserve personnel.
26. Provide additional facilities for training.
27. Develop facilities program and reduce cost through permanent joint service committee to coordinate such a program.
28. Provide additional procurement of equipment.
29. Equip reserve forces as required by mobilization planning but reduce cost by joint intra-service use.
30. Direct policies and procedures of all services toward maximum joint use of equipment.

/s/ Gordon Gray
Chairman, Committee on Civilian Components

~~SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

27 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have not as yet made any substantial progress in the resolution of certain moot questions on roles and missions.

I have, therefore, informally advised them that I should like to have them transmit to me, by March 8, decisions on as many matters as possible. I have asked them to accompany this with the identification of those questions upon which they have not been able to agree, with the supporting data on each side. I propose then to make my own decisions.

In view of the fact that some of these may be of far-reaching importance, and any of the Services have the right to appeal to you, I shall want to go over these with you in some detail.

It is my hope of course that the number of decisions not reached by the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be few, and I am not setting the deadline by way of a threat or bludgeoning them into hasty conclusions but, from the standpoint of budget considerations, the present world situation and public opinion, I think I can not do anything else than to press along the lines indicated.

Yours respectfully,

Talk to him about this too

James Forrestal

James Forrestal

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

27 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Ham Andrews had a session Wednesday night at which he had hoped to get Joe Martin, Halleck and Leo Allen to go over the military legislative program, including UMT. Unfortunately, the session did not yield the results he had hoped. Halleck got sick, Martin did not turn up and Allen was somewhere else. Ham was very discouraged Thursday morning but later in the day called back to say that he had been able to get the green light for all the important items on the program except UMT, which he did not bring up. However, in this case he had a reviving hope that he might get some action out of the Rules Committee. He said he believed he had six votes in hand if he could count on Sabath standing firm. (He said Sabath has wobbled, but that the Illinois Democratic organization, he understood, had been most helpful in sending word that he must stand back of the President's program if he wished renomination.)

There is also some wobbling in the Senate. Although Chan Gurney is steadfast the rest of his Committee give signs of seeking a way out. However, the real battleground is the House and if the Bill can be gotten out of the Rules Committee there I am confident we could muster sufficient support to begin hearings in the Senate.

Respectfully yours,

James Forrestal

*Phoned him about
this on Monday*

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

17 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I talked tonight with Palmer Hoyt, who expressed a good deal of apprehension about the fate of UMT. He said he believed the great majority of the people were still in favor of it, but that it was getting bogged down by the inaction of Congress. He was particularly concerned over Ed Johnson's success (on which I had not been informed) in reshaping the policy of the VFW.

He himself (the Denver Post) is running a series of pieces on UMT and will send the tear sheets to a list of newspapers.

Yours respectfully,

James Forrestal

James Forrestal

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ATOMIC BOMB

21 September 1945CABINET

The Cabinet meeting was occupied entirely with a discussion of the atomic bomb, particularly with reference to the policy of this Government in making available information in our possession to other Nations. The President first invited the views of the former Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson.

1. Mr. Stimson's views: What we are talking about on this question is obviously mostly concerned with Russia. Our future of world peace rests on whether or not we and the Russians can find a working pattern of understanding. The Russians have been our traditional friends; they have never fought us, and in many cases in the past, notably during the Civil War and the question of the sale of Alaska, they have demonstrated fundamental good will. What we have in the way of advantage on the atomic bomb is not the possession of a secret. It is something which they will get in due course. He had always found it in diplomacy as in other human affairs wise to put trust in people, and that in general he had found a return in kind. He cited his experience in the Philippines.

2. Vannevar Bush: The Russians can get to about the place we are now in five years provided they devote a very large part of their scientific and industrial effort to it. We have no corner on knowledge or efforts of physicists. He therefore favors giving Russia everything we have as regards the principles of atomic energy. I asked Bush whether when he said the Russians could get to about the place we are now in five years he meant that they would be able in that time to produce a sufficient number of the bombs to be militarily effective as regards quantity as well as quality. He said he thought they would but repeated that they would have to devote a very large part of their scientific and industrial effort to it, with a resultant heavy sacrifice to their living standard.

3. Fred Vinson: If we give this one advantage of war it necessarily follows that we have got to give all others, and not only to Russia but to all Nations. If we follow this course there is no chance for a universal military training law. He is against giving it on general principle, and he drew an analogy to our attempt to attain world peace after the last war by sinking all of our ships.

4. Tom Clark: Against. After having seen the record of Russian activities in this country and his own daily experience with the concrete expression of how much trust they had in us he couldn't bring himself to vote in favor.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

27 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

For the post of Director of Civil Defense I have selected Mr. Russell J. Hopley of Omaha, Nebraska. He is the president of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company.

The first phase of Mr. Hopley's work will be concerned with an examination of the scope and scale of the whole problem of civilian defense, taking into account atomic attack, factors of panic, plant dispersion, security against sabotage, and so forth.

I was influenced to pick somebody from the telephone organization because it seems to me that the civil defense in another war would require as its base a communications network and the telephone system gives us that automatically. Furthermore, its company officials have contact at local levels with government in all its forms. Also, they know the responsible and competent people in the various communities.

I had hoped to get Walter Gifford but he is not yet able to give up his responsibilities because of equipment deficiencies, some labor apprehensions and rising costs. However, I have his assurance of his personal support and that of his organization, and also the indication that at the end of another year when he steps down from his job he might be willing to consider moving into this work.

Respectfully yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal*Approved*
Harry Truman

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD Letter, May 6, 1972

By ALTA, NARS Date 4-4-75THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

29 February 1948

My dear Mr. President:

This is the interim report on progress in the National Defense Establishment of which I spoke to you over the telephone Sunday. It is a little on the lengthy side but I wanted it to be sufficiently inclusive to inform you on everything we are doing.

One thing I did not include was steps we have initiated to bring service racial policies into conformity with your recent message to Congress. Mr. Royall and I had lunch on Friday with Lester Granger, whom you know, and laid out a program first for meeting with the editors of the negro press and second, for a meeting with negro leaders and educators. One idea that Granger suggested which seemed to me worth trying was to set up, without any publicity, a non-segregated unit which would be used as an experimental test -- somewhat along the lines of the Fort Knox experiment on UMT. This is somewhat the way we went at it in the Navy and it produced fairly sound and, I believe, continuing results. Mr. Royall was most cooperative and anxious to do everything possible to bring Army practice into line with your policy, subject of course to the exigencies of combat effectiveness.

I am glad that this time you are getting some sunshine.

Respectfully yours,

James Forrester

James Forrester

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

75433

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THE HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY

FORRESTAL - FBI

4-22-42

thru

3-18-52

USEFUL DOCUMENTS : CARONO.

April 22, 1942

10:47 am.

MEMORANDUM

I called Under Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal in response to his previous call and he asked me what our policy is on the checking of wires. I told Mr. Forrestal that there are two procedures; that if we want to tap a telephone in connection with an investigation such as sabotage, espionage, etc., we get the approval of the Attorney General and secondly, there are a number of cabinet officers and high officials who request us to check their home wires once a month to make certain they are in the proper condition and that no one has tampered with them. Mr. Forrestal said he wished we would do this for him and said he would send me a note on the matter.

Mr. Forrestal told me he had been prompted to call me because this morning a friend of his had called to say that he thought the promotion of Lt. O'Hara was excellent and that Nelson's comments yesterday in the Senate were very good; that while they were talking a voice cut in saying "Is that all you have to talk about over the telephone?" and then in response to the query, "who the hell are you?", replied "This is somebody else." The voice went on to comment "If that's the way you're doing things, we're going to lose the war." Mr. Forrestal said he was using a Navy Department phone at the time and was talking to New York. He said he had made a note of the conversation and was sending it to me.

I outlined to Mr. Forrestal the various ways in which a telephone could be tapped and mentioned that I had experienced personally certain instances which illustrated the weakness of the telephone in this respect. I told Mr. Forrestal that I would make sure that one of our men checked all of his phones.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

May 2, 1942

PERSONAL

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Under Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I have gone over in detail with Mr. Coffey your recent long distance telephone problem. He informs me that he conferred with your assistant, Commander Gingrich, and with Ensign S. S. St. Pierre as well as with the officials of the company.

It was the conclusion of the company, concurred in by the Bureau's technicians, that the incident was probably an accidental cross connection and did not result from a deliberate attempt to intercept.

All lines at your home were found to be in good order. I shall arrange to have this check made monthly hereafter.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
J. Edgar Hoover

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

6 May 1942

Dear Edgar:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter in regard to the security of the telephones in my office and at my home. I am most appreciative of your having taken care of the matter.

Sincerely,

Forrestal
James Forrestal

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 11, 1944

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

O
Honorable James V. Forrestal
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

It was a real thrill to see the headlines in last night's papers announcing your appointment as Secretary of the Navy.

I know that this is a real source of gratification to your many friends. The appointment is well deserved by your sterling and steadfast efforts during the past crucial years. I know you will take your new office with the same determination and enjoy the same success which has marked your career in the past.

If at any time I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me either personally or officially.

With expressions of my highest esteem and admiration,

Sincerely,
J. Edgar Hoover

NATIONAL URB
for Social Service - Negroes
1133 Broadway - Room 826
New York City 10, New York

Tel: CHelsea 3-1838
Department of Public Education

For release WEDNESDAY - March 14

FURTHER GAINS FOR NEGROES IN NAVY, URBAN LEAGUE
HEAD TOLD

New York City - March 8, 1945: - The Navy Department under Secretary James Forrester intends to pursue vigorous steps toward the integration of Negroes in all branches of the Navy Service. This assurance was the result of a conference held in Washington today between Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League, and Secretary Forrester on the status of Negroes in the naval forces, and attitudes of the Negro public regarding recent racial incidents that have occurred. Of the same student generation at Dartmouth College, the two men had not previously met, but recent correspondence had led up to today's conversation.

After leaving the Secretary's office, Mr. Granger declared that Mr. Forrester had shown an encouragingly fresh attitude toward the whole question of racial inequality and discrimination in the Armed Forces. The two men will meet again in the near future to discuss in detail some of the points covered in today's meeting.

Among other things, the Urban League Secretary emphasized the need for a thorough investigation of the real conditions under which Negroes live and serve in the Navy, so as to uncover those factors responsible for such outbreaks as the "Hunger Strike" carried on recently by Negro Seabees at Port Huenemo, California. Other recommendations called for wide assignment of Negro nurses to duty in naval hospitals; programs for training and

(more . . .)

commissioning of additional officer personnel and their assignment to a broad spread of naval responsibility; correcting unsatisfactory employment conditions in many shipyards and other naval establishments, and wider publicity for Negroes engaged in combat in other naval services. Mr. Granger raised the question of the post-war status of Negroes in the Navy, pointing out that except for mess attendants, stewards, and the like, practically all present Negro personnel are in the Navy's reserves rather than in the regular service.

These and other racial problems, Mr. Forrestal was told, cannot be solved by the simple process of appointing a Negro as civilian aide to the Secretary. Mr. Granger emphasized the need for wider use of Negro commissioned personnel as specialists and technicians throughout the whole department; promotion of some to the ranks above that of ensigns and lieutenants; creation of a formal public relations machinery to publicize in the Negro and white press the achievements of colored sailors and marines and coast guard members; and setting up advisory machinery which will establish sound racial policy and actually put it into effect in the various branches and divisions of the Department. All of this, it was pointed out, call for a good deal more than simply the appointment of a civilian aide.

A final point made by the Urban League Executive was that a civilian aide might be a channel or he might be a buffer between the Navy Secretary and the Negro public, and for that reason special care must be taken to give Negro opinion-makers at large free access to departmental officials, so that the Navy Department might be informed not only of happenings inside the service, but also how those happenings were affecting the general public.

(m o r e)

Urban League/3

Mr. Granger's closing comment on the conference was as follows:

"I found the Secretary receptive to all of those suggestions, several of which he had already considered at some length. I am hopeful that future conferences, and contacts with other representatives of Negro organizations, will result in rapid improvement far beyond the gains already made by Negroes in the Navy during this war. I naturally assured Mr. Forrestal that my own organization would cooperate with him to the utmost in taking steps which we consider truly progressive and beneficial to the status of Negroes in the American democracy."

###

to Director
3/27/47

J. V.

Secretary Forrestal is waging a broad campaign for the democratic nomination to the Senate from New York State. He has made certain commitments in connection therewith despite the fact that Robert Wagner's term does not expire until 1951.

July 28, 1947

Honorable James V. Forrestal
3508 Prospect Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I wanted to extend you my heartiest congratulations on your designation as Secretary of Defense and the speedy confirmation which followed your appointment, which in my opinion is a real tribute for a job well done and a wonderful performance of public service.

If at any time I can be of assistance, either personally or officially, I do hope you will not hesitate to call upon me.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely,

(s) J. Edgar Hoover
Mailed by the Director

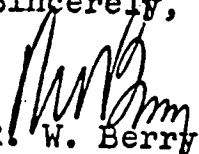
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

30 July 1947

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Secretary Forrestal has asked me
to transmit this copy of the Daily Worker
to you, with a request for any information
you might have on the source of material con-
tained in Art Shield's article on page 1.

Sincerely,


R. W. Berry
Captain, U.S. Navy
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Forrestal Helped Re-Arm Reich

by Art Shields

James V. Forrestal, the new Secretary of National Defense, had a major part in the re-arming of Germany and the promotion of the German war trusts.

The Worker will give a detailed story of Forrestal's active勾结 with the German war makers in next Sunday's issue.

Forrestal maintained the closest connection with the Nazi death trusts in the early years of the second

World War.

His appointment is a threat to world peace. Forrestal, the former president of Dillon, Read & Co., the international banking house, has an enormous, personal interest in the revival of the German war trusts that he did so much to establish.

This is the man whom President Truman has placed in charge of the world's biggest imperialist

Navy and the world's biggest imperialist Army, as well as atom bomb, stock piles, espionage, seizures and troops for strikebreaking duty.

BODES ILL

Forrestal's appointment also bodes no good to Latin America. As a partner of Dillon, Read & Co. he helped float hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to buttress the most reaction-

ary governments in the great continent to the South.

All the governments that Forrestal financed have since been overthrown. And many of the Latin American bonds he helped to float have been repudiated, with immense losses to the rank and file middle class investors in the United States, who bit at his bait.

But Forrestal will now be in a position to help the

Latin American reactionaries again. As U.S. military chief he will be in a position to arm every reactionary Korymbment—every stooge of Wall Street—against the people of every land to the South.

Brazil alone got more than \$130,000,000 from syndicates headed by Forrestal's company in the early and mid-1920's.

(Continued on Back Page)

Daily Worker

New York, Monday, July 28, 1947

Forrestal

(Continued from Page 1)

One \$25,000,000 bond issue to Bolivia in 1928 was used to help finance Bolivia's war with Paraguay in the Chaco jungles.

Bolivia fought this war as a mercenary for the Standard Oil inter-



ests that wanted to seize the oil lands south of the Andean plateau.

Forrestal's company admitted that much of this loan was used to pay for armaments from the British Vickers arms trust.

Forrestal was making millions a year in lush years on Wall Street. Some of his winnings were at the

expense of the government's tax collectors.

He admitted to the Senate Banking Currency Committee in 1933 that he had failed to pay any taxes on one block of \$864,000 in stock market profits in 1929 for four years. Then he paid only \$6,000.

Under cross examination Forrestal told how he set up a Canadian holding company for tax purposes. The Canadian company was owned by a Maryland company in turn, and the latter was controlled by Forrestal himself. By juggling the securities around he dodged the tax collector.

This was crude—so crude that someone else might have gone somewhere else, and not to the cabinet.

The present Defense Secretary told the committee that he actually paid some \$300,000 in taxes in '29. This indicates his income ran into the millions, after making allowances for the usual "deductions" and "exemptions" and the low tax rate prevailing that year.

Forrestal isn't as rich as the Rockefellers and the Morgans, whose representatives sit on the boards of his company's securities' affiliates.

But the former president of Dillon, Read is the teammate of the Rockefellers, Morgans and Dillons, and he is the fist of Wall Street in the super-powerful post of Secretary of National Defense.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: July 31, 1947

FROM :

SUBJECT:

Article in July 23th issue
of the ~~Daily Worker~~ entitled
"Forrestal Helped Re-Arm Reich,"
by Art. Shields.

Inasmuch as there is no information in the Bureau's files concerning the source of the material contained in the above article, I telephoned the New York Office at 10:35 A. M. today and, in the absence of [redacted] talked with [redacted]

[redacted] I asked Mr. [redacted] to check the files of the New York Office to determine whether they contained any information relative to the source of the material in this article. I also suggested that inquiry be made through various confidential sources available to the New York Office in an effort to develop some information regarding this matter. I told [redacted] that for his confidential information the Bureau had been contacted on this matter by the Special Assistant to Secretary of the Navy Forrestal.

August 1, 1947

PERSONAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Captain R. W. Berry
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Berry:

With regard to your letter of July 30, 1947, we regret to advise that we have no information on the source of the material contained in Art Shield's article on page one of the July 26th issue of the "Daily Worker."

We have developed information, however, indicating that the "Daily Worker" for August 3rd, on page three, will carry another article on Secretary Forrestal. This article, it is our understanding, sets forth the sources from whom the information was obtained. For example, it allegedly quotes former Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, the Wall Street Directory, Senate Committee hearings, Moody's Encyclopedia, the Standard Wall Street Guide, the New York Times, and the American Government Weekly.

We shall be alert to the possibility of obtaining additional information concerning this matter and, in the event we are successful, we shall of course be pleased to advise you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

6 November 1947

Dear Edgar:

When you get back will you please give
me a ring about the checking of CIA personnel?

It was not quite clear at our last meeting
whether you would be willing to continue to
do the checking. I very much hope you will
and that you won't pull the rug out without
giving us a chance to argue.

Sincerely yours,


James Forrestal

November 13, 1947

PERSONAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Secretary of Defense
National Defense Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

While we are greatly overburdened with Loyalty and Atomic Energy Act investigations, I have given your request of November 6 further consideration, and I am glad to advise you that we will be able to extend the date to January 1, 1948, for the handling of CIA investigations. I trust this will be of help in the situation. I have written Admiral Hillenkoetter today advising him of this.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

Mr. I

Hoover

March 23, 1948

Secretary James Forrestal,
Department of National Defense,
Washington, D. C.

Secretary Forrestal,

Not knowing how much time
you and your co-conspirators against
the peace are going to leave us former
veterans, I write you now to tell
you of the contempt, disgust and
dislike we have for you and the
other military dogs who are not
only betraying the people of this
nation into the hands of a gang of
brass-hats but betraying all
humanity into oblivion.

Had 'cess to you and
your fellows.
Truly yours

June 9, 1948

M E M O R A N D U M

Re: James Forrestal
Secretary of Defense

I. Background

James Vincent Forrestal was born in Dutchess County, New York, in the little town of Beacon, on February 15, 1892. He attended local public schools and later became a newspaper reporter, working for the newspaper in his home town and in Poughkeepsie and Mount Vernon, New York, continuing his newspaper work, to some extent, even after he entered college.

Forrestal went to Dartmouth for a year and then transferred to Princeton, where he worked his way through. His career at Princeton was outstanding. His nickname at college was "Runt," although he stands a good 5'10". He was puny, however, and made it a point to which he still adheres, to develop and maintain top physical condition. Forrestal was graduated in 1915 after having been elected to a number of important clubs.

After leaving Princeton he went to work for the New Jersey Zinc Company as a clerk and later sold cigarettes for the Tobacco Products Company. Toward the end of 1915 he became a bond salesman for the banking firm of William A. Read and Company (subsequently Dillon, Read and Company,) which was then emerging as one of the important houses on Wall Street. He continued in this new position until the outbreak of the first world war.

When the United States entered the war he enlisted as a Naval Aviator. He trained with the Royal Flying Corps in Canada because of the lack of training facilities in the United States and was stationed in Washington at Hampton Roads and at other Naval stations. This training was an introduction to Naval usage which served him in good stead in his important positions in the Navy Department. With demobilization, he went back to work.

On his return to Dillon, Read and Company Forrestal was made head of the Department of Bonds Sales, and in 1923 he became a partner. He was soon known on Wall Street as the right-hand man of Clarence Dillon, then head of the house. In 1926 Forrestal was advanced to the position of Vice President of Dillon, Read and Company. Twelve years later he succeeded Mr. Dillon as President.

James Forrestal was married to Mrs. Josephine Ogden, a writer on the staff of Vogue, in 1926. They have two sons.

Despite his important interest in Wall Street, Forrestal did not set himself up in opposition to stock market regulations. On the contrary, he, with others representing the "young blood" of Wall Street, were in the forefront of those offering advice and cooperation. In this way Forrestal renewed his old acquaintanceship with President Roosevelt which had its beginning in neighborly Dutchess County. Moreover, Forrestal met and won the admiration of Harry Hopkins, the closest friend of the President.

In 1940 Forrestal was appointed an administrative advisor to the President and served as liaison man in handling the national defense program. Although Forrestal had been administrative advisor for less than 2 months the President called upon him to fill the new office of Undersecretary of the Navy.

Forrestal assumed these new duties in August 1940 and in April, 1941, he flew to London in order to establish a close liaison between the United States Navy and the British Admiralty. With the United States' entrance into the war the President made Forrestal part of the vital "inner War Cabinet" which included Secretary Hull and Secretary Stimson, Admiral Stark, General Marshall and Sumner Welles. Forrestal became Secretary of the Navy in May, 1944, in which capacity he served until July, 1947, when he was appointed to the newly created post of Secretary of Defense.

II. Contacts with the Bureau

Bureau files reflect many cordial contacts since Forrestal's arrival in Washington in 1940. As a result of meetings in their official capacities, James Forrestal and the Director have become personal friends and throughout this period Forrestal has displayed a high respect for the Bureau and an extraordinary willingness to cooperate with the Director in every way. On numerous occasions he has turned over to the Bureau correspondence and information which he felt would be of interest to us. He has been interviewed several times by Bureau Agents in connection with special inquiries on persons being considered for responsible government positions. Forrestal has repeatedly sought the Director's advice on intelligence matters and from time to time has received summaries, pamphlets and other

material from the Bureau. Some of Forrestal's noteworthy contacts with the Bureau are outlined below.

On December 3, 1940, Forrestal, then Undersecretary of the Navy, wrote the Director to thank him for a report on his personal wires and to advise that he would be guided by the Director's suggestions as to when and if they should be looked at again in the future. Again on April 22, 1942, Forrestal called the Director in regard to "wire tapping." He related that while talking to a friend in New York over a Navy Department phone that morning he had been interrupted by an unknown voice commenting on his conversation. The Director told Forrestal that he would have one of our men check all his phones for tappings. On May 2, 1942, the Director wrote Forrestal to advise him that investigation indicated the incident of April 22, 1942, described above, was probably an accidental cross connection and not a deliberate attempt to intercept. The Director also made suggestions as to future precautions and possible installations to prevent a recurrence of the same. Forrestal was extremely grateful for the Director's attention to this matter.

On October 15, 1942, the Director wrote Forrestal requesting priority assistance with the Army and Navy Munitions Board. Forrestal replied on November 5, 1942, enclosing a copy of an Army and Navy Munitions Board letter to the Director indicating that the Bureau had been granted an AA-1 priority rating. The Director replied to this communication expressing confidence that the rating issued would facilitate the Bureau's efforts in protecting the internal security of the nation.

On December 9, 1943, reported to the Director a comprehensive talk which he had with Undersecretary Forrestal on December 7 regarding Communist activities in Latin America. Time and time again during this discussion Forrestal expressed admiration of the Bureau's ability to adjust itself in foreign fields and bring about the results which it had. Forrestal added he was glad the Bureau was more and more taking over the complete domestic intelligence field and that the Navy was cutting down its personnel in O.N.I.

On March 22, 1944, conferred with Forrestal on two subjects which the Director had instructed that he take up. First was the subject of radio messages intercepted by the Bureau and furnished to the Navy Department wherein the Navy had refused to furnish decodes to the Bureau. Forrestal thought this situation outrageous and was barely restrained from immediately

summoning Admiral Redmond to his office. Forrestal characterized the "so-called secrecy" of the Navy as a joke and promised to rectify the situation immediately. The other subject discussed with Forrestal at this time was the survey of G-2 operations being conducted by the Cook Committee inspired by O.S.S. Forrestal expressed his disgust with this procedure and added that he had already discussed with Mr. Stettinius, then Undersecretary of State, the great desirability of placing the FBI in the central position with regard to all intelligence matters and indicated that he intended to pursue that objective. These remarks are typical of the coincidence of interests between Forrestal and the Bureau which he has expressed on other occasions. In this connection it will be recalled that Forrestal, as Secretary of the Navy, testified on January 17, 1946, before the Senate Military Affairs Committee, in favor of a unified postwar intelligence organization for all government agencies.

On May 11, 1944, one day following Forrestal's appointment as Secretary of the Navy, the Director addressed a letter of congratulations to him. Forrestal replied that this note of the Director's was one of the most satisfactory letters he had received and closed with, "I hope that between us we may be able to carry out some of the things you and I have talked about."

On July 17, 1945, Forrestal sent the Director a study of the international objectives of Communism which he had had made and requested the Director's comments on it. By letter of July 19, 1945, the Director agreed with the general conclusions that "The international Communist movement still echoes the international policies of the Soviet Union and that the movement has lost none of its revolutionary objectives." The Director, however, declined to comment on the authenticity or correctness of certain summary portions of the study submitted.

On July 30, 1947, Secretary Forrestal's Office sent the Director a copy of an article which had appeared in the Daily Worker castigating Forrestal for his former Dillon, Read associations. Forrestal requested any information which the Bureau might give him as to the source of this material. On August 1, the Director wrote Forrestal advising him of additional material concerning him which was scheduled to appear in subsequent issues of the Daily Worker. In thanking the Director for this information Forrestal said, "I have had 100 per cent cooperation, both professionally and personally, from you since I have been down here. I have always valued it and will try to justify it in the future."

Forrestal's appointment and speedy confirmation as Secretary of Defense in July, 1947, were the subject of a letter of congratulations from the Director.

On November 6, 1947, Forrestal wrote the Director regarding the checking of C.I.A. personnel in which he said, "It was not quite clear at our last meeting whether you would be willing to continue to do the checking. I very much hope you will and that you won't pull the rug out without giving us a chance to argue." One week later the Director wrote Forrestal extending the deadline for the handling of C.I.A. investigations until January 1, 1948.

On January 21, 1948, Forrestal regretfully declined the Director's invitation to address the graduating class of the 37th Session of the FBI National Academy on March 26, due to the pressure of his official duties.

One of the current problems facing Secretary of Defense Forrestal has to do with his championship of universal military training, a program which he has supported forcefully since 1944. In this connection on two different occasions in February, 1948, the Director has furnished Secretary Forrestal with information regarding the opposition of the Communist Party to universal military training and also information on the National Youth Assembly Against Universal Military Training.

III. Associations of Interest to the Bureau

Because of his Wall Street background, Forrestal has been the object of considerable criticism from such well known individuals as Senator Glen Taylor (Wallace's running mate) and various publications including Pravda and the Daily Worker. He has been called "The fist of Wall Street" and his former financial dealings as an official of Dillon, Read and Company have frequently been cited. It will be recalled that in 1923, during the early days of the first Roosevelt administration, there was a great deal of agitation in Congress against certain stock market practices. Hearings of the Senate Stock Market Investigating Committee were opened with Ferdinand Pecora acting as Committee Counsel. Forrestal was called to Washington to testify as to his own, as well as his company's activities. At one point he revealed that he was able to avoid paying taxes on \$864,000 of stock market profits in 1929 by forming two personal holding companies.

In connection with the investigation of _____ in July, 1941, _____ investi-
is well known to the Bureau, called the Director to advise who
that the subject, _____
was a very important young man and a very

close friend of

James Forrestal.

On December 28, 1942,

appeared voluntarily at the Bureau apparently having gotten wind of the fact that we were interested in some of his deals.

alleged that James Forrestal, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was "out to get" Secretary Knox; that he knew this because was also a close personal friend of Knox and that Knox worried over the matter.

On March 14, 1945, the National Urban League announced that the Navy Department, under Secretary Forrestal, intended to pursue vigorous steps toward the integration of Negroes in all branches of Navy service. This announcement came after a conference between Forrestal and Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the N.U.L. Granger declared that Forrestal had shown an encouragingly fresh attitude toward the old question of racial inequality and discrimination in the armed forces. In this connection it is noted that in December, 1945, the Chicago Defender nominated 10 Negroes and 11 white persons as "the most outstanding contributors to racial harmony in this country." One of the nominees was Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

The activities of Ella Winter, pro-Russian writer and lecturer, were reported in December, 1945, in connection with the

investigation of

It was noted that many copies of Miss Winter's new book, "I Saw the Russian People," were mailed by the publishers, Little, Brown and Company, to personal friends of hers with inscriptions in her own hand to these recipients. The copy sent to the Honorable James Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy, was inscribed "For Jo and Jim, Love Ella."

January 11, 1949

3:04

MEMORANDUM

JAMES

I returned the Attorney General's call and he advised me that he had talked to Secretary of Defense Forrestal who, he stated, was quite upset at what he called a smear campaign which was being directed at him. The Attorney General stated that Forrestal had shown him some messages which he stated had supposedly emanated from some woman by the name of Xokol, and he, the Attorney General, wanted to know if we had any information in our files on such a person. I advised him that we would be glad to check and let him know.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

March 4, 1949

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Secretary of Defense
National Defense Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim: ~~FORRESTAL~~

As you prepare to return to private life, I want you to know how deeply I have appreciated the privilege of the close relationship which we have had during your career in the government. I shall always recall with pleasure these associations and I do hope that even though you are leaving official life I may have the pleasure of seeing you from time to time. If I can ever be of service I hope you will not hesitate to call upon me.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

W. A. Rorer
Assistant Secretary

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

March 28, 1949

There was a party at the White House this afternoon for Mr. Forrestal and during the afternoon he remarked to "Rowley" that he suspects that his phone are being tapped and asked to whom he should speak about this. Rowley told him Mr. Hoover was the one to talk to about it and told Mr. Forrestal he would be glad to call for him. He said no, he would call Mr. Hoover himself.

DOJ
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Record of Telephone Call or Visitor

I returned the call about the way not in.
Mr. James Forrestal

~~called~~ --phoned.

Phone No. _____

Hour 5:00pm Date Mar. 28, 1949

REMARKS

Asked if Mr. Hoover was in town, and was told that Mr. Hoover was out of the office the remainder of the day and asked if there was a message. He said he would call Mr. Clark to see if he knew if Mr. Hoover was returning, and inquired if he wouldn't know. It was explained that the Director was out of the office and not expected to return, but if he contacted the office, a message of his call would be given the Director. He was requested to give his name so the Director could be advised and he pronounced his name as "Mr. Forrest." The spelling was verified and he gave it as "Mr. Forrestal" and later gave his first name as "James." He was asked if he would like to leave his number, and he stated he could still be reached through the White House and he would like Mr. Hoover to call him at home.

He was thanked for calling and told Mr. Hoover would be informed of his message as soon as possible. He spoke quickly and used short abrupt sentences.

March 29, 1949

11:12

MEMORANDUM

I returned the call of Honorable James Forrestal, former Secretary of Defense. Mr. Forrestal told me that he suspected his phone was being tapped and he wondered if it would be possible for us to check into this matter. I advised him that I would be very glad to look into this and also discussed with him a few precautionary measures he could take in order to prevent such an incident occurring.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

March 30, 1949

Honorable James V. ^①Forrestal
3508 Prospect Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I wanted to let you know that we have completed the check of the telephone lines and instruments in your residence and that all were found to be clear.

It was a pleasure to be of this assistance to you.

With expressions of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

James Forrestal

Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1949

My dear Mr. Hoover:

In the absence of Mr. Forrestal,
this will acknowledge receipt of your note
to him of March 30th. It will be shown to
him at the first opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

M. Rotondo

Maria Rotondo
Secretary

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: April 7, 1949

FROM :

SUBJECT:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth information telephonically furnished by the WFO at 1:30 P.M., April 7, 1949, to the effect that James Forrestal, former Secretary of Defense, had attempted to commit suicide on April 5, 1949.

DETAILS:

As you know, no papers were printed in Washington yesterday due to the printers' strike. A perusal of today's Washington Post does not carry any information to the effect that Forrestal attempted to commit suicide.

ACTION:

None. The above is for your information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: May 22, 1949

FROM :

SUBJECT: FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
JAMES V. FORRESTAL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

This is to advise that at 11:05 a.m.,
telephonically advised that former Secretary of Defense
James V. Forrestal committed suicide this morning by jumping out of
a window at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. advised that
Mr. Forrestal's suicide had not yet appeared in the newspapers or on
the radio but would probably be on the radio within the next two hours.
requested that be notified of the suicide of
Forrestal.

ACTION TAKEN

At 11:05 a.m., the home of
was telephonically contacted and the information concerning the suicide
of former Secretary of Defense Forrestal was given to

May 23, 1949

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mrs. James V. Forrestal
3508 Prospect Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Forrestal:

Jim's passing was a terrific shock to me and I wanted to write you this personal note to let you know I am thinking of you in your hour of sorrow. Please let me know if there is any way at all I can be of assistance. During the entire period of Jim's illness I was most distressed, because I had come to regard him as an intimate friend upon whom I could lean heavily for advice, guidance and counsel. In his death you have lost a good husband and I have lost a close, understanding friend. The entire Nation has been deprived of a distinguished public servant.

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
MAY 24 1949

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 January 1951

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clearance of Information for Publication

1. Publication rights to the Diary of the late James Forrestal have been assigned by the executors of the estate to the New York Herald Tribune which is preparing for publication and public sale a book based thereon. Undoubtedly it will appear in serial form in newspapers prior to publication in book form.
2. In accordance with an agreement made between representatives of the White House, the Defense Department and the executors, all publications prepared from the Forrestal papers are to be reviewed by appropriate governmental authority.
3. In connection with such a review, the following reference is made to information which must have originated in the FBI:
4. Request comments as to whether the above quoted data can be published, in whole or in part; should be deleted; or may be disclosed in different form.

Office Memo. *num* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: 1/11/51

FROM :

SUBJECT:

DIARY OF THE LATE JAMES FORRESTALPURPOSE

To inform you that publication rights to the diary of the late James Forrestal have been assigned to the "New York Herald Tribune," which is preparing for publication and sale a book based thereon. The Joint Chiefs of Staff has referred to the Bureau an excerpt from this diary dated 11/8/45 relating to information furnished to Forrestal's office by the FBI. The names of individuals concerned and the data relating to them are incorrectly set forth. The Joint Chiefs of Staff request our comments as to whether the data can be published. It is recommended that Liaison advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff that this excerpt is incorrect and that the Bureau recommends against its publication.

DETAILS

By memorandum dated 1/10/51 the Joint Chiefs of Staff advised the Bureau through liaison that the publication rights to the diary of the late James Forrestal have been assigned by the executors of the estate to the "New York Herald Tribune," which is preparing for publication and public sale a book based thereon. In accordance with an agreement made between the representatives of the White House, the Defense Department and the executors, all publications prepared from the Forrestal papers are to be reviewed by appropriate governmental authority.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff referred to the Bureau for its comments the following reference from the Forrestal diary:

ANALYSIS

The Bureau on or before 11/8/45 did not identify to Forrestal's office anyone named _____ as being connected with atomic bomb espionage.

The matter to which the diary refers is probably investigation resulting from the disclosures made by

There would appear to be no valid reason for the erroneous information contained in the diary entry, when Forrestal had in his possession, or at least in his office since 10/22/45, correct information.

OBSERVATIONS

The entry in Forrestal's diary is incorrect as to both names and facts. The Navy Department at that time was trying to get out of an embarrassing situation with regard to

It would appear that no good purpose would be served by permitting the publication of wholly erroneous information.

ACTION

It is respectfully recommended that the Liaison Section of the Bureau advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the diary entry is erroneous factually, and we recommend against its publication.

Advised 1/15/51 + ~~pushed~~ ^{pushed} will advise publishers that it is erroneous factually + should not be included in publication. 2 yes.

January 12, 1951

volunteered information that Senator McCarthy was circulating the story that he received \$25,000 from Ben Sonnenburg for allegedly having Drew Pearson lay off the late Secretary Forrestal.

He stated he checked into the background of this and ascertained that Clendennin Ryan, Jr. was a very close friend of the late Secretary Forrestal and retained Ben Sonnenburg to do some work for him. When Pearson and Winchell started smearing Forrestal, Ryan asked Sonnenburg if something couldn't be done to come to the defense of Forrestal. Sonnenburg informed Ryan that he could buy Winchell and Pearson off for \$50,000 whereupon Ryan gave Sonnenburg \$50,000 and is telling people that Sonnenburg paid \$25,000 to Pearson and \$25,000 to Winchell. After a lapse of several weeks and Winchell and Pearson continued to lambaste Forrestal, he called Sonnenburg in and Sonnenburg stated that he gave \$25,000 to Dave Starr and \$25,000 to Ernest Cuneo.

James^o Forrestal

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: 10/6/51

FROM :

SUBJECT:

counseled me that there had been some discussion on the Forrestal diary, which was compiled by Walter Miles of the New York Herald Tribune.

told me
of the Air Force told him that the White House had sat on the Forrestal material and had deleted some of the more damaging documents, although Secretary Lovett had told they had deleted only six letters.

TRUE COPY

March 9, 1952

John Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Gentleman;

On the Brundige Ryan Crime Report (which is television show out New York) a Mr. Ryan said he thought and would be able to prove in the near future that James V. Forrestal was driven to insanity by placing two grams of opium and two grams of some other narcotic in his coffee each day for two weeks. He said this would drive any man into wanting suicide. I wrote Mr. Ryan but have as yet received no answer.

Would you please tell me if there is any doubt that Forrestal committed suicide naturally? I would also like to know if taking those narcotics for the prescribed length of time would cause said reaction? Please send the reply to the above address.

Yours truly,

March 18, 1952

Dear

att
Your letter postmarked March 12, 1952, has been received.

While I would like to be of service, it is not possible for me to furnish you any data concerning the matters mentioned by you since they do not relate to a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

Inasmuch as your communication may be of interest to another governmental agency, however, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of it to the Commissioner, Bureau of Narcotics, United States Treasury Department, 1300 E Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

United States Dept. of the Navy 2 May, 1980
Chief of Naval Operations
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, §5USC,552 as amended, I hereby request access to copies of the documentation enumerated as follows:

- Copy of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Adm. James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

If any expenses in excess of \$25 are incurred in connection with this request, please submit all such charges to me for approval prior to their being incurred. If this request is denied either in whole or in part, please inform me of your agency's appeal procedures.

Yours very truly,

William L. Moore

WLM/s



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:001B:JSS

MAY 30 1980

Mr. William L. Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act for a "copy of the final report of the Surgeon General's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Admiral James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1949."

Please be advised that no such report exists. For this reason, the literal wording of your request cannot be complied with. It is considered, however, that you most likely mean to request a copy of the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General, and for this reason your letter is being forwarded to the Judge Advocate General for action and reply. I am sure you will hear from officials within that office in the very near future.

Sincerely,

J. Stuart Showalter

J. STUART SHOWALTER
Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, USN
Special Assistant to the Surgeon
General for Medico-Legal Affairs



NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

BETHESDA, MARYLAND - 20014

IN REPLY REFER TO

NNMC-C35:mb

5210

10 June 1980

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center,
Bethesda, Maryland 20014
To: Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of
the Navy, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22332
(Attn: Code 21)

Subj: Freedom of Information Act request of William L. Moore

Encl: (1) Subject request

1. Enclosure (1), made under the Freedom of Information Act, is forwarded for action since the requested materials are in the custody of the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Investigations).

C. B. Smiley Jr.
C. B. SMILEY, JR.
By direction

Copy to:
Chief, BUMED (Legal) w/encl
CNO (09B)
Mr. William L. Moore



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO

JAG:FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

JUN 30 1980

Bill Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of May 2, 1980, received in this Office on June 9, 1980, requesting a copy of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on May 22, 1949. Your letters are considered a request for an initial determination of the releasability of the requested material under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552 (a) (6) (A) (i)].

Since this report is a personal, medical or similar file for the purposes of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6), (the privacy exemption to the Freedom of Information Act), and that the requested document would revive dormant memories to the considerable embarrassment of the Forrestal family, it is considered a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy to release the document. The fact that Mr. James Forrestal was, to a limited extent, a public figure does not dictate a contrary result, since the details of his medical treatment at the Bethesda Naval Hospital are considered highly personal in nature.

Therefore, you may consider this letter a denial of your request for the subject investigative report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6).

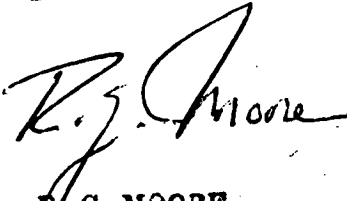
Because your request has been denied, you are advised that it is your right under the cited statute to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
Department of the Navy
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332

The appeal must be received in that office within 120 days from the date of this letter in order to be considered and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I must inform you that the undersigned is the official responsible for the denial of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. G. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "E. G." and the last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

E. G. MOORE
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Military Law)

R.G. Moore, Col. USMC
Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate Genl.
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria, VA 22332

15 July, 1980

RE: JAG: FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

Dear Colonel Moore:

By letter dated 2 May, 1980 I requested access to certain information pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949. On 8 July, 1980 I received communication from your office denying this request on the basis of the privacy exemption of the Freedom of Information Act § 5-USC-552, b6.

Please regard this letter as my formal appeal of your denial under the processes and procedures set forth for such purposes in the act cited above.

With regard to the above appeal, I wish to state for the record that I fully understand and appreciate the concern of the surviving Forrestal family with respect to the revival of dormant memories regarding this sensitive matter. I am deeply sympathetic with these concerns and my request should in no way be interpreted as representing any hostile or detrimental intentions whatsoever regarding the memory of the late Mr. Secretary Forrestal.

I do however strongly disagree with the statement made in your letter (attached) to the extent that Mr. Secretary Forrestal was "to a limited extent a public figure". Certainly his nearly nine years of dedicated service as Under-Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Navy, and our nation's first Secretary of Defense can hardly be regarded as "limited" public service even if one stretches the meaning of the word. That he holds such an esteemed place in our nation's history coupled with the fact that he died in a Federal facility under somewhat unusual circumstances, would certainly seem more than sufficient to establish grounds for the public's right to know and would appear, after the passage of more than thirty-one years, to outweigh any privacy considerations as may conceivably be raised by either the surviving family or the Freedom of Information Act.

2....

*Sent Certified
return receipt
7/16/80*

JAG: FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

Letter of Appeal, page 2.

Even so, the need for restraint, good taste and good sense is recognized in the use of any material which might eventually be released should this appeal be granted. Furthermore, should it facilitate the granting of this appeal, I stand prepared to grant either your office or any designated representative of the Forrestal family a written right of prior review and approval for any material I may ultimately write based on the records sought in this request.

Please note that under the provisions of 5-USC-552 as cited above, you are required to act on this appeal within twenty (20) working days of your receipt.

Yours very truly,

William L. Moore

WLM/s



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO
JAG:FOI:FD69:ejj
14/15798

8 AUG 1980

Mr. Bill Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of July 15, 1980, received in this Office on July 22, 1980, in which you appeal the decision of Colonel R.G. Moore, USMC, Assistant Judge Advocate General (Military Law), to deny your request for access to the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry concerning the death of the former Secretary of Defense, James V. Forrestal. Your letter is considered to be a request for a final determination pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii)(1976)].

A thorough review of the pertinent record and the initial denial action has been conducted, and it has been determined that the decision made by Colonel Moore was entirely correct since the requested report constitutes an intra-agency, predecisional memorandum. A significant and legitimate governmental interest exists in withholding this record, in that its release would tend to discourage valuable intra-agency discussion. As such, this information is not required to be released under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)(1976); 32 C.F.R. § 701.5(b)(4)(ii)(E)(1979)].

Additionally, the release of this material would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of Secretary Forrestal's surviving next-of-kin, and the Freedom of Information Act authorizes the withholding of this record under such circumstances [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)(1976); 32 C.F.R. § 701.5(b)(4)(ii)(F)(1979)].

Finally, the release of the record concerning the final hospitalization of Secretary Forrestal would not only constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of his

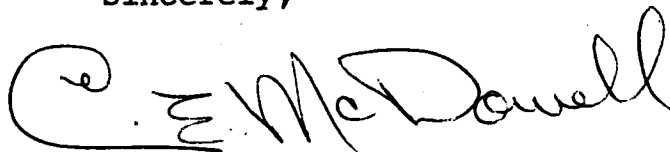
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JAG:FOI:FD69:ejj

surviving next-of-kin, (see previous paragraph for statutory and regulatory provision for authority to withhold information on this basis), but Department of Defense regulations prohibit the release of such records without the specific written permission of Secretary Forrestal's next-of-kin [32 C.F.R. § 66.3 (1979)]. Please be advised that Secretary Forrestal's son, Michael Forrestal, objects to the release of this record.

For the previously stated reasons you may treat this letter as a final, complete denial of your request for the release of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry concerning the death of Secretary Forrestal. As the Secretary of the Navy's designee for this purpose [32 C.F.R. § 701.9(c) (1) (1979)], the undersigned is the official responsible for this action. You are further advised of your right to seek judicial review of this decision.

Sincerely,



C. E. McDOWELL
Rear Admiral, JAGC, U. S. Navy
Judge Advocate General of the Navy
For the Secretary of the Navy

4219 W. Olive St., #247
Burbank, CA 91505
7 March, 1984

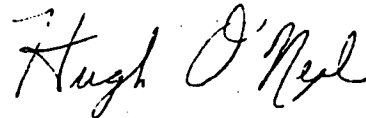
Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria, VA 22332

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, §5-USC-552 as amended, I hereby request a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

Fees and charges generated in connection with the processing of this request are hereby guaranteed up to a maximum of \$25,00.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh L. O'Neal".

Hugh L. O'Neal

HLO/



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO
JAG:21:FOIA:gw
CF-91-84

21 MAR 1984

Mr. Hugh L. O'Neal
4219 W. Olive Street, #247
Burbank, California 91505

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request
Subject : James V. FORRESTAL
Date : May 22, 1949

Dear Mr. O'Neal:

This is in response to your letter of March 7, 1984, requesting "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1979." Your letter is considered a request for an initial determination of the releasability of the requested material under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i) (1976)].

The Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy is the custodian of reports of investigation made in accordance with the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAG Manual) concerning incidents of this type.

The investigative report containing the referenced information has been retrieved from our long-term storage facility and reviewed. Upon initial review, it was determined that the information contained therein was not releasable to you without the authorization of the next-of-kin or a personal representative of Mr. Forrestal inasmuch as the investigation is composed almost entirely of protected medical records concerning Mr. Forrestal. In this regard your attention is invited to the language contained in the Code of Federal Regulations relating to the release of information from medical records that "if the individual concerned is . . . deceased . . . , the next of kin or legal representative must authorize, in writing, the release of the individual's medical records" (32 C.F.R. § 66.3(c)).

Personal liaison between this Office and Mr. Forrestal's son and next-of-kin, Mr. Michael Forrestal, c/o Shearman & Sterling, 53 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005, has revealed that Mr. Michael Forrestal is opposed to the release of this information.

Accordingly, in consonance with 32 C.F.R. § 66.3(c), Mr. Michael Forrestal's objections and the privacy considerations of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), you may consider this letter a denial of your request for "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949."

Because your request has been denied in part, you are advised that it is your right under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (1976) to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332

The appeal must be received in that office within 45 days from the date of this letter in order to be considered, and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I must inform you that the undersigned is the official responsible for the partial denial of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Howay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. W. HOWAY
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Military Law) Acting

12:45, lunch, General Vandenberg, General Bradley, Admiral Denfeld, Dr. Bush, J. Edgar Hoover

Mon. 24 May

10:28, Dr. Bush

12:53, lunch, the White House, off the record

Thurs. 27 May

11:03, Dr. Bush

11:18, Congressman Scott

14:45, Secretary Royal, Dr. Bush, Dr. Conant, Mr. Lever

16:15, White House, The President off the records

17:35, General Vandenberg

(There's a big day)

12:00, meeting - Secretary Lovett, General Gruenther, Admiral Hillenkoetter, Messrs. Plumb, Dulles, and Souers

Thurs. 3 June 48

NSC, at the White House 14:20

Sat. 5 June

14:30, Admiral Hillenkoetter and Mr. Jussem

Fri. 11 June

Joint Chiefs meeting, including Bradley, Vandenberg, etc. Lunch with them as well.

Tues. 15 June

14:18, Admiral Hillenkoetter and Mr. Bransome

June 17 Thurs.

14:25, NSA

Fri. 18 June

13:25, Lunch

For coffee - Mr. Carpenter, Dr. Bush

14:50, General Eisenhower

Fri. 25 June 1948

09:05, Dr. Bush (until 9:45 apparently)

Tues. 29 June

12:45, Lunch Dr. Solandt and Dr. Bush, Mr. Warburg

Busy day, Wed. June 30

11:04, meeting - Admirals Leahy and Hillenkoetter, General Bradley, Vandenberg and Gruenther, Mr. Souers, Secretary Royal

12:00, meeting - Louis, Paul Strauss, Pyke, _____, Carpenter, General Nichols, Dr. Bush, and Secretary Lyle

Lunch, all of those and General Eisenhower

Thurs. 1 July

Fri. 9 Apr.
13:50, Lunch, Senator Saltenstaull, Dr. Bush

Mon. Apr. 12
9:02, Dr. Bush
17:08, Admiral Hillenkoetter

13 Apr. Tues.
9:40, Dr. Bush and Mr. Carpenter
13:00, Lunch, Admirals Leahy and Denfeld, Generals Bradley, Spaatz and Gruenther and Dr. Bush

Sat. 17 Apr.
Saw Allen Dulles, 18:50

Wed. 21 Apr.
9:00, Dr. Bush (til 9:28)
12:05, Mr. Webb, Dr. Bush and Mr. McNeil, Secretary Harriman, Messrs. McCoan and Finletter
12:52, Lunch

Thurs 22 Apr.
14:30, National Security Council meeting

Sun. 25 Apr.
10:30, Dr. Conant

Tues. 4 May
Meeting of the War Council - 10:00 a.m.

Wed. 5 May
Admiral Strauss at 12:45
Joint Chiefs of Staff - 14:45

Tues. 11 May
10:00, Secretary Royall, Sullivan and Whitney, Messrs. Hill, Ohly, Hargrave, Kinney and Gray
11:10, General Robinson, Messrs. Souers and Mathews

Wed. 12 May
13:35, Dr. Bush

Thur. 13 May
10:00, Research and Development Board meeting

Tues. 18 May 1948
10:00, War Council meeting
But Bush not there; Souers there, and Souers at lunch

Thurs. May 20
14:26, National Security Council meeting

Interesting meeting Fri. 21 May

18 Nov.

Breakfast with Admiral Badger
and General Gruenther

10:00, War Council Meeting, which included Souers

11:00, Hoover Commission

Wed. 19 Nov.

09:30, Dr. Bush and General Gruenther

12:00, Publishers meeting

19:45, Dinner, The President and others

Thurs. 20 Nov.

9:15, Colonel Garnett

12:45, Lunch which included Mr. Souers, various other meetings

21 Nov.

10:00, Cabinet

12:45, Lunch with Secretary Lovett and James Conant

24 Nov. 47, Mon.

13:00, The President

15:00, Mr. Howard Alson

16:00, Dr. Bush, Messrs. Wilson, Marks, Lillenthall, Pyke, Bacher, Straus,
Waymack, and Leva. About the Combined Policy Committee of Britain and
Canada _____

Tues. 25 Nov.

Interesting Note:

9:30, Admiral MacIntyre, Thomas White

9:40, General Gruenther

10:00, Committee of _____ Secretaries

12:14, Mr.

12:45; Lunch, Dr. Miegs, Dr. and Mrs. Graham, Dr. Bush, Dr. Swanson, Admiral Parsons

Fri., 24 Oct.

09:____, Admiral Parsons

10:00, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Souers, Inglis, Hillenkoetter, General Chamberlain, Messrs. Ohly, Ervin Brown, Mr. Lovestone, Dr. Schumacher, Mr. Hainey, Congressman Dirksen. High powered ____.

27 Oct. 1947

Labour Day

10:30, Committee of 3 meeting - General Marshall's Office State - Lunch with the President aboard USS Williamsburg, Navy Yacht

31 Oct. 1947

12:54, General Kennan, Mr. Souers, Secretary Royal - talking about Spain and Japan

Sat. 1 Nov. 47

Eisenhower, 9:15, Lunch Nimitz, Eisenhower, Gruenther

Mon. 3 Nov.

10:00, Committee of 2 - Secretary of State's office

13:00, White House, Lunch, the President. Meeting of War Council - Royal, Symington, Sullivan, Whitney, Harriman, Nimitz, Norstad, Gruenther, Vandenberg, and Souers

5 Nov.

10:04, Mr. Bush, General Hull,

10:30, Atomic Energy meeting

12:14, Dr. Bush

14:40, Mr. Souers,

16:00, National Security Resources Board meeting.

There was a combined policy committee on Atomic Energy. On 5 Nov. Marshall, Lillenthal, Bush, Herbert Marks, _____thall staff Mr. Gullion of the State Department. This had to do with the Britain and Atomic Policy.

10 Nov. 47

Admiral Souers at 16:00

12 Nov.

Admiral Hillenkoetter at 11:42

12:45, Lunch with the Joint Chiefs of Staff

15:45, The President

13 Nov.

10:00, Meeting of _____ secretaries - Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Whitney, McNeil, Souers, Hill, Leva, Captain Barrie

12:45, Cabinet lunch

14 Nov.

10:00, Cabinet meeting

11:00, National Security Council Meeting

Tues., 30 Sept. 1947

09:30, Army and Airforce Missions meeting

Royal, Symington, Spaatz, Sullivan, Nimitz, Sherman

11:00, Swearing In Dr. Bush, Mr. Hargrave (Office of Secretary of Defense)

Wed., 1 Oct.

11:45, General Wedemeyer

12:00, Admiral Sherman

12:45, Lunch, Dr. Bush, Sir Henry Tizard, Mr. Royal, Mr. Andrews

14:30, Mr. John Costello

Mon., 6 Oct. 47

13:00, Lunch, The President

15:30 - 16:30, The President

On 6th Oct. interesting comment - With regard to Eisenhower's presidential flirtation, he, The President, said he had been amused to have _____ return from Japan that he thought the President would have to face the prospect of MacArthur's returning here in the Spring launch a campaign for himself. On the other hand, another visitor to MacArthur had returned the message from MacArthur warning the President that Eisenhower would be a candidate for the Presidency.

Tues, 7 Oct. 1947

10:00, Dr. Hutchins, Dr. Bush

12:45, Luncheon, Mr. Blandford, Senator Cain, Senator MacCarthy, and Governor Waldin

15:30, Atomic Energy matters, Lovett, Bush, Eisenhower, Sullivan, Harriman, Royal, Leva, Kinnon, Souers, Gunther, Groves, Brewerton, Spaatz, Hill & O'Connor, Parsons, Nimitz, Ohly. No comments about those 2 meetings. That meeting--the morning meeting or the 15:30 meeting. Bush was at both.

Fri., 10 Oct.

9:15, Mr. Polley

10:00, _____

11:00, Movie

11:30, Appointment

12:00, Mr. Symington, Mr. Souers,

12:30, Lunch, Messrs. Lovett, Murphy, Bedell Smith, Draper, Clay,

Mon., 13 Oct.

10:00, Messrs. Wells, Sullivan, and Symington, Mr. Souers (Mr. Ohly) _____

. Other appointments at:

12:00,

12:30,

13:00,

14:30, Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Kenney, Polley, Souers, Hill, and _____

16:00, Mr. Lillenthal.

Hill was in charge of National Security Resources _____

Tues., 14 Oct.

9:15, Admiral Hillenkoetter

9:45, Netherlands Embassy

Wed., 22 Oct.

Tape B, Side 2

Saturday, 23 Aug. 1947

8:15, Breakfast, Admiral Souers

11:00, Other appointments

Lunch, Admiral was Ramsey

Wednesday, 27 Aug.

10:30, Mr. Donald Douglas

10:40, Mr. Sydney W. Souers

11:45, Robert Hinkley

12:30, Lunch, General Eisenhower

Saturday, 30 Aug. 1947

14:30, CCC, Eisenhower and Saylers

Tuesday, 2 Sept.

12:45, Lunch, Admiral Hillenkoetter, Mr. J.E. Hoover, Secretary Harriman

Monday, 8 Sept.

09:15, Top Policy Naval Research Program of the Office of Naval Research
Admiral Lee Cancelled

12:15, Medal of Merit to Mr. Swope, General Eisenhower's Office, Cancelled
Return from Newport at 18:00

Thursday, 11 Sept.

10:30, State, War, Navy

13:00, Lunch, Dr. V. Bush, Mrs. Ogden Reid

Friday, 12 Sept.

09:15, Admiral Lee, Naval Research Program, Chief of Naval Research

Tuesday, 16 Sept.

10:30, Bureau Chiefs Meeting

12:45, Lunch, General Norstad and Admiral Ramsey

16 Sept. 1947

Lunch, General Norstad and Ramsey

General discussion about the function of the National Security Council.

Wed., 17 Sept.

09:00, Admiral Nimitz, Sullivan, etc.

10:00, UNT meeting, Secretary Wars office

18:00, meeting of National Military establishment

12:00, _____ Secretary of Defense

13:00, meeting, Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Souers, Hill, Harkway, McNeil, Libra,
Clifford, Ohly, Bush, Eisenhower, Spaatz, _____, Nimitz, and Hillenkoetter

Talking about the National Security Council. Its functions, its relations to the
President, and Forrestal.

Mon., 22 Sept.

13:00, Lunch, the President

14:30, Mr. Dillon Anderson

15:15, Mr. Arthur Page

12:00, The President and White House with Secretary Royal

13:00, Lunch Bradley and Admiral _____

Tuesday, 19 August

11:00, Off-The-Record Meeting, Mr. Steelman, Cabinet Room, the White House

Lunch, 12:45, Secretary Royall, Admiral Nimitz, General Eisenhower, General Spaatz, Admiral Souers - No comments about that one.

Friday, 22 August 1947

13:00, Lunch

General Norstad, Admiral Sherman, Admiral Nimitz,

13:00, lunch, Mr. Paul Miller A.P., Mr. Pat Moran, succeeding Mr. Miller
14:30, Burning Tree Golf Club
19:30, Dinner on Sequoia, Mr. Symington, Admiral Sherman, General Norstad,
Congressman Andrews

Thursday 10 July

Destroyer Characteristics Conference at 09:00

10:30, State War Navy meeting, Secretary of State's office

12:30, Captain Brandley

12:45, Lunch, Secretary Patterson and Secretary Marshall, Admiral Nimitz,
Admiral Leahy, and General Eisenhower

14:30, Father Flanigan

His notes on the 10 July 47 lunch.

I reported to the JCS, Hickenlooper's conversation with Judge Patterson and myself in which Hickenlooper noted that the fact that the Atomic Energy Commission had not been informed of the total requirements by the military services of this weapon. It was agreed that a requirement should be stated. I raise the question for plans for civilian defense. Judge Patterson said these should be ready within a month.

Friday, July 11

Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Kenney, Admiral Nimitz, etc.

9:10, Cabinet

12:45, Lunch, Governor Griswold, Nimitz, Sherman, Glover

16:30, Anacostia for Newport, Rhode Island

12:13, July at Newport, Rhode Island

Monday, 14 July

09:15, Top Policy Group, Captain Johnson on the _____ Reserve

Cabinet Lunch - The President, Patterson, Anderson, Krug, Clark and Lovett

Tuesday, July 15

13:40, Secretary Patterson's Office with General Eisenhower and Mr. Bernard Baruch

Monday, 21 July

13:00, lunch, The President

Top Policy Group at 09:15

Ship _____ elements

Thursday, 31 July 47

13:22, to the White House for coffee

15:00, Mr. Paul McNutt

Tuesday, 5 August 1947

15:30, Admiral Hillenkoetter

Friday, 8 August

14:00, Admirals Stone and Hillenkoetter

I believe Stone is the one that stood up for Menzel

12 August 47

10:30, Bureau Chiefs meeting

Box 81, Souers, 6 April, Memo to: Mr. Souers
1948

This is the music that Menzel (?) talked about last week. Will you give it to the President when you see him? Sheet music - it gets only in the White House "Stars On My Shoulders". Dispatched by hand - says down on the bottom.

10 April 48

Memo to: Mr. Souers

When will the Far East paper be completed?

17 December 48

Memo to: Admiral Souers

This is one of the things I would like to talk about tonight.

JF

Memo From: John H. Ohly

Re: Visual Presentation on the Committee on Intelligence and Security.

In the Forrestal diaries calendar, - 30 June 1947

0915 Top Policy Group, 11:30, Captain Neilson, 13:00 lunched with the President, off the record. Other people.

From Diaries

2 July 1947. Dinner on Sequoia - nobody important.

Thursday 3 July, 1947

Breakfast with Mr. Bullets

State, Board Navy Meeting

Lunch with General Howard

Admiral _____ later

17:00 - Admiral Glover at CCC

4, 5, 6 July at Newport, Rhode Island

Monday 7, July, 0915 Top Policy Group

Captain D. R. Hull, 5-Year Electronics Program

At 11:30, Mr. Fullson, Mr. Felton

13:00, Lunch, President

18:15, Miss Billie

19:30, Dinner on Board Sequoia, Mr. McCoy

The lunch at President, Schneider Patterson, Marshall, Clark under secretary of of labour, King, Johnson _____ and apparently John L. Lewis.

Tuesday 8 July 10:30

Senate Armed Services Committee

12:30, Lunch, Secretary Patterson's Office with Senator Hickenlooper and Mr. Lewis Strauss

16:20, CCC

19:00, Dinner on Sequoia, Admiral and Mrs. Glover, and Mr. Elsay?

Wednesday 9 July 09:30

Conference on Characteristics of New Destroyer

10:30, briefing of Greek mission, Head Office of Secretary of State

There was only one thing to Compton; the others were to Conant.

Note:

To: Admiral Hillenkoetter

17 Mar. 1948

I would like to speak to you about this letter. There is a letter from a W. Hamburger in Rowan Oak, Virginia. Single-spaced typed page, philosophical. In

March 16, 1947,

Date 21 October, 1947

Memo to: Mr. Souers

Have you been about to do anything about Colonel G. Tinsley Garnett?

JF

A Couple of Casual Notes to General Carl Spaatz -
Early 47.

15 February 1949, To: Forrestal, From: Gordon Gray

Dear Jim:

I understand that today represents another milestone for you. This is just a note to wish for you many happy returns.

Sincerely

Gordon Gray

Note same date

To: Honourable Gordon Gray, Assistant Secretary of the Army, National Defence Building, Washington

Dear Gordon:

Birthdays after the 50-year mark of little interest for this subject. Were, earlier on but there is a great compensation of the evidence that they produce of the kindness and good wishes of all the old friends. Please accept my thanks for your note and your good wishes.

Brief Item Box 83

Hillenkoetter, R. H., Rear Admiral

Memo: T3/4/49, See File T "TAFF", in the T File

Dated: 4 Mar. 1949

Memo: Admiral Hillenkoetter

There is a man named Eric Taff, who is now winding up his duties with the Office of the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner in Paris. Mr. Taff is a responsible person who knows France. Speaks French with facility and might be useful to you. I think the State Department has a full dossier on him.

James Forrestal

Sent to Hillenkoetter as Director of CIA

Not clear what came out of that

11 January 49

To: My Dear Mr. President:

I send you at this time my formal resignation as Secretary of Defense. I believe there is such a document now in your files. In order to be sure there is one in your possession, I am forwarding this so that you may have it available in the consideration plans for your cabinet at inauguration time.

Respectfully yours

James Forrestal

To: VB
11 December 48

"I am fully aware that the election to the Board of Trustees of the Institution is one of the doings of V. Bush, and it merely adds another to a long list of obligations that I am under to that individual. The only misgiving I have is whether or not I can make a contribution which will justify your confidence in proposing me; however, I will do my best."

Another subject. "I have had a couple of letters from Brad Dewey, copies of which I am enclosing. Your moments of reflection, I wish you would let me have your own view on the question of the release of the Bikini report, with the deletions, of course, of 2 or 3 particular paragraphs with which you are familiar." Dewey was president of Dewey & Almay Chemical Company in, of all places, Cambridge, Mass.

As a Note From Bush to Jim, Dec. 10, 1948

Dear Jim:

Probably in the same mail with this note, you will receive formal notification of the action of the Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institute, Washington, at their annual meeting today in electing you to membership. I wish to express my personal pleasure that you were selected and hope that you will find it possible to accept. The group is a distinguished one. Your duties will neither be onerous nor time-consuming, and I would be delighted to have this additional association with you.

V. Bush

29 July 1948, Dr. Bush,

Does this mean that there is a chance of developments which will block the use of radar? Attached to an article from the Washington Evening Star, 29 July 1948, Wall Against Radar Experiments Told (the article deals with basically nuclear-magnetic resonance, which is really not related, but interesting). It should be noted that the correspondence files are alphabetical, which they were not for Menzel.

Straight Telegram, 05 Oct. 1948, To: Karl T. Compton, President MIT

I am delighted that you have decided to accept Chairmanship, Research & Development Board. I will be most grateful if you will express my appreciation to your Board.

Best Regards, James Forrestal

Note: Sort of Trivial Stuff, To: Conant, From: Forrestal, 15 September
Contains a remark - I enjoyed seeing you yesterday.

Note:

Dear Jim

16 Oct. 1948

From: James Forrestal

Much interested in your most recent paper at the War College. Would like him to give a talk on preventive war.

Forrestal Correspondence Files

28 July 1947

To: Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter, USN, Director, Central Intelligence, 2430E Street, Northwest Washington, D.C.

My Dear Hilley:

Thanks very much for your message.

Sincerely
James Forrestal

Interesting Date

17 October

Memo to: Admiral Hillenkoetter

Have they been able to do anything yet about getting American newspapers in Germany?

JF

Bush File Correspondence File, Box 78, 1948
06 February 48
Memo To: VB

My congratulations on the OBE. You certainly deserve it, and a lot more.

JF

10 April '48, To: VB

I would like to pursue further with you the wargaming idea we discussed at dinner last night. Also, I would like to get your evaluation of the Air Force Program, particularly from '51 on. JF

23 May '48, To: VB

Please speak to me about BW and meeting with the President.

10 September '48, To: VB

There will be a presentation on Intelligence at Monday morning's budget hearings. I think it would be desirable if you could attend. Second subject, please speak to me sometime about changes in statute.

Letter From: Bush
To: Forrestal, 25 February '48

Re: Letter From Barklie Henry, Dated: Feb. 20 1948
Mostly a Philosophical Discussion

NSC meeting, 14:20
Joint Chiefs meeting

14 July Wed.
12:30, Bradley, Loots, Vandenberg, _____, and Felt

15 July Thurs.
9:10, Bradley and Vandenberg
National Security Council, 10:54

Mon. 19 July
16:34, Weapons Evaluation, Dr. Bush, General Gruenther, and Mr. Ohly

Tues. July 20
10:00, meeting - Secretary Royal, Symington, Sullivan, General Loots, Messrs. Hargrave, Hill, Leahy, _____, and Dr. Bush

Thurs. 22 July
NSC meeting (mostly Berlin situation)

Fri. 23 July
12:25, Dr. Bush
Lunch, 12:35 - Mr. Gates, Dr. Bush, Mr. Benton

14th
Dear Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Ohly, Mr. Stowe
15:00, Dr. Bush, George Patterson, Secretary Royal, Mr. Ohly
16:20, General Vandenberg, General Nordstad

20 July 48
11:14, General Vandenberg

29 July 1948
15:30, Meeting on controversies with Lyle, Sullivan, Symington, Vandenberg, _____, Barry, Messrs. _____ and Hinton
17:08, Mr. Souers

Council meeting Tues. Aug. 3 10:40
Lunch, 12:45, Father _____, Mr. Heberstaut, Dr. Howard Ross, Dr. Richard Meiling, Dr. Bush and Secretary Royal

5 Aug.
9:58, Emergency Plan Half _____

Fri. 6 Aug.
11:55, Dr. Bush
12:00, Mr. _____
16:05, Golf with General Bradley

Mon. 9 Aug.
12:55, Lunch, The President - off the record

War Council Tues. 10 Aug., 10:00

Thurs. 12 Aug.

Dr. Bush at 10:57

11:00, meeting, Senator _____ and Vandenberg, Dr. Bush, and Mr. Carpenter

19 Aug., 1948

Security Council meeting

14:20, White House

On Page 2241, there's a long paper.

In Aug., Item 4 is participation of Dr. Bush and the work of EJCS. There is a consensus that Dr. Bush be invited to participate more fully and more directly in the work of EJCS. That he should be asked to sit with JCS on all appropriate occasions.

Fri. Aug. 27

Mr. Souers, 16:14

Tues. 31 Aug.

10:00 War Council

Wed. 1 Sept.

(looks like a hot day)

8:15, Breakfast Admiral Kingridge

9:20, meeting - Kingridge, Inglis, Chamberlain, Colonel Clarke and Messrs Ladd, FBLA, and Saunders FBI

10:06, JCS meeting

10:45, The President - off the record - White House

14:37, Generals Chamberlain and Cabell, Colonel Clark and Mr. McNeil

Thurs. 2 Sept.

Dr. Hafstad, 12:08

12:38, Lunch

14:20, NSC, White House

8:15 Fri. 3 Sept.

Generals Vandenberg and _____, Breakfast

12:10, Lunch with Vandenberg, Brandley, and Gruenther, Denfeld, McNeil, and MacCullan

Tues. 7 Sept.

10:28, Dr. Bush

NSC, 2:25, to review the Berlin situation

Wed. 8 Sept.

13:38, General JCS meeting with Dr. Bush

15:35, General Vandenberg

16:45, Secretary Symington, General Vandenberg

20:30, meeting with Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Kinney, etc.

Meeting Sept. 48

Included Dr. Bush

12:00, The President, off the record, the east entrance

Lunch, The President, off the record

Tues. 14 Sept.

12:12, Dr. Bush and Mr. Carpenter

12:21, Lunch, Admiral _____, Dr. Conant

Thurs. 16 Sept.

14:28, National Security Council

16:30, John Foster Dulles

Fri. 17 Sept.

16:20, Dr. Bush

20 Sept. Mon.

15:05, Intelligence Presentation Summary

Tues. 21 Sept.

10:00 War Council - Bush was not present--mostly Berlin.

Wed. 22 Sept.

12:45, Lunch, Dr. Bush, Mr. Hugh Hanson, Mr. Hargrave, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Leva

14:50, Dr. Bush, Dr. Stratton

27 Sept.

12:05, Joint Chiefs

Bradley, Vandenberg, Denfeld, as was McNeil and McCullan

12:55, Lunch, Drs. Bush and Compton, General Bradley, Vandenberg, Denfeld, Secretaries Kinney, Symington, Royal

Wed. 29 Sept.

9:20, Dr. Bush

Fri. Oct. 1 1948

16:50, Generals Bradley and Vandenberg, Admiral Denfeld, General Gruenther, and Mr. McNeil

Tues. 5 Oct.

10:00, War Council - including Bradley, Vandenberg, and Gruenther, as well as Secretaries Royal, Sullivan, and Symington

11:43, at the White House - no comment

17:05, Admirals Denfeld and Leahy, Generals Vandenberg and Bradley

5 Oct. 1948 to Forrestal from Stuart Symington. I talked to General Vandenberg this morning about to his certainty as to whether or not the bomb could be dropped where, how, and when it was wanted; they told me again what he had already told me. He was absolutely certain it could be dropped on the above basis.

W. Stuart Symington

5 Oct.

Memo from: Forrestal

Re: Fact that some changes in the National Security Act. Particularly said "I told them that I was developing General Gruenther as my principal military advisor rather than the concept of a Chief of Staff".

Wed. 6 Oct.

10:15, Dr. Bush, Mr. Webster, and General Gruenther

11:02, Admiral Denfeld

Lunch, with Bradley, Vandenberg, Gruenther, and Pearsons, and Admiral Denfeld

Thurs. 7 Oct.

14:25, NSC meeting, Conference Room, White House

Wed. 13 Oct.

14:05, Dr. Bush

Thurs. 14 Oct.

16:10, War Council

Thurs. Oct. 21

10:00, War Council

14:19, National Security Council - Conference Room, White House

Fri. 22 Oct.

11:55, Dr. Bush

12:05, Secretary Royal

Thurs. 28 Oct.

12:50, Lunch, Generals Wedemeyer, and Gruenther, Admiral Hillenkoetter

Wed. 3 Nov.

War Council - White House - 14:20

Next Engagement - 16:40

Fri. 5 Nov.

16:45, Dr. Compton

17:00, Mr. Carpenter

19:00, Cocktails at Naval Gun Factory for Drs. Bush and Compton

Sat. 6 Nov.

White House, 10:05

McNeil, 14:19

Dinner with Ambassador Douglas, Secretary & Mrs. Whitney, and Mr. Allen Dulles

Sun. Nov. 11

16:00, meeting, Jet presentation, General Putt, Colonel Page, Mr. Riley and Mr. McNeil. Forrestal was gone for a long trip to Europe--mostly to England, Germany, France (Nov. 9 through Nov. 16 - 11,000 miles). Some fascinating notes are in the diaries on his contacts during that trip.

Tues. 23 Nov.

10:00, War Council

14:23,

Fri. 28 Nov.

Cabinet meeting 10:00

(the day after Thanksgiving)

14:20, Admiral Strauss

15:05, Mr. Souers

16:25, Admiral Foster

Mon. 1 Dec.

Lunch, The President, 13:00

Dec. 2 - was a busy day 47

Breakfast, Mr. Hoyt, 8:00

9:28, Mr. Killian, Captain Russell, Mr. Ohly

10:00, War Council

11:30, The President, Messrs. Royall, Symington, Sullivan

12:45, Lunch, General Eisenhower and Admiral Nimitz

14:00, Howard Bruce

15:05, Mr. Reynolds, FBI

After Dinner, Fullbrights

Fri., Dec. 5

Breakfast, Governor Vardemon

9:30, Mr. Strieffler

10:30, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

12:45, Cabinet Lunch at his place, Henderson, Harriman, and Mr. Souers

15:43, Dr. Bush and General Gruenther (that was a big meeting on the JCAE)

Tues, 9 Dec.

9:15, Secretary Royall, Generals Nordstad, Wedemeyer, Gruenther, Admiral Sherman

10:00, Royall, Symington, Messrs. Kinney, Whitney, Ohly, Hill, McNeil, Leva, Souers

11:16, Messrs. Fleming and Stevenson

Lunch, (Obviously an Intelligence Meeting), Admiral Souers, Inglis, and Hillenkoetter, General Chamberlain.

Then went to New York for a quick trip. Left at 15:00; returned at 23:30. Possibly that discussion at lunch had to do with France and Italy. Intelligence estimates--all kinds of problems

Wed. 10 Dec. 1947

14:00, Admiral Hillenkoetter

14:08, Major General Arnold, Colonel Wilson _____ Canadian American Defense

15:25, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Killian

16:00, Atomic Energy meeting, State Department

19:00, General _____

A lot of discussion about the Palestine situation at this time. Important meeting of the Combined Policy Committee on Atomic Energy 10 Dec. Mr. _____, Dr. Bush, Mr. Kennan, Lillienthal, Mr. Wilson, and a bunch more, Britishers and so forth. Going over the business of the UK, the US and Canada and the whole question of Atomic Energy.

Thurs. 11 Dec.

11:45, Admirals _____ and Nimitz, Generals Eisenhower, Vandenberg, Gruenther, Mr. Larkin. (I think that is the first time General Vandenberg's name been in here.)

Lunch, 13:00, Admiral Strauss

National Security Council meeting at 15:08 Fri. 12 Dec. 1947

Mon. 15 Dec.

13:00, Lunch, The President

14:00, Messrs. Royal, Symington, Zuckert, Generals Vandenberg, Eisenhower, Richards, Mr. McNeil

15:00, Atomic Energy meeting

Bush was present at the Combined Policy meeting, of course

Tues. 16 Dec.

10:00, War Council

12:03, Colonel B. Haun retired, General Inglis retired, Admiral Hillenkoetter

12:30, President to see Mr. Granger

Lunch, Secretary Royal, Generals Eisenhower and Wedemeyer, Dr. Pollock

Wed. 17 Dec.

10:00, National Security Council, White House

13:45, Secretary Symington's office

15:00, Mr. Wilson

15:10, Mr. Martin

16:00, Mr. Souers

16:05, Congressman Fullton _____ meeting.

He met with the President, Mon. 22 Dec. 47 at 13:00. Then went to Florida. Visited Eglin Field on 23 Dec. Visited Maxwell Field 31 Dec. 47

Jan. 48

Lunch, 12:46, Admiral Denfeld, Messrs. Barrels, Gray, and Souers

13:35, Dr. Bush

14:01, General Eisenhower and Admiral Sherman

15:20, Mr. Derry and Mr. Ohly

Sat.

Breakfast with Mr. Munsen at 08:00

9:43, Mr. Souers and Mr. Ohly again

10:03, Admiral Ramsey

11:10, Messrs. Bonsteel, Ohly and Leva

Mon. 5 Jan

Messrs. McNeil, Ohly and Leva

Lunch at the White House

6 Jan. Tues

Busy Day - with some interesting notations

09:00, Mr. Plumley

09:50, Mr. A. Hill and Captain Kelley

10:00, Secretary Sullivan, Symington, Messrs. Draper, Whitney, Hill, Hardgrave, Leva, Ohly, McNeil, Souers, Captains Buchanon and Barrie

11:05, Mr. Symington

11:15, Mr. R. McConnell

11:25, Dr. Chang

12:00, Dr. Hunsaker (I presume that's Jerome Hunsaker of MIT), and Mr. Parker. Oh looks like I was wrong--notes, J.C. Hunsaker was President, Detroit Edison Company--about the sea matters.

Wed. 7 Jan.

General Bradley at 9:30. Various emergency medical service people

11:22, Mr. Hill

11:30, Mr. Souers

11:45 - 13:10, to Capital to hear Presidential Address

15:52, Admiral Radford

7 Jan 11:45 meeting with Souers was on the paper that they drafted concerning air bases in the Mediteranan. Had a meeting at Blair House at 4:00 on Atomic Energy. Well, it looks like they round things up on the Combined Policy Committee. There is a Mr. Stound from Canada _____ part of this secretariat and Mr. Hume Wrong, Mr. Henney, Mr. Bateman. Bush does not seem to have been there.

Fri. 9 Jan.

War Council meeting at 15:00

National Security Council meeting at 13:55 - 16:00, Tues. 13 Jan. 48

Lunch on Wed. 14 Jan. with Honourable Brooke Claxton, Ambassador Wrong, Secretaries Royal, Sullivan, Symington, Admiral Leahy, Admiral Denfeld, Generals Eisenhower, Spaatz, _____, Charles E. Wilson in at 16:30

Big meeting 17 Jan. 48, Sat.

11:35, Drs. Bush, Conant, and Openheimer

12:35, Lunch with _____ and Joint Secretary Royal. I wonder what that was about?

War Council meeting Tues. 20 Jan. 10:00

Interesting meeting 22 Jan. with Eisenhower, who showed him a letter indicating he was not going to be available for the Presidency but worried about people might misunderstand that he was not fulfilling his duty or something. Forrestal approved of the letter.

Mon. 26 Jan.

11:00, Dr. Bush

11:06, Admiral Radford, General Spaatz

12:25, Senator Cameron

12:40, Admiral Boone

Wed. 28 Jan.

10:55, Secretary Symington, General Spaatz,

12:02, Mr. Watson

12:24, Mr. Souers

12:44, Lunch, Marshall, Lovett, Eisenhower

13:20, Mr. Souers

29 Jan.

9:45, Secretary Sullivan, Admiral Hillenkoetter

14:45, General Eisenhower

Fri. 30 Jan.

14:48, Dr. Bush

Sun. 1 Feb.

11:00, White House

15:45, General Loomis, Mr. Lark, Generals Nordstad, Gruenther, Wedemeyer, Admirals Radford, Boone, Price, Dr. Bush, Secretary Barrels, (think that's the first entry for a Sunday).

Tues. 3 Feb.

10:00, War Council

Wed. 4 Feb.

16:15, General Groves

16:16, General Loomis

Thurs. 5 Feb.

16:28, Mr. Souers

Tues. 10 Feb.

9:30, Dr. Bush, Mr. Carpenter

11:18, Dr. Bush, Mr. Webster

Wed. 11 Feb.

10:00, Research and Development Board meeting

12:00, Admiral Hillenkoetter

12:45, Joint Chief's lunch

14:20, Admiral Strauss

Thurs. 12 Feb.

10:30, National Security Council, White House. Dealt with Greece, Turkey, Italy, Palestine, China.

14 Feb.

14:00, Mr. William H. Jackson, Mr. Allen Dulles, Mr. Hemp Correa.

Couple of appointments on Sun. 15 Feb.

Mon. 16 Feb.

Lunch, 12:48 - White House

15:05, Major General Chamberlain, _____ General Cabel, Admiral Inglis, Admiral Hillenkoetter, Mr. E. Hughes (sounds like Intelligence work). Millimetric - 25 minutes. Talked about the Italian situation.

17 Feb. 48

War Council 10:00

18 Feb.

Mr. Souers, 14:05

Fri. 20 Feb.

15:14, Dr. Bush

17:25, Mr. Souers

17:38, Secretary Draper, General Bradley

12:10, 23 Feb., Mrs. William H. Jackson, Glum, Souers

24 Feb.

17:10, Admiral Hillenkoetter

25 Feb.

9:22, Secretary Sullivan, Messrs. Bush, Cooper, and Leslie

9:30, another meeting

12:51, lunch, Generals Bradley, Eisenhower, Grunther, Vandenberg, Admiral Denfeld, Dr. Bush

14:33, Denfeld

26 Feb.

Dr. Bush, 10:25

Another meeting at 10:31

28 Feb. Sat.

14:44, Admiral Hillenkoetter

2 Mar. 48

War Council meeting 10:00

Met with Souers again at noon

Thurs. 4 Mar. 48

12:10, Admiral Souers and Hillenkoetter, Generals Loots and Grunther, Messrs. Lark and Ludington

12:30, Lunch, Secretaries Royal, Symington, and General Spaatz

Fri. 5 Mar.

Lunch, Dr. Bush, Mr. Carroll Wilson, 12:45

Sat. 6 Mar.

14:00, Mr. Souers, Mr. Leva, Mr. Ohly,

Tues. 9 Mar.

10:00, Committee of ____ Secretaries, plus Mr. Souers, Gray, Hully, and Leva

Tues. 16 Mar.

13:50, Dr. Bush

13:55, Testified before House Appropriations Committee

Tues. 23 Mar.

War Council at 10:00

Mr. Howard, 12:35

24 Mar.

08:00, with Joseph Brian (of all people--I think he was involved in _____).

Sat. 27 Mar.
13:14, Admiral Hillenkoetter
General Loots, 13:25

Fri. 2 Apr.
12:00, Meeting of National Security Council

Sun. 4 Apr.
14:10, JCS meeting
15:30, Briefing

Tues. 23 Nov.
10:00, War Council
14:23, NSC

Tues. 30 Nov.
11:36, Dr. Compton; many meetings with Ike

Wed. 1 Dec.
15:06, Ike
15:18, The President, off-the-record with Ike

Thurs. 2 Dec.
14:25, NSC

Fri. 3 Dec.
12:48, Lunch, Gordon Gray and others
16:00, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Dr. Compton. Subject: Radar Fence

Tues. 7 Dec.
10:00, War Council
12:30, Assistant Secretary Gordon Gray

Wed. 8 Dec.
10:44, Mr. Souers
12:03, Dr. Bush

Thurs. 9 Dec.
15:10, Ike
Had lunch with Ike as well.
15:15, The President with Joint Chiefs, Webb, Souers, McNeil, Gruenther

Thurs. 16 Dec.
10:50, Research and Development Board meeting
13:00, lunch with the Secretaries and Dr. Compton
14:55, NSC meeting - White House

Side Note:

20 Dec., talking to the President, mentioned that he had note from Taft congratulating him on his election. Mention of the fact that "As the President might gather, neither I nor my wife are particularly disappointed in the result of the election".

Tues. 21 Dec.
10:00, War Council
11:30, Secretary Gray

Wed. 22 Dec.
12:08, General Gruenther and Admiral Hillenkoetter

Thurs. 23 Dec., 1948
10:31, Dr. V. Bush
10:55, General Gruenther
There's a deletion of pages 2705 through 2711; which I presume means they were classified.

Sun. 2 Jan., 1949

8:30, Breakfast with Bedell Smith and Admiral Denfeld. About the Russian/Berlin situation

Thurs. 6 Jan.

Dr. Gerstell, 12:30

Allen Dulles, 12:45

NSC at White House, 14:21

Many meetings with Ike over the next few days

Tues. 11 Jan.

10:00, War Council

Wed. 12 Jan.

15:30, War Council

Thurs. 13 Jan.

10:27, Research and Development Board meeting

Sat. 15 Jan.

9:55, Joint Intelligence Committee, Intelligence presentation

Sun. 23 Jan.

10:10, General Wedemeyer

10:45, General Eisenhower

11:38, Mr. Ryan

Many meetings with Ike on 24 Jan., Mon.

25 Jan.

10:05, War Council

13:50, Ike

26 Jan. Wed.

Many Ike meetings

Big presentations to the Appropriations Committee at that time

Fri. 28 Jan.

10:00, Cabinet

11:00, The President, off the record

14:55, Mr. Souers

Mon. 31 Jan.

Lunch, The President, off the record

17:27, Ike

Tues. 1 Feb.

16:10, J.E. Hoover, Attorney General Clark, Messrs. Ohly, Blum and Hallaby

16:17, Mr. Souers

17:12, General Booth

17:26, Ike

Wed. 2 Feb.

8:50, Dr. Compton
14:54, General Gerstell

Thurs. 3 Feb.
14:30, NSC
16:37, Ike

Fri. 4 Feb.
9:26, Ike
10:50, Ike

Mon. 7 Feb.
Lunch, 13:00, The President, off the record

Tues. 8 Feb.
9:46, Ike
10:00, War Council
12:38, Lunch, Dr. Compton and Admiral Conolly
14:30, Walter Reid Hospital for checkup

Wed. 9 Feb.
15:00, The White House, The President
16:42, Ike

Thurs. 10 Feb.
12:28, Dr. Compton
14:25, Ike, Clifford and others, re changes and National Security Act

Fri. 11 Feb.
15:10, Ike
15:30, The President at White House with Ike and JCS
16:20, Ike

Mon. 14 Feb.
13:00, Lunch President, White House
17:28, Dr. Compton

Wed. 16 Feb.
16:00, White House, Cabinet, President, Mr. Leva, Clifford, Elsecy, Pace, Stauffacher concerning changes in Security Act, off the record

Thurs. 17 Feb.
14:30, NSC
16:56, Ike

Fri. 18 Feb.
10:56, Dr. Compton

Sat., 19 Feb.
9:55 - 10:45, Intelligence briefing
10:45

At the briefing were General Bradley, Admiral Denfeld, General Everest for Vandenberg, General Eisenhower, Major General Lemnitzer, Mr. Blum, Mr. Hallaby, Captain Riley, Major General Irwin, Rear Admiral Inglis, Major General

Cabell, Major General Todd. Each of the Intelligence Chiefs was authorized to bring one expert. Hillenkoetter was in Canada, Gruenther was attending a special meeting of "The Little Chiefs". Dr. Craig, Gruenther's Intelligence Advisor made the presentation. The same individual made the initial presentation on 15 of January, signed by Robert J. Wood (who I believe is a Colonel); no hint as to what the subject was.

Wed. 23 Feb.

10:00, War Council

19:00, Cocktails, Dr. Compton, Research Development Board, Franklin Room, Wardman Park Hotel

Thurs. 24 Feb.

09:05, Dr. Compton

13:48, Mr. Gordon Gray and Secretary Sullivan

Fri. 25 Feb.

10:00, The White House, The President, off the record

16:50, Dr. Compton

Sat. 26 Feb.

12:05, General Eisenhower. Lots of discussion about the B36 at this time

Tues. 1 Mar.

9:15, War Council Special meeting

12:30, The President, off the record

Wed. 2 Mar.

Lunch, Ike

17:10, Dr. Compton

17:56, Ike

There's his letter of resignation - 2 March 1949. Talking about _____ his work...These circumstances enable me for the first time take into account those urgent personal considerations about which I have spoken to you, and to submit my resignation with the hope that you may accept it effective on or about March 31.

Response from the White House to...JF -

"Your letter received this day confirms our many previous conversations and discussions. I am therefore fully cognizant of the considerations which prompt your desire to relinquish your duties". "Because of those urgent personal (This is later in the letter) considerations about which you have spoken to me so many times, I accept your resignation, effective at the close of business on March 31." HST

Thurs. 3 Mar.

14:30, NSC

Sat. 5 Mar.

Ike, 9:50

11:00, Gruenther and Ike

11:15, Denfeld

11:23, White House

12:14, Vandenberg

12:37, Ike's office

Tues. 8 Mar
War Council, 15:20
Louis Johnson, 15:44

Wed. 9 Mar.
Colonel Renfrow, 10:00, 10:40, 12:30, 14:20,
Colonel Johnson, 11:42 and 15:14.

Thurs. 10 Mar.
15:00, President's office, to discuss provisions of National Security Act
Ike, 8:50. 12:15
17:35

Fri. 11, Mar.
10:05, Dr. Bush

Mon. 14 Mar.
9:30, Ike and Colonel Johnson
10:50, Colonel Johnson
12:45, Lunch - Ike and Johnson
Ike, 17:32

Tues. 15 Mar.
9:32, War Council
Ike, 16:40

Fri. 18 Mar.
Dr. Compton, 10:41
Dentist at Bethesda, 14:25 to 16:20

Sat. 19 Mar.
12:41, Admiral Hillenkoetter and General Cabell

Tues. 22 Mar.
14:30, NSC meeting

Wed. 23 Mar.
09:00, Dentist at Bethesda

Last Entry - 25 Mar. 1949, Fri.

In Box 73, 1947D-F Correspondence, 29 July 1947
Two notes to Doolittle

One is:

"It is very heartening to get at the beginning of my job such a letter as yours. I am sure that the spirit of common enterprise that went with you on your flight to Tokyo will lead us in this new venture.

Sincerely,
James Forrestal

The second was just regretting he couldn't accept an invitation for Friday night.

Took a quick look at the day file from 1 July 47 to 31 July. In Box 92; it's like 2 inches thick almost. Carbons of letters sent out all over the place. Doesn't look like anything of interest would be there. Some transcripts of phone conversations though.

It should be noted that in the Eberstadt files there is a newspaper clipping from the New York Herald Tribune December 22, 1949 that James S. Lay, Jr. taking over from Sydney W. Souers as Executive of the National Security Council, effective January 15, 1950. While he was 38 at the time; native of Washington; formally served in the Central Intelligence Group, now the Central Intelligence Agency, where he was the first secretary of the National Intelligence Authority, which was superseded by the NSC. During the War he was an army Intelligence Officer, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was relieved from active duty in October 1945 to do Intelligence work for the State Department. US News and World Report had an interesting article on April 2, 1948 about Souers and the working group, which included George F. Kennan, Lieutenant Albert C. Wedemeyer, Lieutenant General Lauris Norstad, Rear Admiral C.W. Styer, Rear Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter. The CIA was actually under NSC.

Note from Eberstadt to Mr. Robert Cutler
Administrative Assistant to the President, (Eisenhower) White House
Mar. 23, 1953

Just a line to let you know that I enjoyed our conversation of Saturday and was tremendously pleased and encouraged at their prospective vital

Letter From: Forrestal

To: Vannevar Bush

25 Apr. 47, 1 pg.

"Furthermore, I am always reluctant to see patterns established which are good for one individual and not for others--As long as you are acting for Patterson and myself, I have complete confidence, as I would have in Conant or Compton, but I don't know many others.

Having settled all this, I will wind up by agreeing with your wishes and will name Rear Admiral Paul Ohly as Mr. Kenney's successor. I may add that I hope to attend some of the meetings of JRDB personally."

There is apparently a twix; sent 1 Aug. 1947. Dr. Vannevar Bush, Bohemian Club, San Fransisco, California.

When do you plan to be back in Washington next? I hope you are having a good holiday? X

Regards

James Forrestal

Response from Bohemian Grove, California

Aug. 1, 1947, 3:10 p.m.

Honourable James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

Probably not until last of month, but will phone early next week.

V. Bush

11 Aug. 47

Dear Van:

I suppose you have already seen the Unification Act but in case you have not, I am sending a copy which you might like to read on your holiday. I wish you would let me know approximately when you will get back because obviously you are one of the people to whom I want to talk--not merely about research, but other features. I hope you are having a good holiday.

Was sent to 1712 G Street, Northwest Washington

Signed: James Forrestal

Note: 4 Oct. 47

Memo to: Van Bush

Have you seen this paper, and what is your opinion of it?

Forrestal sent it to the Carnegie Institution, 1530 P Street, Northwest Washington 5, D.C. One wonders what the other Washington address was.

Note: 8 Aug. 1947

To: Karl T. Compton, President, MIT.

Dear Karl:

"I did my best, but apparently was not good enough. I am sorry because as a result of talks with Bradley Dewey of Cambridge, Van, Dr. Conant, and yourself, I had come to the conclusion that the principle was desirable although I recognize there were some administrative difficulties. However, if the central idea is sound, isn't it well to try and meet the objections and try to pass the next session?"

James Forrestal

cc: Dewey

Van Bush

Chairman, Joint Research Development Board

1712 G Street, Northwest

Also notes to:

James B. Conant, President Harvard University

18 Oct. 47

My Dear Conant:

22 Oct.

Sent to the Secretary to the President at Harvard

Dear Sir:

Whenever Dr. Conant is in Washington, I wonder if you would ask and let Mr. Forrestal know because he would like to see him. He would be very glad if he could come in to lunch, if we could arrange it.

Katherine Foley

Secretary to the Secretary of Forrestal

Some comments:

It is clear that Forrestal and Bush enjoyed a very close relationship for some long period of time, which isn't too surprising considering their respective positions with the Government; and it is clear that they were similar in outlook--goal-oriented, wanted to get a job done, personally had extremely strong moral code and concern with doing things properly but also getting the job done. It is also a credit that each had the others complete trust, and that they saw each other frequently in the period from 1947 on through to Forrestal's death. There were just numerous meetings aside from some of such official bodies as the War Council the Chiefs of Staff, the Atomic Energy Business. There are really very few notes about these meetings, except we do have a record of their visit to Truman on September 1947. There certainly were opportunities at which all kinds of other topics were discussed.

It should also be noted that Forrestal had full confidence in Karl T. Compton and James Conant; Conant, President of Harvard, and Compton, President of MIT. It seems to be further clear that this certainly allows for situations which Harvard and MIT people were involved in various highly Classified activities with full knowledge of the respective presidents of the institutions. Forrestal was the last holdover from the Roosevelt cabinet days to remain in the cabinet. He was clearly hardworking, well organized, effective. An interesting book about him is The Forrestal Diaries edited by Walter Millis with the collaboration of E.S. Duffield, published by the Viking Press in 1951.

Report of Conversation with Mrs. Stanley P. Wyatt, Jr.

Name is actually Catherine

PO Box 363, East Falmouth, Mass., 02536 617-548-5364

This is the woman known as K. Wyatt, who worked for Dr. Menzel. In Washington, D.C. during the War as a secretary and research assistant and then came back up to Harvard with him in 1946; and worked there until late 1950. She married Stanley Wyatt, who was a graduate student under Dr. Menzel. She was apparently well aware of all his Classified activities, and had gone over parts of his autobiography and found some mistakes there as well. She had been attending Mount Holyoke and had worked as an assistant to an astronomer. Joined the Waves and was chosen for Menzel in D.C. in 1943. The Menzels were like second parents and she was married in their home. She is 63 and a widow since about 1980.

LC# 63-16126

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F7702R Rogow A.A.

James Forrestal

Michael Vincent b. 11/26/27
Sons Peter Forrestal b. 8/2/30
about 12 in 1942
wife: Josephine.

723,917 F77F Forrestal Drives.

copy p4, 46

V. Bush
Pieces of the Action
from Morrow Co.
New York 1970
LC# 75-118342

V. Bush?

B963P

Bush applied by HST on
chmn R + D Bd of the Dept
of Defense. Forrestal asked
chmn to take post.

This bio says nothing
about this, + ends a few
pages later w/ a condemnation
of HST's apppt of R. Strauss as
chmn of ABC in recommendation
of H. H. Brown.

Michael attended
Aiken School, Aiken, S.C. + later
Exeter. (1944-45)
both attended Princeton
Michael later served in continental
Warman's staff in Moscow.
Try Georgetown?

Michael Vincent Forrestal
lawyer.

Home 25 Central Park West
NYC. 10023
Office 53 Wall St. 10005

Who's Who
1976-77

New York Times, July 16, 1947 PP. 1:2, 10:4

Headline: "Patterson Reported Quitting; Forrestal Due to Rule Arms"

Dateline: Washington, July 15th.

Content: Article speaks of new post of "Secretary of National Security" to be created. "...powerful new position which would give him (Forrestal) control not only of the Armed Forces, but of all the war making agencies and potentials of the country...."

"...It was said that other candidates besides Forrestal had been recommended to President Truman for the top position in the unified defense establishment. Two of these were Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development... and Rep. James Wadsworth of New York...."

New York Times, June 1, 1947 pp 35:1

Headline: "Old Cavalry Post now Anti-Aircraft. Project for the development of Guided Missiles Starts New Era at Fort Bliss"

Dateline: Ft. Bliss, Texas, May 31st.

Content: Description of the new transformation of Ft. Bliss, which is located only 44 miles from White Sands.

"...Fort Bliss itself houses the anti-aircraft and guided missile branch of the artillery school headed by Brig. Genl. Robert M. Montague."

United States Dept. of the Navy 2 May, 1980
Chief of Naval Operations
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

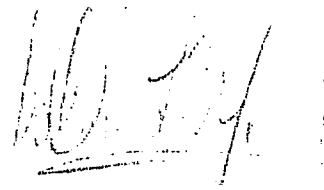
Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC, 552 as amended, I hereby request access to copies of the documentation enumerated as follows:

-Copy of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Adm. James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

If any expenses in excess of \$25 are incurred in connection with this request, please submit all such charges to me for ~~approval~~ prior to their being incurred. If this request is denied either in whole or in part, please inform me of your agency's appeal procedures.

Yours very truly,



William L. Moore

WLM/s

Surgeon General of the U.S.
Dept. of Health & Welfare
330 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

2 May, 1980

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5-USC-552 as amended, I hereby request access to the information set forth below:

-Copy of the final report of the Surgeon General's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Admiral James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

Your prompt attention to this matter is most appreciated.

Yours very truly,

William L. Moore

WLM/s



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser 09B1F/513792

MAY 19 1980

Mr. William L. Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of 2 May 1980, in which you requested access to copies of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Adm. James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

These records would be under the cognizance of the Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD 20014. Therefore, by copy of this letter and the forwarding of your request, that official is requested to reply to you directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald Carr", is positioned above the typed name.

DONALD CARR
FOIA Coordinator
By direction of the
Chief of Naval Operations



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:001B:JSS

MAY 30 1980

Mr. William L. Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act for a "copy of the final report of the Surgeon General's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Admiral James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1949."

Please be advised that no such report exists. For this reason, the literal wording of your request cannot be complied with. It is considered, however, that you most likely mean to request a copy of the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General, and for this reason your letter is being forwarded to the Judge Advocate General for action and reply. I am sure you will hear from officials within that office in the very near future.

Sincerely,

J. Stuart Showalter

J. STUART SHOWALTER
Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, USN
Special Assistant to the Surgeon-
General for Medico-Legal Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMED:001B:JSS
MAY 30 1980

Mr. William L. Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act for a "copy of the final report of the Surgeon General's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense Admiral James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1949."

Please be advised that no such report exists. For this reason, the literal wording of your request cannot be complied with. It is considered, however, that you most likely mean to request a copy of the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General, and for this reason your letter is being forwarded to the Judge Advocate General for action and reply. I am sure you will hear from officials within that office in the very near future.

Sincerely,

J. STUART SHOWALTER
Lieutenant Commander, JAGC, USN
Special Assistant to the Surgeon
General for Medico-Legal Affairs



NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

BETHESDA, MARYLAND - 20014

IN REPLY REFER TO

NNMC-C35:mb

5210

10 June 1980

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center,
Bethesda, Maryland 20014
To: Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of
the Navy, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22332
(Attn: Code 21)

Subj: Freedom of Information Act request of William L. Moore

Encl: (1) Subject request

1. Enclosure (1), made under the Freedom of Information Act, is forwarded for action since the requested materials are in the custody of the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Investigations).

C. B. Smiley Jr.
C. B. SMILEY, JR.
By direction

Copy to:
Chief, BUMED (Legal) w/encl
CNO (09B)
Mr. William L. Moore



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO

JAG:FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

JUN 30 1980

Bill Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of May 2, 1980, received in this Office on June 9, 1980, requesting a copy of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on May 22, 1949. Your letters are considered a request for an initial determination of the releasability of the requested material under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552 (a) (6) (A) (i)].

Since this report is a personal, medical or similar file for the purposes of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6), (the privacy exemption to the Freedom of Information Act), and that the requested document would revive dormant memories to the considerable embarrassment of the Forrestal family, it is considered a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy to release the document. The fact that Mr. James Forrestal was, to a limited extent, a public figure does not dictate a contrary result, since the details of his medical treatment at the Bethesda Naval Hospital are considered highly personal in nature.

Therefore, you may consider this letter a denial of your request for the subject investigative report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (6).

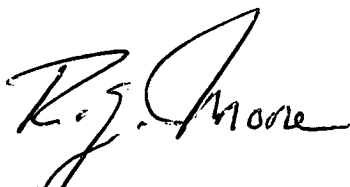
Because your request has been denied, you are advised that it is your right under the cited statute to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
Department of the Navy
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332

The appeal must be received in that office within 120 days from the date of this letter in order to be considered and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I must inform you that the undersigned is the official responsible for the denial of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. G. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "E. G." and the last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

E. G. MOORE
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Military Law)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

200 STOVALL STREET

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

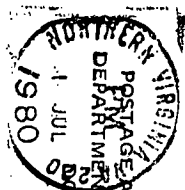
Mr. Bill Moore

P.O. Box 189

Dewey, Arizona 86327

St. Louis

FOR ESTAL



... and ...

... by ...

... and ...

... to ...

... of ...

13

R.G. Moore, Col. USMC
Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate Genl.
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria, VA 22332

15 July, 1980

*sent Certified
return receipt
7/16/80*

RE: JAG: FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

Dear Colonel Moore:

By letter dated 2 May, 1980 I requested access to certain information pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949. On 8 July, 1980 I received communication from your office denying this request on the basis of the privacy exemption of the Freedom of Information Act § 5-USC-552, b6.

Please regard this letter as my formal appeal of your denial under the processes and procedures set forth for such purposes in the act cited above.

With regard to the above appeal, I wish to state for the record that I fully understand and appreciate the concern of the surviving Forrestal family with respect to the revival of dormant memories regarding this sensitive matter. I am deeply sympathetic with these concerns and my request should in no way be interpreted as representing any hostile or detrimental intentions whatsoever regarding the memory of the late Mr. Secretary Forrestal.

I do however strongly disagree with the statement made in your letter (attached) to the extent that Mr. Secretary Forrestal was "to a limited extent a public figure". Certainly his nearly nine years of dedicated service as Under-Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Navy, and our nation's first Secretary of Defense can hardly be regarded as "limited" public service even if one stretches the meaning of the word. That he holds such an esteemed place in our nation's history coupled with the fact that he died in a Federal facility under somewhat unusual circumstances, would certainly seem more than sufficient to establish grounds for the public's right to know and would appear, after the passage of more than thirty-one years, to outweigh any privacy considerations as may conceivably be raised by either the surviving family or the Freedom of Information Act.

JAG: FOIA:ID-85-I:dvd
21/46679

Letter of Appeal, page 2.

Even so, the need for restraint, good taste and good sense is recognized in the use of any material which might eventually be released should this appeal be granted. Furthermore, should it facilitate the granting of this appeal, I stand prepared to grant either your office or any designated representative of the Forrestal family a written right of prior review and approval for any material I may ultimately write based on the records sought in this request.

Please note that under the provisions of §5-USC-552 as cited above, you are required to act on this appeal within twenty (20) working days of your receipt.

Yours very truly,

William L. Moore

WLM/s



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO
JAG:FOI:FD69:ejj
14/15798

8 AUG 1980

Mr. Bill Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is in response to your letter of July 15, 1980, received in this Office on July 22, 1980, in which you appeal the decision of Colonel R.G. Moore, USMC, Assistant Judge Advocate General (Military Law), to deny your request for access to the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry concerning the death of the former Secretary of Defense, James V. Forrestal. Your letter is considered to be a request for a final determination pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii)(1976)].

A thorough review of the pertinent record and the initial denial action has been conducted, and it has been determined that the decision made by Colonel Moore was entirely correct since the requested report constitutes an intra-agency, predecisional memorandum. A significant and legitimate governmental interest exists in withholding this record, in that its release would tend to discourage valuable intra-agency discussion. As such, this information is not required to be released under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)(1976); 32 C.F.R. § 701.5(b)(4)(ii)(E)(1979)].

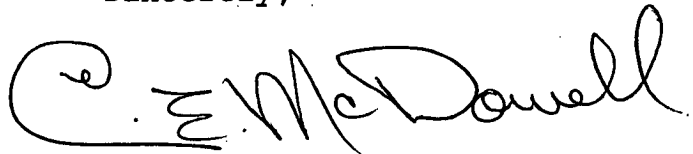
Additionally, the release of this material would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of Secretary Forrestal's surviving next-of-kin, and the Freedom of Information Act authorizes the withholding of this record under such circumstances [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)(1976); 32 C.F.R. § 701.5(b)(4)(ii)(F)(1979)].

Finally, the release of the record concerning the final hospitalization of Secretary Forrestal would not only constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of his

surviving next-of-kin, (see previous paragraph for statutory and regulatory provision for authority to withhold information on this basis), but Department of Defense regulations prohibit the release of such records without the specific written permission of Secretary Forrestal's next-of-kin [32 C.F.R. § 66.3 (1979)]. Please be advised that Secretary Forrestal's son, Michael Forrestal, objects to the release of this record.

For the previously stated reasons you may treat this letter as a final, complete denial of your request for the release of the final report of the official U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry concerning the death of Secretary Forrestal. As the Secretary of the Navy's designee for this purpose [32 C.F.R. § 701.9(c)(1)(1979)], the undersigned is the official responsible for this action. You are further advised of your right to seek judicial review of this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. E. McDowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "E".

C. E. McDOWELL
Rear Admiral, JAGC, U. S. Navy
Judge Advocate General of the Navy
For the Secretary of the Navy

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SENDER INSTRUCTIONS

Print your name, address, and ZIP Code in the space below.

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3 on the reverse.
- Attach to front of article if space permits, otherwise affix to back of article.
- Endorse article "Return Receipt Requested" adjacent to number.

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USE TO AVOID PAYMENT
OF POSTAGE, \$300



**RETURN
TO**



W. L. Moore

(Name of Sender)

POBX 189

(Street or P.O. Box)

DEWEY, AZ 86327

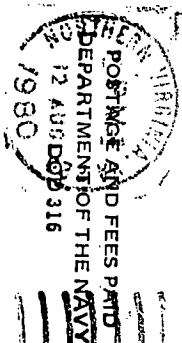
(City, State, and ZIP Code)

SENDER: Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Add your address in the "RETURN TO" space on reverse.	
1. The following service is requested (check one.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show to whom and date delivered..... <input type="checkbox"/> Show to whom, date and address of delivery..... <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED DELIVERY Show to whom and date delivered..... <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED DELIVERY. Show to whom; date, and address of delivery.\$—	
(CONSULT POSTMASTER FOR FEES)	
2. ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO: JUDGE ADVOCATE GENL - COOK 14 DEPT. OF NAVY 200 STOWELL ST. ALEXANDRIA VA 22332	
3. ARTICLE DESCRIPTION: REGISTERED NO. 390762	CERTIFIED NO. 390762 INSURED NO.
(Always obtain signature of addressee or agent) I have received the article described above. SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized agent	
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5. ADDRESS (Complete only if requested)	
6. UNABLE TO DELIVER BECAUSE:	

☆ GPO : 1979-330-459

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

Mr. Bill Moore
P.O. Box 189
Dewey, Arizona 86327





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO
JAG:21:FOIA:gww
CF-91-84

21 MAR 1984

Mr. Hugh L. O'Neal
4219 W. Olive Street, #247
Burbank, California 91505

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request
Subject : James V. FORRESTAL
Date : May 22, 1949

Dear Mr. O'Neal:

This is in response to your letter of March 7, 1984, requesting "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1979." Your letter is considered a request for an initial determination of the releasability of the requested material under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i) (1976)].

The Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy is the custodian of reports of investigation made in accordance with the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAG Manual) concerning incidents of this type.

The investigative report containing the referenced information has been retrieved from our long-term storage facility and reviewed. Upon initial review, it was determined that the information contained therein was not releasable to you without the authorization of the next-of-kin or a personal representative of Mr. Forrestal inasmuch as the investigation is composed almost entirely of protected medical records concerning Mr. Forrestal. In this regard your attention is invited to the language contained in the Code of Federal Regulations relating to the release of information from medical records that "if the individual concerned is . . . deceased . . . , the next of kin or legal representative must authorize, in writing, the release of the individual's medical records" (32 C.F.R. § 66.3(c)).

Personal liaison between this Office and Mr. Forrestal's son and next-of-kin, Mr. Michael Forrestal, c/o Shearman & Sterling, 53 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005, has revealed that Mr. Michael Forrestal is opposed to the release of this information.

Accordingly, in consonance with 32 C.F.R. § 66.3(c), Mr. Michael Forrestal's objections and the privacy considerations of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), you may consider this letter a denial of your request for "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949."

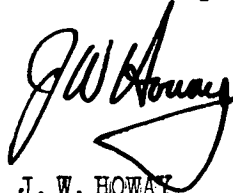
Because your request has been denied in part, you are advised that it is your right under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (1976) to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332

The appeal must be received in that office within 45 days from the date of this letter in order to be considered, and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I must inform you that the undersigned is the official responsible for the partial denial of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Howay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. W. HOWAY
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Military Law) Acting



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO
JAG:21:FOIA:gw
CF-91-84

21 MAR 1984

Mr. Hugh L. O'Neal
4219 W. Olive Street, #247
Burbank, California 91505

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request
Subject : James V. FORRESTAL
Date : May 22, 1949

Dear Mr. O'Neal:

This is in response to your letter of March 7, 1984, requesting "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May 1979." Your letter is considered a request for an initial determination of the releasability of the requested material under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i) (1976)].

The Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy is the custodian of reports of investigation made in accordance with the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAG Manual) concerning incidents of this type.

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Personal liaison between this Office and Mr. Forrestal's son and next-of-kin, Mr. Michael Forrestal, c/o Shearman & Sterling, 53 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005, has revealed that Mr. Michael Forrestal is opposed to the release of this information.

Accordingly, in consonance with 32 C.F.R. § 66.3(c), Mr. Michael Forrestal's objections and the privacy considerations of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), you may consider this letter a denial of your request for "a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949."

Because your request has been denied in part, you are advised that it is your right under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (1976) to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332

The appeal must be received in that office within 45 days from the date of this letter in order to be considered, and the enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I must inform you that the undersigned is the official responsible for the partial denial of your request.

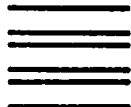
Sincerely,

J. W. HOWAY
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Assistant Judge Advocate General
(Military Law) Acting

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
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NOV 15 1963



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DOD-316

Mr. Hugh L. O'Neal
4219 W. Olive Street, #247
Burbank, California 91505

4219 W. Olive St., #247
Burbank, CA 91505
7 March, 1984

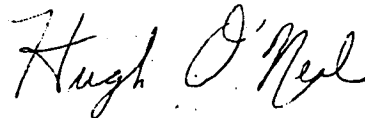
Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria, VA 22332

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, §5-USC-552 as amended, I hereby request a copy of all documentation, including the final report, generated by the investigation convened pursuant to the Manual of the Judge Advocate General into the circumstances surrounding the death of former Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 22 May, 1949.

Fees and charges generated in connection with the processing of this request are hereby guaranteed up to a maximum of \$25,00.

Yours very truly,



Hugh L. O'Neal

HLO/

Hi Bill!

Thought I'd drop you a few lines & let you know what I've dug up on Forestal's death. Very interesting!

May 22, 1949, Lt. Comdr. William C. Murray read a statement that at 2 A.M. at the Bethesda Naval Hospital he climbed out a window adjacent (sic) to his room & jumped to his death. He was admitted April 2 for "nervous exhaustion" (their quotes).

Monday, May 23, the following appeared in the papers - A book of poetry was found open on his night stand. It was by Sophocles, the Greek tragedian telling of the comforts of death. He left his room 1618 & went into the diet kitchen & there clad in a dressing gown, pushed open a screen held only by thumb latches & plummeted to the 3rd floor projection after hitting narrower projection at 4th floor.

For some time prior to admission to hospital he had been staying at the home of his friend, Robert A. Lovett at Hobe Sound, Fla. (former Under Sect. of State where he apparently collapsed. Rear Admr. Martin D. Skillecutt, M.D. Officer in Command ordered a Board of Inquiry into cause of death.

Comdr. R.R. Deen, staff psychiatrist, slept in room next to F. & an attendant was stationed at desk outside the door. A check was made every few minutes on F's status. At 1:30 check was made & F was sleeping. At 1:45 F awoke R.W. Harrison asked if he wanted sleeping pill but was told he did not. Harrison went into Deen's room next door to report. At 1:50 F was found to be missing from his room. Search was started & a few minutes later St. Dorothy Turner, nurse, heard thud. The body was later found beneath kitchen window which was across the hall from F's room (sic).

It is interesting to note following details - He had been copying poem but stopped after writing "night", the first half of word "nightingale" from the 26th line of poem. (When did he write this & why stop in mid-word?) When his body was found, the sash of his gown was still knotted & wrapped tightly around his neck! Signs on window ledge that he had tried to climb back in before falling. Explanation: He had shown great signs of improvement & was to be released in two to three weeks when he had a relapse. He first tried to hang himself but changed his mind & decided to jump from a window but, again, changed his mind. When he tried to turn around & climb back in, he fell. Very neat except.... a person accidentally falling & most "jumpers" scream before they hit! According to the nurse there was no scream!

Anyway, the Board of Inquiry (consisting of Capt. A.A. Marsteller, Capt. Harold J. Corley, Comdr. Lt. Col. St. Cyers & Lt. Comdr. James E. Wharton from the Navy Medical Corps with Lt. Robert F. Hooper from the Medical Service (as records) released their finding May 30, 1949, BUT it was Oct. 12 before public statement was made when the following was given out:

1. Body found on ledge outside room 384 of Bldg #1 at 1:50 A.M.
2. Died about 1:50 A.M. result of injuries, multiple, extreme, received incident to fall from highest point of tower.
3. Behavior during period of stay indicative of mental depression.
4. Treatment & precautions in agreement accepted psychiatric practice.
5. Death not caused in any manner by the intent, fault, negligence or inefficiency of any person or persons in naval service.

These statements (especially the last one) leave a lot of openings, don't you think? No wonder you opened up a "can of worms" with your letter. I've been trying to remember a piece I read some time ago I found interesting - it seems the writer believed hypnosis was used to get him to kill himself but self-preservation prevented him. He was then hit over the head & pushed out the window. I found this interesting because one of the doctors had done much research & experimentation in the use of hypnosis as a mind-control tool.

Another interesting tidbit, for what it's worth - just prior to his "retirement" he was having a number of "fights" & a great deal of scandalous material was said & printed about him. Two of his greatest enemies were the Army Air Force & the ~~A.S.C.~~, now the ~~V.S.A.~~. There are several other sources I want to look into & I'll let you know what I come up with.

I guess you've read "Enigma" by now. Any "Ideas"? Here's one to toss around among some of your friends - A novel by Ina N. (for Nagonna) Saye about a group called the Committee for the Debriefing of Psychic & UFO Phenomena. In it, one of the members discovers to his horror that they are being used by the National Security Academy & that when they get caught they will be thrown to the lions. He then becomes a "double agent", of sorts, & when a lawsuit is filed on the Committee & the Academy denies any connection world famous Scientists are ruined, suicides, maybe murders, & finally full exposure of the ~~Academy's~~ Academy's underhanded & illegal operations going back to inception.

If such a story is written, I'm sure someone on the real Committee will read it or even review it. The word will get around & suspicion will develop among the group (there are some past & present dissatisfied members) distrust will develop & (who knows?) the plot may become fact instead of fiction. Since they are using such human weaknesses against others, they are very prone to the use of the same "weapons". Think it over & I'll bet you & your friends can come up with dozens of other "knives in the backs". Remember the best defense is offense. If you use, but not totally confide in, Clark, I'm sure you can establish a wedge into the Committee. Enough said about that.

Oh, Bill, are we both going nuts? I could have sworn the story of Forrestal's death was mentioned in "Signals", but I've gone thru that damn book twice & not even a remote connection can I find. I've been wracking my pea brain trying to remember where else we could have read it & come up zilch! I've even tried my old method of an altered state but I can't put myself back into it since these bloodclots formed. I've even tried scrying & the pendulum trying to reach the inner mind - no soap there either. My ESP is still shot but I do occasionally get a break but I can't control it or evoke it at will any more. Funny, but people are never satisfied - when I had my weird abilities I often wished I didn't, but now that I no longer have them.... Haas! I miss 'em!" They did come in handy many times & they've saved my life on more than one occasion.

You know Bill, I still can't get over how many things in our phone conversations were related some way to something in those tapes of mine - Hollywood movies, falls from windows, sudden urges to pick up particularly useful books, the alien approach to Earth & mankind, etc. (I did you notice?)

Oh, Bill, please don't call me again before late Fall! Your bad luck rubbed off & our window fan went out shortly after you hung up & it was Thursday before we could get it replaced! It blew!!! Talk about warm sleeping!

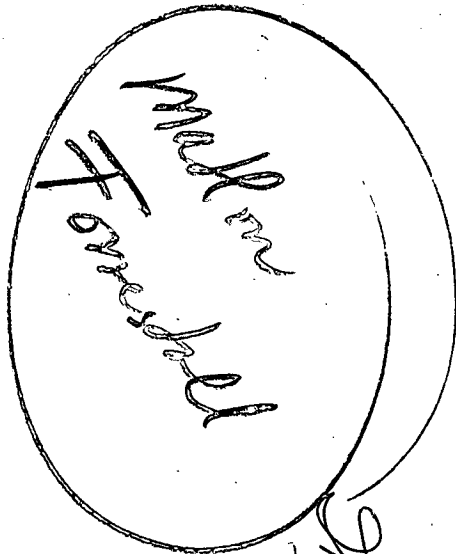
As soon as I can, I'm going to check into our local papers about F's death especially the Houston Press. This paper was just this side of yellow journalism & printed all kinds of dirt & rumors. Should be interesting to see what they wrote.

By the way, you mentioned a Proj who was interested in the history of aviation you wanted me to meet. How about sending me his address & send him mine & ask him to write me. There are many areas I'd like to discuss with him from air-ships in the 1700's to tomorrow's possibilities.

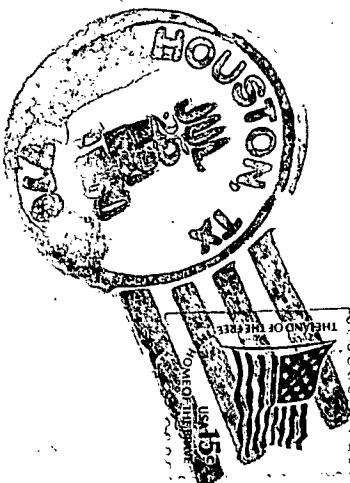
Don't let the MIBs get you nor the Committee get to you.

Jimmy

Tommy Shad
1571 Summer St.
Houston, Tx. 77007



John. Moore
P.O. Box 189
Kearney, Nev. 86327



31 December 1948

THE FORRESTAL DIARIES
Cabinet—China—Palestine

Subject this morning at Cabinet was China.

Lovett gave a summation of the recent dispatches from China. The program, in general, was for Li Tsung-jen to succeed Chiang after the latter's withdrawal (Lovett said that inclusion of Chiang's name on the list of war criminals prepared by the Communists had changed him back to an attitude of intransigence, and that he was now disposed to take command of the Army in the field).

The President said that Wellington Koo and other Chinese in Washington were now busily undercutting Madame Chiang and the Generalissimo. He hazarded the guess that back of the story in this morning's paper, which Lovett referred to, to the effect that a high official in the American government had said there would be a cutting off of ECA aid to China unless Chiang quit, was the hope that such a story would create further pressure on Chiang to withdraw.

Palestine: Lovett said the Israeli troops had apparently invaded Egypt. Specifically, they were reported to have attacked an airfield within the Egyptian border; that it was reported the British would notify us that the failure of the Israelis to withdraw promptly would automatically bring into operation the Anglo-Egyptian Mutual Defense Pact.

[It was the last day of the old year. Forrestal found himself answering that day a request from the president of Princeton, Harold W. Dodds, that he deliver the 1949 Stafford Little Lectures. "The subject," he wrote, "which interests me is the character of our government and the difficulty of policy formation and execution under the handicap of lack of a real parliamentary system." And a few days later he wrote another correspondent, who had congratulated him on his first annual report as Secretary of Defense (published December 29): "My own principal impression at the moment is the tremendous amount of work that remains to be done—and also the tremendous job that faces us in the world and which therefore necessitates, we both agree, the

¹⁰ To Harold W. Dodds, 31 December 1948.

[closest relationship between the economic and military aspects of our strength."¹⁰

Bedell Smith had flown in, and one of the now rare diary notes records a breakfast conversation with him on January 2.

2 January 1949

Breakfast with Ambassador Smith

... He said he had come to a somewhat different conclusion in recent months about the attitude of the Russians toward war. He thinks their long-term objective has not changed but, because of the risks of dissidence which they are running in undertaking to perfect the Communist control of their satellites, he is inclined to think that they have decided to go through on this line before taking any risk of war. . . .

In general he looks forward to an interval of apparent and possibly deceptive quiet.

As to Berlin he saw no chance of solution to this problem except through some face-saving action by the General Assembly next spring. When Smith left Moscow this time he called on Vishinsky, Gromyko and Molotov, and gave them every opportunity to raise the question of Berlin but none of them did so.

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[Early in December the President had told his press conference that there would be no immediate changes in the Cabinet. Asked specifically about Marshall (who was in indifferent health) and Forrestal, he had replied that both had been requested to stay and had agreed to do so. Then on January 7 the resignation of both Marshall and his Under Secretary, Lovett, was announced. (Their letters were dated January 3.) Dean Acheson would become Secretary of State with the beginning of the new presidential term on January 20, and James E. Webb, Forrestal's antagonist in the Budget Bureau, would succeed Lovett. These changes would patently undermine Forrestal's own position. In Marshall he would lose a colleague whom, despite occasional differences of viewpoint, he greatly admired and respected; in Lovett he would lose one of his closest friends and most valuable collaborators.

¹¹ To Arthur A. Ballantine, 5 January 1949.

[On January 8 Symington released his first annual report as Secretary of the Air Force. It bluntly renewed the demand for a full seventy groups by 1952, thus reopening the controversy of the previous year and further undercutting Forrestal's position. At the same time the commentators, with Marshall now out of the Cabinet, turned their attention to the Secretary of Defense. On Sunday, January 9, Walter Winchell, a hostile critic since the days of the Palestine controversy, broadcast a prediction that the President would accept Forrestal's resignation within the ensuing week.¹¹ Winchell coupled this prediction with a bitter allegation that Forrestal had formed a Canadian corporation in 1929 to reduce his federal income tax in that year, and with a fevered denunciation of the legislative proposals concerning the National Security Council as being designed to "throw the country into war without even notifying Congress."

Next day the White House correspondents asked Charles C. Ross, the President's press secretary, about the Winchell prediction that Forrestal would be out of office within the week. Ross said flatly that it was untrue. To avoid misunderstanding, he added that all Cabinet members customarily submitted their resignations on the advent of a new administration, but that he did not know whether Forrestal's had been received. Forrestal was a luncheon guest at the White House that day.

When he returned on Tuesday (January 11) for a private conference with the President, the correspondents questioned him about this routine resignation. He told them that it had not yet been submitted, but would be in the President's hands before the inauguration on January 20. There was a brief interchange:

"Do you anticipate its acceptance?"

"No."

"Do you want to and expect to continue as Secretary of Defense?"

"Yes, I am a victim of the Washington scene."

This remark dampened the rumors of Forrestal's imminent departure from the Cabinet, especially after the President himself gave it a lukewarm endorsement two days later. Asked at his press conference if Forrestal's remarks meant that he would stay

¹¹ *The New York Times*, 11 January 1949.

[in the Cabinet, Mr. Truman replied that they meant just what they said.¹²

Forrestal himself began writing friends as though the die was cast in favor of remaining in public office a while longer: "To be perfectly frank, I had looked forward to leaving the service of the government this month, but my conscience, as well as a number of my associates, persuaded me that I should not leave an unfinished job."¹³ "As you have probably noted from the newspapers since the date of writing . . . I have indicated I will stay on for an additional period."¹⁴

As soon as he returned to his Pentagon office from his White House visit of January 11, Forrestal dispatched to the President his *pro forma* resignation. Its casual tone implied, as Forrestal had told the reporters, that he did not anticipate its acceptance: "I send you at this time my formal resignation as Secretary of Defense. I believe there is such a document now in your files, but in order to be sure that there is one in your possession I am forwarding this so that you may have it available in the consideration of plans for your Cabinet at inauguration time."

There is nothing to show that Forrestal discussed his own tenure with the President at this time; but he may have spoken of the tenure of the Service Secretaries, especially Symington's. On the afternoon of the 11th Forrestal's Military Aide sent a long document to White House Secretary Matthew Connelly with this covering memorandum: "The President is expecting the attached draft of suggested remarks, as Secretary Forrestal has informed the President that they would be sent over today."

The "attached draft" was dated January 8. Cast in the first person, as if the President himself were speaking, it was an exhortation to the heads of the military Departments and Services, calling upon them to keep their differences within the military family or to resign, now that the new presidential term gave them a graceful opportunity to do so. A few sentences suffice to indicate the tenor of what Forrestal and those around him (the paper was drafted by a staff member) wanted the

¹² *The New York Times*, 12 and 14 January 1949.

¹³ To William Ritchie, 12 January 1949.

¹⁴ To Edwin Meisner, 13 January 1949.

[President to say to the heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force:

"If there is any doubt in the mind of any man present that he can give to the decisions of his Commander-in-Chief and of the Secretary of Defense, who, for these purposes, is the alter ego of his Commander-in-Chief, the kind of loyalty I have been describing . . . now is the time for any such individual to speak his mind . . . I repeat that my duty to the country requires that I demand and receive the utmost in loyal assistance, freely spoken advice and proper subordination. At this moment of opening the new administration, it is practicable for any man of distinguished record to leave a post in government without any adverse implications against him or his service. . . . So this is the moment of decision. . . ."

President Truman never called the meeting for which these "suggested remarks" could have been intended, but he did debate the Air Force again at his press conference on January 13 by saying that he considered forty-eight air groups adequate. Although Air Force spokesmen pitched their advocacy of seventy air groups several keys lower than in 1948, it still helped to defeat again the administration's plans for universal military service in 1949. And it was one more vexation for Forrestal to bear; he spoke to colleagues during this period of "another end run" by the Air Force around the military unity that he was trying to build.

On the evening of January 16 Drew Pearson renewed the radio attack on Forrestal. Recalling Winchell's assertion that the President was about to accept Forrestal's resignation, Pearson insisted that the President would have done so if Winchell's forecasting of the action had not angered him. Pearson also repeated Winchell's attack on the old Canadian corporation and added to it a trumped-up version of an old robbery of Mrs. Forrestal's jewels that reflected on Forrestal's personal courage.

This personal attack so stung Forrestal that he had his attorneys draw up a libel complaint against Pearson. In obvious distress, Forrestal turned to his friends and associates, receiving from them the almost unanimous advice that he should sue and that a suit would be successful. Yet he never authorized the complaint to be filed in court, shrinking from the notoriety such an

[action would bring. A week after the Pearson broadcast, when a guest on another radio program erroneously accused Forrestal of having a major financial interest in a cartel controlling the old pro-Nazi firm of I. G. Farben, friends of Forrestal secured a retraction and apology for him.¹⁵ These and other attacks so hurt Forrestal that he confessed to a friend that he could no longer listen to the popular Sunday night news-commentator broadcasts.

There is no doubt that Forrestal was tired. Early in January, while he and others were working at the White House on the President's state of the Union message, one of the President's closest advisers noticed how weary and nervous Forrestal appeared; this man and a colleague remarked to each other that Forrestal's long-standing, unconscious habit of scratching the crown of his head had become so continuous that a raw spot was beginning to appear.

As Forrestal's fatigue increased, some associates in both the White House and Defense Establishment felt that he became less and less willing to reach decisions. Even after decisions were made, he frequently wanted to reopen them. Amendments to the National Security Act held more interest for Forrestal at this time than almost any other subject, yet it seemed difficult for him to fix his ideas about the final form of the amendments. Indecisiveness increased the always heavy load of unfinished business in the Secretary's office, an accumulation that worried both Forrestal and his staff, driving him to adopt a still more exhausting work schedule. At least one intimate of both the President and Forrestal recalls discussing this situation with the President and finding him aware of it.

On January 21, the second day of Truman's new administration, General Eisenhower came back to full-time duty as Forrestal's principal military adviser. The Secretary asked the general to help formulate amendments to the National Security Act on which the Services would agree. Principally, however, he wanted Eisenhower to work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to produce an agreed-upon war plan that could be made the basis of future military budgets—and he stated that the budgets should be within some reasonable limit. The problem was the familiar

¹⁵ *The New York Times*, 24 January 1949.

[one of trying to resolve strategy, inter-Service rivalries and fiscal limitations.

Despite the heavy reliance at once placed on Eisenhower, as Forrestal's schedule of conferences shows, the pressure on the Secretary's office continued. Forrestal was not a person who could reach decisions lightly, with or without assistance. General Eisenhower recalls, "One of the reasons he felt such an acute need for some help was his inborn honesty and his very great desire to serve the country well. He would listen carefully to presentations, even where he was certain that these were partisan and even prejudiced; his ability to see truth on both sides of bitter questions led him to a turmoil, out of which it was difficult to form a clear-cut decision in which he could personally have real confidence."

Very probably, when Forrestal had written on January 13 that he would stay on for "an additional period," he and the President already had discussed some definite limit on that period, for within a little more than two weeks Forrestal apparently was helping the President arrange for his successor. Forrestal's calendar for January 28 shows that he went to the White House for a Cabinet meeting at ten o'clock in the morning and that he had a conference with the President at eleven; he had no other appointments before lunching alone with one of his assistants, Marx Leva. Neither Forrestal's diary notes nor his letters disclose anything more about the occurrences of this day.

However, Louis Johnson, who succeeded Forrestal as Secretary of Defense, has given a more detailed account of that morning's events: "... In the latter days of January ... the President sent for me and told me that Mr. Forrestal wanted to talk to me. He said that Mr. Forrestal was my friend and that he wanted me to listen to him accordingly. Mr. Forrestal was then at the White House for a Cabinet meeting, to which, after talking with me, the President went. I crossed through the White House, through Mr. Connelly's office, and Mr. Forrestal, coming down the corridor from the Cabinet room, called to me. The press might have gotten wise then but they missed the bet."

"I waved Mr. Forrestal back, went through Mr. Connelly's office and met him there. Then it was that Mr. Forrestal asked

[me, with the approval of the President, to take over his job as Secretary of Defense. Mr. Forrestal did not return to the Cabinet meeting. He and I spent that time in discussions and later visited with the President.

"I told Mr. Forrestal that a story had been printed saying I had been undercutting him—seeking his job. Mr. Forrestal replied that he had double-checked the story and was satisfied that there was not, and had not been, a word of truth in it. ..."

"After the Cabinet meeting Mr. Forrestal and I visited with the President, who insisted I accept his offer of the Secretaryship of Defense. . . ."¹⁶

According to Johnson, the date agreed upon at this meeting for Forrestal to leave was May 1, three months in the future. The interim period was to be used to brief Johnson on the duties that he would take over. In fact that briefing began at once, Johnson asserts; two months later, and in Forrestal's presence, Johnson told the House Armed Services Committee, "... during these last sixty days ... the only well kept secret ... is the fact that Jim and I have been working together. . . ."¹⁷ Johnson also told a press conference at this same time, "Since late in January, Jim Forrestal and I did confer, did work together when I went to Key West ... with a lot of secret papers of the Department with the approval of the President. We were working all through that period and since."¹⁸

Forrestal's records offer only scraps of information bearing on this January 28 episode and its aftermath. His daily calendar and the log kept by his office orderly both show that at 2:30 on the afternoon of February 4 Forrestal paid a two-hour visit to the Shoreham Building, the office building where Johnson's law firm has its Washington office and an unusual port of call for Forrestal; neither the calendar nor the log says whom he saw there. Later, after Johnson had left on February 7 for Key West, members of Forrestal's staff were sent occasionally to Johnson's

¹⁶ Remarks to Post Mortem Club, 17 May 1949; in Hearings before the House Armed Services Committee, August 1949 (p. 490) Johnson fixed the date of these discussions as "the latter days of January, about the 28th or 29th."

¹⁷ House Armed Services Committee Hearings, pp. 486, 553.

¹⁸ Press conference transcript, 29 March 1949.

[Washington office with more data for forwarding to Johnson in Florida.

Yet there is some evidence that Forrestal considered his own departure and Johnson's accession less firmly set than Johnson evidently did. On February 4, the same day that he paid his two-hour visit to the Shoreham Building, Forrestal revived and urged an idea that he had first broached in December, the creation of the post of Under Secretary of Defense. Now he wanted the job established quickly. Telephoning Senator Tydings, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Forrestal asked, "Millard, how promptly do you think we could, as an interim measure, get through a bill for an Under Secretary? . . . Vinson has put a bill in on the Under Secretary, or rather he is going to, and he thinks it will go through the House very quickly."

Senator Tydings replied that he believed such a bill could pass quickly, but he warned that it might become jammed behind the backlog of defense legislation that was piling up, especially in the House. Forrestal promised to arrange a meeting with Tydings and Vinson at which the three of them could assign priorities to the various defense bills then pending before Congress.¹⁹ Forrestal had talked with at least one of his assistants about the possibility of bringing Johnson into the Military Establishment as Under Secretary, if such a position was created, with the further possibility that Johnson later might "fleet up," as the Navy would express it, to the Secretaryship. But Forrestal also talked as late as mid-February of the possibility that, whenever he left office, someone other than Johnson would succeed him, though Johnson was regarded universally as the active candidate for the job. Johnson himself has denied emphatically that he sought the Secretaryship of Defense.

When an old friend and wartime associate²⁰ called on February 9, Forrestal asked him abruptly, "Should I quit this job?" When the friend expressed the hope that he would stay in public service, Forrestal replied almost irritably that he hated it, everything about it, and particularly the publicity that went with it. He ended by disclosing that he had told the President that he was

¹⁹ Transcript of conversation with Tydings, 4 February 1949.

²⁰ Charles S. Thomas.

[getting out by the first of June. Three days later, on February 12, this same friend learned from a member of the President's personal staff that Forrestal was resigning of his own volition, effective May 1.

Forrestal attended a Cabinet meeting on February 11 at which Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer discussed the availability of pipe for the Saudi Arabian pipeline. Forrestal, reversing a long-standing position, felt that from a military standpoint the matter was no longer critical because of revisions in the estimates of oil requirements. The figures, he noted, now indicated "that we could, by the application of strict rationing in the United States, fight a war for a considerable period of time without access to the Middle East." He instructed John Kenney, Under Secretary of the Navy, so to inform Secretary Sawyer.²¹

At lunch on February 15 Forrestal listened patiently while a friend²² to whom he had already disclosed his determination to leave office explained why the action should be deferred for about ninety days. Forrestal discussed some of his reasons for wanting to resign but took occasion to remark that he felt the President had always been very fair with him and that there was nothing in their relations that he could criticize. This feeling of fair treatment at the President's hands continued, according to most of Forrestal's associates, throughout his life, although Forrestal did come to feel that he had lost the President's confidence. It was at about this time that Forrestal received the offer, or the intimation of the offer, of one of the more important ambassadorships, but he declined.

Johnson, who had been a director of the company manufacturing B-36s, had asked Forrestal to make any decisions about that airplane before leaving office, and Forrestal had promised to do so. On February 28 Forrestal apparently decided the one pending question about the Air Force's controversial intercontinental bomber. The Air Force had been asking for money and authority to add auxiliary jet engines to the big bomber, and Forrestal finally authorized the modification.

The following day, March 1, saw the beginning of a swift

²¹ Diary, 11 February 1949.

²² Charles S. Thomas.

[climax in Forrestal's secretly discussed resignation. His calendar and the log kept by his orderly show that, after a morning of only two appointments and few telephone calls, none after 10:30, Forrestal went to the White House. The entry on his calendar reads, "12:30: the President (White House) off-the-record." He did not return to his office until 2:20. He then had only four visitors, the last at 4:15, but he remained in his office alone until 6:35, when he went home. He left no record of any of this day's events, but at least one friend came to understand later that the President at the midday meeting had asked Forrestal to send his letter of resignation over at once and that this request had been a "shattering experience."

Until this interview Forrestal evidently had felt that submission of his resignation letter was not an urgent matter. Now he began to work on it at a fever pitch. During the evening he phoned Marx Leva, one of his assistants, asking him to come to the Forrestal home, but when Leva explained that he was not free to do so, Forrestal asked to see him promptly in the morning. Through the night Forrestal twice called one of his closest friends and advisers in New York, to discuss the draft of the letter. The next morning at his office, as the letter went through various revisions, Forrestal kept advancing its effective date until he fixed it for March 31. Leva finally asked whether the President wanted him out of office by March 31, arguing that the timing was bad. Forrestal replied that the President wished him to stay until June 1 but that he wanted to get out sooner.

The letter was dispatched to the White House in the late forenoon of March 2, some hours after it was expected. It began, "It has been my privilege to have served our country for over eight and one half years. . . ." It cited the "substantial progress" achieved under the National Security Act of 1947 and the still greater progress to be expected under the proposed changes in it. "These circumstances," Forrestal continued, "enable me for the first time to take into account those urgent personal considerations about which I have spoken to you and submit my resignation in the hope that you may accept it, effective on or about March 31. . . . I am mindful of the wish that this will not mark the end of our association, and repeat that if at any time

[in the future you desire to call upon me for service, I shall be at your command. . . .]

The President replied that "your letter received this day confirms our many previous conversations and discussions. I am therefore fully cognizant of the considerations which prompt your desire to relinquish your duties as Secretary of Defense. At my personal urging you have agreed to remain in Washington far beyond the time when you had expressed a hope of leaving government service. . . . For all that you have done in your country's behalf and for the service which you will continue to give out of your abundant experience, I tender you heartfelt assurance of my gratitude and appreciation."

Although both letters were dated March 2, they were not released until March 3 along with an announcement of Johnson's appointment.

On this interchange the diary ends. To Forrestal, it apparently came with the force of a dismissal under fire. He had wished for retirement. He had been half prepared to relinquish his post to an ambitious claimant. He was not prepared for the events of March 1, when he apparently was asked abruptly to send in a resignation letter. The experience seems to have undermined his self-confidence and unduly exaggerated that sense of inadequacy and failure from which, like most thoughtful, sensitive and high-minded men, he was never wholly immune. Through the next three and a half weeks he was to discharge the duties of his office with his usual competence. But privately he began to reveal a state of emotional depression which for the first time raised in his friends a sense of alarm. It was increasingly apparent that he was cracking under internal stresses which imperatively demanded relief and attention.

IV

[Mr. Johnson was duly appointed and confirmed, and on March 28, at a brief ceremony in the central court of the Pentagon Building, Forrestal saw his successor sworn in as Secretary of Defense. The ex-Secretary drove to the White House to pay his final respects to the President. There, to his complete surprise, he found that a second ceremony had been arranged. The Cab-

I net, the military chiefs and other high officers of government were waiting for him; in their presence the President himself read a citation for "meritorious and distinguished service" and pinned the Distinguished Service Medal on his civilian coat. Forrestal could not find words to respond.

"It's beyond me—beyond my—" he began.

"There you are," said the President, "you deserve it, Jim."

At a formal dinner honoring Johnson that evening, Forrestal's impromptu and brief speech struck guests as particularly gracious. The next morning, before taking off by plane for Florida, Forrestal attended a special meeting of the House Armed Services Committee, called to honor him—a rare occurrence in Washington. Both Chairman Carl Vinson and Representative Dewey Short, ranking minority member, eulogized him, and again Forrestal replied briefly and gracefully.

Directly after the meeting Forrestal left by air for Hobe Sound, Florida, as a guest of Robert Lovett, his old friend and colleague in so many crises of state. The effect, unfortunately, was not what had been hoped. With his final departure from office Forrestal was precipitated into a depression so severe that within a day or two psychiatric help seemed imperative. A Navy psychiatrist, Captain George N. Raines, arrived on the evening of March 31, but did not interview the patient, as he learned that Ferdinand Eberstadt was due next day, bringing the eminent specialist Dr. William C. Menninger. It was determined that hospitalization was necessary. On April 2 Forrestal was flown back to Washington and admitted that evening to the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland.

By the end of April he was responding well to treatment. He seemed his old self to numbers of his friends and associates, including the President, who visited him. The moods of depression recurred, but with decreasing frequency and severity. By the middle of May his physicians were looking forward to his discharge in another month or so, and as a necessary part of the treatment they risked a relaxation of the restraints that had been set around him. It was a tragic miscalculation. On the night of May 21-22 he was reading late in his room on the sixteenth floor; the book was Mark Van Doren's *Anthology of World Poetry*, and

he was copying from it William Mackworth Praed's translation of Sophocles' dark and solemn "Chorus from Ajax."

Fair Salamis, the billows' roar

Wanders around thee yet,

And sailors gaze upon thy shore

Firm in the Ocean set.

Thy son is in a foreign clime

Where Ida feeds her countless flocks,

Far from thy dear, remembered rocks,

Worn by the waste of time—

Comfortless, nameless, hopeless save

In the dark prospect of the yawning grave. . . .

Woe to the mother in her close of day,

Woe to her desolate heart and temples gray.

When she shall hear

Her loved one's story whispered in her ear!

"Woe, woe!" will be the cry—

No quiet murmur like the tremulous wail

Of the lone bird, the querulous nightingale—

The copying ceased on this word; the sheets were laid in the back of the book and the book itself set down open at the page. It was three o'clock in the morning. Forrestal went into a small diet kitchen on the same floor, which he had been encouraged to use, and fell to his death from its unguarded window.

Thus a great and singularly selfless public career reached its tragic end. A memorial bronze now stands at the Mall entrance of the Pentagon; but the real memorial is within, in the teeming offices of the vast establishment for defense, which owed so much to his patient architecture, and beyond, across the river over which the bronze turns its gaze, in the capital to which he contributed the courage, insight and firmness of his counsel, in the great nation which he served to the limit of his high abilities and with unswerving integrity of purpose.

New York Times, July 16, 1947 PP. 1:2, 10:4

Headline: "Patterson Reported Quitting; Forrestal Due to Rule Arms"

Dateline: Washington, July 15th.

Content: Article speaks of new post of "Secretary of National Security" to be created. "...powerful new position which would give him (Forrestal) control not only of the Armed Forces, but of all the war making agencies and potentials of the country...."

"...It was said that other candidates besides Forrestal had been recommended to President Truman for the top position in the unified defense establishment. Two of these were Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development... and Rep. James Wadsworth of New York...."

New York Times, June 1, 1947 pp 35:1

Headline: "Old Cavalry Post now Anti-Aircraft. Project for the development of Guided Missiles Starts New Era at Fort Bliss"

Dateline: Ft. Bliss, Texas, May 31st.

Content: Description of the new transformation of Ft. Bliss, which is located only 44 miles from White Sands.

"...Fort Bliss itself houses the anti-aircraft and guided missile branch of the artillery school headed by Brig. Genl. Robert M. Montague."

FORRESTAL - FBI

9-24-40

THU

6-9-48

INNOCUOUS DOCUMENTS: CHRONO

September 24, 1940

Honorable James Forrestal
Under Secretary of the Navy
United States Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Forrestal:

I have just returned to the city, and my secretary has advised me of the kind invitation which you extended to me to have luncheon with you yesterday. I do wish it had been possible for me to accept the invitation, and will look forward to receiving a rain check.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely,

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

8 September 1941

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you very much indeed for
copy of the summary made by one of your
representatives. It is very useful.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

December 1, 1941

PERSONAL

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Under-Secretary of the Navy
The Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Forrestal:

I thought you might be interested
in the enclosed copy of a confidential
booklet entitled "Some Technical Observations
in the Detection of Sabotage" which we are
making available to police officials.

Sincerely yours,

November 12, 1942

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Undersecretary of the Navy
United States Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Forrestal:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of November 5, 1942, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Auguste Richard advising that favorable action has been taken on my request for priority assistance.

Your cooperation is indeed appreciated. I am confident that the rating issued will facilitate this Bureau's efforts in protecting the internal security of our Nation.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE December 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On December 7, 1943, while you were out of the city of Washington, I met Under Secretary James V. Forrestal of the Navy at his office, and he expressed great interest in the Bureau's work in Latin America.

The two countries in which Mr. Forrestal was greatly interested in were Mexico and Argentina. He expressed grave doubts as to the sincerity of Mexico's expressions of cooperation with the United States and based his conclusions on the fact that the Mexicans had refused to permit American capital to take over various businesses formerly belonging to German nationals in Mexico. Mr. Forrestal stated his banking friends had told him these various corporations are now being held by Mexican "dummies" who at the conclusion of the war would return the properties to the Germans.

With respect to Argentina, Mr. Forrestal inquired as to whether the government of Argentina was as hostile to the United States as the American press stated, and if so, what did the Argentine government expect to gain by such an attitude? To these questions, the writer answered that the American Ambassador, Norman Armour, had told me that he was completely disgusted with the present Argentine government which would do anything if it could publicly embarrass the United States of America. I added it was common gossip in Argentina that the present government hoped to remain neutral until the end of the war as it believed after the war the United States of America would completely forget the Argentine's failure to break relations with the Axis; whereas, if it would break relations with the Axis, Germany and Japan would never forget it. Mr. Forrestal inquired as to whether the Argentine thought the Axis was going to win the war. I advised him that there were no indications that there was such a feeling in Argentina.

In addition to these two countries, Mr. Forrestal inquired as to whether the Nelson Rockefeller organization was as inefficient as it was painted by Senator Butler, to which question I made no answer other than to say I was in no position to pass judgment on the Rockefeller Committee.

Mr. Forrestal inquired as to the popularity in Latin America of Vice President Henry Wallace. I told him that in the course of my trip there were no indications as to whether Wallace was popular or unpopular. Mr. Forrestal

Memorandum for the Director

inquired as to whether I had heard Wallace's "performance" in Peru (meaning Wallace's attempt to sound out public opinion acting incognito, which greatly enraged officialdom in Peru). I answered Mr. Forrestal that I had heard of this incident while in Peru. Mr. Forrestal then stated that he had understood that Milo Perkins' organization had made a great mess of their job in Latin America; to which I stated there were several instances where members of the Board of Economic Warfare were attempting to act as "amateur detectives" and that in several instances I heard there were entirely too many members of that organization in South America.

Mr. Forrestal inquired as to the cooperation throughout Latin America between representatives of the United States Navy and the Bureau's representatives. I told him that generally speaking representatives of these two government agencies got along extremely well with each other. I cited the instance in Argentina where the Bureau's Legal Attache and the United States Naval Attache, acting in concert, were able to bring about the seizure of contraband platinum and the arrest of the smuggler off the coast of Gibraltar. Mr. Forrestal then inquired as to how the Navy was doing their job generally throughout Latin America; to which I again answered I had heard no adverse criticism.

Time and again during this talk with Mr. Forrestal he expressed admiration of the Bureau's ability to adjust itself in foreign fields and to bring about the results which it has. In addition, he stated he was glad the Bureau was more and more taking over the complete domestic intelligence field and that the Navy was withdrawing and cutting down on its personnel in ONI. He added that the writer should get quite a "kick out of this" inasmuch as the writer had recommended in the fall of 1940 to Mr. Forrestal and Secretary Knox that ONI's domestic intelligence field should never be developed any further than a small skeleton organization.

During the course of this conference Mr. Forrestal exhibited to the writer a letter dated October 14, 1943,

Memorandum for the Director

I mention this to you in this memorandum in the event you should run into Mr. Forrestal here in Washington. The letter itself will be forwarded to the Investigative Division with the request for an appropriate investigation inasmuch as there exists a possible violation either of the war fraud statutes or the bribery statutes of the United States Code.

In conclusion, Mr. Forrestal advised me that in the event any matters of a procurement or investigative nature should come up of interest to the Bureau where he, as Under Secretary of the Navy, could be of assistance, the Bureau should not hesitate to call upon him to help.

Respectfully,

NAVY DEPARTMENT
SECURITY SECRETARIAT'S OFFICE

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1947

18 FEB 1947

RECEIVED

Forrestal
Dear Jim,

I have had the talk on the world wide intelligence matter, which you suggested, with FBI. Sometime when we are together I should like to discuss the matter thoroughly with you as I now have some specific and definite ideas which I feel you should pursue.

Hoping you had a grand trip, and with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ed

Hand for Mr. 17
The Honorable
James V. Forrestal
Under Secretary
of the Navy

TO:

Mr. Hoover

Do you think the three of us should
lunch, or shall I explore it first
with Ed?

Forrestal
note
Don't
leave to your
best judgment
JVF

19 February 1944

MR. FORRESTAL

Miami, Florida
February 22, 1944

Dear Jim:

Your note of February 19th in reference to world wide intelligence has been forwarded to me here. I expect to be back in Washington within the next week or two and in the meantime I will leave entirely up to your best judgment the procedure to be followed in this matter. I do think there is definite merit in your suggestions and the sooner something is done along these lines the better I believe it will be for the interests of the United States.

Best regards and good wishes,

Sincerely,

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Under Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED
NAVY DEPT
FEB 23 5 07 PM '44

2/4/44

PERSONAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Under Secretary of the Navy
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

As of possible interest to you, there is attached for your strictly confidential information a memorandum relating to the origin and history of this Bureau's Special Intelligence Service in Latin America.

The information in this memorandum is also indicative of the accomplishments of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Western Hemisphere intelligence operations.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

April 28, 1944

O
Honorable James V. Forrestal
The Under Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Forrestal:

I wanted to drop you this personal note to express the sorrow of myself and my associates on the passing of the Secretary.

He of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarded him as a true friend and will miss him in the days ahead. More important than that, a nation has lost one of its truly great citizens, and I did want to extend to you and his associates in the Navy our heartfelt sympathy in this hour.

With expressions of my highest esteem and admiration,

Sincerely,

W. Roger Hoover

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

14 May 1944

Dear Edgar:

One of the most satisfactory letters I have had came from you. As you know, we either get over-praised or over-castigated in government service, and I doubt whether I rate all the pleasant things, including yours, that have been said about me. They have this effect, however: it determines me to do the utmost I can to live up to them.

I hope that between us we may be able to carry out some of the things you and I have talked about.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Hon. John Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

June 1, 1944 PERSONAL

James V. Forrestal

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As a matter of interest I am transmitting
herewith a two volume work styled "Free Germany"
which has been prepared by this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

7 August 1944

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your letter inviting Secretary Forrestal to address the commencement exercises of the F.B.I. National Academy on October 28th has been received during his absence from the city. Your letter will be called to his attention upon his return.

In the meantime, I know that the Secretary is committed to be in Chicago for Navy Day, October 27th, and he has tentative plans to remain in Chicago on October 28th. I suggest, therefore, that you not count on him to be your speaker at this particular graduation.

If I can be of any further assistance to you during the Secretary's absence, please call on me.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene S. Duffield

Eugene S. Duffield
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Mr. John Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

8/17/44 8-9-44

PERSONAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

0
The Honorable James V. Forrestal
The Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary: Dear Jim:

As of possible interest to you, there is transmitted
herewith a copy of a monograph prepared concerning Guatemala.

The information contained therein has been compiled
from data based on reports received from confidential and re-
liable sources.

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

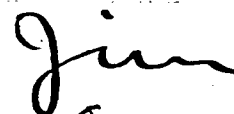
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1944

Dear Edgar:

Thank you for sending me the October
survey. I appreciate having it.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 14, 1945

PERSONAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable James V. Forrestal^①
Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I thought you would be interested in being advised of recent political developments in the Island of Martinique, particularly in view of its proximity to the United States. Elections on that Island in June, 1945, disclosed a pronounced leftward trend. In Fort de France, the capital of Martinique, twenty-nine Communists were elected to a thirty-two-man city council.

In so far as the entire island is concerned, the Socialist Party carried eleven communes, the Radical-Socialists carried seven communes, while the Communist Party carried three communes.

The island is headed by a French-appointed governor but its administration and election laws are the same as those in France.

The population of Martinique is 250,000 of whom 9,000 are white.

Practically all of the land on the island is owned by fifteen French families and is devoted to sugar plantations, which are subsidized by the French Government. ("Daily Worker," June 30, 1945, page 8)

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1945

Dear Edgar:

I am sorry that a previous engagement prevents me from accepting Mr. Skouras' invitation for September 17.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

P.S. I want to see you soon.
It's too long since we've
talked.

Hon. John Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

P.S. I want to see you
soon - it's too long since
we've talked. 2

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY


WASHINGTON

June 18, 1945

Dear Edgar:

Thank you for the report on the
Communist Political Association. I appreciate
having it.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

October 19, 1945

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable James V. Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Attached is a memorandum setting forth the most current
information regarding

You will be promptly advised of any further significant
developments in this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

18 NOV 1945

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Edgar:

My thanks for your letter of 19 October
and the attached memorandum regarding

This subject is of vital interest to me
and I shall be grateful for your prompt advice as
to any further significant development in the
investigation.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal

March 20, 1946

Honorable James Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

I have your communication of March 20, 1946,
concerning the status of the Red Cross drive in the
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Although present figures indicate only a small
percentage of subscriptions at this point, we are con-
tinuing a concentrated drive and I am sure that subsequent
reports will reflect our efforts.

I am entirely in sympathy with the aims and
goals of the Red Cross and every effort will be made to
reach the quota for this Bureau.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECEIVED MAR 21 1946

U S I

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 21 12 00 PM '46

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 20 1946

WESTERN UNION

WU4 NL PD

WASHINGTON DC MAR 19 1946

J EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT OF JUSTICE

RED CROSS CAMPAIGN PERIOD MORE THAN HALF GONE STOP LATEST

TABULATIONS SHOW YOUR DEPARTMENT STANDS AT 7 PERCENT WITH

636 DOLLARS RAISED AGAINST QUOTA OF 8,973 DOLLARS, WITH

54 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 3,849 TOTAL PERSONNEL STOP KINDLY

SPEED SOLICITATION AND REPORTS STOP WILL GREATLY APPRECIATE

YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION

JAMES FORRESTAL SECRETARY OF THE NAVY CHAIRMAN

GOVERNMENT UNIT

F B I

7 636 8,973 54 3,849.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

5 April 1946

Dear Edgar:

Since your letter of 21 March,
I noticed that the Federal Bureau of Investi-
gation has been doing an excellent job in its
○ Red Cross Drive.

Sincerely yours,


James Forrestal

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C. EN-1

Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir: *James*

We are revising Secretary Forrestal's address list and I shall appreciate it very much if you will fill in the attached card and mail it to

me as soon as convenient.

KATHARINE FOLEY,
Secretary

*and attached
4-3-37
J.F.F.*

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

6 August 1947

Dear Edgar:

Thanks for your note. I have had
one hundred per cent cooperation, both professionally
and personally, from you since I have been down
here. I have always valued it and will try to
justify it in the future.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

John Edgar Hoover, Esq.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

File
UNCLASSIFIED

AIRGRAM

Received from the State Department
through [unclear] [unclear]

Date 10-23-47

2673

FROM: Moscow

DATE: October 7, 1947

REC'D: Oct. 22, 1947
10:51 AM

3
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ACTION EUR
INFO
DC/R
SA/M
OCD
CIA
FC
OIE

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-1009, October 7

Pravda October 6, "Philosophical Admonitions to Armament Kings," by B. ~~X~~ezakov and Ya. ~~X~~zhukov, attacks Forrestal for speech at Waldorf-Astoria. Article ridicules Forrestal's references to Marxist philosophy and states in part:

"What was the point of all these reflections of Forrestal? They had a single aim: to show that the foreign policy of reactionary US circles is not conditioned by the interests of American capitalistic monopolies and that American businessmen are angels of peace with branches of palm in their hands. It would be enough for Forrestal to consult his colleagues in the American Cabinet--the bankers Harriman (Secretary of Commerce) and Snyder (Secretary of Treasury)--to establish the direct link between the interests of American monopolies and the foreign policy of the USA.

"Moreover, he himself holds the cards: he himself is counted in any bank of ~~RECORDED~~ leading representative of Wall Street. Here in Wall Street he has spent many years....

"The firm links between the banking house ~~William~~ Reed and Co.' whose star was Forrestal and German capital is a secret to no one. Back in the ~~1930s~~ big American loans were being extended to Germany through this bank. Particularly close links the bank established with the German concern 'I.G. Farbenindustrie' which played such an important part in the preparations and outbreak of the Second World War. Forrestal too was in close connection with this concern. According to a 'Manual of Industrials' reference book, in 1941-42 he was a joint director of the firm 'General Aniline and Film Corporation'--the American branch of 'I.G. Farbenindustrie.'

UNCLASSIFIED

-2- A-1000, October 7, 1947

"These links naturally laid their stamp on
Forrestal's political platform also....

"Such a man in a ministerial office well suits
the armament kings of America. All who were
present at yesterday's dinner in the 'Waldorf-
Astoria' warmly applauded the minister-businessman
when he spoke frankly opposing a 'one-sided',
cutting down of armaments.

"All sensible people cannot but be aware of the
real meaning of the hazy philosophical reflections of
the American Secretary of Defense at the dinner of
the armament kings. Certain US circles are feeling
a particular need for such maneuvers just now on
the eve of the discussion in the General Assembly
of the Soviet proposals for bridling warmongers."

DERBROW

Alittle/co

October 23, 1947

3:40 PM

MEMORANDUM

JAMES

Secretary of National Defense Forrestal telephoned me in regards to the meeting which will be held in his office at 10:00AM tomorrow. He stated that he had nothing particular in mind, but he wanted to gain the impressions from those who are to attend on a number of general aspects of the internal and external security situations. Secretary Forrestal said that he also wanted to take up the question of Secretary of Commerce Truman's proposal for an active counter agitation propaganda. He stated that if it doesn't embarrass me he would like to have me sit in on these meetings. I told him that I would be happy to do so and that I would be at his office at ten tomorrow morning.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1948

Dear Edgar:

I wish it were possible for me to accept your invitation to address the graduating class of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FBI National Academy on Friday, March 26th -- but it's the old problem of whether to work or talk. I find it difficult to do both.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.


THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

5 February 1948

Dear Edgar:

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 1948 enclosing a photostatic copy of a Communist Party leaflet covering its arguments against a Universal Military Training program. This document is certainly a most interesting and revealing one and I appreciate the fact that you sent me a copy.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

9 February 1948

Dear Edgar:

Thank you for your further letter of 6 February 1948 with respect to activities of the National Youth Assembly Against Universal Military Training. This substantially contributes to the interesting file of materials on this general subject which you have kindly been furnishing me.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: June 9, 1948

FROM :

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON ORGANIZATION
OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF
THE GOVERNMENT

You will recall that some weeks ago you suggested that complete memoranda be prepared on the twelve-member commission appointed pursuant to a bill of July 7, 1947, to make studies which will help Congress promote efficiency in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. This Commission reportedly will sit until April, 1949, and is under the leadership of the Honorable Herbert Hoover. Among its purposes are defining and limiting function, abolishing unnecessary services, eliminating duplication, cutting down expenditures, etc.

Attached are summary memoranda on the following which are listed in alphabetical order:

(5) -James Forrestal | (Secretary of Defense)

A perusal of these memoranda will reveal that none of the individuals have indicated any basic hostility toward the FBI. In fact, the vast majority of them have indicated a very friendly attitude toward the Bureau.

*answered
Aug 29/17.*

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

21 August 1947

Dear Bob:

I am enclosing copy of a letter I have just sent to Di Gates.

Due to the fact that you have just escaped, I don't propose to tap you immediately.

We propose to make Hargrave the head of the new Munitions Board (although he has just been "stimulated" by a Justice Department indictment), Vannevar Bush head of Research, if he will take it, Arthur Hill head of the Resources Board, (we tried to get O. E. Hunt, Hutchinson of Chrysler, and several others, without success). Sidney Souers will be the secretary of the Security Council.

These appointments will be announced next week, so please keep this in confidence until that time.

I saw Bernie today, with Lovett and John Snyder. He made a lot of sense, as usual. When we have perfected our plans for the new set-up we will make a presentation to him, in which I will be very glad to have you if you are able to come down.

Regards -- send my best to Margaret.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Hon. Robert P. Patterson
Garrison, New York

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

17 September 1947

B56:

The President changed his plans about the time of my swearing in as Secretary of Defense. It occurred today at noon and there was no opportunity to get word to you in sufficient time to get here.

I am sorry but maybe we can have an appropriate ceremony when I get out of here.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

17 September 1947

Dear Bob:

Most ceremonies which deal with the swearing in of new officials to public office always seemed to me to bore both the participant and the spectators. However, ideas differ about such matters.

My own induction will probably occur next Monday at 11 o'clock in the President's office at the White House, and I am informing a few people so they may be present if they choose. You are one.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

6 November 1947

Dear Edgar:

When you get back will you please give me a ring about the checking of CIA personnel? It was not quite clear at our last meeting whether you would be willing to continue to do the checking. I very much hope you will and that you won't pull the rug out without giving us a chance to argue.

Sincerely yours,


James Forrestal

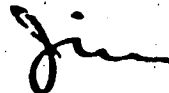
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

5 February 1948

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Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

9 February 1948

Dear Edgar:

Thank you for your further letter of 6 February 1948 with respect to activities of the National Youth Assembly Against Universal Military Training. This substantially contributes to the interesting file of materials on this general subject which you have kindly been furnishing me.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1945

Dear Edgar:

I am sorry that a previous engagement prevents me from accepting Mr. Skouras' invitation for September 17.

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

P.S. I want to see you soon.
It's too long since we've
talked.

Hon. John Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

P.S. I want to see you
soon - it's too long since
we've talked. 2

James Forrestal

Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1949

My dear Mr. Hoover:

In the absence of Mr. Forrestal, this will acknowledge receipt of your note to him of March 30th. It will be shown to him at the first opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

M. Rotondo

Maria Rotondo
Secretary

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

consequent necessity of drafting people from the military to fill the gap. Continuance of this practice he regarded as not in the interests of the Military Establishment, which in due course would come to be attacked as exercising too powerful an influence upon our foreign policies. The actual facts of the matter, he said, were contrary to public impression—it was usually the military people who had to hold back the sporadic and truculent impulses of political people and diplomats who do not realize the consequences of aggressive action. He cited for an example the incident of last September when Yugoslavs shot down American fliers. Acheson was all for an immediate and aggressive use of American Air fighter power over Yugoslavia. Norstad at that time had to point out to him that such a demonstration would inevitably mean war and we would be exposing relatively green and untrained pilots to a superior and competent enemy. I said this was an example of what I believed the Security Council should be for: To make a careful examination of situations and incidents and to avoid “stumbling into war.” The opposite, I said, was the *Panay* incident [in 1937, when Japanese airplanes sank the U. S. S. *Panay*, a river gunboat, in the Yangtze], where we should have seen to it that we went to war—if we had it would probably have avoided World War II.

[Again, at a buffet luncheon the next day for the heads of the new organization, Forrestal realized that the National Security Council might bring friction.

17 September 1947

Meeting at 1:00 P. M.

It is apparent that there is going to be a difference between the Budget, some of the White House staff and ourselves on the National Security Council—its functions, its relationship to the President and myself. I regard it as an integral part of the national defense setup and believe it was so intended by the Congress. As I have said earlier I regard it also not as a place to make policies but certainly as a place to identify for the President those things upon which policy needs to be made.

[At this buffet luncheon Forrestal had called together all of the key figures in the new National Military Establishment. Together they formed a kind of *dramatis personae* of Forrestal's administration, and as such it is worth listing them. Those who attended were: the three Service Secretaries—Royall of the Army, Sullivan of the Navy, Symington of the Air Force; the three military chiefs—Eisenhower, Nimitz and Spaatz and the head of their joint staff, Gruenther; the heads of four of the new national Military Establishment boards—Arthur M. Hill of the National Security Resources Board, Thomas J. Hargrave of the Munitions Board, Vannevar Bush of the Joint Research and Development Board, and Admiral Sidney W. Souers, executive secretary of the National Security Council; the President's special counsel, Clifford; the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter; and Forrestal's own three assistants, Wilfred J. McNeil, Marx Leva and John H. Ohly.

A number of them were present at a meeting a few days later devoted to further discussion of the role of the National Security Council.

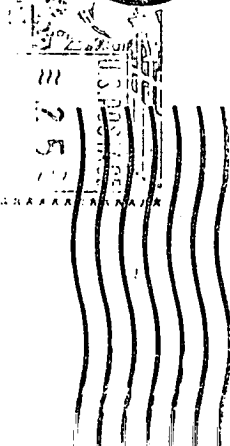
22 September 1947 Meeting with War and Security Councils

Meeting in my office today, following present: Royall, Symington and Sullivan, Eisenhower, Nimitz, Spaatz, Souers, Gruenther and Leva.

I said the purpose of the meeting was a preliminary discussion of procedures in the War Council [composed of the four Defense Secretaries and the three Chiefs of Staff] and in the Security Council, what category of subjects the War Council should discuss and what form they should be transmitted to the Security Council. The question arose as to whether the Security Council should make positive recommendations as to matters of policy and to whom they should make them. Secretary Royall stated that the council *should* make such recommendations. I expressed the view that we would have to be most careful to avoid (a) the appearance of either duplicating or replacing the functions of the Cabinet, and (b) giving the public the impression that our foreign policy was completely dominated by a military point of view.

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FORRESTAL'S FALL: DID HE JUMP, OR WAS HE PUSHED?

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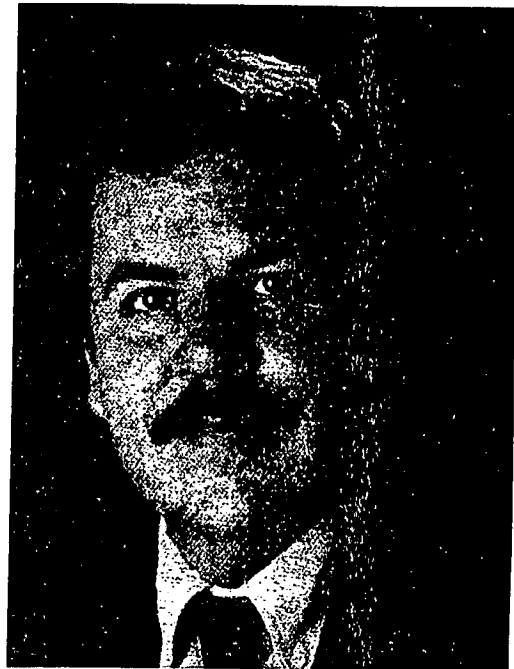
We hear daily of strange and unexplained happenings, and not the least of these was the case of James V. Forrestal 44 years ago.

Forrestal, as the older readers of FSR will recall, had been the U.S. Secretary for the Navy under President Harry Truman, and then, in July 1947 (the very same month in which the famous UFO crash at Corona, near the highly important Roswell Air Force Base, allegedly occurred) he became the Secretary for Defence when the new unified command of the Armed Forces came in. He held this position until March 1949, when he seems to have suffered some sort of emotional or mental breakdown. He was taken to the Bethesda Naval Hospital, and we are given to understand that he committed suicide there in May 1949 by leaping from a window.

If we are to believe the copious evidence now available, it seems that on September 18, 1947 (less than three months after Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of "nine flying discs" over the Cascade Mountains in the north-western State of Oregon) President Truman had affixed his signature to a top-secret document listing twelve very high-ranking individuals who were henceforth to be the members of an exclusive panel, "Majestic 12", or "MJ-12", whose task it would be to investigate the UFO problem and report on it to the President. It appears to be widely believed and accepted that James Forrestal was No. 3 on that List of Twelve.

Our warmest thanks to MUFON JOURNAL's Editor Dennis Stacy for kindly sending us this extraordinarily interesting article which — so far as we know — has not been published elsewhere. EDITOR.

The third name listed as a member of the supersecret MJ-12 group (according to the controversial "Majic" papers) is that of one James V. Forrestal, President Harry Truman's (and the nation's) first Secretary of Defence. His is the only name with an asterisk beside it, as follows: "The death of Secretary Forrestal on 22 May, 1949, created a vacancy which remained unfulfilled until 01 August, 1950, upon which date Gen. Walter B. Smith was designated as permanent replacement."



It is well known that Forrestal committed suicide by leaping from the 16th floor of the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he had been under observation and treatment for physical and psychological exhaustion for the better part of the previous two months, following his reluctant resignation as Secretary of Defence a month earlier. Forrestal had taken to looking into closets and under his bed, convinced he was being followed and bugged by the FBI and/or other governmental agencies. He told at least one close confidant "They're out to get me," and another that "Something awful is about to happen to me." "They" were variously described as "Communists... Jews or Zionist agents."

Forrestal's opposition to the creation of a separate state in Palestine (now modern day Israel) was adamant and unyielding, as were his warnings about and suspicions of, post-WWII Soviet intentions. As Secretary of the Navy (from 1944 to 1947), Forrestal had overseen the creation of the largest naval force ever to sail the seven seas. Those ships ran on oil (as did all of America's major military machinery), and Forrestal did not want to offend the Arab suppliers of same by supporting the formation of a Jewish state in their midst.

Ironically, "the godfather of the national security state" that America became in the wake of the war was also vigorously opposed to the unification of the armed forces under the National Security Act of 1947 which resulted in the creation of the position of Secretary of Defence. Among other structural reorganizations of government, Forrestal feared that his beloved navy might be threatened, and so he lobbied long and hard to water down the new Secretary's powers. Elevated to the position by Truman after the Act's passage, Forrestal found out just how successful (and wrong-headed, in this case) he had been. The constant struggle to mediate inter-service rivalries and squabbling no doubt contributed greatly to the psychic strain of

the Secretary's final years.

Forrestal was beset by other demons as well. According to Clark Clifford's autobiography, *Annals of Government*, "his personal life was unhappy" as "his wife, Josephine, a beautiful, difficult and troubled woman, was drinking heavily." Moreover, "Forrestal had left the Catholic Church, and was deeply guilt-ridden."

And of course if Forrestal really was MJ-3, he had another burden to bear, presumably as the first man who "knew too much about flying saucers." The Roswell Crash, assuming that incident unfolded as pictured, happened barely twelve weeks before Forrestal took over as the country's first Secretary of Defence. Could knowledge of Roswell have been the final straw that pushed Forrestal over the edge? Or was he pushed by his superiors? Clifford, a longtime Washington power-broker and personal savant to several presidential administrations (now under a cloud of scandal for his role in the international B.C.C.I. banking debacle), notes that Forrestal was confined to Bethesda Naval Hospital for fear that "he might blurt out national-security secrets to the wrong people."

So Forrestal jumped or was pushed. According to Stanton Friedman, much material about Forrestal's final days remains classified and out of reach of the Freedom of Information Act. But some new material has recently come to light, which forms the basis for this article. It included a three-part excerpt from Clifford's memoirs, which appeared in *The New Yorker* (April and May of 1991), and a recent biography of Forrestal just published in the U.S., *Driven Patriot: The Life and Times of James Forrestal*, by Townsend Hoopes and Douglas Brinkley (illus., 587 pp., \$30, Alfred Knopf, 1992). Hoopes served on Forrestal's staff and went on to become Assistant to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and Under Secretary of the Air Force (among other distinguished upper-echelon positions). Brinkley is an Assistant Professor of History at Hofstra University.

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

At this point, let's put on our conspiracy caps. First, there can be no doubt that Forrestal was indeed a troubled personality. A workaholic before the word was coined, Forrestal was a driven patriot in more ways than one. Hoopes and Brinkley tell of an aide who came across the Secretary in his Pentagon office at 9:30 in the evening and suggested that he go home. "Go home?" Forrestal replied bleakly. "Home to what?"

Clifford tells of sitting behind Forrestal, a close friend, at a cabinet meeting in 1948. He noticed that the Secretary "had scratched a raw spot on the top of his head with his fingernails. As the meeting progressed, he continued to scratch until it was the size of a half-dollar. I watched in silent horror as the blood slowly oozed from this spot."

Forrestal was feeling besieged on all sides. Truman, who had succeeded to the presidency upon Roosevelt's death, had recently won election on his own, and was expected to heavily reorganize the war-time cabinet. Forrestal was suspicious, correctly, that Truman's ambitious campaign fundraiser, Louis Johnson, whom Forrestal viewed as a total "incompetent," had his eyes on the Defence Secretary's job. Moreover, two national and highly influential radio and newspaper columnists, Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson, were mounting increasingly personal attacks on Forrestal for his support of the looming cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, and for his active opposition to an Israeli state. Pearson's assaults were particularly virulent.

On January 7, 1948, Truman accepted the resignation of George Marshall and Robert Lovett at the State Department, replacing them by Dean Acheson and James Webb. But Forrestal was allowed to continue twisting in the wind. There is some evidence that Truman himself was not entirely happy with the thought of Johnson as Secretary of Defence, but the latter would accept no other reward for his successful campaign services and actively lobbied to have Forrestal dropped. Forrestal was frantic. Eight years of continuous service had exhausted him; coupled with his current troubles, it was beginning to show. He became dishevelled in appearance and indecisive in action, making it harder for Truman to hold on to him, even had he wanted to. Finally, Truman asked for Forrestal's official resignation, which was duly tendered. A three-month transition period was inexplicably cut short, and on March 28, Louis Johnson was sworn in as the new Secretary of Defence.

The same day Forrestal said his farewells to the President in person. Truman surprised Forrestal by awarding him the Distinguished Service Medal before the assembled Cabinet and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Unable to respond to the President's generous words of praise," Clifford writes, "Forrestal was led, speechless, from the room. It was suddenly clear to everyone that something was very wrong."

Forrestal was more composed the next day, when he attended a similar ceremony and received a silver bowl from the members of the Armed Services Committee. As Forrestal and an assistant, Marx Leva, started to return to the Pentagon, Air Force Secretary Stuart Symington suddenly approached and said, "There is something I want to talk to you about." Leva then followed in a separate car.

Quoting from *Patriot* (p.447), "What Symington said to Forrestal on this short trip remains a mystery. Symington later denied the trip had occurred or that he was alone with Forrestal, but Leva and Ohly (another Forrestal staffer) are insistent on that point. They imply that Symington had said something that shattered Forrestal's last remaining defences, for when Leva entered Forrestal's office a short

time later he was sitting in an extremely rigid position, still wearing his hat and staring blankly at a bare wall... A troubled Leva inquired if everything was all right. Forrestal did not reply and seemed unaware of everything around him. Leva persisted. Forrestal finally responded, saying, 'You are a loyal fellow', a phrase he repeated several times."

Asked by Leva if there was anything he could do, Forrestal said "Yes. Call for my car. I want to go home." *Home to what?* As it turned out, Forrestal no longer commanded an official car, same having passed to Johnson. Eventually, Leva rounded up Vannevar Bush's chauffeured limousine and accompanied the former Secretary back to his residence, Prospect House. (Vannevar Bush, of course, head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, is listed as MJ-2 in the Majic documents, just ahead of Forrestal.)

"M.I.B." THEORIES

Now another curious event occurs, with tones of visitation by MIB. Alerted by Leva, longtime friend and confidant Ferdinand Eberstadt hurries over to find a haunted Forrestal home, shades drawn, its main occupant mumbling that "they" had finally gotten him. Forrestal advised Eberstadt not to speak above a whisper as "they" had also wired the house. "He parted a blind and pointed to two disreputable-looking men on the corner who he insisted were shadowing him. Suddenly the doorbell rang and the houseboy opened the door on an odd-looking man who proceeded to tell Eberstadt he had been an alternate delegate from North Carolina to the 1948 Democratic National Convention and was seeking Forrestal's support for appointment to postmaster in his hometown. Surprised by this strange coincidence, Eberstadt nevertheless quickly got rid of the man by telling him to write a letter. When he left, Forrestal watched warily as the man made his way to the corner, where he stopped to talk to the other two men. 'You see, he is one of them' Forrestal said excitedly. To Eberstadt, however, it was soon apparent that the third man was merely asking directions. A trolley car came along, the others pointed to it, and he got aboard." (p. 449-450, my emphases).

This is still a curious episode, however. Why, for example, should all three of the men involved in this "strange coincidence" have non-ordinary appearances? And what was it that was "odd" about the one? Presumably, the latter had gotten directions to Forrestal's house; would he not remember how he had just come? Also, Prospect House was presumably in one of Washington's finer neighborhoods. What were two "disreputable-looking" types doing on Forrestal's block-corner in the first place? If they were strangers to the street, odd, then, that they would have the directions the third man needed. The whole thing has the appearance of a one-act play staged for Forrestal's "benefit."

This event, coupled with Symington's "There is something I want to talk to you about," an incident later denied by the Air Force Secretary, begins to smack of orchestration aimed at unsettling an already unstable Forrestal. But there is more to come.

TOP PSYCHIATRISTS CALLED IN

Alarmed by this obvious and rapid disintegration of Forrestal's psyche and body, Eberstadt decides on the spot that he needs to be whisked out of Washington immediately for a little R & R. Clothes and golf clubs are hastily packed, an Air Force *Constellation* is arranged for through Johnson, and early that same evening Forrestal flies to Hobe Sound in Florida, outside Palm Beach, where he is met by Robert Lovett, who had a home there. Lovett is disturbed to find his friend but a bag of bones. His attempt to leaven the situation with humor is met by a ghastly stare. "Bob," Forrestal says, "they're after me."

At the same time Eberstadt has flown on to New York to consult Dr. Howard Rusk, the medical editor for the *New York Times*, as to "who was the most eminent psychiatrist in the country." Rusk recommends Dr. William Menninger of the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. And another coincidence: Menninger just happens to be in New York, and agrees to fly down to see his new client in Florida the following day. "By another ironic twist" (Hoopes and Brinkley, p. 450), Menninger had been called to the Pentagon just three months earlier to help set in motion a study of the phenomenon known as combat fatigue. John Ohly, the Forrestal assistant in charge of the study, was canvassing the field of psychiatry to find the most suitable experts to serve on the study group, and he had arranged for Menninger to come to Washington. The psychiatrist had spent half a morning with Forrestal discussing various aspects of combat fatigue, but so far as is known he did not notice any trace of this condition, or any other mental or emotional abnormality, in the behavior of the Secretary of the Defence." (My emphasis.)

Now, a mere three months later, on March 30 and 31, Dr. Menninger has several lengthy discussions with the former Secretary and finds that he is "suffering from severe 'reactive depression' — essentially the condition of combat fatigue seen with such frequency during WW11 — which results from an accumulation of intense external pressures that overwhelm the mind and nervous system. In Forrestal's case the principal systems were "anxiety, paranoia, and a sense of total failure that produced impulses to suicide." (p. 452, my emphasis).

"I'VE BETRAYED MY COUNTRY"

Prior to Menninger's arrival, Forrestal confided to Lovett (out of hearing range of some beach umbrella stands that he believed to be wired) that

"I've done a bad thing." What this might have been was never specified. In hospital later, shown several glowing newspaper editorials lauding his national service, Forrestal would snort: "The fools. Don't they know I've betrayed my country?"

Menninger recommended immediate treatment, volunteering his own clinic. Lovett wondered how Forrestal's collapse could have been so complete and sudden, given that he was so careful about maintaining his physical fitness. "Menninger replied that Forrestal had expended tremendous energy to suppress his mounting anxieties over a long period of time — especially through the intense strain of his last year in office. The effort to keep everything locked up had consumed him physically and spiritually. His collapse had been swift because he was used up." (p. 452)

The question, then, was not *when* Forrestal would receive treatment, but *where*? At the time, the diagnosis of mental illness carried quite a stigma. Moving Forrestal to a prominent psychiatric clinic in the country's heartland would be impossible to keep from the press and public. Instead, the Navy suggested, he should be treated at a general hospital, namely the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. According to Hoopes and Brinkley (p. 453), it was felt that "the specific nature of the illness could be more easily kept from the public if Forrestal was treated at Bethesda... because the whole naval organization was better equipped to screen visitors and isolate the patient from inquiring newspapermen." Menninger and Eberstadt, on the other hand, "were for publicly acknowledging Forrestal's condition of 'combat fatigue' and sending him to Topeka for treatment that had proved successful in hundreds of similar cases."

The Navy and secrecy won. On April 2, 1948, Forrestal was flown to Bethesda. "Although heavily sedated, Forrestal was in a state of extreme agitation during the flight, convinced that his enemies were omnipresent and determined to get him. He now wondered aloud whether the root cause of his troubles had been his break with the Catholic Church forty years before, whether he was being 'punished' for being a 'bad Catholic.'" During the limousine ride to the hospital, "he made at least one attempt to throw himself out of the car. Arriving at Bethesda, he declared that he did not expect to leave the place alive." (p. 452)

REMOVAL TO BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL

Menninger saw Forrestal on April 3 and again on April 6, but responsibility had now officially passed to Captain George N. Raines, Bethesda's chief psychiatrist, "although recent evidence suggests that the White House was beginning to exert its influence on physical arrangements and public relations. In 1984, Dr. Robert P. Nenno, a young assistant to Dr. Raines... disclosed that Raines had been instructed by 'the people downtown' to put Forrestal in the VIP suite on the sixteenth floor

of the hospital... The decision to put Forrestal in the tower suite was regarded by the psychiatric staff as 'extraordinary' for a patient who was 'seriously depressed and potentially suicidal,' especially when the hospital possessed two one-storey buildings directly adjacent to the main structure that were specifically organized and staffed to handle mentally disturbed patients. Nenno added, 'I have always guessed that the order came from the White House.'" (p. 454, no emphasis necessary).

"Apparently determined to make the best of a decision he could not effectively resist," Hoopes and Brinkley continue, "Raines had special security screens installed on the windows of Forrestal's room and established a system of around-the-clock surveillance by doctors, nurses, and enlisted medical corpsmen." Menninger approved the arrangements, as well as the course of treatment Raines proposed.

After Forrestal had settled in, he asked Raines one day why the heavy screens? "That's to keep you from jumping out the window," Raines said. "Forrestal replied that he could never bring himself to jump out of a window, nor could he even slash his wrists. He thought it possible that he could hang himself or take an overdose of sleeping pills."

Raines essentially confirmed Menninger's diagnosis of reactive depression. Other members of the psychiatric staff at Bethesda "thought the condition was closer to 'involutional melancholia,' a variant of manic-depression and a form of schizophrenia. This was not inconsistent with the Menninger-Raines diagnosis, but somewhat broader and more serious." According to one textbook, "suicide is always a great risk." (p. 454-55)

There were other risks as well. For the first week of his incarceration Forrestal was kept in a constant state of narcosis, to which he seemed to respond favorably; "this was followed by four weeks of subshock insulin therapy. Here the results were less successful than Raines hoped for, but he decided not to use the more controversial electric shock treatment, at least until it was shown that more moderate measures had failed to produce improvement." (p. 460)

WAS THERE FEAR OF WHAT HE MIGHT SAY?

Still, one day Forrestal sent for Rear Admiral Sydney Souers, executive secretary of the newly formed National Security Council, "telling him to bring an instrument for detecting listening devices because the hospital room was 'wired.' Souers examined the room with the device and told Forrestal he could find nothing. Forrestal replied, 'They knew you were coming and took them out. Now they'll put them back again.'" Interestingly, Souers is listed as MJ-8. This scene has its surreal side, too. Surely Raines or his second in command would have known of Souers' impending visit to "sweep" Forrestal's room clean of listening devices. Did Raines okay the visit as contrived therapy, a

means of play-acting aimed at placating his patient's fears? That seems unlikely, else, given Forrestal's now raging paranoia, he and his staff would have been occupied round the clock doing nothing but responding to his constant complaints of being spied on. Did Souers do it on his own, to humor an old friend? Was he absolutely truthful when he said no such devices were on the premises? We'll probably never know. **But aside from any flying saucer beans Forrestal might have spilled, we do know that both the Navy and White House were concerned, in Clifford's words, that Forrestal "might blurt out national-security secrets to the wrong people."** Under such circumstances, it seems only logical to conclude, for whatever reason(s), that Forrestal's room and conversations probably were closely monitored. As an old T-shirt slogan of the Sixties had it: "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean you aren't being watched!" Souers' visit, in other words, could have been a convenient way for him to report back to his superiors; thus the play-act, bug-sweep, could also have been for the fearful Forrestal's "benefit" alone.

But clearly not everything was arranged for Forrestal's benefit. His brother Henry, for example, visited four times and came away convinced, as he told Raines, that "what my brother needs is not to be cooped up there on the 16th floor. He needs to be on an estate somewhere, among friends, where he can walk around in the sun. He has been an exceedingly active man." (P. 462) But it was not to be. Henry also pressed a priest, Father Maurice S. Sheehy, on Raines with similar lack of results. "*For reasons never adequately explained,*" Raines turned down these requests while providing assurances that everything would be possible at the proper time. Henry ...asked, 'How long do you want to wait, Doctor? Delays in such cases can be dangerous. Have you ever heard of a case where being visited by a clergyman has hurt a man?' But Raines ...*possibly because a Catholic confessional might risk disclosing sensitive national security information,* continued to put him off." (p. 462-63, my emphasis).

Again, this makes no logical sense. Forrestal has now been under official sequester for almost two months; rather than babbling national security secrets to one and all, he seems to have been mainly concerned with his own personal security.

SECURITY RELAXED

In early May, the claustrophobic security surrounding Forrestal was somewhat relaxed. "An enlisted corpsman remained on duty in the corridor just outside Forrestal's door, but the patient was encouraged to leave his room occasionally, to visit with nurses and other patients on the same floor, and to use a small pantry across the hall where he could pour himself a cup of coffee or prepare a snack. Fatefully, the pantry window was not equipped with the heavy tamper-proof screen that had been affixed to the windows of his bedroom: it

had only a light screen fastened by small hooks." (p. 463)

A quote from Raines himself is revealing. Admitting that the relaxation of restrictions was "one of the calculated risks of therapy," he went on to add: "I further recognized the well-known psychiatric fact that the next thirty days would constitute the most dangerous period of the illness as far as suicide was concerned, inasmuch as suicidal preoccupations had to be present, and at the same time privileges had to be extended to the patient to allow his full recovery." (p. 463). Raines last saw Forrestal on May 18, before leaving for a week-long absence, combining a vacation with a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

I WANT TO STAY UP LATE AND READ

On Saturday, the 22nd, Forrestal told corpsman Edward Prise, with whom he had become quite friendly (having promised a job in the future), that he didn't want a sedative as he intended to stay up late, reading. Prise was one of three corpsmen who guarded Forrestal around the clock, each spelling an eight-hour shift. Curiously (?), his usual midnight replacement had gotten drunk the night before (a Friday) and gone absent without leave. "The new man was a stranger to Forrestal and to the subtleties and dangers of the situation. Prise had observed that Forrestal, though more energetic than usual, was also more restless, and this worried him. He tried to alert the young doctor who had night duty and slept in a room next to Forrestal's. But the doctor was accustomed to restless patients and not readily open to advice on the subject from an enlisted man." (p. 464)

Even so, Prise lingered on for another half-hour or so. At 1:45 a.m. Sunday morning, his new replacement looked in on Forrestal and found him copying out by hand "*The Chorus from Ajax*," by Sophocles, "a brooding... poem... in which Ajax, forlorn and far from home, contemplates suicide."

A portion of those lines reads as follows:

*Thy son is in a foreign clime
Where Ida feeds her countless flocks,
Far from thy dear, remembered rocks,
Worn by the waste of time —
Comfortless, nameless, hopeless save
In the dark prospect of the yawning grave...*

*Woe to the mother in her close of day,
Woe to her desolate heart and temples gray,
When she shall hear
Her loved one's story whispered in her ear!
"Woe, woe!" will be the cry —
No quiet murmur like the tremulous wail
Of the lone bird, the querulous nightingale —*

Clifford chose to quote these lines from the same poem: *Better to die, and sleep/The never waking sleep, than linger on/And dare to live, when the soul's life is gone.*

If Forrestal's choice of departing poetry conjures up no immediate flying saucer imagery, neither does it necessarily evoke his supposedly guilt-laden Catholic background. Why not, after all, simply quote one of the saints, with whom he must have been at least semi-familiar, or, for that matter, Christ Himself, as in "*My Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?*"

"A SUDDEN FIT OF DESPONDENCE"

In fact, Forrestal finished but the night of nightingale, before he was seized by what Raines would later refer to as a "sudden fit of despondence." Here Hoopes and Brinkley remind the reader that Forrestal had been instrumental in supporting *Operation Nightingale*, "an anti-Communist guerilla army made up of Ukrainian refugees, recruited and trained by the CIA to carry on a secret war against the Soviet Union from behind the Iron Curtain. Many of the recruits were Nazi collaborators who had carried out mass executions of their fellow countrymen, including thousands of Jews, behind the German lines during the war." (p. 465). Was this what Forrestal meant by having betrayed his country? Perhaps. But again, the episode — of which there must have been several in the course of Forrestal's multi-varied career — fails to match up in any symbolic or other sense with Forrestal's final choice of words. Clifford described the handwritten copy Forrestal was working on as a suicide note, whereas Hoopes and Brinkley leave no such impression at all. Certainly it appears to have been addressed to no individual in particular.

THE END

What happened next is subject to dispute, as is much else about Forrestal's suicide. Some accounts say that the inexperienced corpsman "went on a brief errand;" Nenno, however, said that Raines told him that Forrestal "pulled rank" on the obedient servant, sending him off on some inconsequential mission designed to remove him from the immediate premises. In his absence Forrestal

crossed the corridor into the unsecured pantry. He tied one end of his dressing-gown sash around his neck, the other to a radiator, removed the screen and climbed out the window. Whether the sash held for a moment or broke straight away is not known; at any rate, Forrestal plummeted 13 storeys to his death, landing atop the roof of a third-floor passageway.

This scenario, too, is somewhat curious. Forrestal had earlier confessed to his psychiatrist that he could never jump out a window, although he admitted that he might be able to hang himself. Why, assuming he might have been afraid of heights, then, did he not simply hang himself in his room, or at least try to? And why hang oneself out of an open window, sixteen floors above ground; why not simply jump and be done with it?

SOME QUESTIONS

Psychoanalyzing a suicide after the fact is admittedly risky business at best; still, there is much to Forrestal's fateful fall that doesn't quite add up. Why, for example, did Raines take a week's leave of absence during what he himself admitted was a particularly crucial period in the potential recovery — or suicide — of one of his most prominent patients? Why wasn't Forrestal permitted to see a priest, while Sydney Souers was allowed to sweep his room for suspected bugging devices? Why was the former Secretary of Defence confined to a tower suite instead of one of the existing ground-level psychiatric facilities? How did it happen — coincidentally during Raines' extended absence — that one of his regular watchers would get drunk and go AWOL, and then be replaced by a complete novice, unaware of the gravity of the situation?

THREE INTERPRETATIONS

There are at least three ways to read Forrestal's fall. The first is simply as a tragic sequence of unavoidable and unforeseeable events, in which

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A recent gathering of most of the FSR 'team', with families and friends.
Left to right: Joan Wilder, Leonard Wilder, Judy Stickney, Howard Raimbach, Gordon Creighton, Dr. Bernard Finch, Joan Creighton, George Wingfield, Wendy Kaye, Philip Creighton, Michelle Raimbach, Paul Whitehead.
Photo by Bobbie Finch

he saw the silhouette of a figure standing outside the window, but he could have been mistaken. Suddenly the lights came on again... there was no logical explanation for the power supply being reconnected.

The next morning Derek and Dora stepped outside and walked around towards the back of the cabin. Derek was mystified by the incident the previous night and anxiously wanted to inspect the electrical trip switch. The couple walked to the rear of the cabin, paused for a moment and then looked up in amazement at the corner of the cabin.

There was a dark sooty area around the switch where the power surge had taken place. Not only had it been reconnected, but at the side of the connection was a sooty outline, that of a hand, a very large hand...

Derek and Dora made no further attempt to contact the "ZIs" and shortly afterwards they moved away from the area. By now, the Vietnam war had started, and things in Australia worsened. In 1967 the couple decided to return to England with their family... just as the "board" had predicted!

* NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR: The true name of the family is on record in our confidential files, but at the express request of Derek, we are calling them the

"Smiths." We should add that Mr. Omar Fowler now knows the family well (they are living in Derbyshire), as he has interviewed them four times before writing this report. ■

(from Page 11

Forrestal was indeed crazy as a loon and determined to commit suicide. Given the unexpected rare opportunity, he was still "sane" enough to take advantage of same, with the desired results.

A second theory postulates that the Government itself had grown paranoid over Forrestal's mental reliability and stability, and saw "suicide" — or perhaps a complete nervous breakdown — as the only safe way out. In this scenario, "they" wouldn't have pushed Forrestal so much as they might have simply allowed (and/or urged) him to push himself. Given a generous dose of existing suicidal tendencies, a mere gentle nudge and unguarded opportunity here and there would no doubt have been sufficient.

As for the conspiracy-cappers, they are quite capable of coming up with their own final scenario ■

fsr

MAILBAG

A Strange Sky Phenomenon of 1748. (A "Sundog"?)

Dear Sir, — I am passing on the enclosed item in the hope that maybe it will be of interest to your readers.

I am a historian, and came across this* 'sighting report' in the course of my work. It appeared on page 246 of the *Scots Magazine* (published in Edinburgh) of May 1748. The enclosed is an electrostatic copy from microfilm made by the National Library of Scotland.

As to what the correspondent in Carlisle is describing I have of course no idea, nor do I know whether any other reports about it appeared in any other papers.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. Robert Clyde,
60 South Trinity Road,
Edinburgh EH5 3NX.
March 2, 1993.

* A letter from Carlisle, of May 25, gives the following account.

"A very remarkable phenomenon appeared in the sky yesterday at eight o'clock, and continued till ten, to the great surprise of the whole city. On the right of the sun there was a large circus, resembling the colours of a rainbow, but more bright, which was crossed in three places with a flaming colour, mixed with an azure blue; with streamers interspersed, and others darting out from the uttermost circle, like

a glory. The compass of the whole to the naked eye seemed to occupy the space of fifty yards. During its continuance the sun was very bright, the sky clear, and the air quite serene. We had no rain since, nor for forty eight hours before".

UFO Concealed in Cloud?

Dear Sir, — I have been interested in your subject for many years but only now am I writing in for details of your journal.

During the 1960s and 1970s, I — and also many of my friends — saw from time to time a number of strange things. In particular I recall — and I have never before reported this to anybody — that, around about 1968, I saw an object which appeared to me to possibly be generating its own sort of cloud-cover, or using existing cloud to hide in.

The object was in the sky above Southampton Water, between Fawley and Southampton Dock, and I viewed it from a tower block of flats.

As I say, many of us observed strange things during those years. One friend even claimed to have seen a UFO land at Cholderton during the 1970s. But of course, like the rest of us, he never reported it to anybody.

Yours faithfully,
Richie Bond,
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April 12, 1993.

NOTE BY EDITOR. We have not seen mention of this lately, but in the early days, especially in the 1950s, we saw a number of such reports in which witnesses spoke of craft or of objects which seemed either to use cloud-cover in which to conceal themselves or which possibly generated their own cloud-cover from which to spy on us.

SETI — Dr. Guérin vs. Dr. Sagan

Dear Gordon: — I enjoyed Dr. Guérin's article, "SETI: A MANIPULATION" in FSR 38-1 and agreed with every word. Especially his apt analogy: "... (it is as vain to seek to capture radio messages sent by the extraterrestrials as it would be for a primitive tribe to expect a message from the white man in the form of signals emitted by wisps of smoke in the Bush.)"

If, as we are well aware, the U.S. Government has irrefutable proof of the existence of extraterrestrials among us through tens of thousands of reports on sightings, contacts and abductions, and if, as claimed, they are dealing in secret with alien groups, then it is obvious the SETI listening program is a gigantic smoke screen to lull the public (and our scientific fraternity) into the belief that extraterrestrials if they exist are "way out there" and we are still seeking proof of their existence.

The attached Carl Sagan article* from the March 7, 1993 *Parade Magazine*