



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 3, 1954

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Dear Senator McCarthy:

I am writing you in reference to the action of the Special Subcommittee yesterday in unanimously recommending to you as the Chairman of the Permanent Investigating Subcommittee that the names of some 130 alleged Communists in Defense plants be furnished the Secretary of Defense.

In order that the record be clear, I was advised last evening (June 2) that your office had telephoned mine about 6:30 p. m. that you requested that instead of sending the names to the Department of Defense forthwith that either myself or someone designated by me as a representative of the Department of Defense meet with you during the luncheon recess around 12:30 p. m. on June 3 to "discuss in some detail" the circumstances involved in the case and case histories rather than just delivering a list of the names involved. It is my understanding that your office further indicated that I should try to reach you that evening or the first thing on the following morning. I was not in my office at that time but I was contacted and returned the call as soon as possible. I was advised by your secretary that you had by that time left your office and that you were not then available. She stated, however, that you believed the names should not be turned over to the Defense Department without some explanation on your part and that you suggested meeting with me for such purpose during the noon recess on June 3, 1954. I replied that the Department of Defense was indeed interested in receiving the names that evening and I suggested the names be sent the Department of Defense forthwith in accordance with the Investigating Committee's resolution and that a conference with respect to such names be held as soon as practicable thereafter at a mutually convenient time. She replied that she could not comply with my request for delivery of the names but that she would make every effort to comply with my request that you get in touch with me the next morning. She suggested you probably could call me shortly before 9:00 a. m. because she expected you to be in your office at that time.



I did not receive any call from you at the indicated time on the morning of June 3rd and therefore I called for you at your office. I was told by Mrs. Driscoll that you were in executive session of the committee and were not present in your office. I then gave my telephone number to her and asked that you be informed of ~~the~~ the Department's desire to obtain the list of names as soon as possible. I also reminded her again that I had told her the evening before of a prior engagement of an official nature and could not meet with you personally during the noon recess on June 3rd.

Late in the morning of June 3rd I received a call from your secretary stating in substance that she had received a call from you and that you would turn over the names to the Department of Defense but only upon two conditions -- (a) that an official stenographic reporter be present during the conference between you and me to record all statements made and (b) that the Department of Defense agree to keep the names secret.

The Department of Defense has no objection to the first condition suggested by you. With respect to the other condition, the Department of Defense cannot make any advance commitment. It must be free to take any and all actions deemed by it appropriate in the interests of the national security. For instance, if, in the interests of national security, it is deemed desirable by the Department, in accordance with the regulations, forthwith to direct the suspension of the clearance of any of the named individuals, the Department must be free to act without consulting you. The names will be checked thoroughly and promptly with the FBI and also checked against all information in the Department of Defense. The Department's existing and regular procedures will be followed in dealing with the cases of all individuals, and the Department will take the responsibility for any and all information which is released regarding any of the individuals. It is possible that the Department of Defense has already begun a ~~tion~~ regarding some of the individuals included in your list.

Any such suspension could, however, be directed only with respect to those individuals employed on contracts classified "Confidential", "Secret", and "Top Secret".

The problem of security risks and subversives working in plants having unclassified contracts for the Department of Defense is



and has been of great concern. There are now two legislative items in the Congress which have the firm support of this department. Both were introduced by Senator Ferguson on May 10, 1954. S. 3427 deals with the liquidation of Communist-controlled organizations which are in a position to affect adversely the national defense or security. S. 3428 is designed to authorized removal of subversives from defense facilities where their presence constitutes a present danger of sabotage, espionage or other subversion. Early enactment of these measures would be of invaluable assistance to this Department.

Under the above arrangement, the Department of Defense will be pleased to receive the names of those communists working in defense facilities and I can meet you or any representative of yours at any time for such purpose.

Sincerely,

Honorable Joseph McCarthy

United States Senate