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ST

Executive

61-8990 /a

23 July 1961

STAT

card

Dear Mike:

The White House passed on to me your letter of June 27 and I also have now heard from you directly.

I agree enthusiastically that you would be an excellent candidate for the job in question but I don't know exactly what I can do about it at the moment.

If you get over here before the die is cast, drop in and see me.

Sincerely

AWD:JI:mfb
Distribution:
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(H
CIA

June 27, 1961

My dear Mr. President:

Much has been written and said recently about the possibility of Allen Dulles's retiring. If and when that should happen and you are considering candidates for his post, I would feel compelled to suggest that I could run the CIA as well as anyone I know.

That must seem a bald and artless suggestion coming from an unknown quarter. But the crudity of so direct an approach may perhaps be mitigated by the seriousness of its purpose. It deserves consideration only if young new leadership is to be sought from outside the Agency.

I served more than three war years as a junior officer with OSS (Navy Cross, Silver Star) and in a senior CIA post from

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June 27, 1961

1951 to 1954. My credentials can in part be checked with Allen Dulles for whom I hold unlimited affection and respect. Perhaps to lend this note further perspective I should add that I am now head of the Columbia Broadcasting System in Europe.

If my suggestion comes to nothing, it will at least have eased my citizen's conscience which would have remained sore indeed if, alert to the grim prospects facing us, knowing something of the intelligence situation and assessing my own potential usefulness with some objectivity, I had taken no action whatsoever.

Most respectfully,

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~~61-5981/a~~

Executive Registry
61-8990/a

July 13, 1961

[redacted]

Your recent letter has been received by the President and read with appreciation. He asked me to thank you for your kind offer of service which is being brought to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. O'Brien
Special Assistant
to the President

[redacted]

REFER TO CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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ER. 61-5984

[redacted]

Telephone: 27 24 57
Cable: CBSEUROPE

[redacted]

Dear Ken Dulles

Hearing persistent rumours that you might retire next year, I has the affaring to write the President putting myself forth as a dark horse candidate for the Director's post.

Of course if will come

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thought. I am, believing I have the capacity, I felt compelled to state my willingness. At least to have done so eases the conscience a little in these grim days.

In any event I hope your rumored retirement is a long way off. Any replacement must fall short of your

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our unique abilities and knowledge.

A recent letter from Sam Griffith told of his very pleasant visit with you. It was good to receive an A.I report; most of the news Timmie and I get is [illegible]

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is third on fourth hand — on unsatisfactory fragments in the press.

Warmest personal regards.

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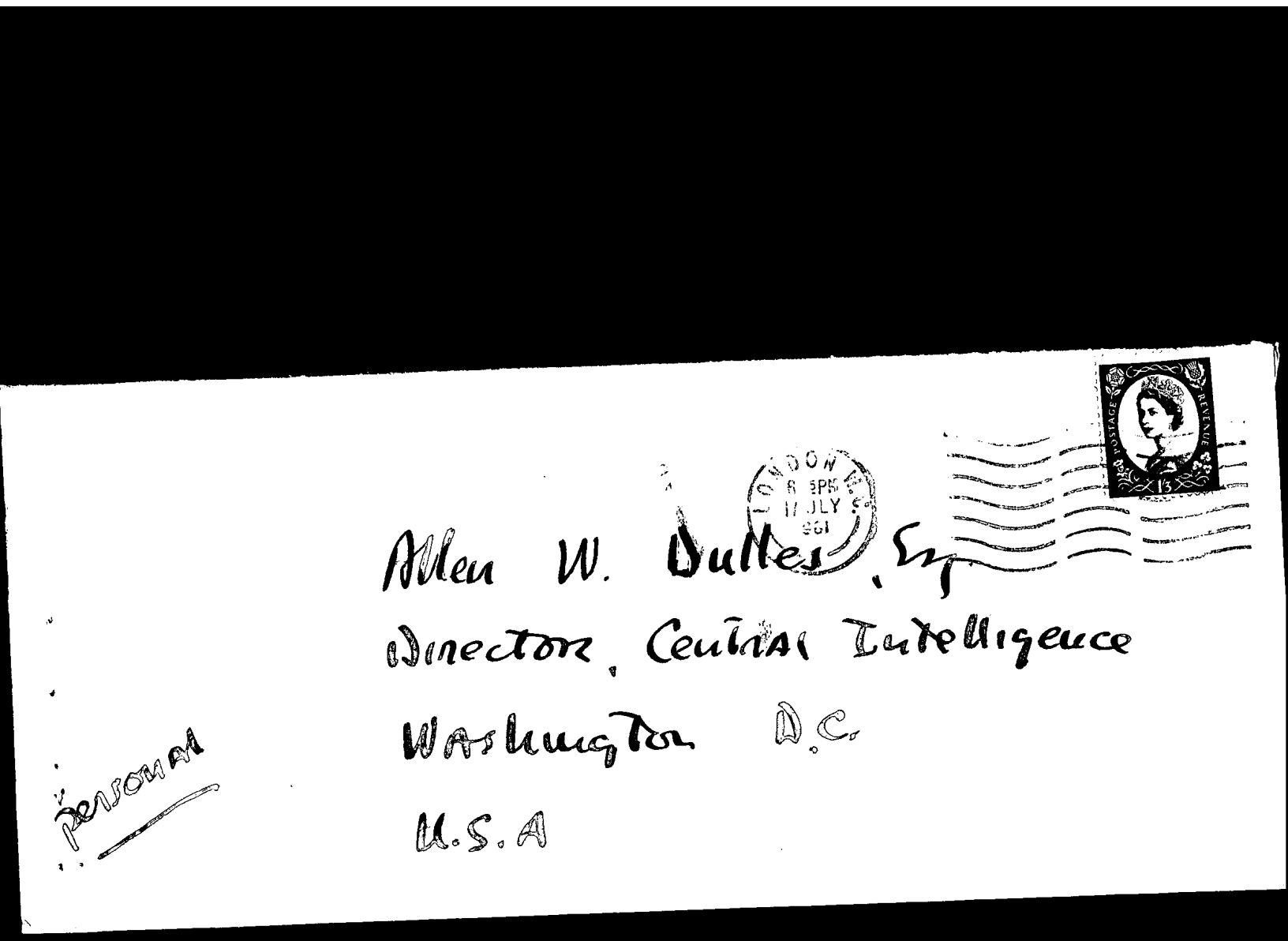

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Allen W. Dulles, Esq
Director, Central Intelligence
Washington D.C.
U.S.A

personal

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