

EYES ONLY

Bill Sullivan
14

Dear Governor:

The last time you called me in, you asked me how I liked my new job. The people in SES are old friends of mine, and facilitating the visits of Soviet delegations has some pleasant aspects, but the following is the sort of thing I want to do - very much.

The global, activist anti-Communist approach is urgently needed in the Department. This includes, among other things: 1) watching carefully for opportunities to take the initiative against the Communists and keeping an eye out for areas or situations where things are going against us now, or likely to do so in the future; 2) employing a very flexible, informal and non-bureaucratic approach in suggesting action, stimulating various bureaus and offices, and cooperating with them in the implementation of these activities; and 3) hovering on the periphery and doing those things which otherwise would just not get done, but reducing our role from active participation to attentive watching from the sidelines as soon as we feel things are well under way. These activist tactics are effective, as witness our success in changing the Department's Italian policy throughout last year here in Washington (ask Arthur if that could have been achieved without those tactics), and in continuing to bring the Italian Socialists away from the Communists. The Italian situation continues to need close watching. And all sorts of other useful projects can be put through successfully if they are given persistent and tender loving care. For example, I have been applying to Chilean affairs our successful experience with the Italian Socialists, and this has already brought about some change in our position towards the Chilean Christian Democrats and Socialists. I might ~~add that this contribution has been warmly appreciated by some in the Department's Chilean research area (e.g. Lois Carlisle, x4481), which is eager to have me continue these tactics, as is Dana Durand.~~

What I need is a slot, such as the one I held in M over the past year, which is not geographically or functionally limited. I realize you do not want a large operating staff, but if technically, on the books, I could continue to operate from a slot in M I could be effective, as well as helpful to Arthur and others, without bothering or inconveniencing you in any way. If it really is not possible in M, then there must be some place elsewhere.

It is precisely this pragmatic, implementing, activist approach, cutting across departmental, geographic and functional lines, which is badly needed here. I know this does not fit in with bureaucratic tradition and routine, but this Administration continually claims it seeks something more dynamic and imaginative.

I have been successful and useful at this sort of thing in the past. Indeed, the last time we had lunch together you yourself said it was just the kind of work I ought to be doing. It is not that I am asking for a promotion or restitution of the years I lost because of being demoted to the bottom of Class III - I only want a chance to continue to be effective against the Communists.

It would not be difficult to arrange something like this if you gave the word. A friend of mine in Personnel, and incidentally formerly my immediate superior in Rome, Earl Sohm (x6241) knows about what I want to do and is sympathetic. Would you talk with him?

Augustus Volletti
advance party