CONFIDENTIAL
FUTURE RELEASE
NOTE DATE

CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NORTHERN MERCANTILE
OF WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 25, 1947, DATE TO BE NOTED ON

In response to newspaper queries, the Department of
State is publishing the text of the following letter:

"Dear Sirs:

Your letter of October 4th addressed to the Secretary
of State was referred to me for review and consideration.
The points you raise have been studied with the approval
of the Assistant Secretary of State. Certain facts have been
developed.

You are, of course, correct in stating that the action
taken was not in conformity with procedures later established
by the Personnel Security Board of the Department. That
Board was set up, its members nominated, and its procedures
promulgated subsequent to the dismissal.

You have requested that the Department either submit all
of the individuals to reexamination or that it give them a
complete statement of charges, together with a hearing on these charges.
In view of the fact that the Board has already given three cases
by top officers of the Department, and the usual procedure
provided by the Civil Service Commission, I must refuse this request.

The Department regrets that the employees concerned have
found it difficult to find other employment as a result of its
determination. It has attempted to emphasize that the determination
in their cases went only to the question of their suitability
for employment in the Department in matters of security. This
determination was based upon evidence which the Department is
not able to disclose for reasons of national security.

I invite your attention to the provision in the appropriate
Act of Congress under which the dismissals were
made.

"Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of the
Act of August 24, 1912 (20 Stat. 503), or the pro-
visions of any other law, the Secretary of State may,
in his absolute discretion, on or before June 30, 1947,
terminate the employment of any officer or employee of

the
the Department of State or of the Foreign Service of
the United States whenever he shall deem such termina-
tion necessary or advisable in the interests of the
United States, but such termination shall not affect
the right of such officer or employee to seek or accept
employment in any other department or agency of the
Government if declared eligible for such employment
by the United States Civil Service Commission.

"The Department has the responsibility to resolve,
issues as it is able, any security doubt with respect to
an employee. The Congress recognized that we would be unable
to resolve completely the question with respect to some em-
ployees, for that reason Congress made it possible for the
Secretary to act summarily without full resolution of that
question, if he deemed it necessary to do so. The statute
appears to designate the Civil Service Commission as the
agency to determine whether the facts upon which the Depart-
ment acted were such as to make an employee ineligible for
employment in another government agency. We have this
week been informed that the Commission is prepared to con-
sider these cases, if the employees request such considera-
tion. The Department will cooperate with the Civil Service
Commission by making available to it the information upon
which it acted in the cases under discussion.

"Sincerely yours

"Robert A. Lovett

"Acting Secretary.

"Resevoirs, Arnold, Forrest, and Porter
"1800 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
"Washington 6, D. C.

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