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

"Dear Sirs:

October 31, 1947

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 reviewed with the responsible officers of this Department. 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 supply all of the individual to resign or that it give them a complete statement of charges, together with a hearing on these charges. In view of the full consideration already given these cases by top officers of the Department, and the normal procedure provided by the Civil Service Commission, I must refuse this request.

The Department regrets that the personnel concerned have found it difficult to find other employment as a result of its action. It has attempted to emphasize that the determination in their cases went only on 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 regulations 401 of the Department under which the dismissals were made.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of the Act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 505), or the provi- sions 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 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 effect
the right of such officer or employees 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 deems necessary or advisable. The Congress recognized that we would be unable
to resolve completely the question with respect to some
employees; 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.

"Rese, Arnold, Forbes, and Porter
"1600 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
"Washington 6, D.C.

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