



J. J. McCloy

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Mr. John J. McCloy
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New York, New York 10005

Dear Mr. McCloy:

I was most interested to see your note about von Schlabrendorff in your recent letter to The New York Times. His heroic career had come to my attention through Peter Hoffmann's book on the German resistance, in terms quite consistent with your letter.

For many years I have been an avid but amateur student of our policy of "unconditional surrender" and its implications for the extraordinarily diffident way that we dealt with the German resistance during World War II. Although Allen Dulles made some oblique references to it in one of his books, this subject, in my opinion, has never been adequately addressed. For example, Dulles left some ominous hints questioning to what extent his reports from Berne about the resistance actually reached appropriately high quarters in Washington. If these had been routed through London it is possible that some of Kim Philby's boasts may have had some substance; but perhaps we need not strain so far in conspiratorial interpretation.

At any rate the appearance of your letter reminded me that you might be, if you were willing, an extraordinarily competent source for illumination of the history of that policy: the extent to which possible alternative options may have been considered, and the role of reliable intelligence in reaching high policy conclusions.

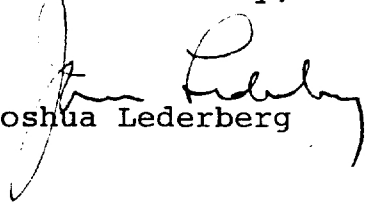
I've had a glancing opportunity to meet you once or twice (in David Rockefeller's company) but never, as yet, to enjoy a leisurely chat: which is what I would like to ask

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of you at this time. Best of all would be if I could prevail on you to take lunch with me here at the University at some time of your own convenience if that is not too great an imposition on it.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg