



SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1960

Dear Mr. Bloomfield:

I received your letter of June 16 in further amplification of the exercise which you plan in conjunction with the Harvard Center for International Affairs.

I fear that in the circumstances, since this is not to be a "classified exercise in the formal sense", the chances of publicity despite the exercise of individual and collective discretion on the part of the participants are such that it would be very difficult for me to participate. In any event, any publicity concerning this exercise involving an actual country and one bordering on the Soviet Union would make it extremely injudicious for an official of the Department of State to be directly associated with it. This of course is particularly true in regard to a country such as Iran, which not only borders on the Soviet Union but also is in the usual parlance in a somewhat delicate and tricky position internally.

I very much regret this decision since I would have enjoyed, and, I am sure, found very constructive the participation in this exercise. However, I shall be prepared on the same basis as S/P to contribute informally anything I could from here towards the success of this undertaking.

Please tell Max how much I regret my inability to attend, but I am sure he will fully appreciate my reasons. Incidentally, I find that Bob Bowie is very much in agreement with me that it would be unwise for a government official to participate in view of the almost certain publicity.

Sincerely yours,


Charles E. Bohlen

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