



6-20-1970

Correspondence re Confidential Memorandum "Political Warfare"

Lewis F. Powell Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/powellcorrespondence>



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), [Law and Society Commons](#), and the [Political Theory Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lewis F. Powell Jr. Papers, Box 117/Folder 31

This Manuscript Collection is brought to you for free and open access by the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Papers at Washington and Lee University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Powell Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Washington and Lee University School of Law Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact christensena@wlu.edu.

700 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23212
June 26, 1970

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Chairman of our Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, Mr. Gilbert Fitzhugh, will deliver to you with this letter a duplicate original of a paper on Political Warfare. The paper is also being delivered to the President.

During the course of my service on your Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, I became increasingly concerned by certain aspects of our country's national defense posture. One of these relates to "political warfare", and the failure of the United States to make an appropriate response to the political, psychological and propaganda operations conducted against us by the Communist powers.

Although I am sure you will find nothing new in my paper, I thought that possibly it might be helpful to the President and you to have this analysis of what seems to me to be one of the more serious problems confronting a democracy in a protracted conflict with totalitarian powers.

This paper is submitted personally, and was not presented to the Panel. Mr. Fitzhugh has expressed an interest in it, and has been good enough to say that he would deliver it to the President and to you.

Service on the Panel, which Gil Fitzhugh chaired so ably, has been an interesting and sobering experience. I am glad that you persuaded me to undertake this when you reached me on the telephone at 3:00 a.m. in Nairobi.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hon. Melvin R. Laird
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

51/167
Enc.

700 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia
June 26, 1970

Dear Mr. President:

During the course of my service on the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, I have become increasingly concerned by certain aspects of our country's national defense posture.

One of these relates to "Political Warfare", and the failure of the United States to make an appropriate response to the political, psychological and propoganda operations conducted against us by the Communist powers.

Although I know that you are fully aware of this problem (and of the political complexities involved in addressing it), I thought that possibly it might be helpful to have the viewpoint of one who has devoted a good deal of thought during the past year to the reasons why the United States is losing influence and prestige. The paper on political warfare, which accompanies this letter, recommends the creation of a national commission to study the need for a political warfare strategy for our country.

This paper is submitted personally, and was not presented to the Panel. Our Chairman, Mr. Gilbert Fitzhugh, has expressed an interest in the paper, and has been good enough to say that he would deliver it to you and to Mr. Laard.

Service on the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel, chaired so ably by Mr. Fitzhugh, has been an interesting - if sobering - experience. I am much indebted to you for this opportunity.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

51/167
Enc.



BLUE RIBBON DEFENSE PANEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

June 29, 1970

def panel ✓

Mr. Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 1535
Richmond, Virginia 23212



Dear Lewis:

Thanks for your letter of June 26 on your paper on "Political Warfare." It arrived in good time.

The purpose of this letter is just to tell you why you won't be hearing further about it for awhile. As you know, the President has already left for San Clemente for an extended fourth of July weekend. He has indicated that he would like to have me present the Panel's report to him when he returns.

Accordingly, I will have nothing to report to you until late next week or early the following week. You may be sure I will present your paper to both him and Secretary Laird at the earliest possible moment.

On your supplemental statement, Fred and I will endeavor to get our comments in your hands in the next couple of weeks.

Best regards.

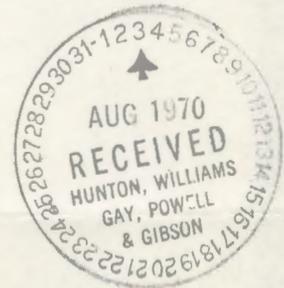
Sincerely yours,

Gilbert W. Fitzhugh
Gilbert W. Fitzhugh
Chairman

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

29 JUL 1970

Mr. Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
700 East Main Street
Electric Building
Richmond, Virginia 23212



Dear Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of June 26th. I appreciate your submission to me of the very interesting paper which you prepared on "Political Warfare." This paper is now under review by my staff in connection with certain ongoing studies which are expected to be completed soon. I hope to be in touch with you subsequently with regard to this subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Goldhamer".

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1970



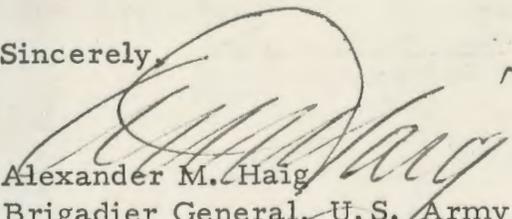
Dear Mr. Powell:

The President read with great interest the thoughtful comments contained in your letter of June 26, 1970, on the subject of political warfare. He asked the National Security Council staff to give them most careful study. We have done so and also brought your paper to the attention of other key individuals with a responsibility in this area. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

As the President indicated in his message to the Congress on foreign policy, he is convinced that we must deal with the Communist countries on the basis of a precise understanding of their goals and methods. The leaders of these countries are serious and determined, and we should not underestimate the depth of ideological disagreement or the disparity between their interests and ours. At the same time, we are now trying to develop a stable peace through the accommodation of conflicting interests despite a history of mistrust and rivalry. In this context, the creation of a national commission such as you suggest might be advisable at some point. For the moment, however, it appears preferable to continue working at improving the effectiveness of existing mechanisms before embarking on a new effort which would draw public attention to this delicate and easily misunderstood area. You can be assured, nonetheless, that in designing our information and cultural programs, as well as in providing economic and military assistance, we will bear in mind the need to convey our message abroad.

The President greatly appreciated hearing your thoughts on this very important aspect of foreign policy and also wanted me to express to you his gratitude for your distinguished service on the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel.

Sincerely,

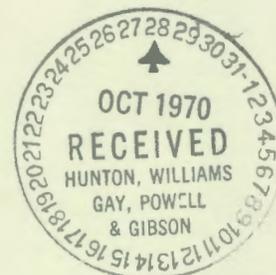


Alexander M. Haig
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Mr. Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
700 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1970



Dear Mr. Powell:

A copy of your speech last July before the Southern Industrial Relations Conference recently came to my attention and I can see that we share many similar attitudes concerning the problems we are facing in America today. It was good to see you speak out in such a forthright manner!

In view of your special concern for campus problems, I am taking the liberty of sending you two articles I know will be of interest to you.

With my appreciation for the encouragement you have given my efforts and with my best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Nixon".

Mr. Lewis Powell
Hunton, Williams, Gay,
Powell & Gibson
700 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23212

HUNTON, WILLIAMS, GAY, POWELL & GIBSON

700 EAST MAIN STREET P. O. Box 1535

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23212

TELEPHONE (703) 643-0141

CABLE HUNTWAND

November 2, 1970

WASHINGTON, D. C. OFFICE

FEDERAL BAR BUILDING WEST

1819 H STREET, N.W. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) 223-5696

FILE NO.

Dear Mr. President:

It was indeed thoughtful of you to write about my speech before the Southern Industrial Relations Conference.

I do share the views which you have been expressing so eloquently about the problems we face in America. You are to be commended for taking these views to the country in support of candidates who share them. The political risks of doing this were not insubstantial, and yet - in view of the precarious balance in the Senate and the extent to which this frustrates your policies - I think you have acted both courageously and in the best interest of the country.

With my appreciation and best wishes.

Respectfully,

L. F. P.

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

51/167