Dear:

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau has furnished me your name as one of those who has recently returned from active duty with a unit of either the Army or Air National Guard during the so-called Berlin Mobilization.

I am sure you are undoubtedly aware of the criticism which followed the decision to call up Reserves and members of the National Guard last Fall, even though such action at the time was based upon the advice of those who by law serve as advisors to the Commander-in-Chief and the Congress in military matters. Much of the subsequent criticism, of course, also resulted from the fact that the necessary organizational and equipment procurement programs apparently were not adequate to effectively increase the desired readiness potential to all those priority units recalled.

It occurs to me it might therefore be wise to develop a little first-hand information which conceivably could assist me in formulating my judgment of possible future actions of a similar nature, so I will very much appreciate any personal reflections, observations, or opinions you might care to offer in the light of your own experience.

Such information, of course, would be treated with strict confidence.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen