

May 31, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Society of Former Special Agents*

I thought you would be interested in knowing of a phase of the discussion which took place at the meeting of the Association of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which was held in New York City on Wednesday night, May 29, 1940. Mr. A. Bruce Bielaski, former Director of the FBI, was the leader in the discussion at the meeting. A motion was offered by a member of the Association that the Association offer its services to the FBI during the present national emergency. Mr. Bielaski opposed this motion and bitterly denounced the present administration, not only of the FBI but also of the Department of Justice. Mr. Bielaski stated that he was firmly convinced that neither the present Attorney General, the former Attorney General, nor the Director of the FBI had any idea as to the complexity of the present international situation. Mr. Bielaski stated that he was convinced that neither your predecessors in office nor myself had the faintest conception of the potential functions, duties and responsibilities of the Department of Justice in the event of war. Mr. Bielaski discoursed at some length upon his personal opinion of the inadequacy of the Attorney General and the Director of the FBI to properly function in the present emergency.

Mr. Bielaski made the pronouncement that if the Association of Former Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was to take any action in the present situation, it should deal direct with the President and ignore the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During the course of this meeting, a member of the Association took the floor and advocated the initiation of a movement to "draft" Mr. Bielaski to head the intelligence services of the Federal Government during the present unrest. This advocate of Mr. Bielaski's induction into the

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*Memo for the Attorney General*

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*service of the Federal Government claims that Mr. Bielaski was better qualified because of his experience during the World War to direct intelligence activities than was any other man in the United States. It is not unlikely as a result of this statement that some effort will be made to have Mr. Bielaski designated to some official position.*

*I am transmitting this information to you in the belief that you may on some future occasion have correspondence from Mr. A. Bruce Bielaski and feel that you would be interested in having this data concerning Mr. Bielaski's evaluation of the Department of Justice as it is presently organized.*

*Respectfully,*

*John Edgar Hoover  
Director*