

11 September 1945

Subject: Award of the Legion of Merit to Colonel William McChesney Martin, A.U.S., (O-436988).

To: The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

1. It is recommended that there be awarded to Colonel William McChesney Martin, A.U.S., the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as Assistant to the Executive of the Munitions Assignments Board and of the President's Soviet Protocol Committee from 13 April 1942 to date. Colonel Martin is now on terminal leave, having been released from active duty.
2. Colonel Martin reported for duty with the Munitions Assignments Board as 1st Lieutenant of Infantry on 13 April 1942. His service with the Board and the President's Soviet Protocol Committee has been continuous, and in positions of successively greater responsibility and importance.
3. As liaison officer for the Munitions Assignments Board with the Army and Navy Munitions Board, the War Production Board, the Combined Raw Materials Board, and the Combined Production and Resources Board, Colonel Martin, then Captain and Major, was largely responsible for working out methods for prompt handling of difficult questions involving partial jurisdiction by more than one of the Combined Boards. In connection with the allocation of raw materials in 1942, 1943, and 1944, his sound judgment as to supply possibilities contributed greatly to final decisions as to allocation of raw materials asked for in connection with the Russian Protocols.
4. In 1943, Colonel Martin, then Major, acted as advisor to Major General James H. Burns on his mission to the U.S.S.R., as personal representative of the President of the United States to settle difficult and delicate problems pertaining to U.S.-Soviet relationships. Colonel Martin's tact, diplomacy, initiative, and intelligence contributed greatly to the success of the mission, particularly on supply matters.
5. Because of the illness and subsequent retirement from

active service first of General Burns and later of the Chairman of the Soviet Protocol Committee, Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, Colonel Martin discharged major responsibilities in connection with the formulation and administration of the Fourth Soviet Protocol, particularly with respect to coordination of the several complex and interrelated supply programs making up that Protocol, under which over 7,100,000 tons of supplies were shipped to U.S.S.R. Since expiration of the Fourth Protocol, he has assisted in coordinating the highly important Soviet Military Aid Programs approved by the President and the Combined Chiefs of Staff. His broad experience, unquestioned executive abilities, and capacity for effective leadership and for bringing about effective staff work among the numerous agencies represented on the President's Soviet Protocol Committee, have formed a material contribution to the war effort. He has served as Acting Executive of the Committee since 11 July 1945.

6. In addition to the contribution made in discharging his other duties, Colonel Martin has been instrumental in maintaining effective liaison with British and Canadian agencies charged with the responsibility for the supply programs of those governments in behalf of the U.S.S.R. He also has been primarily responsible for the coordination of the United States section of the Joint War Aid Committee (United States and Canada) with particular reference to supply to China and France. His outstanding service in these roles has brought about a degree of coordination in the aid programs which would not otherwise have been achieved and which resulted both in the avoidance of duplication of effort and in major savings of critical materiel.

JOHN Y. YOEE, JR.,
Major General, U. S. Army.