

Auckland, 02. April 1995

Dear Harold

It was very good to speak to you this morning. It was Sunday morning here, just after 8.00 a.m. our time, but Saturday afternoon for you. As always I enjoyed the close voice contact with you and especially the feeling of confidence you somehow manage to engender in me. Thank YOU.

As you will see from the enclosed leaflets, I am jumping into the deep end here. This is a major history conference, around 200 delegates are expected, made up of people who teach history at universities, colleges and high schools from all over New Zealand. I am told by friends who go every year that I can expect some sharp critical questioning by people who can be very pointed and tart. I have never in my life spoken to a group this size before, nor on such an important issue as this. I will have my heart in my mouth when I stand up on the podium to deliver my presentation. There are a few things I can do to make it a bit easier and I must prepare myself as much as I can. I am going to make sure I have my speech all typed out well beforehand and I will give myself enough time to practice its delivery. As I am sure you will have picked up in our phone calls, I have a slight speech impediment that makes it hard for me to pronounce certain combinations of consonants in syllables. I will try hard to avoid those sound patterns.

The person I am sharing the afternoon session with is David Lange, ~~is~~ the former NZ Prime Minister (from 1984 to 1988) who banned US naval vessels that were nuclear armed or nuclear propelled from calling at NZ ports. He is acknowledged as one of the most effective speakers in the world, with a lightning fast wit that makes anybody think twice before taking him on in a verbal tit for tat.

I had asked the AHTA to let me come along to speak to one of their regular management committee meetings. These are rather informal gatherings of only ten to twelve members and I would have had time to speak on a personal basis with those people about how best to present the material as a history text book. I had not expected to be put in this position, speaking to the annual conference of over 200. Still, when it was offered I could not turn it down. It will be a marvellous medium through which to promote the idea of the book and to enlist a wide range of opinion on how best to put it together. I hope that after the May Conference I will still have personal contact with those teachers living in the Auckland region who may be interested in giving me their ideas and support.

As I told you quickly this morning, I have been talking to Chris Chittenden again and he is going to look over the questionnaire form I will be handing out at the AHTA conference and we'll jointly work out a version. It will be a good means of advertising the book, or at least the notion of what the book will be, as well as asking for people's ideas on how to put everything together in a workable whole.

I met Donna Chisholm last week, we had a cup of coffee and talked for about 40 minutes. She is quite keen to do a piece on what I am doing at some time when the right angle comes up. I do not know how it going to happen yet. I let I know I was not keen to have a story that focused just on the University's decision not to take my course. As far as the course being taught at Western Springs College was concerned she said that if I were to be overwhelmed by people wanting to take the course then that would be a good angle for a story. I cannot see that happening.

I have also been in touch with the local suburban paper that circulates in the area near Western Springs, "The Harbour News", and it looks like they will run a story written around my course. This may at least make a good number of local people aware of the course.


I finally managed to get a copy of the December 1994 issue of "Vanity Fair" with the story by Anthony and Robyn Summers. What a lot of old stuff, dressed up under the guise of being things revealed by the release of "new" information. The only thing of any interest to me was the reference in an FBI document to a gun (pistol) allegedly found "in the vicinity of the assassination site". There was no indication in the Summers' story as to when or where the pistol was found- in the TSBD or in the railway yards or by the overpass or.....?

Yes, I agree fully it would be a good idea to hand out selections of documents at the conference. I fully intend doing so. This sort of material is the very stuff of history, and is after all what I am trying to work up into a good text book.

So, what you can send me that would be suitable for distribution at the conference would be very gratefully received. I look forward very much to receiving what papers Gerald sent down to me last week. I have waited a while for it to arrive.

If you can retrieve any of the documents from your basement to do with the brown paper package and its history as an exhibit I would like to have them in time for the conference. That is one area I have read up on in your books and I would feel happy talking my way through that topic. What did you say about a photo Jim Lesar had, was it the paper bag being taken out of the TSBD and not showing any folds or creases? I did not hear you very clearly when you were talking about it. Could I have a copy of this photo at some time?

Sorry this is so short, but I am really running at the double to get through the things on my plate at the moment. Thank YOU for all your help. I know I have your total support and that feeling of reassurance does wonders for my morale. Your support and friendship, not just on the intellectual plane but on a personal level too, gives me the confidence to take on such a thing as this AHTA conference, which I must confess I find more than a little daunting.

My love to you both,


Speakers include:

The Right Honourable David Lange

Dr Margaret Lamb
The University of Auckland

Graham Langton
Massey University and Palmerston North
Teachers College

Dal McGuirk
Western Springs College

Sheryll Ofner
NZ History Teachers Association, Selwyn
College

James Frood
King's College

Course Convenor:

Jim Frood

Dates: Monday 8, Tuesday 9 May 1995

Venue: Room ALR1
School of Architecture

The University of Auckland
22 Symonds Street, City

Parking: Student Car Park
Lower Grafton Road

Fee: \$99.00 (GST incl.)

This includes morning and afternoon
teas, course notes and a catered
lunch each day

Accommodation: O'Rorke Hostel provides

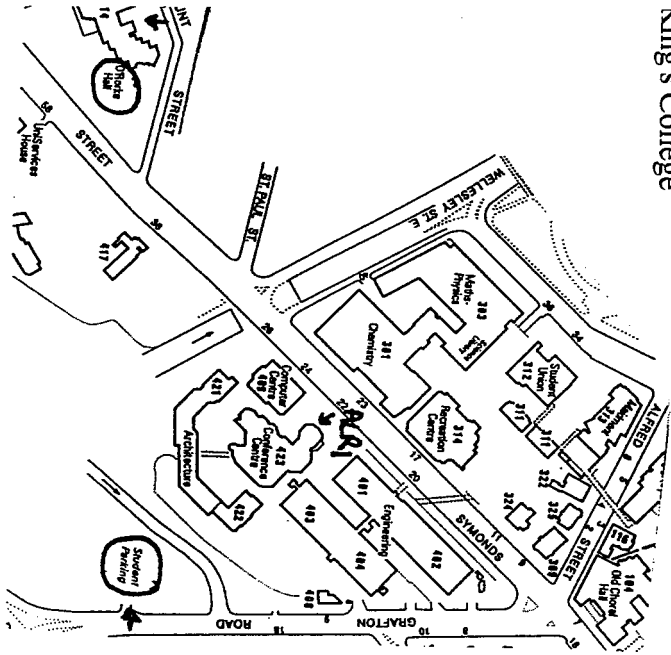
affordable accommodation. It is a
short distance from the venue and it
also provides a safe place to leave
your car. For further information
phone: Rosella on 09 3020266

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The University of Auckland

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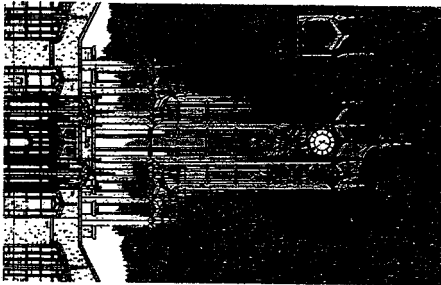


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8, 9 MAY 1995

Organised by the Auckland History
Teachers Association



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Signature:

THE PRIVACY ACT 1993

The Centre for Continuing Education undertakes to collect, use and store the information you provide on this form according to the principles of the Privacy Act 1993. The information will be used to prepare class rolls, reports required by the Ministry of Education and the University, and for administrative purposes within the Centre. I agree that this information can be used to advise me of other courses offered by the Centre.

Signed _____ Date _____

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

A Professional Development Course for History Teachers
Organised by the Auckland History Teachers' Association

PROGRAMME

This 1995 Professional Development Course aims to cover a variety of Curriculum and Assessment Issues. These have a direct relationship to practical classroom teaching.

MONDAY 8 MAY

8.30am Registration
9.00am **Session 1:** Dr Margaret Lamb, The University of Auckland
The Origins of World War II - A Survey and Review
10.00am Morning Tea
10.30am **Session 2:** Graham Langton, Massey University/Palmerston North Teachers' College
The Bursary Examination-pointers for teachers and students
12.00pm Lunch
1.00pm **Session 3:** Dal McGuirk:
The JFK Assassination: Fact and Mythology
2.30pm Afternoon Tea
3.00pm **Session 4:** The Right Honourable David Lange
N.Z. Foreign Policy

TUESDAY 9 MAY

9.00am: **Session 5:** Sheryll Ofner
Moderation
10.00am Morning Tea
10.30am **Session 6:** James Flood
The Tudor-Stuart Syllabus; New Directions
12.00pm Lunch
1.00pm **Session 7:** An Open Forum
Issues in History and History Teaching
2.00pm Afternoon Tea
2.30pm **Annual General Meeting:** Auckland History Teachers' Association
Course Concludes

Course concludes for Day 1