

2/1/69

Dear Ruth,

On the one hand, you write that as of Monday 1/27/69 at 1 p.m. the decision was made to stay in Israel. On the other hand, I received a message on Tuesday 1/28/69 at 9:30 a.m. not to answer any more mail as Arnoni would be in New York "next week" and would "see me then." It appears that you had no knowledge of this trip to New York when you wrote your letter, or that the decision to remain in Israel was reversed a few hours after it was made--unless, of course, the decision sticks but Arnoni is making a brief trip here for some reason.

Whatever the outcome, I want all TMO papers, books, and materials out of my apartment as quickly as possible and I want immediate steps to be taken to have TMO mail forwarded to someone else. In the course of serving as a typist, bookkeeper, and shipping clerk for TMO's residual business, information has been thrust on me which has turned my feeling for Arnoni into pure disgust. To my shock and revulsion, I see that he has bank accounts stuffed with money and that he is therefore a sham, a fraud, a swindler, a liar, and a hypocrite of the highest order. I read with disbelief his editorial on Lord Russell in the July 1967 TMO, the very same time when he accepted my check for \$4,000. At that time, my personal savings over a period of 20 years came to \$13,000 in all--considerably less than was then bulging in Arnoni's savings accounts, I now learn. Obviously I would never have made Arnoni a gift of almost one-third of my total savings had I known the magnitude of his secret bank accounts.

It is very painful to be swindled of \$4,000, but much more painful when it is pocketed by a trusted friend, whose self-righteousness is surely unparalleled, as is his sanctimony and his readiness to instruct anyone and everyone in "morality" and "integrity." What breathtaking, awesome, hypocrisy--what monumental deceit and avarice.

No wonder he can afford to live it up like a minor Onassis, on the contributions he solicits by publicly denouncing the very sins he practices privately. And what of his letter appealing for contributions, dated September 1968, in which he exhorted readers to double and triple donations. He warned that if they were not generous enough, he would not be able to continue TMO and would use the money to pay the bills keeping only enough "for an airplane ticket somewhere." He could have continued TMO on the \$20,000 sent in with the hope of keeping the magazine alive, and in some cases with real sacrifice by the contributors, had he been willing to draw on his own money as he demanded others should do. How in the name of decency could he accept that money and abandon TMO, leaving others to clean up behind him? And leaving staggering personal and professional bills unpaid?

I wish I had not lived long enough to discover the truth about Arnoni in its full ugliness. But without suspecting or searching for evidence of his perfidy, I have been confronted with it. I have the evidence. And now the question is, have I the right to remain silent?

I do not hold you in any way responsible for any of this, Ruth, and I feel real sorrow for your many ordeals. But I want nothing whatever to do with M.S. Arnoni ever again, and I want his possessions out of my premises at once.