

5 December 1966 (10 pm)

Dearest Maggie,

Just read your beautiful letter of Saturday. As I think I mentioned when we spoke that day, I too have lost every friend I had before 11/22/63—not because of the case as such, but for collateral reasons. Even in the case of Isabel, I suppose I might have been more tactful with her had it not been for my impatience at being taken away from what was urgent for what was merely personal and unreasonable; and she might have been more forgiving, had she not resented my putting the case above Lex and her violent carryings-on about Lex. He, incidentally, has regressed very quickly to rather persistent depression; he does still go to work but he is slipping back with frightening speed. When he called me after a long silence (that is how I learned of Isabel's removal to Washington) he said that he spends his time wondering why he is living. How I wanted to light a fire under him—we could use his fantastically good brain—but he is not well, and this case requires iron stamina.

So, like you, my friendships are limited to a few other researchers—you, above everyone else, for there are so many parallels in our thinking and experience (even to the loss of all pre-11/22/63 friends) that I still wonder how it is that you were not a science-fiction buff! And Vince, Arnoni, Sauvage...perhaps an etcetera or two—Ray Marcus, of course. Although we communicate somewhat infrequently.

I have very little comment on your forceful impassioned beautiful rebuttal to Weaver—just one typographical error (on page 9, "(sick)" should be "(sic)" and what a beautiful Freudian slip it was) and one factual comment. I think that the WR does mention Wade's misidentification of the rifle, alleged misidentification, I should say—yes, page 235, paragraph 1. You might just wish to add that when Weitzman was deposed, he was not shown the Carcano rifle and asked to state if it was the same as the weapon he found; he was not even shown a photograph of the Carcano! He was shown only some photos of the cartons with a bit of the rifle protruding. Therefore, while the Commission gives Weitzman the sole blame for the "error" they did not even bother to see the man for themselves (Boone they did see), nor to show him the actual rifle, nor even a photo for identification purposes. That is fact-finding???

Apart from these two minor corrections, I would not change a word of it—it is splendid and will compel the respect of anyone who hasn't locked his mind and thrown away the key.

Maggie, I think this should be submitted to Arnoni, but I think it would be better for you to send it to him directly, with a covering note. I have sent Ray's work twice, the second time only two days ago; and I don't want to risk an untoward reaction. You and Ray and I know that I would be acting only as a post-office but it just might be interpreted as pressure to publish material on the case selected or in some way sponsored by me. Remembering the recent agonizing tempest, I am watching my step every inch of the way.

The letter to the campus editors is irreproachable. I am so very glad that you are sending Vince's article—so few people read Liberation, and this needs circulation, deserves it. You are wonderful to do it. I did write to Newsweek's editor, but my new steel two-drawer file unit with shelves etc. has finally arrived and in the transfer of material from the fiberboard files I lost all track of where particular letters and papers are—I expect I will re-learn in a few weeks—so I can't put my hands on a copy to send you. But I can at least enclose a copy of my latest tally of recruits and semi-recruits to the cause. Maggie, I have not been able to find FACT; even my niece has made 2 trips looking for it. If it is no trouble, do send it, please. If I have found one meanwhile, I will send it on to Joesten, who asked me to keep him in mind for stories, clippings, etc.

Now, about the possibility of a visit to Los Angeles: Yes, it may well work out. I am waiting to receive an itinerary from the Un of Victoria (and tickets); also, to make some firm arrangements for the care of the cat. I will phone later on and discuss exact dates; but it would be sometime around January 13th or 14th. Last night Arnoni told me that he is to be in L.A. at that very time, to do a Mort Sahl appearance and keep various other engagements arranged for him by the L.A. friends of TMO, on TV, live audiences, etc. He will go also to San Francisco and is urging me at least to see the city; and I will try to con him into going with me to Dallas for a few days. Any chance of your being able to come to Dallas with me, or with Arnoni and me?

I should like very much to stay with you, Maggie; we could never have enough time together, and being under the same roof would lose the least of the available hours, so I gratefully accept your invitation, and I will make every effort to come after Victoria.

About U Thant: I am still uneasy and unhappy; but my boss told me privately today some of the behind-the-scenes information, and it seems that he did not merely give in or give up—he was absolutely uncompromising in the Security Council and did get everything he wanted that the Council and the Assembly could give. The paramount thing, and I constantly see his personal anguish about it, is not in their power to give or withhold; and heaven only knows that France, the Soviet Union, and all the Afro-Asians on the Council feel exactly as U Thant does. I am encouraged that his first act after what appeared to be a debacle has been to expose the dirty lies of our peace-lovers in Washington. And he did say on Friday that he would hammer and hammer at this genocidal war with every breath. I hope I am being objective and not emotional, but I will admit that I have admired U Thant with every cell in my brain as long as he has been in his office, and I am incapable of conceiving that he could commit a base act of any degree. I know that I must never proceed on the basis of "faith" (they have managed to make that a dirty word too) in anyone, including myself; but I do have a certainty that will not retreat of this man's purity and great goodness. At the worst, he has made a mistake of judgment and a surrender to enormous pressures exerted while he was near utter exhaustion. I simply cannot make myself believe anything worse than that has happened.

Returning to the Arnoni question briefly—why not send a covering note with your rebuttal-to-Weaver indicating that I have mentioned that he will be in L.A. and that perhaps we will all be able to spend a little time together? I think he would be immensely pleased. He, even more than you and I, needs the priceless balm of reassurance that the Eichmanns have not taken over completely and that there are still some undefiled and beautiful souls, whose very existence justifies his incalculable labor and courage.

All my love goes out to you, Maggie, from the bottom of my heart, for your friendship and great kindness have become one of the most important elements in my life.