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Dear Sylvia,

How very nice of you to write such a detailed letter about matters about which I am very concerned indeed. I thank you.

As you may know, did I say? I did the introduction to Penn's latest volume, and was therefore very interested in your view of him...He gave me the impression, rather, but without emotion, that you did not agree with him--this may be about Garrison whom he supported with me. I have, now, however, relayed some of Arnoni's views, rather than yours, to both Penn & to my old friend, the great Texas writer, John Howard Griffin: just in order for them to protect themselves, and not get caught.

Penn's two books have now been bought up by a new publisher whose initials sound somehow like CIA. I am waiting to see.

Did I say I did a long piece on the "Year of Revelations," the whole CIA scandal about our Cold War culture: which should appear in the Dec. issue of the Minority, I am proud to say, along with the review of your book.

I ~~xx~~ can hardly wait to get hold of your book, and will read somehow with even more interest if I don't feel the obligation to "formalize" my impressions--as I have been reading Han Suyin's ~~books~~ marvellous books...I will give you a quote if that is helpful.

Meanwhile I am sending along a copy of my Henry James, also an investigation of an official scandal in its own way; but very specialized, and you needn't read it.

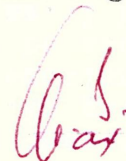
I see that somehow you are a female Menachiem: in your scrupulous respect for truth and methodology, which is why I respect him so much. I am somewhat sloppier, I must admit, at times, tho

the reason I had finally to leave Ramparts was just this: their methods of business and of reporting alike, their treatment of people, and of writers in particular--was just as dishonest as that of Time-Life...But so long as C.C. O'Brien is not aware of this, both he and the magazine will do good things, I must admit, which is why I did not ~~ever~~ send my letter to him...I don't know the ethics of this, and am laughing a bit at the whole situation.

I did not at all get the impression that Penn was angry at you re Garrison; he was rather wistful, if anything; and I am sure we can all get together in friendship. I got the impression he thought you did not agree with his books, his findings, which was what alarmed me.        Since they sound, with some few exceptions, naturally, very solid to me.

Please don't feel any obligation to answer this ~~enxxx~~ answer to your answer; though I am delighted that we now are in touch, since I have long admired you, and I must admit, finally, I have a prurient curiosity about the free-loading at the Sands Hotel....which does sound like MY Secret Life--which is incidentally a very poor book much admired by the academic critics.

All best regards,



ps/ Fascinating that the New York Review has not printed your letter, since I have a profound distrust of this publication on the literary side at least; but again, as with the Nation, the New Republican, the leftward publisher does not understand the rightward "culture" and is taken in by the big names.