

Nov. 6, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

You seem to feel that to the extent that I don't freely exchange particular items of information with you or with any other specific third party, lack of loyalty to a cause is indicated. I understand this, but I really don't sympathize with it. You are too intelligent to think in such simplistic black and whites.

Your judgement of my judgement is only as good as your information is complete. Since your information is obviously incomplete, you ought to restrain yourself from passing sharp moral judgements on my character and actions that are possibly inaccurate and grossly unfair.

I have no "partners of first choice", "alliances", or "abortive alliances"; nor did I tell you any "sad story" of any "abortive alliance". Your inaccurate melodramatic synopsis of the situation stems in large part from selective perception on your part, as well as your own preconceived and apparently unalterable notions of what is going on out here.

It is really so silly to think of this in terms of who I trust and who I think is loyal. Such terms have no place in a context where the most important criteria ought always to be just how to achieve a goal most effectively.

Your dichotomy in evaluating my judgement is apparent. If I assert that something I have found is crucial, you seem to take that seriously. But isn't this the same judgemental capacity that decides what is to be done? If you are firmly convinced that my judgement is flawed, then you ought not worry about anything, because what I have found would most probably not be very important. Of course, I don't think that my judgement is flawed, and I trust that I am just as able to evaluate research as I am able to decide what is the most appropriate, responsible, and effective path of action.

With regrets that I have incurred your wrath, I remain

David Letter