

March 23, 1972

Dear Sylvia--

Forgive the protracted silence, but, contrary to the usual urban visions of bucolic liberation from demands, being away from the centre of activity has curtailed my free time considerably. Much that I have been accustomed to accomplishing by telephone now requires extended correspondence. (I allude to business matters.) Thus, exchanges with friends become as infrequent as time makes the subjects few.

Among the most frustrating and seemingly irresolvable problems with which I have had to contend relates to the matter of literary representation. The agent who has been handling my work for the last few years simply does not serve my multiple needs, and, as a matter of fact, has more and more reduced his focus of interest (nearly confining all of his effort these days to quick-sale paperback fiction). As most of my work is directed toward a hardcover market and, also, ranges from fiction to non-fiction and from articles through books to drama, my production is stacking up on my desk rather than that of an appropriate editor. Therefore, I have been doing my damndest to find an agency inclined and equipped to deal with such varied material. As might well be expected, a responsible, efficient agent is as rare as a competent individual in any other area. So much for my problem of considerable taxation re regrettable representation.

I do hope all is going well with you, and that your UN work load has not been so burdensome as to prevent your directing some of your attention to another of your brilliant analyses of an aspect of (one of) the case(s).

By the way, among other curiouser and curiouser developments is the distinct possibility--having gone through the very great trouble of moving--that I might soon be rearranging matters so that I spend some, perhaps the greater portion, of my time in New York. The primary barrier to this, or, at least, near the top of the list of things to be weighed, is, having relinquished my flat, I must find a suitable place. Unfortunately, since space is essential, and price, availability of transportation, and avoidance of high (well, higher, and, certainly, highest) crime districts, all must be considered, the task of acquiring suitable accommodations appears formidable. In the near future I expect to come in and, for my initial enquiries, scout the West Village, perhaps even beyond Hudson. (Optimism and Excelsior!)

Now, my fly off, but do keep in touch, and apprised of anything you publish. Until I hear from you, know I am, as always,

Box 782  
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania  
18360

Sincerely,

*J. J. Jans*