

29 November 1971

Dear Howard,

Your father will have told you about my phonecall last night. Meanwhile, I received today from an old gentleman in San Antonio a clipping of the interview I had given, in which I mentioned you and your ms. (although not giving your name, as I was not sure that you would wish me to do so). Unhappily, the interview gives the impression that your book is already published, and also mangles the name "Givens". I will zerox it tomorrow at the office and enclose it with this letter.

Thank you for your letter of the 25th and the copies of your letters to the NY Times and to Belin. The editor of the Op-Ed page turns out to be Harrison E. Salisbury, to whom I had sent the material on Belin/Givens in September. His "reply" to my letter of 11/22/71—incredible as it may seem—was a printed form card thanking me for submitting "the enclosed manuscript" and regretting that it could not be used. As disgusted as I was to see Belin's column in the first place, this "reply" has really enraged me. Salisbury seems to have made himself Minister of Propaganda for one of the arch-falsehoods and frauds produced by the Government in the last decade and I will probably write him, when I can find the time to select the most insulting reply at my command.

One thing that I meant to tell you when I tried to phone you last night was that Cyril Wecht, having finally written to the Chief Archivist—as suggested by Burke Marshall—asking to see the X-rays and photos received a reply saying that he had to get Marshall's okay! Apparently they will resort to a Gaston-and-Alphonse act to stall as long as possible, while they dream up some kind of reason to turn Wecht down.

I am disheartened by what you write about Ned Crosby. I had had a fairly good impression of him, although I recognized that he was dreadfully uninformed about the case and the evidence. In view of what you tell me, I will be more guarded with him in the future.

I hope that I am not overlooking any items but I think that this is about all for the moment. Kitten and I are both well, as I hope that you are. Work at the UN is keeping me far too busy to dwell on all the frustrations and disappointments of the case, which perhaps is just as well.

All the best,