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Dear Harold:

I am writing this on a beautiful Saturday afternoon because it is almost amazing. I taped Bob McNamara from NightlineABC a few days ago. What he said was fascinating in that he mentioned the chance of World War III at least 3 times. In one part he emphasized that the Joint Chiefs of Staff said they would have no choice but to use nuclear weapons if we failed to stop Communism in Vietnam. As your work and John Newman's work has illustrated it has become apparent that the Chiefs were a much more powerful, more assertive, in control of foreign policy force than "normal" in American politics. While I don't know what McNamara said in his book, I always think it is interesting what people say on camera. And he implied that they relied totally on the Chiefs. Which is sort of like, is he blaming the Chiefs, or saying that they were smarter than him, or exactly is he saying?

McNamara has an avuncular, Rotarian type of manner that is success==ful at Ford. Except for the Edsel, which he is said to be the father of, and which was built at least in part in Louisville. Probably the start of our industrial decline.

He seemed unusually animated on the program, but I have two things that I want to find out in his book:

- 1 What does say about JFK and NSAM 263?
2. Does he seem to understand the lies and deceit of the military on the ground that Newmann dissected. Does he understand that most of his body counts and accounts of battle were fraud or lies? Or does he still think they just went about it all wrong?

I'll return to this letter later, but McNamara was so odd that it really struck me. It really leads back to a big two sided question, how powerful were the Chiefs in 1963 and why does the Secretary of Defense and Secy Rusk of State defer to them? Who works for whom?

And of course, if the Chiefs were really so crazy that they thought Vietnam might prevent WWII, then just how crazy were they? Your work, Harold, just may prove to be the most prescient in American history. Could the Chiefs really be so evil that it was a coup? I really hate to agree with you, I hate to think that bad of people, but if that is the type of advice they were giving McNamara, then they were- surely capable of anything.

And we know from elsewhere it is true, that is the type of Doomsday advice he got. Really Seven Days in May stuff.

April 25, 95

My typing situation has deteriorated! I have a new secretary who uses a word processor, and I have been reduced to using the typewriter on a little secretary's side desk. But I type on!

I got the wills back. I hope with the codicils that they reflect your wishes. Glad you got them signed.

Betsy's father is doing very well. He is in an experimental program at Northwestern that let him come home after 1 week. So he normally would have been in the hospital until last Friday. Betsy is a good nurse. I have tried to encourage her to go to medical school, but she doesn't want to. She is smart enough, though. I personally am like the guy in the movie who said "I could have been a doctor but I have trouble with that science stuff."

Here is the news on the book front. Last week I bought a copy of Case Open at the downtown Waldenbooks. They knew all about it, said it was a good seller and on their PG list, which I guess stands for Pretty Good sales.

I had Betsy in Northside suburban Chicago look for Never Again. She went to Border's, a big store that I believe is part of a chain. They did not have Never Again, but said they already had orders for 5 of them! So the word is on the street.

The only bad book news is that Border's did not have Selections on the shelf, they had it on the shelf for the past year or so.

Got your letter today. I don't think you sent me a copy of Prevailing Winds.

Letter to Mr. Frewin was fascinating. It would sound almost paranoid but I know it is true. FBI treatment of you, Lane and others has become a real area of interest to me.

Thank you and Lil again for putting up with me so long. I truly appreciate it. I had a tape recorder, but I hate to give you the 3rd degree all the time. I was on a document search anyway.

Funny how we talked about the rise of militias and anti Semites when I was there. This Oklahoma City disaster is terrible. And I am just stunned at the people who somehow connect this with Waco, in that "its no worse". As the JFK case taught us, it is bad to convict before trial, but I do think it is interesting that McVeigh thinks he has a computer chip in his butt so the government can track him. I think he has watched one too many NOVA specials where they track polar bears. This is the corollary to the idea that new cars have a chip that is fixed so the Feds can turn off all cars with a switch.

As far as more FBI efforts, I don't know that they could have stopped this. As I recall, it is still against the law to advocate the violent overthrow of the American government.

Take care.

