

1/3/72

Dear Marc and Richard,

For several weeks I have had in mind what could be a great book on Vietnam and peace, like no other in every way.

Including almost no work in it and in the most elaborate form remarkably little.

You could almost call it an instant book.

It would also be the cheapest book ever to produce - almost no typesetting cost.

I think it could be commercially acceptable and if it were would be treated like an instant book, none of the traditional six-month lags.

Were it not to have immediate commercial acceptability with known publishers, it could not reasonably be expected to yield less than the cost of production as an "underground" book. I think it could be sold without great difficulty by peace groups and at a profit, with no advertising budget and virtually none for promotion.

It is one I think would make people laugh the right way yet could not be more serious, and at the same time would have permanent value and residual uses in education.

It would tell the Vietnam story as it has not been told.

A helluva book.

If I do not spell it out more in a letter, that is because of long experience with both of you. I won't go any further without some evidence that whether or not anything comes of it you do give it serious attention.

Recent events, I presume, make you busier than ever.

As of now I have no plans for being in Washington before Saturday the 27th. What I have in mind could be done by then. However, I have a sick friend who has no transportation and a medical need to go to Washington when it is possible, so I may be in before then. I'm too broke to make a special trip and, with more than 100,000 on my car, I have to conserve its remaining life.

Js: to Raskin and Barnet, Institute for Policy Studies. "If There Is Such a Place", or The Secret History of the Vietnam War, by Jerry Friedheim, Department of Defense. Facing pages, by offset, left, full typescript texts of Friedheim's press

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg

conferences on the bombings, right, appropriate photos and/or photocopies, ranging from pictures to excerpts from other official Friedheim statements. What pictures each time he says there is no such place as Bachmai! What pictures each time he says only military installations were targeted! What footnotes each time he refers to VN statements as "propaganda"-merely citing some of his language and especially the different versions of Non-Bachmai, as they say they call it. Then there are the texts of the press conferences of those just returned, the Tal Taylor group and their pix. The title is off the top of the tired head. It and the subtitle are variable, using as an alternative, "The Secret Official of the Great Vietnam Bombing", perhaps. Imagine using an official name as author, with mere credits to the editors and annotators! It would blow minds, the kids would go for it, and the texts would have future use in government and history courses, as horrible examples. The Newthink in Doublegoodspeck ducktalk. Pictures of Friedheim as he was talking would be sombredarkface great, but that you have not seen. It is impossible to believe when you see.