

5/11/89

Dear Gerry,

I've just read your letter of the 9th so I can't say I've given much thought to a topic for a paper related to sociology but off the top of the head it seems to me that collegiate reaction to the official solution, by which I mean the Warren Report and criticisms of it and the various agencies, is a suitable subject if there is relevant published information. All of us then making appearances had strong reflections on this reaction, and it crossed all political lines. Also reactions to the books. I kept all the letters I got but retrieving them would be an enormous task. Most are lumped by the first letter of the last name. But there are some individual files, by person.

Sheehan's book is one of the freebies being offered by the (hardback) Book of the Month Club, three for becoming a member with no obligation to buy anything. When we get another such mailing we'll send it to you.

I'm almost finished reading the excellent book. He has a factual error of some significance and several omissions I regard as also significant. But it is a tremendous and I think quite dependable book. He misdates Operation Mongoose, for example, and omits JFK's decision to get out and what was the immediate trigger for the war itself.

Another book by a militarist who became a peacenik, David Hackworth, is also out now. Long article on him in yesterday's Washington Post. Like so many others, it may well be a B of the Month offering. (It is relatively safe now.)

Jerry and Dave are both still snowed under, Gerry more so, but they'll soon be out from under. Dave was taking a couple of days off for his daughter's graduation from Brown and then would clean up and relax a few days.

Jerry expects to have it all cleared up before the end of next week.

If I didn't send you what I got on Mongoose I suggest that when you are here you remember to look at my Tiger file, the subfile on the 1969 Moscow conference on the missile crisis.

Best wishes,

When I wrote this I was not aware that in today's mail there was the monthly BOM mailing with its freebie offer. On the chance you want to do it I enclose that form. I've marked some of the books I got and can recommend. The cost to you will be a little more than the \$4.00 for four books. U.S. charges may be about \$5.00 for four books, maybe a little more. They do still list Sheehan's as a free one. Jerry wanted The Battle Cry of Freedom so I got it for him. All you have to do is each month mail the form back. If you do not you will get the selection automatically and will be billed for it. If you don't want the book you indicate that and mail the form back. You don't have to buy anything, ever... Lil says that we'll get the paperback mailing in a couple of days and we'll send that. However, when they are free, you may prefer the hardback because it is more durable.

Dear Harold,

May 9, 1989

Thanks for the document on Vietnam. As I am sure you know Lansdale's name comes up quite a bit in the period between 1954 and the early 60's. When I taught a special seminar on Vietnam a couple of years back, I met and got to know one of Lansdale's underlings in the C.I.A. who said he was responsible for training S.Vietnamese to infiltrate the North to undermine Ho Chi Minh's regime in the mid to late 1950's. If I interpret the document you sent me correctly, it appears the C.I.A. was searching for a pretext to get the U.S. military involved directly. Regarding Sheehan's book, I definitely plan to read it sometime before I begin teaching the summer school course. I have read several reviews of it, one from a Vietnamese writer, and all are very praiseworthy.

Regarding the Quality Paperback Book Club, please do send me the next subscription form you get. I would like to join and also give you an opportunity to get a free book.

As soon as I can see my way clear of the mountain of papers and exams I have to grade over the next couple weeks, I plan to write Jerry McKnight and Wrone.

Thanks for the suggestions about accommodations. At this point I am fairly certain we will come, but it probably will not be until August. By that time I hope to have done some research to see what angle I may want to pursue in writing an article dealing with some aspect of the JFK assassination story in relation to sociology.

I will be in touch.

Best Wishes,

