

Dear Dave,

12/21/59

Although I appear to be recovering very well, it is & will be slow, and most of the time I am pretty well worn out. The Cardiologyists "wiped out" forecast was accurate. I don't want to risk forgetting more of the detail of "Hayden" than I have from the strange circumstances of my 1st - interrupted, reading of it and I know that someone will be here in the a.m. - to put the book out so I'll send the book now.

I was not far into the book before I formed an impression that did not change. I thus may consider it a prejudice. I had not read very much before suspecting that Beschloss intended an apology / justification for the CIA over what I've always regarded as its deliberate wrecking of the detente that would have turned the world around. And he did it's raison d'etre. Long before I was finished I was convinced I was right.

While no matter what the length of a book we must always extend the broadest liberties to the author on what he selects to use and not to use, I find the angle selected - news and what I regard as suppressions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings, particularly Allen Dulles' testimony, is simply not honest.

Beschloss - does the name suggest a pun? - says throughout that he agreed in advance to this particular U-2 overflight of the USSR but I can't remember his citation of a single in advance record.

This is not the only reason I do not

believe him.

In plain English, what he argues, what he has put together, just does not make sense.

Of course it can be argued that people out ~~there~~ policy of fear do not make sense and that's true.

But Ike wanted, seen and had an unprecedented opportunity that meant much to him and I just do not believe that he would have risked it for the very little he could have gotten from the most successful U-2 overflight.

Moreover, as we all know, it did not have to be shot down to have a good chance of wrecking the Summit. It was simply too gross, too deliberate an insult, particularly with the Summit scheduled.

Please excuse me haste.

Best to you all,

Harold