

NC  
10/14/71

Dear Sylvia,

I suppose if we were not people of passion we could not have undertaken what we have. In my own case, I am aware that I work with too great an intensity, that my nerves are not in good shape, that I work when I'm too tired and I may sometimes say things that while true perhaps ought not be said. But I do not consciously say what is not factually correct. If I have monopoly on neither being right nor wrong, my recollections of my correspondence with Cyril is as I reflected it to you. I can't pretend to be certain of the explanation. I've thought about it and the one thing that seems to make sense is what I told it. It is the one thing that seems to be consistent with what seems a strange record, one entirely inconsistent with him as I have thought of him as it is with how I have felt about him.

In fairness to you, I feel I should send you a sample of what I discussed. To serve this purpose - have copied his last letter to me, the one to which it was supposedly in response, and the top part of my response, which is on the reverse side of his.

You will not that on 8/21 I reminded him I had not yet gotten the technical data and what I think you can understand is a reminder, gentle, that he had not returned my call.

I have checked my calendar, and prior to the date of his letter for that entire month I was away but once, on the 18th, when I went to Washington. I was otherwise away no longer than to take my wife shopping in the morning, generally early, or in the evening if I had to go to the post office. I am not saying he didn't call, but he couldn't have tried hard and he didn't send the stuff or a note.

It is now a month and two days since I replied. I said what I told you I said. I didn't use a second sheet of to-me precious paper for the balance of my 9/12 because the beginning says what I said, as you will see.

You will find the rest of the correspondence file as I represented it to you. If I have no comforting interpretation, I am confident of the fact, and I represented it to you as it is. Neither of use time or need to copy further back, but if you have any reason to want me to, I will.

This requires no answer. As with my call, it is for your information only.

Sincerely,