

Dear Joan,

9/6/79

Generally speaking, political problems are subject to political solutions when others are not available. So if you are getting political obstruction from State consider enlisting political help, like a Congressman or Senator. But first get the FOIA request filed. Then the Machaks have to stonewall within the law or face the possibility of suit under the law.

Don't ask for the diaries only. Make your request as broad as possible and present it as a public-interest matter even though you plan a book, which you do not disguise. Bruce's career of public service involves many matters of significant historical interest, spanning decades and large areas of the earth.

Compliance may involve much more paper than you'll want, so if you can figure out what is not going to be of interest, if there is any you can have that to surrender in a later compromise.

If there are periods of his career in which you have no real interest, eliminating them at the outset can have some advantages, including reducing resistance because if you ask for more than the diaries there will be a big searching job. So, are you sure you want the diaries only?

I'm not clear on what you really want, although you mention the diaries only.

Another approach would be to give them to understand that perhaps the diaries alone will serve your needs, so initially you are asking for nothing else to determine if you can keep your request to the minimum. The possibility of not having to disclose more of to search through voluminous records if they make the diaries available may appear to be attractive to them as it now may not.

You said something about being around here soon. If you are maybe it would be better if we could talk about it. However, with college starting up, perhaps that tentative plan has changed.

I'd get a copy of the ^{Bruce} ~~case~~ will and of the court decision in the Kissinger case. (Whether or not it is precisely in point it will give you the thinking of the courts and an understanding of what will be in the collective official mind.) They may make a claim that the diaries are his personal property and that they have them under some restrictions. It is possible, too.

Time can be an important factor and they have expertise in wasting your time. This may impel you to file a request, even an inadequate one, for you can always amend it or file a new one, and they know it. Once you file a request the situation if not the attitudes of the Machaks will change. If there is no satisfactory response to the request after 10 days you can appeal. They then have 20 days to act on the appeal. If they don't you can file suit, whether or not you do. So the machinery can apply pressure on them.

If your request is denied they have to provide a reason and it must be one that can hold up in court. Once you have their reason(s) you have something to work on.

The manner in which you make the request is informal. You can put it any way you want. The requirement is that you ask for identifiable records. If they can understand what you are asking for you have met your obligation under the Act. So don't worry about that. However, do keep clear copies of everything because you'll need them if you do go to court. (Which you can do yourself, in Philadelphia.)

Now if all you really want is the Bruce diaries, 1951-74, just ask for them, but I'd add "and any related records," which is broad enough for later uses.

Be sure to say "This is my request under FOIA for..." so you have invoked the Act. It speeds things up if you head the letter and include on the envelope "FOIA request."

I'd write them on the Temple letterhead and give them the Temple return address.

Also, if you have colleagues in the history of polisci faculty who might be interested in having the diaries deposited at the college after you finish with them, These should be valuable to them and the arrangement can be helpful to you.

Don't be turned off by the run of men who you say can't sustain intimacy. The world is full of people who can't, both sexes. Some are born that way, some become that way and some feign it. But there are plenty of others!

I feel okay, thanks, but the unsteadiness lingers. An ENT consultation yesterday eliminated any inner-ear complication as the cause. The expert agreed with the general practitioner that the cause is vascular insufficiency. I'm on medication for it, at low level because of possible side effects, and if in a couple of weeks there are no side effects the dosage will be doubled. If it works it dilates the arteries, and that's what my head needs.

Odd thing, I am capable of some work that astounds my neighbors, where I don't have to bend, but merely ~~maintain~~ bending my head over or raising it above horizontal can make me dizzy and unsteady.

God bless!



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Dear Harold,

Glad to hear that you've been holding your own. I hope that stable condition continues. And that things improve. Frankly, I wish that you'd consider this next book with a commercial publisher, although I'm well aware of the difficulties with this sensitive material. They want PROOF BY THEIR DEFINITION, i. e. they're still terribly frightened of the powers that be. I never heard the evidence Pepper presented to my editor at Dial Press, but next time I have lunch there, I'll try to find out.

Now I need a small piece of advice. Could you write me a little rough draft of a letter to the State Department requesting under FOI for the Bruce diaries, 1951-1974. How do I do it? The person I've been calling is Frank Machak, Chief of Documents & Reference, Division of Foreign Affairs, Reference Service, Department of State, an accomplished stonewaller, who tells me the earlier diaries (which I think I've surreptitiously read already in Virginia) are just being made available ~~xxxx~~ since the will of David K. E. Bruce is just being probated. But the later ones are the ones I need. Help! Help! Mr. Bruce, it seems to me, is a big part of my story; I'm not just dealing with the younger generation because what happened to them is in large measure a result of their being Bruces. Daddy, I've discovered, as I think I may have mentioned, was very close to his mother. Then, communication between the generations ceased.

Work is good and healing. Otherwise I meet men, fascinating, helpful, etc. who tell me they can't sustain intimacy, and when they're cornered, they run. Although no one else does, I like the last line of Iris Murdoch's latest novel, The Sea, The Sea: "Upon the demon-ridden pilgrimage of human life, what next, I wonder?"

Take care of yourself.

Love,

Jean