

JW
1/9/72

dear cyril,

i beg you to try and understand that the terrible thing that has happened may not be all or the worst and to try and heed the cautions i gave you that you elected not to understand or refused to seek clarification. otherwise, you may also be so misused.

graham spoke to you at my request. i asked him to ask you to phone me. i understood him to say in our third conversation that he had given you this message. with or without it i think after his call and my letters you should have.

i can not use my left hand. i almost lost its thumb yesterday.

you will not take time to reread our correspondence. but at least one think you should do. it will take little of your personal time. get your secretary to find the letter written so long before i shared my fears about what has come to pass in which i told you that i had evolved a safe way in which you and i together could break this whole thing open. it is one of the things to which you made no response.

our subconsciousness is something i suppose none of us comprehend. but i think you should now be asking yourself - and if i thought you a bad guy i'd not even be writing when it is painful and i have so much to do - so much more now - why you did not respond to this thing for which you appear to have longed, why you did not respond to other things, why you did not send me the couple of pages from standard texts you promised and about which i wrote you so often (of course. because i do not make money, to those who do my 19-hour day does not make me a busy man), and why, ~~six~~ for three years, you have never accepted my oft-repeated invitation to see what i have, over and above what i told you, showed you in washington, and sent you.

unless one of us messes this up, we may yet, with the odds against it, apply the intellectual judo that can convert it. do not, please, do anything you do not completely understand or you will make this worse. or preclude what we may yet salvage. you should at this point be willing to consider that you did not really understand what was likely; that i did see and forecast it in advance; despite the insulting content of your recent letters did put you in a position to have some influence on what happened and you failed (graham told me what you told him and you missed the boat - i even had to make sense out of what he understood you to say for him); to ask yourself why you told sylvia you would consult with me but didn't; and other things you should be able to summon on your own. i fear your personal involvement is such that were i to specify other things you would be inclined to misunderstand them with subconscious deliberateness.

graham said he would come back to me after the appearance of this story/ it would put me in a position to be able to do more if i have copies of your correspondence with marshall and memos on your phone conversations. it would also be helpful if you would let me know by phone is lattimore is certified in pathology. before this became public i initiated certain steps, including appeals under the laws and regulations. i was the first to ask for these things, i asked more than once, i went to court on some-remember your refusal to help in that when i asked only that you be a witness, so i had none. and i have raised with a lawyer the possibility of my filing personal damage suits, among others, in which we may at least offset this. under the contract, they can pick and chose pathologists, but not with others.

i close with the suggestion you might now better understand with the ellipsis of my long letter and why i took such great time for so much the relevance of which you did not detect. perhaps i was not as clear as i could have been, but i did not want to make what you might misunderstand as a personal attack. if you phone me, try to tape it so you can play it back to better understand or to catch any error i may make. i cant call you. i am away a.m.s to 9:30, p.m.s from 4:30 to 5:30. with deep regrets, harold weisberg