

Mr. Richard Harwood
Washington Post
11150 15 St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

9/3/87

Dear Dick,

If my wife and I had ~~been~~^{not} been unwell I'd intended writing you at greater length about your piece which Will ignores in his political falsehoods to which, in limited degree, I respond in the enclosed letter to the editor.

If it had^{not} been for what I regarded as the basic dishonesty of Mark Lane's and Ed Epstein's books, which followed my first one on the JFK assassination, I'd have completed the book I researched on the Cuba Missile Crisis.

The longer I live the more convinced I am of the importance of Santayana's wisdom, that if we do not learn from history we are doomed to relive it.

If the Wills and others who appear on the Post's oped page get their way, this world surely will burn up and we'll be bankrupted first.

Meanwhile, so many people are so often and so completely misinformed and that, in my concept of our system, amounts to a subversion.

How can a misinformed electorate make correct decisions?

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

Editor
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

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Dear Editor,

His Omniscience, professional pontificator George Will, makes it up as he goes in his "Romanticizing the Cuban Missile Crisis" column. He distorts history to promote his antedeluvian policy of bankrupting militarism.

After misrepresenting the solution of that crisis, saying that it was Robert Kennedy's promise to the USSR ambassador that our missiles in Turkey would be removed in a matter of months, Will prates, "That morsel is not only redolent evidence of what should now be patent: Kennedy succeeded because his military advantage was huge and his goal tiny."

After Kennedy ordered the blockade of Cuba, Khrushchev used a confidential back-channel to promise to remove those missiles if JFK promised not to invade Cuba. Not the National Security Council, as Will states, but a special committee JFK got up, opposed this solution. Most wanted war. When JFK did not respond, Khrushchev then went public with his demand for the removal of our missiles in Turkey, a proposal he knew would not be accepted because it would make the US ~~look~~ seem to be backing down.

Instead, Robert Kennedy suggested a modification of Khrushchev's original proposal, JFK agreed, and that, not Will's or Dean Rusk's, is the actual solution, as your own morgue ought make clear.

JFK was actually shocked to learn that we still had missiles in Turkey because he had ordered them removed. His order had been ignored, as I recall, twice.

John Scali has written about how the original proposal was made through him. Schlesinger, Sorensen and others have provided details of the deliberations of JFK's special committee, and if Will had bothered to seek fact instead of a convenient excuse for more of his propoganda he would not now have his own egg all over his face.

Sincerely,



HAROLD WEISBERG
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