

29 March 1973

Dear Harold:

Thanks for the explanation of the briefcase incident. It occurs to me that he could have been saddled with classified stuff which he simply could not afford to lose. Just an idea.

Have had one other thought about him -- that flaming red hair (and a magnificently bushy red beard the last time we saw him) could be a clue. An old friend of ours, a German Jew who got out of Germany in 1934 and came to Yenching when I was there, once wrote a study of a small community of Crimean Jews whom the Nazi's slaughtered with unusual fury (even for them) when they occupied Russia during World War II. Very few survived. As Rudolph described them, they were uniformly red-haired and many had blue eyes; his theory was that they represented a group who were washed up in the Crimea during the Crusades and all the hell raising that went on. In any case, Rudolph married one of them, a woman who is a mathematical genius and with whom he for years worked on a project of computerizing the translation of Russian to English and vice versa. They have retired now and live in Chevy Chase. She has blue eyes and almost frizzy red hair. Brilliant and extremely shy. My point about Paul is that if his parents were among the lucky few to escape from the horrors of Crimea, ~~it would be entirely that~~ excessive shyness and caution to the verge of ~~paranoia~~ could be perfectly understandable. What reason have they to trust anyone? Not much, I think, seeing how obvious in this country are the same seeds that sprouted so disastrously in Europe. I have no difficulty imagining that such people, after centuries of discrimination in Russia and after surviving one of the worst and most systematic massacres the Nazis could devise, could wind up trusting no one at all.

Compliments to Lesar on his hunch about the Buckley tape. We'd order one except that we hesitate to add to ~~the~~ any sudden demand that might arouse suspicion and that we don't relish getting on another mailing list. If you wind up with one, we'd appreciate a dub, which should do for our purposes. Thanks.

On a transcript of a KPFA noon newscast for 26 March 73, which we sent you but ^{you} had not received when you last wrote, in the last paragraph there is a reference to a threat by John Dean III's attorney to take legal action against any news media that picked up the LA Times story about McCord talking and naming names. We've seen this nowhere else. If you've seen such anywhere ~~where~~ else, we'd like to know about it (assuming you haven't already sent it along already).

Must get this in the mail.

Best,



jdw