

10 January 1974

Dear Harold:

Just a note to go with the enclosed. No problem about holding out the Caddy memos as long as you need access to them.

We have virtually nothing on Bennett from early in the WG story, but will continue to watch for anything new, as per the enclosed AP story "Blank Checks from Hughes" in today's Chronicle.

Last mailing I sent you most of the few remaining address labels, and have ordered more. As soon as these arrive I'll replenish your supply.

Our local storm, by the way, did not reach down this far, only 500 feet above sea level. A thousand feet up the mountain above us, however, it was a different story. We had a few snow flakes down this low, but the rest was just more rain. There is still snow on the upper slopes of Mt. Tamalpais, which rises close to 3,000 feet.

Like you, we figure Dolgun to have been an expandable unit for good reasons. Furthermore, there is no telling how much truth there is in his present story, or how much untruth. It appears obvious they felt it was worth exposing him now because of the way he ties in with the Solzhenitsyn (sp?) propaganda bonanza. Curious about his family background. The name Dolgun appears equally capable of being Russian or Turkish. If the latter, no wonder the NKVD hauled him in.

The papers out here have carried nothing on Hunt's trip to Miami, and the Post for that date hasn't yet arrived, so we have no thoughts on that matter. We're inclined to agree with you, however, that he has something going for him, if only because of the rather carefree picture of him the Post ran ~~with~~ with the story of his release. The picture seemed to belie the "pale and wan" description of his appearance used by the NY Times.

We've had ~~no~~ only one more thought on your proposed step, and that is, does it strike you as possibly more than coincidence that BOTH Dutton and the government decided suddenly to settle with you just at this time? We know there is plausibility behind both developments, but does this fully explain why, after all these years in both cases, they suddenly see things your way? What the effect is supposed to be on you we have no idea, but suggest that you examine the possibilities carefully.

On another matter, STM/W has had a trenchant thought which might interest you, and that is that one explanation for the now rather frequent references to El Bosom being around and consulted could be to divert attention from any traces of similar availability on the part of Haldeman. It seems highly improbable that HRH is not being consulted constantly and from several kinds of necessity, and, if this is going on, the need to keep it quiet could be paramount. In any case, the WH seems to be ready and willing to say when El Bosom is around these days, which it wasn't always.

Best from us both,


jdw