

JAN 9 1972

1/8. close shave late p.m., bad cut left thumb limits typing, writing for a while so I've started to read what you want returned.

7/5/71 from New York Times, Geneva called a disaster, the part about spooks disagreeing: this falls short of saying the named spookeries were opposed to policy, as none were. It says, I think, in essence what I said, that they were opposed to means that could not succeed, the military decision in this case was a political decision. In part only is this addressed in what follows, that attitude hardened, I will be going into this in tiger, from research long completed. It was not so much a hardening as a n for it to be visible under the top echelons, altho it did seem to harden.

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Je's July 3 on prouty: I was much impressed with him based on his apparent courage, early writing and two personal meetings in crowds. However, his joining of CTIA and some of the subsequent things make me feel his thinking is excessively paranoid. In this case I think he errs, for I am sure Burke does appear and I think Lemnitzer does. Also, I think it would have been unnecessary for their names to have appeared in some of the kinds of docs cited and others, based on those I have seen, are not minutes but

memos. It is possible, for example, to assume that each time an opinion or decision is attributed to the JCS, it means Lem. There undoubtedly was CIA by-passing, but it could not easily have extended to the JCS's own files. His opinion that there is "nothing as solid as this for proof that these basic military elements were not considered in this area" is quite wrong, it appears to have been based on early, selective and incomplete news accounts, please do not for a minute forget the very great importance of the JCS in this entire awful thing. Can't be exaggerated...where the hell was McNamara going to get a good briefing? Why should he not have been briefed in Washington? It was worse in the field, very very bad as Washington was. Besides, I think I've read the comments on the field briefing. But this suggestion that there would or could have been an honest field

briefing cant be seriously intended.

prouty had a major-publisher contract when last we spoke, prob. this past spring. maybe these papers will delay. hope he reads all of each version first, and understands what they say and what they omit.

he has suggested a secret service conspiracy to kill jfk, has insisted they always have every building covered in every motorcade and says that if he knew who ordered the change in the motorcade route he could and would solve the crime, so i wonder. mach.

before i go back to reading a bit more, i dont want you to worry. i had a close one buy ~~ix~~ i am ok. something that never happened before did happen, and since when i was involved i do not know what really happened, i am more than ever convinced of the solidity of my position in whitewash about the undependability of eyewitnesses. one who was with me and looking knows even less. he is an engineer. a tall pine was down, heavily covered with honeysuckle, within view of the kitchen hence not a pretty view for lil. besides, it was a snake and vermin harbor. so, i was trimming it out with a machete. i think that the machete glanced off of what i was cutting, the trunk there about 5 inches thick and before i knew anything it was thru leather glove and t bone left thumb, top, full width, slanting, v deep slice. went to hospital where it was stitched, examined, x-rayed, etc. no breaks. maybe some tendon damage but good strength before stitching. getting dressing changed tuesday. meanwhile, must keep throbbing left hand up. hurt is not nearly what i would have expected and the strange thing is that i had no real pain until dr. pressed on thumb, when uncut bottom hurt, leading to impression it is bruised. anyway, i am lucky and fine so dont worry. best hw