

FEB 26 1974

Dear Jim,

2/23/74

In For the Good of the Cause Solyzhenitsyn wrote that little truth as there is in the world, the supply exceeds the demand. I have found this simple statement of fact a good way of putting it. As the young say, he put it all together. Very neatly.

I have had the awareness of what he has been into and what has been happening to him that comes from what understanding I have and from radio and TV news. In leafing through Time for 2/25, I tore the story on him out. Today, somewhat weary and while warming from a siege outside and screwing up for another I decided that as a respite I'd read this piece.

It was no respite.

I find myself troubled. Especially after close examination of the pictures. They fortify the impression <sup>+</sup> received from TV, one that began with his piece in Aftonbladet that amounts to a defense of Nixon in WG.

Perhaps no man ever really learns to live with greatness. <sup>S.</sup> seems not to be an exception. He is now a zealot and he has come to look like one. If you kept that Time story I'd appreciate it if you look at these pictures again and let me know if you have anything like the same impression. He looks like a self-righteous New Englander to me, almost a caricature. And it disturbs me much.

How he can have examined the self-righteous as he has and not have been able to overcome the disposition within himself also disturbs.

So does his defense of Nixon and what Time reports, that he found Estonia's former governmental form a) democratic and b) to his liking. These can't be explained as due to a lack of critical capabilities in S. How then can they be explained?

And this also I find deeply troubling.

Can his hate be such he has become a literary and a political Faust?

The impression I get, including from his pictures, is of hate and the dominant emotion. I believe it to be the destructive one.

I also find it deeply troubling that he can hold these pretensions while he also holds that fortune in Swiss banks and finds no need - or the need to - use it with other writers who have things to say and can't be heard.

Like Greeks.

Or so many Latin Americans.

I see inconsistencies in all of this and because of what I have thought of the man they alone trouble me.

There was an accident backgrounding my reading that while I was reading seemed apt. The radio was in the dirge of the Eroica. When it moved into more sprightly spirit, my spirit did not go with it.

And I didn't get warm. I got less cold only.

How much of this comes from my own mood of the past week and how much is authentic perception I cannot judge. I know that minor indications of a change for the better have not excited me and I know that I have doubts about their probability. I sent you a few indication on the ing/Ray work with this morning's outgoing mail. A state historical society and a college have genuine enough interest but no means of financing their desires, but in the past I would have taken some encouragement from any indication of anything that held any prospect of being encouraging.

There has been a recurrence of old problems this past week and I have a consciousness of what they can lead ~~to~~ to.

What I really find myself wondering is can WG have done this to my attitudes and emotions and whether my new feelings, really doubts about some personal aspects of S., have adequate basis.

So, if you have formed any impressions and can find the time for them, I would welcome them as a means of measuring my own.

Early this a.m. I responded to the last from the waif and from JER, but I made no carbons for you because I did not consider what I said worth your time. I have their ~~st~~ letters in a waiting 3cl. You may find some interest in them, especially in JER's after my rather heavy leaning.

Where I say WG above, I guess I really mean abdications in the face of it.

Best,

