

2 December 1966

Dear Dave:

Thank you for your letter of November 29th. I have known of Phillip Stern's enterprise for some time. I have every reason to think well of him, and of his reasons for writing this book; and he has been vouched for as a man of goodwill and good sense by many, including Wiesner and Schlesinger and Ann Wilson Marks.

As for my own views and feelings, it seems to me that they are, sic stantibus rebus, basically irrelevant. I have told Stern that I would play no part, and that I would not talk with him nor criticize nor approve what he was doing. From this it would follow that I should express no preference and no opinion to you; ~~what I would like to do is to ask you to follow your own hunch and your own preference.~~

*on*  
The play and such things have also been rattling around for a long time. What I have never done is to express regret for doing what I did, and could at Los Alamos; in fact, ~~under quite dramatic circumstances~~, I have reaffirmed my sense that, with all the black and white, that was something that I did not regret. *W* [My principle remaining disgust with Kipphardt's text is the long and totally improvised final speech I am supposed to have made, which indeed affirms such regret. My own feelings about responsibility and guilt have always had to do with the present, and so far in this life that has been more than enough to occupy me.]

It has been very long since we have had occasion to write to one another; it is a great pleasure to send you very cordial good wishes.

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