

## **SOKOL LAW OFFICES**

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Wednesday, 19 June, 1996

Dear Dan,

Many thanks for yours of May 9th. I was glad to have your reaction to my Confidential Report and my comments to you. After writing you, I received a short letter from Gay McDougal thanking me for my report with a copy of the letter to Gene Murret. I found this surprising because to me it strongly implied that the report had been sent to Gene Murret as well. It was obvious from the report itself that I did not intend it to be sent to Gene or I would have addressed it to him or given him a copy myself. The fact that she refers to my report in a letter going to Gene suggests either that she had not read my report and did not know what was in it or else that she was giving me a slap in the face for writing a critical report and wanted me to know that she was sending it to Gene. As there is no reason for her to get me upset, I am inclined to think that she did not even know what was in the report.

It is all a bit troubling. I wrote this week to one of the people at the program there to see if I could learn a little more about what is happening on site. The program itself is worthwhile, but unfortunately it is pretty badly managed.

Now for the Golden Mean. I have put Mary Lee Stapp in contact with Paul Scott, an attorney in Washington who was with USAID for 20 years and now works as an independent consultant retained by USAID. I met him in Cambodia and was impressed by him as a serious, knowledgeable person. If he is willing to help, I think he would be the perfect person to help the project try to raise funds from USAID. It may turn out that the most significant consequence of my trip to Cambodia was discovering the person to raise funds for the Golden Mean Project.

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You ask me for comments about Neville Clark and Mary Lee Stapp. I think I shall reserve judgment on both. Maty Lee Stapp is a character out of a 19th century French or Russian novel. She should have a *salon* at which she holds court and introduces people to one another and tries to be aware of everything. If she were in Japan, she would have a position as an established intermediary arranging marriages between people or between companies. In the United States she has the Golden Mean Project. Your intimation that she wants it to be ongoing because it gives her a role I suspect is correct. I rather like her because she is such a character. Whether she can bring the project to fruition is another matter, and one on which I do not yet feel capable of expressing judgment.

Neville Clark is another matter. He is something of a mystery. His accent is a mystery; his background is a mystery, and what he is doing is a mystery. He is constantly encouraging me to feel free to make suggestions, but in the four months that I have been in touch with him and Mary Lee all that I have received is a brief explanation of the project. There has thus been nothing tangible to comment on. I know nothing of what he has done in the past or how he is regarded in the U.K. I probably could find that out if you wanted me to. To date I have seen nothing to make me think that the project is advancing under firm and competent direction. It may well be so advancing, and there is no particular reason why I should be aware if it is, but I do not feel that I have any basis on which to make a positive prognosis.

There is a kind of poetic completeness to your lecturing in the Lion Building in Berlin which must have been satisfying to you. I look forward to your new novel. Although the word "unforgotten" does not appear in the OED or in my American Webster's Unabridged, it appears to me a perfectly sound construction. There may be a slight shading between your word and "unforgettable" which is the existing noun on that verb base, and I share your view that it differs also from "remembered" which to me applies an act of will. "Unforgotten" to me implies that what is being referred to is engraved upon the memory and cannot be lost, but the definition of "unforgettable" is "incapable of being forgotten". The real question to me is what shading is being expressed between "unforgotten" and "unforgettable". The former to me seems more passive.

I shall be in Aspen, Colorado from July 6th to 23rd where my 16 year old son will be studying the piano with the head of the Julliard piano faculty who will be at the Aspen Music School for the summer. While he is working on his piano technique,, I shall be working my way through Thucydides and Herodotus to plug up some large gaps in my education.

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There was a University of Oregon law professor, Jim Mooney, in Avignon this Spring teaching some undergraduates in a kind of literature and law program. I gave him some help, and he kindly presented me about ten days ago with a Library of America edition of Raymond Chandler, the American writer of detective fiction (1888-1959). I have just about finished the volume. It is an escapist kind of literature with a lot of male fantasy, but it is fun reading. He is very good on dialogue, and the writing is very good.

Mary Lee said that you will be in York in August. It is a city on my list of cities to see. I am told it is very pleasant. I hope you and Jan have a pleasant summer. I would like to keep up with the Cambodia project so that if you have any more news, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald P. Sokol

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