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Tuesday 14 January 1997

Dear Dan,

I have yours of December 18th which I am answering in record time.

Because my eldest son, who is an investment banker in London, has access to extensive data bases, I asked him to run a check on Neville Clarke. All that turned up was a confirmation of his address, a record of three county court judgments issued against him and two articles, one dating from 1984 and one from 1982. The 1982 article mentions a Neville Clarke who heads the European Broadcasting Union's operating group and the 1984 article mentions a Neville Clarke from Britain's Independent Broadcasting Authority. He is not listed in any biographical directories nor in any media directories. The fact that there has been nothing in the press about him since 1984 and that he is not listed in the media directories suggests that his career may have ended. When I next get to London in early February, I shall see if I can get any more information.

I think the Golden Mean Project is a wonderful idea and am glad that Mary Lee thinks I am a useful addition, but I have seen nothing to make me very optimistic that this project is actually going to happen. Its finances as well as what, if anything, is tangibly being done are a mystery. The lunches in Piccadilly at Fortnum & Mason's in London with Mary Lee, Neville Clark, and a few other people are pleasant enough. From what I have seen of the project to date, which will be one year in March, it seems terribly amorphous. There doesn't seem to be any hard information about it or any concrete plans, although at our last meeting in September there seemed to be a decision to produce a short video. If that actually happens, then my opinion will change.

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Another potential source of financing that recently occurred to me is the George Soros' Foundation. Soros recently stated that one of his priorities is rule-of-law projects. I have not yet mentioned this to Mary Lee so if you talk to her, please pass it on.

I finished writing an article in early December on freedom of expression in France with a subtheme of comparative litigation. The article deals with the case of a book published about President Mitterand a few weeks after his death written by his former physician. The surviving family attempted to suppress publication, and the French courts thus far have ruled in the family's favor. I sent the article to the Virginia International Law Journal which had expressed prior interest. I am now waiting to hear what they think of it. I think it may be the best thing I have written in a while.

I am presently partly bored with my practice. I am not certain whether it is the practice itself or just the fact that I have been doing it for so long. I am not bored with the law which still fascinates me, but I would not be averse to taking on some interesting project. As I try to conjure up what such a project might look like, I am not easily able to imagine it. I have some constraints in that I don't want to put Junko in a spot where she will be unhappy and I don't want to be too far removed from my children who are in England. I think that probably rules out places like Cambodia but not necessarily the United States. Incidentally, I have been getting some clandestine reports from Cambodia which seem to confirm almost all of the predictions I made in my Confidential Report. I wrote Laura McGrew last summer to ask her what was happening, but she did not reply.

I appreciated your sending me the obit last August. Richard's death was certainly unexpected. I have heard nothing about who may replace him as the guiding spirit of the colloquium.

I continue to be amazed at all the activities you have underway, and I look forward to your new novel when it sees the light of day. It is strange how neglected the Korean War seems today and how important it was then. It is surely due for a revival. I would be curious to know more about the Korean War conference you mention.

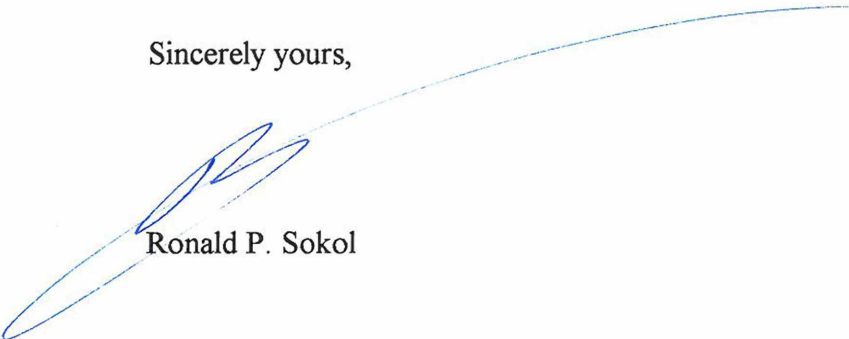
Our son Daniel, now 18, is a good student and was hence offered an interview at Oxford. I thus accompanied him with great joy to Trinity College in early December and then left him there for a few days. He had two short interviews of about a half hour each, but he unfortunately did not get an offer. He must now await and take the remainder of his A levels in June. He'll have the results in mid-August, and if his results are good enough, he may try again. If not, he'll have to try somewhere else. Unfortunately, he was so confident of getting into Oxford that he neglected to make a second choice of universities so that if he does not find a place at the last moment, he will have a free year or what the British refer to as a "gap year".

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In that case, he may do a year in an American university, and I in fact recently wrote off to Dartmouth as they offer a course on boxing in 20th century American literature and cinema that I dangled in front of him as bait. He nibbled and allowed me to write off for him. He is quite an unusual young man. I don't know whether it's because he's named after you or not, but he combines a number of interests which are not usually found juxtaposed, such as boxing and classical music. He's impulsive, given to enthusiasms and has a quick sense of humor. In fact, I find myself curious as to what he is going to end up doing. I nudge him occasionally in the direction of the law, but as he does not take too kindly to nudging, I don't often do it as I don't want it to be counterproductive, but I suspect he would make a rather witty barrister.

Junko joins me in sending you and Jan our very warmest wishes for 1997.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald P. Sokol

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