

Jerry Richardson

*Please  
John: SCS  
book letter*

Thursday, Aug. 3 1995

Henry,

Lou and I thoroughly enjoyed reading your new book. It's a classic. I plan to keep it among my collection of things written or printed by people whose work I greatly admire. Thank you for sending us a copy.

You did such a meticulous job of journal keeping, then translating it into lively, very readable text. A few years ago I unearthed an NDSU alumnus in Washington, D.C., who had been a kind of Big Man On Campus back in the mid-1930s. I had heard stories that he had been involved in the decision to drop The Bomb, while working in the State Department and in the military during World War II. When I found him, he had been retired for at least 25 years, and was quite flattered that someone had taken the trouble to look him up. He has since died, and his widow sent me a thick typescript of his memoirs in the hope that I could assist her in getting them published. Alas, they are crashingly dull. I've never been able to make it all the way through them, and have had no success at all in eliciting any interest from a potential publisher.

You must feel a lot of satisfaction in having been able to chronicle your life and career in such a lively and interesting manner. I particularly enjoyed the little personal episodes such as the spontaneous jazz concert in Dalmatia, your brush with the CIA, the poor little beggar boy in India, and the meals you had around the world. I recall eating deep-fried octopus in Japan onetime. I'm sure I wouldn't have the stomach for all of the exotic things you've tackled in your travels.

It always rather amazes me when I read something like your book, or watch the credits for a film, parts of which were made all over the world, or a war involving troops from a dozen disparate countries, how remarkable it is that people from widely different backgrounds, cultures and languages are able to work together to produce something with unity and coherence. From my own much narrower experience I know how difficult it can be to have something positive come out of a collection of big egos and personal biases.

Lou and I have been seeing things in the paper that look as though they might have been triggered by the publication of your book. Only one of them, an AP story out of Minneapolis, credited you by name (it was drastically shortened in The Forum and our local broadcast media.) Jane Brody cited Dr. Dean Ornish in her column the other day. It sounded to me suspiciously like some of your pioneering research. Such is life in science and academe.