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⑦ HOTEL

Hana-Maui

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

*Rec'd
Aug 29
Aug 48*

Aug. 25, 1967

Dear Mr. President,

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This should reach you about the time of the year when you come within ten years of catching up with me (most of the time you are eleven years behind). But this letter is not to pull seniority, in which I don't believe anyway, but to wish you a happy birthday at a time when some other people are running you down.

I know that the Chief Justice, with whom we have been spending a few weeks, is also writing you a letter, but he probably won't put in the letter some of the things he has said to me.

He feels very keenly the difficulties which face you and the intolerance of your critics, among them Bobby, whom he feels has taken advantage of you at a time when you are in trouble.

"Pregnancy does not begin with a full blown child," the Chief remarked this morning. "And this war did not begin with the President. It began with Eisenhower, and then grew under Bobby's brother. It seems to me that he is completely disloyal to his party and his President at a time when his President is at a disadvantage."

The Chief went on to recall that he was Governor of California during the war years at which time Roosevelt had not consulted him once, whereas you had consulted the Republicans continually, and more than any other president.

"The senate voted the Gulf of Tonkin resolution with a gesture of 'here you take the war; it's your responsibility.'", the Chief remarked this morning. "Now they are carping at the man to whom they gave the responsibility."

The Chief is not happy about the war, but unlike so many others, he recognizes your problems, and he has some ideas toward solving them.

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He suggests: 1, bringing American troops into smaller areas which can easily be defended; 2 letting the South Vietnamese protect their own people in the rest of the country; 3, let the newly elected president of South Vietnam propose an indefinite moratorium on bombing the north; 4, during that moratorium get the neighboring Asiatic countries, from Burma to Indonesia and India, to pressure Hanoi for peace.

I know you have explored almost every avenue toward peace, but something like this might be worth exploring.

This letter, however, is chiefly to wish you a happy birthday and the hope that the next anniversary will find you and the world in a much more peaceful condition.

Please excuse this lousy typing, but I'm my own secretary on a rather decrepit machine.

Sincerely your friend,


Drew Pearson