

JUL 19 1983

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY BELIEF

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Phillip L. Berman, M.T.S.
Harvard University

*There are always in the world a few inspired men
whose acquaintance is beyond price.*

— Plato

July 18, 1983

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Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

My name is Phillip Berman, and as President of the Center for the Study of Contemporary Belief, I am currently heading up an international research and writing project, the first volume of which will be published in June, 1984, and titled BELIEF IN ACTION.

What we are doing, Admiral Zumwalt, is inviting several eminent individuals to give an honest and intimate account, briefly stated (2,000 words or less), of the personal philosophy which has guided and sustained them in their life and work.

As you may remember, similar books to the one we are editing were published during the late 1950's. The most popular of these was the late Edward R. Murrow's THIS I BELIEVE series, which included such notable contributors as Leonard Bernstein, Pearl Buck, Norman Cousins, Helen Keller, Margaret Mead, Carl Sandburg, Arnold Toynbee, and Harry Truman.

One of those who does remember the Murrow series, and has agreed to contribute to this project, is Mr. Irving Wallace: "... I think it is time for another such series, and that the volumes you are preparing can contribute a good deal of important stimulation to a large body of readers."

Indeed, Murrow's books were popular primarily because they gave those who read them a chance to reflect upon and grapple with the closely held convictions of some of the most accomplished individuals of their time.

But these books provided other things as well. They gave those who contributed to them an opportunity to actually sit down and sort out the essentials of their belief or, in some cases, nonbelief, and provided scholars with an invaluable touchstone for evaluating the emergent sensibility of their time. In our books,

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however, an additional provision arises in that we are hoping to see several foreign language editions published. These can only serve to foster the kind of cross-cultural understanding so essential, yet so lacking in this tumultuous nuclear age.

As individuals deeply concerned with the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of mankind, the subject which this book will cover is of compelling interest to all of us at the Center. Again, the potential positive effect such a book could have on a vast and questioning readership is truly enormous. In spite of the promise this book holds, however, it cannot succeed without the participation of such notable and reflective individuals as yourself. The value of one's reflections are, after all, greatly determined by the quality and diversity of the ideas one is able to assimilate.

Admiral Zumwalt, would you be interested in contributing to such a book, and if so, may I count on receiving your contribution by February of 1984?

Should you decide to contribute, we would contact you within two weeks after receiving your acceptance letter, providing you with a list of guidelines to consider when composing your essay. However, the style and content of your essay, as well as the language it's written in, is up to you; we ask only that it be brief (2,000 words or less), and that you seek to address as honestly and intimately as possible the following questions: (1) What do you believe? and (2) In what ways have your occupations enabled you to implement those beliefs in daily life?

Once your response is in, it will be carefully edited by the board and returned to you for final approval. At this time we are able to offer an honorarium of eight hundred dollars for each contribution.

For your own interest, we are including a list of some of the individuals who have already agreed to contribute to this book (Joan Baez, H.H. the Dalai Lama, Marcel Marceau, George McGovern, Ashley Montagu, Sir Neville Mott, James Roosevelt, Bart Starr, etc.) or are, as yourself, considering our invitation.

On behalf of the entire advisory board, I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this invitation. Again, we cannot stress enough how much this project means to us, nor how pleased and grateful we would be should you decide to contribute.

Yours Sincerely,



Phillip L. Berman, M.T.S.

PLB:jm

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Individuals who are participating, or have been invited to participate, in this monumental world education project include:

Kobo Abe, Alan Alda, Maya Angelou, Joan Baez, James Baldwin, George Ballanchine, Simone Beauvoir, Samuel Beckett, Ingmar Bergman, Archibald Cox, H.H. the Dalai Lama, Joan Didion, Bob Dylan, Federico Fellini, Betty Friedan, Jean Genet, Martha Graham, Gunter Grass, Thor Heyerdahl, Billy Jean King, Claude Levi-Strauss, Shirley MacLaine, Louis Malle, Marcel Marceau, George McGovern, Yehudi Menuhin, Arthur Miller, Ashley Montagu, Sir Neville Mott, Malcolm Muggeridge, Carroll O'Connor, Claes Oldenberg, Lord Laurence Olivier, Itzhak Perlman, Ayn Rand, James Roosevelt, Andrei Sakharov, B.F. Skinner, Bart Starr, Frank Stella, Mother Teresa, Twyla Tharp, Francois Truffaut, Liv Ullmann, John Updike, Irving Wallace, Barbara Walters, Harold Washington, Orson Welles, Eudora Welty, E.B. White...

Admural-

Here is Jim's draft (incomplete)
for the article for the Center
for the Study of Contemporary
belief- Please review