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Correspondence
Cover
Sheet

& Silver Peak Bar & Grill

Sept. 14, 2013

MONK MEMO # _____

From: The Lone Monk of San Francisco

To: The President

Hi Mr. President!

Few people of consequence (or even inconsequence) have ever even heard of The Lone Monk of San Francisco. His scribbles do not appear on the web, or anywhere else for that matter. (With the exception, of course, of *extremely* limited personal correspondence, which someday, just like van Gogh's paintings, will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.) He is nevertheless -indisputably- the nation's most brilliant commentator on matters Metaphysical/Philosophical/Political. Approached only by the likes of the great David Remnick and Hendrik Hertzberg of The New Yorker.

Now then...

The Monk has become exceedingly annoyed in recent weeks by the inane rantings of various pseudo-intellectual "experts" appearing on NPR and PBS, and the *insane* (as always) rantings of various right-wing nut-cases on major commercial radio and TV networks, all of whom continue, day after day, to attack you on your Syrian policy -without *ever* telling us exactly what *they* would have done in your position. Given the high rank and high salaries of many of these semi-literate louts and loutettes, it's enough to make an impoverished literary genius want to throw up.

Let me see if I can explain to these idiots exactly what you have done:

(1) You have *stopped*, dead in his tracks, that power-mad, psychopathic mass-murderer of children. You have stopped him from murdering hundreds if not thousands more children with poison gas. Without your warning and statement of intent, that would *not* have happened.

For The Monk, that *alone* would be enough to say that you did exactly the right thing.

(2) You have put a *real* spotlight on the fact that this guy is a *mass murderer of civilians*, that in addition to killing them with poison gas, he has been murdering them *-deliberately targeting them-* with artillery and air attacks for the past two years, and that the United Nations should have moved long ago to put a stop to such mass murder.

Prior to your warning to the Dictator, the vast majority of the American people had been paying almost no attention whatever to events there. Average Americans have been too busy just trying to *survive*, after all the Bush/Cheney-caused catastrophes, to have the *time* to concern themselves with the confusing and what is, to them, completely irrelevant business of "foreign affairs". They didn't really *know* and didn't really *care* about the "political situation" in Syria. Meaning that when they answered the ill-parsed

questions of the totally incompetent "pollsters" about whether your policies there met with their approval, the *only* thing they really knew was what the pollsters told them - i.e. that you apparently wanted to go to "war" there. God, how The Monk detests so-called pollsters. And people on major TV and radio networks who pander to them.

(H.L. Mencken was at least slightly askew in his comment to the effect that "you can never go wrong underestimating (or maybe that should read 'misunderestimating') the intelligence of the American people". Actually, most of the American people are moderately intelligent; they are just tragically *uninformed* about all too many things.)

(Ed. Note: Of our hundreds of Monk Memos over the years, at least two or three were addressed to you, so if you received them, you'll have some idea of what we're talking about here.)

(3) You have put a spotlight (though we wish it were much brighter) on the man we have referred to in many previous Monk Memos as a "would-be dictator" and an "ignorant genuine nut-case". Right, that *would* be the man who has now (by deciding to imprison anyone who disagrees with him -even just verbally) -has now become an *actual* dictator. Right, that old KGBer, Mr. Putin. Vladimir Putin. Who has now proven himself to be an *accessory to murder*. By selling billions of dollars (some of which he has certainly pocketed) of weapons to his buddy Mr. Assad, including missiles used to deliver poison gas for the mass murder of children. (The Dictators of Al Qaeda and others on the scene have in the past, of course, also proven themselves to be mass murderers of children, and also must be taken out. Not an easy job, but it *can* be done.)

Dictatorship -of *every* kind- is the *real* enemy of America. Because all Dictators -sooner or later- begin to deal in nothing *but* mass murder.

(Ed. Note: It is really rather frightening to contemplate the fact that the nut-case Dictator Mr. Putin still has enough nukes (and the ICBMs to deliver them) to kill just about everybody in the world. Oh well, we can always hope that he won't start waving them around like some drunk with a gun in a bar. Or handing some of them over to specially selected terrorists (including perhaps some old KGBers?). Right, The Monk having once worked for a while, decades ago, as a counterintelligence agent (before dropping out to become an impoverished wandering poet of San Francisco) does have much too vivid an imagination.)

(4) (No, wait... We have been composing this little Memo, as usual, in a bar, and we really need to get out of here now... But when we get *really* enraged at radio and TV talk show "experts", then we feel literally *compelled*, by whatever Gods may be, to write *something*.

Have an extraordinary day!



P. S.
The Lone Monk of San Francisco

P.S. By the way... Because, over the decades, we have usually seen CBS News as the very best of the best, we were bitterly disappointed at the fact that top management there would allow Charlie Rose to give

a propaganda forum to a mass-murderer of children. Oh, we know all about Journalistic Imperative, we were in ~~that business for a while too.~~ But there are times when you just *don't* behave obsequiously toward power-mad mass-murderers before millions of television viewers, times when you just *don't* have any conversation whatever with such sickos unless you are in a position to be able to *really* nail them to the wall. (Yeah, yeah, I know the bottom line here is ratings and money, and the prestige of being able to tell everyone: "Hey, look at me; I got to interview a Head of State during a crisis! I'll go down in Journalistic history!" Sorry, not good enough. (As you can see, The Monk is no "fan" of *anyone* on earth (except maybe a couple of musicians), and when he sees garbage going down, he will always call it garbage in his little Columns, even if they are only imaginary Columns which will never ever see the light of print.) (Incidentally, not to put too fine a point on it, but The Monk does, indeed, have twice the intellectual depth of Charlie Rose and numerous other such pundits, and is certainly better read and better informed than any other commentator of any kind in the country, including Presidential speech-writers.)

(Ed. Note: As regards the narcissistic pseudo-intellectuality of various media personages referred to in various paragraphs above, The Monk cannot deny that he Himself does indeed fall into the same category as Stewie and Brian The Dog of "Family Guy". The difference is that He *knows* it.)

P.S. By the way, Mr. President, though we have been in agreement with most of your policies (see previous Monk Memos), we must tell you that we were bitterly disappointed at the fact that you chose (quite rationally) not to attempt the Absolutely Impossible (given the steel wall put up by the Repubs of the Corporate Dictatorship) (which, true, is nowhere near as bad as Communist and Fascist dictatorships, but is still pretty sickening) -that you chose not to attempt the Impossible and go, from the outset, for a Single Payer Health Plan. (Still, in that regard, you *did* manage to do *something* for the poor and hopeless of this nation, which is more than anyone else has managed to do, or even tried very hard to do, for all those decades.) Nevertheless, sooner or later, there *will* be a Monk-approved Plan, because, based on it's success in other nations (and the fact that such plans could be *improved* upon here, where American ingenuity *could* produce twice the quality of health care at half the price) -because based on its success in other nations it is the only *rational* way to go.

But, though disappointed, we have decided to forgive you since you really *are* (given the indescribably monstrous set of insoluble problems you were confronted with when you took office), the best President we have had since FDR and JFK.

P.S. By the way, as previously noted, The Lone Monk has been in many strange businesses, including, when very young, the paratrooper business; and while we have this opportunity, we would just like to note here that the bin Laden raid and the courage it took to give a "go" on it, and the courage it took by all those who carried it out was positively magnificent. An unforgettable moment in American History.

P. S. (Regular readers (if any) of Monk Memos are aware that, inter alia (including drunken digressions, plethoras 'o pointless parentheses (a la the great J. D. Salinger) 'n italicizations, grammatical grotesqueries, syntactical strangeness, etc.), the Monk's Postscripts (like much of the Memo itself) may be entirely incongruous relative to whatever he's just been talking about, because he likes to type whatever pops into his mind before he forgets it because of encroaching senility -especially when he is drinking. Now then, as Inspector Clouseau would say, now then...

If you think The Monk was being a bit harsh on Mr. Putin, you should see the lengthy Monk Memo of a few weeks ago having to do with Putin's new best buddy, Mr. Snowden, whom we dissected *totally*. (How is it that no one seems to understand that every vital piece of information that was in those four computers he stole (to sell, and then make millions more selling a book about his activities to millions of anti-Americans all across the world) -that all that vital information was stolen from the American people. (Forget all the crap that he supposedly "exposed" to the public at the outset. This was stuff that was

~~already well known to the heads of the Intelligence agencies of every major government on earth -at least to those possessing an IQ larger than that of a squid. And, indeed, was stuff which should have been known to every American who had actually given it any thought. That stuff is irrelevant, but the other stuff, the stuff in those four computers... Release of that material could well do irreparable harm to the American people. That makes it not just espionage, but treason. As explicated in our previous Memo, this case bears not even the remotest resemblance to the Ellsberg and Manning cases. (It would be an entirely difference matter if he had simply "exposed" what he exposed, and not stolen those computers.)~~

Also, of course, the aforementioned Memo was more than a bit harsh on the Counterintelligence people at NSA -the *imbeciles* who failed to put into place the *most fundamental* security procedures (see previous Monk Memos) which could have prevented this whole affair. The frightening thing about this is... With CI people like *these* in charge, God only knows *how many professional moles* have permeated the NSA and other agencies...)

P.S. Re inconsistency re our current address. Though we continue to refer to Ourselves as The Lone Monk of San Francisco, we have in fact, after having had the good fortune to reside for many, many years (including the wondrous ones of late 60s 'n 70s) in that magical place, finally been forced into exile most vile by outrageous rents which ancient impoverished poets cannot even begin to meet. (Unless working, as usual, at *some* kind of minimum-wage type job, and of course there are no jobs.) And now perforce must reside in a hyper-depressing, hyper-minuscule van Gogh-like hovel here in the middle of Nowheresville, where nothing but right-wing loonies abound on the radio and most everywhere else... "The horror, the horror..."

P. S. Thanks once more for taking a stand against that lunatic mass murderer of children, the kind of stand that most other Very Important People, from UN representatives to U.S. Congresspersons, were not decent enough, not human enough, to be willing take. These are the kinds of people who invariably put political expedience and their own careers above *all* else. The kind of politicians for whom a Lone Monk will never vote.

P. SMITH

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