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Mr. Ken Follett
c/o Writers House

Dear Ken,

This letter is basically to comment on the letter sent to you by Pat Golbitz.

Believe it or not, I find that I agree with most of what she says; and I was pleasantly surprised to note that she found quite a few things which I missed and which really are excellent points.

So, I'll confine myself in this letter to the areas in which she and I disagree.

First, I don't think there's any big problem in the scene with Abdullah. I feel that you can keep it pretty much as it is, except that you might move it forward in time. She doesn't really have to give birth immediately thereafter. The birth just as easily could take place a month or even three months later.

I do not feel that the Boris-Ellis episode is pure Follett and perfect. As I wrote to you last week, this scene could be far more exciting if the suspense were "set up," and you were to write it all from Ellis' point of view.

Jean-Pierre does need to have his motivation bolstered, but I do not believe that money would or should be his motive. Besides, I don't think that the Russians ever promise anybody great sums of money.

Finally, I found the climax in the helicopter satisfying; and I'm not at all sure that this scene needs to be prolonged or requires a longer confrontation with Jean-Pierre. Perhaps there might be just a bit more of a struggle before Jane manages to push him out. She might even hesitate for a moment, just as she did when she had the opportunity to ambush all those Russians; but this time of course she must follow through. My only problem with this scene, as I mentioned, was a lack of clarity as to how Ellis was managing with manacled hands.

There is no question, however, that Jean-Pierre needs enriching; and once you do some of this work all through the text, that may lead also to giving him a more important role in this scene.

My one other thought about the ending had to do with some fear that they still might be overtaken on their way to Pakistan, possibly by a jet fighter or bomber. If, after all, Anatoly and Jean-Pierre fail to radio back after a certain interval,

wouldn't Russian headquarters perhaps start looking for them and perhaps send out some help, probably in the form of more helicopters, but possibly also in the form of some jet airplanes. Plainly it could be a remote possibility that Ellis and Jane were still in any real danger, but I think they would have to at least hear that possibility for a while anyway.

I am going to give you this letter when I see you, but I just thought you ought to have all this written down.

Love,

Al

AZ/ae