

*Shepperton Studios,
Shepperton,
Middlesex
Telephone: Ebury 2611*

Mr. Kirk Douglas,
707 North Canon Drive,
Beverly Hills,
California.

February 8th, 1963.

Dear Kirk,

I thought I would be presumptuous enough to drop you a line about your forthcoming film SEVEN DAYS IN MAY which, as you may know, I had some interest in myself.

I think it's a marvellous story and could be a very important and constructive film. There were a couple of things about it which, in my opinion, detracted from its potential meaning. The most important, I think, is the complete cop-out at the end when the President confronts the Air Force Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and gets him to admit that if the responsibility were his, he would have done things just in the same way. This is extremely unlikely and takes away from the most important theme in the book, namely the conflict in the Government between intelligent civilian management of the affairs of state versus the driving force of the military-industrial complex. Have you ever seen Eisenhower's famous last speech as President where he warned the country, in a manner extremely untypical for him, of the growing threat of the military-industrial complex - that was his expression.

I think it would be very good if you could dramatise the difficulty a President would have in agreeing to some form of sensible disarmament scheme and how the semi-paranoiac extremists can make great political trouble for him. This is very nicely touched on in the book when the President's Popularity Poll reaches a new low, but I think it's greatly dissipated by the ending.

Cont.....

I should also prefer to see less physical action undertaken by Senators and high Government officials. There's a bit too much creeping and crawling and slugging and gun-play involving these characters and I think it would be much more realistic if this could be delegated to lower echelon characters.

I hope that John and Rod and Eddie don't resent this letter and I leave it to you to present any of these ideas, if you consider them worthy, in your own charming and inimitable manner.

In any event, I wish you the best of luck with the film and please give my regards to Eddie and Ann.

Best regards,

Stanley
Stanley Kubrick.

February 19, 1963

Dear Stanley,

How nice to hear from you again, and I certainly appreciate your suggestions -- but then you know how we geniuses work. You will be pleased to know that we have been thinking about all the points you mentioned. Your letter has served to give us more confidence about the work we must do in these areas. I think we should have an interesting picture and a pretty good cast.

By the way, what's cooking with your project -- what's happening with your lawsuit versus "Fail Safe." If there's any way that I can help I wish you'd call on me.

In the meantime, my sincere wishes for the success of your picture. Also, I think it's about time we did another picture together. How about a comedy? I think I'm very funny, don't you?

Let's keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Kirk
Kirk Douglas

Mr. Stanley Kubrick
Shepperton Studios,
Shepperton, Middlesex
England

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