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July 6, 1979

Dear Laura,

This letter is an attempt to capture our phone conversation of last week, as you requested. It is also a statement of intent on my part requesting a response from you also about the idea as stated.

I have been interested in doing a major book on you and your career in photography. Viking Press (my editor and designer at Studio Books) has asked me if I want to do a book following the autumn publication of Recollections. They have been asking me if there is a book "in the works". Hence, our conversation.

My proposal to you is as follows:
You and I agree to collaborate on a book 50-50 with you receiving royalty and advance under contract with the publisher as I also do. You would supply prints (^{your} selection), working with

2. The designer directly. I would work with you to execute the biography, the notes and bibliography and any organization necessary to create the book. There would be money provided for an essay by a major figure (of your choice) in the world of photography

The first step is for you and ^{me} I to agree to work together and if we do then I will work on Viking for a proper advance so that this book can be the best possible. I am not interested in anything less than a major book on your work, THE Book! The publication date would be your 90th birthday! If you and I agree then I can try to make an arrangement with a museum and Viking so that the financial arrangement for publication will guarantee us better funds for expenses and reproduction.

What amount advance do you expect to receive?

I leave for the East on July 10th and will call you from somewhere in the East.

3. You can reach me by mail because Frederick will be here and will forward my mail to me. I am in New York by August 18th to see the book go on the Press. (for the purpose of blessing it ... they don't need me, but I will be in NY to work on the Show).

Please don't forget to send any memorabilia you can find. Old articles, a scrap book, an early Navaho artifact, your out of print books, any early notices, advertisements .. ANYTHING! Perhaps someone like David Bell could take it on the plane on a trip to New York — sometime in July.) Thank you for your cooperation.

Best,
Greta