

12 May 1975

Mr. William B. Goodman
Senior Editor, Trade Department
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
757 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Goodman:

THE GENTLE TASADAY is an extraordinary and wonderful book that I hope and expect will have great influence in changing the attitude of western and westernized nations towards primitive people; will help so called civilized people to realize that what we call civilization is not the essential criterion for determining desirable human relationships, is not a necessary precondition for what civilized people boast of as their humanitarianism. This should have been a lesson of the thirty year Vietnam war but seems not to have been learned. And now 28 innocent Tasaday could teach what all the waste and suffering of that conflict failed to do. I perhaps expect too much, but if my hope is not vain then the pattern of treatment accorded all primitive people in the past will have been broken, and there is a chance that a new era of man's humanity to man will emerge. If this miracle should somehow occur, if western man should be enlightened by the example of these few lovable and instinctively wise stone age people his debt to them will be immeasurable.

I am most grateful to you for sending me this book.

Very sincerely yours,

Elton R. Oster