

To **Dr. Leonard J. Halpern**,
Chair of Strategic Ethics, Joint Nuclear Command Advisory Board
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

27th of October, Anno Domini 1962
In the 2nd year of the Kennedy Presidency

Leonard,

This is not a report for the record.

At 0304 hours, Sector V recorded a high-energy event — gamma radiation burst, twelve seconds, undirected, unaccounted.

No launch signatures.
No thermal anomalies.
No known phenomena at matching coordinates.

I rechecked every telemetry relay.
I recalibrated spectrum logs.
Nothing conventional explains what we observed.

It was a spike — vertical, clean, final.

The Soviets didn't do this.
We didn't do this.

It occurred.

I stood on the observation deck, thinking I would see some trace —
a disturbance in the atmosphere, a shift in stellar alignment.

I saw nothing.

The sky remained.
But it remained wrong.

The event was pure in its silence.

It did not destroy.
It did not warn.
It simply arrived, and left.

I have spent twenty years working with fissile materials, ignition models, containment arcs.
I understand force, and radiation, and entropy.

But this—this was *unlaw*.

I am writing to you, Leonard, because you understand the difference between failure and withdrawal.

We built weapons under the assumption that the universe tolerates survival.

Now I am less certain.

I recommend this letter be archived in the black sector vaults, behind the thermobaric project files.

It is not a record of violation.

It is a record of silence.

Let it be known:

In the crisis of 1962, when a gamma burst lit the silent horizon, Dr. Richard Alan Merle, architect of contingency, recorded the sky's confession in cold transmission.

If the world survives this month, if anyone reads this:
The night the world almost ended, the sky issued no threat — it simply corrected us.

In cold observation,
Dr. Richard Alan Merle
Head of High-Energy Contingency Studies
LOS ALAMOS