
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Gift of Che

June 4, 2001

I would add to The Post's May 27 obituary of Alberto Korda that he gave a copy of his famous picture of Che Guevara to the Italian publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, who published it in various ways, especially on the posters that seemed to adorn every dormitory wall in the late '60s and early '70s.

Mr. Korda received no royalties then, and his picture, a masterpiece of photo-portraiture, has been pirated regularly ever since.

When I wanted to use it on my book, "The Fall of Che Guevara," Oxford University Press agreed, to its credit, that we should pay for it. I called Mr. Korda, who answered grumpily—I think I woke him up—and then, mellowing, said, "Oh, pay me about \$300, and I'll send you a print." It arrived signed and is, of course, a highly prized possession.

A Korda relative in Miami, who handled the transaction, said that we were "about the only ones" who offered to pay to use that picture.

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