

January 5, 1977

To: Harry Shlaudeman

Subject: Gabriel Garcia Marquez

You may have noticed the attached Omang piece on Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Sunday before last. Note the marked portion on p. 2 about his being refused visas to the U.S. One of the few things I've been able to achieve in ARA is a liberal visa policy. So.....

In June, 1971 I learned Garcia was to receive an honorary degree at Columbia. I made certain there would be no visa problem, and indeed he received it promptly - although I discovered he had been refused a visa previously, a few years earlier. In any event, I flew up to NYC Kennedy Airport, greeted Garcia and wife, got them through customs uninspected, and took them on in to their New York hotel. We had a fine chat on the way in, during which I told him my favorite of his stories was "No One Writes to the Colonel". When he returned to Columbia Garcia mentioned that the Department had welcomed him. But of course some Latin American leftists, like Garcia and Carlos Fuentes, need the image of being refused U.S. visas.

G. Lister

*no why do we
impose ourselves
out? West*



Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Television

A Message From Garcia

By Joanne Omang

BOGOTA—Machine guns spurt and the village funeral mourners fall before the cameras, dropping the coffin in the mud. The voice over the televised image sounds old: "In that time, even the dead were shot."

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the famed Colombian author of "100 Years of Solitude," (more than 5 million copies sold, 1 million of them in English) has brought the agony of the decade called "La Violencia" to television here in the form of a soap opera. His conversion of his best-selling short novel, "La Mala Hora" (The Evil Hour) to a 20-episode TV series is the hottest thing to hit Colombian entertainment since television itself.

The long-awaited show scores several firsts in Latin America. It is Garcia Marquez' first venture into the medium, and ends, he says, his career as a novelist. It is the first long TV look at the undeclared civil war of 1948 to 1957 that drenched the country in blood. And it is the first time an

avowed Communist writer has not only gotten his version of events across to a mass audience here, but obtained the aid and support of a democratic government in doing it.

Garcia Marquez is 48, and his first interest now, he tells interviewers, is what it always has been: journalism. His nine novels he describes as poetic transformations of reality, journalism on a literary level, and totally true in the mind's limitless and unknowable reaches. "I have no themes for novels now," he said recently in an interview at the RIT television studios that are producing his series.

Except for his modish turtleneck sweater he could be an ex-boxer going gray. He holds his arms away from his body, and his legs are of the stocky sort that are crossed only with difficulty. "If a theme falls on me, fine. But right now I'm doing too many other things. I'm involved in ordinary journalism."

See TELEVISION, E8, Col. 1

