

My dear,

It seems ages ago that I last sat down to write to you at some length, so much so that I thought already of cabling you that all is well with me. At the same time your letters and papers have been reaching me uninterruptedly all the time.

My behaviour is disgusting, I admit.

I think my life here has also been very interesting, perhaps no less adventurous than ~~hitherto~~ hitherto. The only difference is that how materially now I am well off. I get my food supplies at the Foreign Store ~~xxxxxxx~~ "Insab". I am getting there more than one can use. I get everything that they have. Bread and sausages, sugar, nuts, cigarettes, raisins, biscuits, milk, butter etc. etc. It is simply unbelievable in Russia.

This places me in a special category of human beings. I am the envy of all Russians, the envy of all.

Looking at it democratically, this whole system of dividing people into classes and categories and issuing them with different food rations ! -----

I am working hard all these days on the Volga Bridge. The work now is technical and administrative only, the other side is with hands of others. And do not think that now the social and material conditions of the workers are better, far from it. The Russians live no better than they did at Lugansk or the Stanitza when I had to rake my head to make ends meet.

My own work now is satisfying and would have been really fine had it not been for the political undercurrent that goes on here at every turn. On this issue I think it inadvisable to dwell upon.

Suffice it to say that only a ~~xxx~~ week ago I was in the throes of a struggle against the young foolish, lazy, irresponsible group of young "Komsomols" working under me in my "Shop". Having found two incapable I decided to throw them out. They were returned again to me as it was thought that no Party men can be wrong and ~~xxxxxx~~ a none party foreigner right. I sent in my resignation and sent the fellows back. An enquiry case started and I won, of course.

One of them is on another work and the second discharged. The case was interesting, very interesting, very human, very Russian.

My prestige is greatly enhanced, though I have now no few enemies among the young fellows for ~~displaying displaying their~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ displaying (showing up?) their comrades and themselves.

Do not think that I am exaggerating here !. The contrary is the case. It really came to about my leaving home to Africa.

And who knows if that will not be the way of my returning from Russia. I am getting fearless, tell everybody the truth, often where none else could even dare and dream of doing it.

I do not think I shall write about the work and the technical side of it. You will not understand me fully !---

As yet, we have not the labour nor the material to finish the bridge in time and still we all talk about carrying out the plan in time. To doubt is "TREIF".-- You are immediately called an "OPPORTUNIST".

I am sending this letter written in three copies, to Beivi, Aaron and Israel.

Aaron, please show this letter to Beile.

Your loving,

JERRY.