

dear,

An hour ago I sent Israel a cable "FURTHER VIZA EXTENSION GRANTED. AWAITING RESULTS TRANSFER NORTH", referring, of course, to the previous cable of some weeks ago about the prospects of going to the Volga bridge.

In another hour's time I am leaving by train home to the Stanitza. Though the extension has been granted already (unofficially), the "seed" ~~is a task of someone~~ in Soviet Offices must take hours to mature on a table of someone. So I am told to return later when I shall be told the details and the terms of extension. To return in two, three days time.

So that is that.

Such are my plans at the moment:- The extension being granted, I shall write to-day to the Chief Bridge Engineer Mostrotrest, Moscow, whom I know asking him to transfer me North, to one of the larger bridges, either on the Volga or the Oka rivers. And in the meantime I shall wait. Great Russia is better in the sense of supplies. Ukraina is worst, undoubtedly. The Kulak struggle is greatest here.

THE STANITZA. Here starts a new case. GPU people have once more come down from Voronezh. "Natchalstvo" is again arrested. The chief of the "Uchastok II" who left Voronezh with me on the same day. The old case will be resurrected once more and a new started. The case is serious. Mostrotrest is involved, too.

I am "invited" to give evidence. It is a very excited "show" a great adventure.

My Chief has quietly interviewed me and spoke about the few "sins" of his, as well as of others. Asked me to give a definite, so to speak, explanation.

There are a few "sins", though not deliberate ones, to my mind. But my mind is not that which counts in USSR.-----

Speaking of cases, listen to this, quite fresh news.

My host, a late Cossack, of high integrity, with whom I stay was up to now "Zavchoz", i.e. "manager of Kolchoz transport, stables, etc.". From what I could see he gave them all. He worked day and night and got even no bread, for the Kolchoz starves at the moment. A fortnight ago, one good horse gave birth to a premature animal, that died later. "e swore blind to me that he is innocent. He is (as well as the "Kongoch" (?) and the "Vozchik") accused of "Vreditelstvo" (?). The case was held 4 days ago before I left the Stanitza. They gave him 6 years of Siberia, confiscated his belongings and sent his wife and child out.

Of course, against him goes his origin; his father was an "Ataman" of old. In 1926 his father was sent in exile in Northern Siberia for 5 years. On his return after exile, his father died here from lung trouble. His mother has died lately.

All I tell you is very well (true). But to ~~know~~ share a room with a Soviet enemy (who in this case is undoubtedly innocent); to see his few things taken away, a happy home destroyed, his only boy let go on the streets is not pleasant.....

Do you agree?.....

I am returning and expect to find the house locked and perhaps even my things mixed up and gone. I shall shout, loud and wide! All this is a great adventure!.....

And my time will also perhaps come!..... I am sending you a paper cutting of "Isvestia" of a case where English Specialists of "Metro-Vickers" are involved. A very big case, which may end very seriously to those involved.-----

I must really get out of this Stanitza.

I have no more time left. My train is in 20 minutes.

JERRY