

Shanghai
22/4/1933

My dear Meyer,

It is really my intention to sit down today & write at some length.

As his letter will reach many of you, I better acknowledge at the first instance the receipt of many of Isaac's long letters, calling me unconditionally back; of Boris's letters of a similar note, of several Boris's letters, much calmer in tone; none from Adam. Heaps of "Argus" & "Herald", "Manchester Guardian" weekly, several "Nations" & weekly cuttings from the "Star" & "Sunday Times". I think that I have a fair idea of world affairs.

Many thanks for the post & papers.

Where am I to start from?

I am at the Shanghai still & never seen the Volga in spite of my cable to you. The Chief Engineer of Moskovsk has offered me to go there & promised me that. I ^{I cabled him} soon after started the flood period all over Russia & bridge construction ceased temporarily everywhere. I wrote to him six reminders, he was travelling over the Union in inspections & on the receipt of the first ^{note}, wrote to me, promising to fulfill his promise if sen-

ding me to a good "shew" after the floods.
I expect that to materialise early in
May. In three, four days' time I shall leave
for Moscow for the May Days. I shall un-
doubtedly see the Chief & arrange details, I hope.
In this arrangement I shall have to surmount
the instance of my ^{immediate} ~~superior~~ chief of my remain-
ing here; he will fight hard & I will oppose
my transfer both & nail. Anyhow, I shall be in Moscow
soon & have a good time!

In general I must admit that
my personal well being of late has improved
with the successful completion of the bridge here.
That it was successful is undoubtedly good luck.
nevertheless, it saved several Russian Engineers & my-
self from "unpleasantness", to put it very mildly.

Being single, I am very lucky. At the
"UTP Quarters" I get three meals a day. These
are fair. fair & without waiting queues only because
no wives & children of UTP receive anything at
all! fair? A family man of ~~four~~ two children,
say, only gets one meal between four people!
I, a single man, receive the same! Thus I can

live on 250 roubles a month, while a married man will starve on 550 roubles a month (that which I get.) simply because I feed at "fixed prices" Slovakia, while brother has to add to his own ration foods bought on the market. These are impossible.

550 roubles a month is a big sum on Russian standards. (I got an increase lately.) Workmen get 120 - 150 a month, clerks 180 - 200. Good mechanics 300. Doctors 400 - 500 and so forth. Of the men here, there are only a couple who get more. And even if they get, they live no better with their families!

So I am one of Russia's aristocracy. I feed as best possible, I receive attention without best waiting. All your way to me. I am dressed according to latest ~~fashions~~ Paris (?) fashions, quite unlike the others. People judge you by your dress (and to foreign foot I fit!) This is not all. Recently they attacked me to "Ismael" of Lugansk & I get my relations from a shop supplying foreigners there. So I have butter & sugar & sweets & bread & I am able to treat others! Spring is here; grass is coming

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up rapidly. Soon, I hope, will be radishes & cucumbers & all the other 'good things' of course. I do not hope to be here to enjoy it all! Elsewhere on a bigger construction unit. -

You all knew, I hope, the coils here. I think I told them to you in a marvelous way. I believe you already accused me of being so careless that ^{to the world} ~~the~~ was impossible.

Look at the other side! There is no anticommunism & no national hatred of any kind anywhere. No religious hysteria that a bright day in a Europe of Hitler. Perhaps, who knows, if economic position may improve if Russia gets a good harvest & if the sowing campaign proves successful. - And with the greater attention given to agriculture & some land clearing (if Bolsheviks can?) things may improve.

There is no doubt that during the period 1925-1929 until collectivisation started Russians lived in plenty. There was unemployment & few people moved about as they wished. But "unplanned" agriculture could not exist side by side with "planned" industry of the 5 year plan. And so the whole structure of the village was remodelled.

The Russian towns underwent terrible hunger days, underwent their revolution in 1918-20 when Moscow starved on 1/8 lb bread rations, while the peasants fed themselves ~~very~~ well. To day Moscow remodelled to the new creed & adjusted fairly well, but 130,000,000 peasants are uprooted from their very foundations & what is wanted

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of them. Do you see it? And until they
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derstand what is going on, the work

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have to work to synchronise with them
industrial worker they will suffer even by the millions!
This is how it all appears to me.
And I think that I am right.

I am not hungry. I am well dressed. I can
sit & think of what the future holds out. — But
of the Russians themselves very few can think of any-
thing else but of their immediate needs.
Russia is, all the same, an interesting
place to live in. Very interesting. One rarely
wild summer, and I feel grateful to it
all the rest.

I am going to stay till July —
when my visa expiration ends. Perhaps I
shall be luckier at the North, where the
regime works better than in Ukraine,
full of Kulus & "Spudgeren"!

Please do not worry over me.
I cannot tell you every day. My visa
extension that ^{permits} automatically happens
without my coming about it. It comes automati-
cally on presentation of "xodayaue" from
responsible organisation.

It seems that even politically
I am "kosher" here. I give lectures
on technical, semi-political & political
themes. — Just as every one else of the UTP.
(Удмуртско-Татарская Работная)

Personally, ^{I think} the position in Russia today
in so far as bread & food is concerned is not
better than in Russia also. But I personally have

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Personally, ^{I think} the position in Russia today in so far as bread & food is concerned is not better than Basrah was. But I personally having learned the tricks of the trade, am better off. A dirty thing! But here one can ONLY think of oneself as an "eternal proletarian".

COPY of a letter from Jerry. dated 24/5/33 at Stanitza
arrived Tzaneen 25/5/33

My dear,

It is really my intention to sit down to-day and write at some length.

As this letter will reach many of you, I better acknowledge in the first instance the receipt of many of Israel's long letters, calling me unconditionally back; of Beile's letters of a similar note, of several Leivi's letters, much calmer in tone; none from Aaron. Heaps of "Arguses" and "Huisgenoots"; "Manchester Guardian's Weekly"s; several "Nations" and weekly cuttings from the "Star" and "Sunday Times". I think I have a fair idea of world affairs.

Many thanks for the post and papers.

Where am I to start from?

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In three, four days time I shall leave for Moscow for the May days. I shall undoubtedly see the chief and arrange details, I hope. In this arrangement I shall have to overcome the insistance of my immediate chief of my remaining here; he will fight the idea and will oppose my transfer tooth and nail.

Anyhow, I shall be in Moscow soon and have a good time.

In general I must admit that my personal well being has improved with the successful completion of the bridge here. That it was successful is undoubtedly good luck; nevertheless, it saved several Russian Engineers and myself from "unpleasantness", to put it very mildly.

Being single, I am very lucky. At the "UTR Stolovaia" I get three meals a day. These are fair, fair and without waiting queues only because no wives and children and UTR receive anything at all!..... (the last sentence is distorted? Israel) Fair? A family man of two children, say, only gets one meal between four people, I, a single man, receive the same! Thus I can live on 250 roubles a month, while a married man will starve on 550 roubles a month (that which I get) simply because I feed at "fixed prices" Stolovaia, while the others have to add to his own ration foods bought on the market. These are impossible.

550 roubles a month is a big sum on Russian Standards. (I got an increase lately). Workmen get 120-150 roubles a month, clerks 180-200, good mechanics 300. Doctors 400-500 and so forth. Of the men here there are only a couple who get more. And even if they get, they live no better with their families.

So I am one of Russia's aristocracy. Feed as best as possible, and receive attention without least waiting. All give way to me. I am dressed according to latest Paris fashions, quite unlike the others. People judge you by your dress.

This is not all. Recently they attached me to "(something name of a store - cannot make out. Israel) of Lugansk and I get my rations from a shop supplying foreigners there. So I have butter, and sugar and sweets and bread and I am able to treat others.

Spring is here; grass is coming up rapidly. Soon I hope will be radishes and cucumber and all the other good things.

Of course, I do not hope to be here to enjoy it all! Elsewhere on a bigger construction unit.

You all know, I hope the evils here. I think, I told them to you in a merciless way. I believe you already accused me of being so careless that to be more was impossible.

Look at the other side! There is no Anti-Semitism and no national hatred of any kind anywhere. No religious bigotry. What a bright thing in a Europe of Hitler.....

Perhaps, who knows, the economic position may improve; improve, if Russia gets a good harvest and if the sowing campaign proves successful? And with the greater attention given to Agriculture and some handling (if Bolsheviks can?) things may improve!

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There was unemployment then and free trade and people moved about as they wished. But "unplanned" agriculture could not exist side by side with "planned" industry of the 5 years plan. And so the whole structure of the village was remodelled.

The Russian towns underwent terrific hunger days, underwent then revolution in 1918-1920 when Moscow starved on $\frac{1}{8}$ lb bread rations while the peasants fed themselves then well. To-day Moscow remodelled to the new creed and adjusted fairly well, but 130,000,000 peasants are uprooted from their very foundations and do not know where they are and what is wanted from them.

Do you see it? And until they see it and learn the new principles and understand what is expected of them and how they have to work to synchronise with the industrial worker.-----

This is how it all appears to me, and I think that I am right.

I am not hungry. I am well dressed. I can sit and think of what the future holds out, but of the Russians themselves few can think of anything else but of their immediate needs.

Russia is all the same, an interesting place to live in, very interesting. One rages wild one minute and feels grateful to it all, the next.

I am going to stay till July- when my visa extension ends. Perhaps I shall be luckier at the North, where "the religion works better" than in the Ukraina, full of Kulaks and Sabotagers (?)!....

tell Please do not worry over me, I cannot tell you everything.

^ My visa extension that automatically has nothing sinister about it, it comes automatically on presentation of "Chodastvo" (?) from responsible organisations.

It seems that even politically I am "Kosher" here. I give lectures on technical, semi-political and political themes. Just as everyone else of the UTR (Inshinerno-Technicheski-Rabotniki)

Personally, I think, the position in Russia to-day in so far as bread and food is concerned is not better than 3 months ago. But I personally having learnt the tricks of the trade, am better off. A dirty thing. But here one can ONLY think of oneself and of an "ethereal Proletariat".

JERRY.

P.S. I sent you a telegram yesterday