

TZANEEN

17/3/33

From I. Berman
Box 17
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Union of South Africa

Dear Mr Fortes,

I have received yesterday afternoon your letter of the 23/2/33, together with a copy of a letter from Jerry to you, dated the 8/2/33, and I thank you very much for making out a copy thereof and posting it on to me.

I have had two letters from him yesterday, dated the 12th and 13th of February, and have sent you a copy of both, as well as his previous weeks letters.

I have been of late sending you up Jerry's letters (copies) together with one or two letters, also copies that I have sent on to him, and you will by time you get this letter, be more aware of what has been going on.

It is impossible to expect him to write fully to all he would like to write, and it is only interchange of letters that a fuller picture can be pieced together of what is going on in Soviet Russia. Your lack of information is due that you have only had an occasional letter, and besides, there are lots of things one writes from there that you have to be careful about, and as it is, Jerry is a bit careless in that respect, ~~as it is~~. One can hardly expect him to be more careless than he is already.

Your difficulty in grasping to some extent the situation of Jerry, may be due to the fact, that you have missed some of his letters and the contradictory "martyrdom" and its "fatal attractiveness" ~~non-existing~~ co-existing, are so strange to follow, for such is to a very great extent that topsy-turvydom of this freaky world, in the making.

To what extent, this "new child" is going to be, in the long run, the longed-for consolation of Humanity, the longed-for redeeming feature of this miserable world, or; the hideous monstrosity, the aborted disappointment of "Utopia", is for the unbiased person of to-day hard to say. History alone will be able to bring in a verdict thereon.

I am afraid, however, that we have ~~passed~~ past that academic discussion, and are in the realms of practical things and facts, that count.

Under these circumstances there is no room for him there, and the only thing to do, is to leave his present world for good and at the earliest opportunity.

His cable of the 8th instant, a copy of which I enclose, depressed us very much in South Africa, for we were under the impression that he is preparing his evacuation, never mind extend his visa.

You will gather more from copies of letters I enclose, as to what the present state of affairs are.

Nor do I like, in the least, the latest charge of Sabotage against British Engineers in the Soviet, in the electrical field.

However while thanking you so much for your offer to go to Moscow and rescue him, I do not think that it is necessary as yet. I however appreciate it very much. I am sending a copy of this letter to Jerry. He will gather from it that you know a very great deal of him, much more than he could write to you.

With kind regards to Mrs Fortes and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Israel Berman