

Dearest Israel,

I want to write to you a cool, collected letter on the political situation, as far as I see it, i.e. not according to our Press or to anyone your way.

Russia has made these five last years colossal blunders, blunders that are responsible for the semi-starvation that exists.

Russia has gone in for a huge construction plan. Here was a political point, viz. to "show" what Socialism can do !!!!!

Take as an example. In five years they built on the Dnieper a Dam and a huge 1500 meter bridge near "Ekatarinaslav". They built these in good record time. There is no doubt about it ! But what of the means !... It cost in human victims and money twice and more than it would have in America on similar jobs.

Under the 5 years plan things were done irrespective of costs. Entirely irrespective !!!!! Nothing counted, only finish to be able to say so !... Quality suffered. Factories completed a year ago, have given as yet nothing.

There was an enormous demand for labour, so people moved in search of better places and conditions. There was congestion on transportation services. Russia was on the go !!!. Everyone knew he was wanted and could get a post anywhere. So he moved and moved and none could rely on labour. Peasants not satisfied with collectivisation left the farms and filled the towns.

Russia built and built and got nothing for its building. It built and sank millions of resources into factories for steel and iron. Sank machines for which it sent out its bread and coal and oil and all the time these factories did nothing.

How can you carry on ? . Imagine you sink money into your farm and sink and sink and sink and sink and get nothing, but today you must go bankrupt, it must burst !!!!!

The same here !!!!! And it went with a bust. I am sure another year and things would have been Capute !....

Stalin saw it. He knew better and about three weeks ago he declared a new policy. He obviously did not admit his error ! In effect he declared a policy of slowing down the Tempo !!!!!

What does it mean on a Russia of to-day ?..... Listen !!!!! I together with 160,000,000 souls depend on that policy and already the effect is felt !!!!!

New factories are stopped ; factories started are stopped. Our Railway Line, too is partly stopped. Certain sections are stopped. Many bridges are stopped, and others are given longer time for building. The fever is over !!!!!

Listen ! Men are thrown out of employment. Men are found redundant ! On the bridge daily come down people of all qualifications and seek work. The skilled men you can get as many as you wish. You can pay off for one day of absence from work, you can (Prorab) put them in Jail up to 7 days !!!!!

How things have changed !!!!! Again Russia is on the move !!!. But this time in search of work !....

That is not all. Economy must be exercised in money payments and new construction generally.

We are given figures of average pay to all classes of labour and we must see not to exceed them under criminal responsibility !... These figures are frightfully low and much lower than existing.

Bread on families a worker does not get. Only on himself (800-600-400 grams per man per day). This month is worse than last, worse than December and 100% worst than October etc etc. Every Kolchosi is starving, it has not got a morsel of bread !.... The Kolchosi workers get NO bread !

Can you imagine how costly bread became, what a rare thing this is ! It costs on the Bazaar 14 roubles a lb (if you can get it !) A chicken 60 roubles, etc.

Do you understand what it means ? . An office cleaner gets 50 roubles a month ! A tram operator (conductor) in Moscow

I suppose things will improve in time, perhaps next year.
You have unemployment in Russia to-day !! Certainly
in one ~~tho~~ month's time ! Millions ! "either you nor I will read
about it them. We shall see figures of unemployment your way. Undoubtedly !

Eh, what an irony of fate !!!.....

Russia wants to send its men back to the fields to make up for
the appalling state of affairs to-day. What is being done ?.....

Only long residents of towns and of factories can remain.
The Kelchosi are allowed to take these men back by force. Every workman
in the cities will have a paspost (and a photographic card) registered
in G.P.U. and at the factory. Without passports none can leave the
works or join in. The detailed Ukazes arrived . I saw them all and
looked and read and read and rubbed my eyes, not believing it at all.--

I am not telling you lies !.....

Well, I too may be unemployed soon !..... A great Joke !....

I entered Russia just in time !.....

It is all interesting. Interesting the above kaleidoscopic
changes, and interesting how none sees it, no press comments upon it.
That even you, perhaps, do not know it !!....

Unemployment in the Workermen's Paradise, or I am terribly
mistaken.

I do not want to leave to-day yet. The experiment I see before
me is too great. Especially the great change of the day.

JERRY.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM JERRY dated 7/2/33 received 9/3 /33

My dearest Israel,

This is my seventh day on this bridge and I am up to
the neck in work.

At the moment I am on duty at night time from 9 p.m.
to 9 a.m. but with all the delays ~~incumbent~~ incumbent upon this
work, I work 14-16 hours daily.

I am again feeling the pinch of hard work. Though the
responsibility is less, the atmosphere of work is worse. I should ~~like~~
like you to have seen those desperate appalling things I saw on the
last two night shifts.

The scenes at the Stolovaia; of workmen, digging potatoe
peel in rubbish heaps ! Workmen of the bridge !

How can one find them ?? What can you take away from
them ! Only their "chains" of slave like labour !.... If you want
anything you must add and add to their well being

How can a foreman work and stoke two boilers working
eight hours and getting for his labour 800 gr. black bread and money
to buy in a filthy- stable-like (worse than Native African Eating Rooms)
Stolovaia a plate of cabbage soup- meatless- and two spoonfulls of
"porridge" (?) "Kasha" !!!!.

What is the result ?..... People sleep while at work,
people curse everyone ! people grumble, shout and curse ! Nerves
are drawn to a pitch of collapse !....

Israel, Israel, will you believe me this; will you believe
me in face of all the pretty press reports you read ???? !!!!!.

I do not care !

I have no wish to remain. I saw this paradise.

I saw it here and there . I saw it by day and ~~night~~ by
night.

I have seen enough.

JERRY.

P.S./

Tell Beile, that I have not heard a word from Torgsin, Moscow,
and will never either ! Once more, I am glad !! I told you time and again
not to do it !....

By the way, on the 1/2/33 there opened a Torgsin branch in
Lugansk and I could not help going there and spending 15/- worth of money

I am rich and for the first two days I drank tea till I burst.
Ate bread and honey and drank tea and ,--- damn it, it was ~~finished~~
fine !.....

I entertained friends to tea and sugar and a packet of Marie
biscuits !

What a gorgeous feast !....

I am well off !!!!!!!.

I am leaving; only not knowing when.

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Damn it !!!!!!!.

My nerves are on edge too.

Awaiting letters from you.

Please, please excuse scrawls! I cannot and will not write better.
JERRY.

COPY OF A LETTER DATED THE 2/2/33 received at Tzaneen 9/3/33

Dear Israel,

I am sending you this letter for obvious reasons. Also
I received all the copies of all your important letters. Thanks, thanks
and thanks again.

I got nothing from Torgsin as yet and will get nothing. I
am GIAD (heavily underlined*, Israel adds). I told you, I begged you
not to send me. It serves you right !!!!!

If you want to lose more money, you can give another present
the Soviet Government !

JERRY

This Torgsin business makes me ill and because of it I feel so
sore about it. Why do you not listen to me ???.....

JERRY

In reply and as a footnote to a letter that Leivi wrote to Jerry and
which is dated by Leivi the 23/12/33, and wherein he (Leivi) suggested
that Jerry takes over his publicity work for some time in America,
JERRY ADDS THE FOLLOWING FOOTNOTE.

Israel, Good plan that ! But so far away !-----

I am lazy ~~hardly~~ to do anything just at the moment !

A huge effort is wanted ! I shall write to you a long GOOD
(heavily underlined) letter soon.

JERRY

3/2/33