

35.

DIARY

Minsk.

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JAN. 7. ARRIVE IN MINSK, MET BY 2 WOMEN RED CROSS WORKERS  
WE GO TO HOTEL "MINSKY" I TAKE ROOM, AND MEET ROSA AND STELLINA  
TWO PERSONS FROM INTOWRIST IN HOTEL WHO SPEAK ENGLISH STELLINA IS  
IN 40'S NICE MARRIED YOUNG CHILD, ROSA ABOUT 23 BLOND ATTRACTIVE UNMARRIED  
EXCELLENT ENGLISH, WE ATTRACT EACH OTHER AT ONCE.

JAN. 8. I MEET THE CITY MAYOR, COMRADE SHARPOF, WHO WELCOMES  
ME TO MINSK PROPISIA'S RENTED APARTMENT "SOON" AND WITNES  
ME ABOUT "UNDETERMINED PERSONS" WHO SOMETHING INSUIT FOR ENGLISH.  
MY INTERPRETER: ROMAN DETKOF. HEAD FOR. TECH ENSTIT. NEXT DOOR.

JAN. 10. THE DAY TO MYSELF I WALK THROUGH CITY, VERY NICE.

JAN. 12 I VISIT MINSK RADIO FACTORY WHERE I SHALL WORK.

THERE I MEET ARGENTINIAN IMMIGRANT ALEXANDER ZEGER  
BORN A POLISH JEW. XMM. TO ARGEN. IN 1938 AND BACK TO  
POLISH HOMELAND (NOW PART OF BELG.) IN 1955 SPEAKS  
ENGLISH WITH AMER. ACCENT HE WORKED FOR AMER. COM. IN  
ARGEN. HE IS HEAD OF A DEPT. A QUALIFIED ENGINEER, IN LATE  
40'S MILD MANNED LIKE ME HE SEEMS TO WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

I SHOW HIM MY TEMPOR. DOCU. AND SAY SOON I SHALL HAVE RUSS. CITIZ.  
JAN. 13-1946 I WORK AS A "CHECKER" METAL WORKER, PAY: 700 RUB.  
A MONTH WORK VERY EASY I AM LEARNING RUSSIAN QUICKLY.  
NOW, EVERYONE IS VERY FRIENDLY AND KIND. I MEET MANY YOUNG  
RUSSIAN WORKERS MY OWN AGE THEY HAVE VARIOUS REMONSTRATIONS  
ALL WISH TO KNOW ABOUT ME EVEN OFFER TO HOLD A MASS MEETING  
SO I CAN SAY. I REFUSE POLITELY. AT NIGHT I TAKE REST TO

THE THEATER, MOVIE OR OPERA almost every day I'm living  
BIG AND AM VERY SATISFIED. I RECEIVE A CHECK FROM THE  
RED CROSS EVERY 5TH OF THE MONTH "TO HELP". THE CHECK IS 700 RUBLES.  
THEREFORE EVERY MONTH I MAKE 1400 R. ABOUT THE SAME AS THE  
D. DIRECTOR OF THE FACTORY! ZEGER OBSERVES ME DURING THIS TIME  
I DON'T LIKE: PICTURE OF LENIN WHICH WATCHES FROM ITS PLACE OF  
HONOUR AND PHYS. TRAINING AT 11-110 EACH MORNING (COMPLUSORY)  
FOR ALL (SHADOWS OF H.G. WELLS!!)

MARCH 16. I RECEIVE A SMALL FLAT ONE-ROOM KITCHEN-BATH  
NEAR THE FACTORY (8 MIN. WALK) WITH SPLENDID VIEW FROM  
2 BALCONIES OF THE RIVER. ALMOST RENT FREE (60. RUB A MON.)  
IT IS A RUSSIAN'S DREAM.

MARCH 17 - APRIL 31. - WORK, I HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH  
ROSA AFTER MY HOUSE MOVING. I MEET PAVIL GOLOVACHA.  
A YOUNGER MAN MY AGE FRIENDLY VERY INTELLIGENT A  
EXAMINANT RADIO TECHNICIAN HIS FATHER IS GEN. GOLOVACHA  
COMMANDER OF NORTH WESTERN SIBERIA. TWICE HERO OF  
USSR IN W.W. 2.

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