

3 July 1969

Dear Ruth,

I won't pretend that I have not been sad and disappointed not to hear from you but I tell myself that you must be very busy setting up your new home and that you surely have good reasons for your silence. Well, that is my assumption, so do not consider this a reproach.

I thought, however, that I should let you know that I am about to leave for Boston, where I will be (together with the rest of my office, working at the World Health Assembly) from the 6th through the 30th of July. Should you find time to write to me, my address there will be:

c/o W.H.O. P.O. Box 328  
Prudential Center Station  
Boston, Mass. 02199

These last few months have been unhappy. My friend Carrie, who worked for me for over ten years and with great kindness, trust, and affection between us, died last month. She had been ill since last November, but it will still be a shock and certainly a loss. But then something far worse--Bob Ockene, who is still so young and with so much to give the world, has developed leukemia. He has been very sick, needing blood transfusions every two weeks to stay alive, and from that he contracted hepatitis, with extremely high fever and has been hospitalized twice since May. Now he is back at home, somewhat improved, and I hope and pray he will continue to make progress.

My relationship with Bob is hard to describe. The one most important thing in my whole life was my book, and Bob was the father to my book. We worked together in the greatest closeness during the year it took to produce it, and then when the reviews were coming, for almost another year. The terrible blow that has struck him has made me deeply heartsick, at a time when I was already rather demoralized by other bitter experiences and the destruction of friendships I had naively thought to be indestructible.

Enough of my troubles. I know that you have had your own problems and heartaches to cope with. I hope you will find time to write me and tell me how you are, and the children. With warm affection, still,