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Tuesday night, Jan. 27, 1969
 11:30 P.M.

Dear Sylvia,

I've been here a week plus some ten hours, but I honestly haven't had a chance to sit down and write a letter — at least not a coherent one.

My trip was uneventful — what more could I ask for?! Incidentally, the very last ^{minute} ~~hour~~ I was able to get a seat on the non-stop flight. It was scheduled to leave at 6 P.M., but we didn't take off until 7:30. The plane had been chartered by the U. J. A. for a special one week leave for business men active in U. J. A. I was the only woman with 125 men. It wasn't as exciting as it might sound.

As a matter of fact it wasn't exciting at all!!!

Because I changed plans, nobody was at the airport to meet me, but a phone call to Yehoshua brought him to pick me up about an hour later. He was stunned. He had just spoken to the El Al office, and was told that my plane was several hours late, and that he should check again later in the day. That was the flight I was originally scheduled to take — with a stop-over in Paris. Even though it would have been nice to be greeted by familiar faces upon arrival, I wasn't sorry that I took the earlier plane. The second plane was supposed to arrive at 3:00 in the afternoon, but didn't arrive until late that night.

Yarda was ill the day I arrived — fever + all-

2) but she was O.K. Two days later. Terry is also here (at Kaplan's house). Seth came to visit me the evening of my arrival, and I went to Jerusalem to visit him last Thursday.

The weather has been awful. This is the rainy season — and it's been doing just that almost constantly. The front of this house is unapproachable — water up to the front door.

Thank goodness we have a back door and the road leading to it is clear. It is very depressing — to say the least.

How far the part you've really been waiting for. Tenzel yesterday — and as recently as last night — I was sure that the only way Tenzel could see was the road back. He was sure he could overcome all obstacles. I, of course, was sure that he could not, but I would not press this point. As a matter of fact, Varda and I were already sure that we wanted to return. But I think our feelings were because we were tired of the uncertainties and indecisions, and wanted to return to the security of the familiar.

This morning he left the house with the text of a cable he was to send thru Kaplan's office, and I was sure that was it.

He returned at 1 P.M., full of vim and vigor. He had not sent the cable! He said the worst thing for all of us — and especially Varda, was his indecision, and that if it meets with our approval, we would remain here. I must admit that I was somewhat relieved, altho the night before I could see us looking for a place to live and trying to pick up the broken pieces in our formerly familiar surroundings.

3) He immediately started to make phone calls. Varda will start to go to school on Wednesday. She had already been accepted at the school, but was waiting to know if we were coming or going. Arrangements for a phone in our apt., shipping our furniture from Haifa, etc., etc.

Menachem said, in those first few minutes after telling me of his decision, that he realizes that no matter what his decision, there would be times when he would have regrets, and in as much as we are physically here, plus all our possessions, he could reach his balance much quicker here, because he could start to work almost immediately.

Sylvia, I am sure that if he would have decided to return to the States, and to revive a dead thing (T.H.O.), he would have cracked-up completely. Of this I have no doubts. As a matter of fact, a day or two after my arrival, in one of our many conversations, he said he would — and should — consult with a psychiatrist, if only he had faith in them. I know that because of the delays that would be caused by sending our things back — plus the T.H.O. files —, and finding a place to live and work — he would become impatient, frustrated, and surely a mental wreck.

4)

I hope and pray that now he will apply himself to a new life — and hopefully a better life.

Do not yet return the mail you have. I have not asked him, and I am trying to get this letter off without his knowing the contents. I will ask him in a day or two, and then drop you a line with his answer.

Do you have any questions re the material I sent to you with Alan?

In a day or two you will receive a check to Menachem from the German gov't. Please deposit it in our personal account (form enclosed). Use the postmark stamp with his name then add his name as it appears on the check "by Sylvia Meagher" "for deposit to Acct # 316 82 311 4".

Also, you will receive a bill from Herman Bruglo, Passaic, N.J. Please send it to me so that I can pay it. Thank you.

I suppose your paint job is all over. I hope for your sake it wasn't too much of a mess.

I must close now because it's very late and I'm ok so tired.

I am sure that Menachem and Varda would send their regards if they knew I was writing, so I'm taking the liberty of doing so.

I hope you will find the time to write to me.
Love and friendship, Ruth

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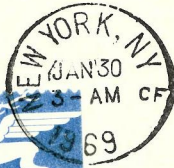
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