

Moscow. 21. Aug. 1925

My Dear Family.

This letter will reach you very likely later than some letters I am sending you by post, as I am sending you this through a Comrade who is going to London shortly, and in this letter I can write you more plainly my general impressions and perspectives awaiting me.

I have as yet not acclimated myself to the Moscow life. It is one thing to come here for a holiday for a short time expecting to go back, and quite another thing to know, that you have got to remain here indefinitely. Life here is quite different to the general life abroad, and one who lived a considerable long time abroad under fairly comfortable conditions, the Moscow life seems hell. If you can shut your eyes to most things around you, and take no notice of what you see, and only think of what will be in 10-15. or 20. years time you are very lucky. The crowds in the streets, trams, shops, and every where one ~~sees~~ sees, put you in mind of a lot of ants, whose nest has been destroyed and they are running every where looking, seeking, for new nests which do not as yet exist, and consequently keep on running in various directions, not knowing, and unable to find comfort, because it does not exist. Possibly I am spoiled by the middle class petty bourgeois life in London, possibly that I may later on find some things to compensate for the shock-comings in all directions, but at present, fresh from Golders Green, life seems very uncomfortable and sordid. It is quite impossible to describe all one sees, to know and understand it all, one must be here on the spot, and not as a guest, but to stay here, and work as all do (to an extent only) and to live in the Moscow premises, and generally feel yourself one of

the general crowd. I am staying at Sundukoff's flat-
2. rooms which are part of a very large flat previously
occupied, and belonging to a nobleman. The rooms are
very lofty, floors of parquetry, furniture of very old antique etc.
but the place was so neglected, that it is pestered with
rats, and as soon as you retire to bed, a general commotion
begins... Of course I am beginning to get used to it.

But for nights I could not sleep, and when I told
some of the people who live here, they said; oh yes
it is very unpleasant, but we take no notice of it...

I met Min Greenbaum here and Bogroff, they came
up to see me, and thought that I am living here
under ideal conditions, she, Greenbaum is here
6. weeks already, and she hasn't got a room yet
and must sleep every night in someone else's
room, and when I showed them, that we have
a bath with a geyser, they nearly fainted, and
said that to be so lucky at the first go in Moscow
like that seems a miracle. Min Greenbaum is
getting it now in the nick properly. She is getting
(7. Chervontzes) 7. per month and has to work under
somebody else.

I met Litvinoff in the street, and went
up to see him, he told me that in his department in
Moscow he doubts if I could find suitable work, as
I do not know sufficient the general situation in Russia,
but he thought later on I may be sent abroad, if
the Central Executive of the party will give me permission
which is very unlikely for some time. However he said
I should wait until Rothstein returns from his
holiday and talk the matter over with him.

At present I am offered a post in the fleet
but a very small one. on the other end I am
offered a good post at the Central Moscow
Food & General Contracting department as
manager of a department.

and thirdly, I can get a post at the "Sovkino" ^{which I} ~~where I will~~ accept, I have not made up my mind and as any post has to be sanctioned through, and approved by, the central party-organ. It remains to be seen what the party will approve of.

For the time being I advise you to sit where you are, I know all the difficulty, and quite realise your position, but untill I know what is going to happen in 2. or 3. months, I think you had better let the ^{children} room, if possible take 2. people in and be very economical, I may be able to send you from here part of my salary, because I am at present not paying for rooms &c.

later on I may be able to advise you what to do. If I am staying here indefinitely, and I can find at least 2. or 3. decent rooms, I shall certainly urge you to let the house furnished and come here, if you are not afraid of this sort of life. In the summer you do

not need any clothes here, any thing, the older it is, the better you feel, I feel at present out of place in my London clothes. One pair of trousers and a "Lolstovky" a shirt over the trousers with a belt, and that is the general toilet in the streets, and every where. In one way it is quite convenient you feel free, Kilda would like it very much.

I think this will do at present you have a general picture as I see it at present. Do not let any one see this letter, it is only intended between ourselves.

I have not received any word from you, I have written you about half a dozen letters & P.C.

But hope to get a letter soon.

Love to you & the children.

Yours as ever
Sam P.T.O.

I have been to dinner at the Sorokins, she grumbles very much, but he is very happy, and he tells me that the uneasy feeling will pass as soon as I begin to do interesting work. He told me that no one can realise with what pride he looks at the factory which but 3. years ago was in ruins, and now with great sacrifice, and hard work, it grows, and grows, the people get better pay and the work improves daily. Of course he feels happy & contented about it and it makes him forget every thing else. He thinks it most necessary for me to remain here for a time & get into the very life & feel it, because it will stand me in good stead later on. No one will be able to command over me. I don't mind it myself for a time say 6. months or 1. year, but what will you do? Please Mammie dear ask Roberts, Semenov, Kadoznoff and any one you can, to recommend you 2. good Russian comrades. (not Communists if possible) If you will have say £5. a week, from the bank, and £5. per week you are earning, and possible I may be able to send you £2. You will then have sufficient to live on for another year. There are plenty of people who would be glad to live there, it's only getting hold of them. (I do not want Communists because they will think you & I are living too fashionable).

Here at Sundukoffs flat there is an old Russian "babushka" who cleans my shoes, makes tea & coffee, prepares my bed and generally looks after me, I pay her very little as she gets a little from all the others. She is very clean, she used to work for Germans.

Well that will do heaps of love Sam.

Just received your letter
the 17th thanks for all details
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Just received your letter of the 17th. Thanks for all details.

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