

Нам же проси residing в Арке
нам сыграть подает.

J. M. H. P.

Mrs. D. Schwartz,
5. Wessere Gardens,
Goiders Green,
N.W. II,

William
to ring up the
charlet



25. Sept. 1925.

1.13

I presume you have by now received the long letter I sent you through Comrade Gubanoff, but if you have not received it, it does not matter very much, I am having an opportunity again to send you a letter by hand, as you must understand that in such matters concerning only our own affairs through post would not be wise, not that I am afraid, but as all letters going to England, or any country abroad are opened, and mark you, not only by our Russian Customs, but also by the British authorities you will comprehend, that one has to be more or less careful in writing things in such a way as not to be compromised in the eyes of party members. For instance I am writing about the miserable conditions, well, naturally this may be exploited by the English government, or you are writing me about the house, & money, I do not wish any one to know our affairs. I am a Communist, but am very far from the conception of a Communist in Russia. No one here would understand or believe that it is possible or permissible for a Communist to have a house of his own, they can not understand it after all they lived through these years.

It is very amusing your writing to me that Levins can not understand how I could leave you unprotected. But who in the name of heaven should bother about giving me sums of money say £40, or 50 per month when a Russian workman receives now somewhere about £3, per month. Why should they pay me such sums? Yes, it is true that in some very rare instances the government has to pay such people as Krassin more, but these people are so important that, they can not do without them, but as far as I am concerned nothing much will be lost without my help. I am given the same opportunity as every body else, Orloff, Soudakoff, and many such, I receive the same salary, and that is all I can expect and nothing more. There is talk about the salary of Communists being increased shortly to about £23, or £25, per month, and in all probability I will get the same as the rest but beyond that there can be no question about any arrangement for any body helping you there.

Now I will tell you the reason why I am going to work at the "Lorkins" not because I am looking for something new for myself, I have been offered a post in the company connected with Botoka Kahan, as chairman of that company, which is a very important post, and also another post as chairman in another government concern connected with passenger emigration & shipping, but I refused, and you know the reason why? Because that would mean that I have to settle here for a few years on the salary of £20 per month. Whereas in the "cinema" business I may have an opportunity within a few months to be appointed representative for England & America... and even if I have to travel backwards & forwards, I will get enough money to enable me to support you & the children unless they are on their feet, that is my only thought. I can not write you this in an open letter by post you will understand that.

You think you would rather come here? as far as you, yourself are concerned I should like it myself very much, I would like you to have the experience, mind you, you must not think that you can come here, and if you don't like it you will go back, oh no! ~~but~~ no body will give you permission to go back, you are not "Miss Palmer", a British subject who can go backwards & forwards, and than it is only in so far, as you are on the government staff, but how else do you think you can come here, and than go back.

But that is not all, that would not matter, it is when I begin to think about the children, that the whole question takes a different turn. I feel that I have no right to bring them here at this age. Later on they can do as they please, but as they were born there, and got as far as going to a secondary school, under conditions unknown at present here, it would cripple them for many years, and they would be neither one, ~~nor~~ ^{thing} nor another.

and ~~they~~ would in consequence have to suffer for lack of knowledge & education. But what is to be done? Well believe me if I had any other way I would have taken it. I have no business to rely on, no rich friends to fall back on, and no prospects to live better than we can at present that is, you being

£20, & I receiving the same here, that is £40, per month, supposing I ~~was~~ ~~you~~ ~~are~~ ~~all~~ ~~up~~ & by some means come back, what would I do there? or any where? your post is guaranteed, & with my help say £10- (I will try to be as stingy as I can in order to send you £10 per month) so you have £30, per month guaranteed.

If you can manage to let me loan or even £2, and get at least £2-10, p.w. that would bring your income to £40, per month. Supposing you have to manage on that for a year (I hope so) but suppose? Would you rather break the children's future than keep on that? I ask you to consider this

Very Carefully, and you will I think come to the same Conclusion.
 On the other hand if you decide to break it all, & transfer here, I will give you a small idea how you will live here. If I am very lucky.
 All I can hope to get is 2. rooms equal to Stalboffs in London, the same Surrounding as there, and practically the same conditions, and with a probability that some time or other I may be sent from here any where to any place, and you & the children will of course remain here, as it would be impossible to keep moving about from one town to another. On the other hand I am practically certain that in time (may be a year or may be less) I will get some sort of work abroad, or see go back to London.
 At present I have not even started the work I am going to do, and for a short time I am at Sobroft and doing very little, and that is the reason that I am sitting here at the office and can't write you long letters, I do not suppose I will have time to continue to write you in this still much longer, when I begin serious work, as well as party activity which for me is the most important question of all to get into the party work and find my self on a level with those who on the whole know much less than myself, but in particular on questions concerning the Party machinery & Soviet institutions which unfortunately I know very little as yet, not having worked here, & not having lived here for so many years. And only when I have worked here for a time the question of my going abroad can be raised and not before.

Have you any other boy out? I am prepared to listen, but do not send it by post, you can always find out from Roberts, who is going to Moscow and send me a letter by hand.
 Of course things change here very often and it is difficult to predict any thing for a length of time, but if I am to rely on a normal period I may look forward that with every thing going well, I may be sent to England or America to get in touch with the big Cinema firms with a view of importing films for Russia, and exporting Russian films abroad as well as arranging mixed companies, that is Russian and American or English firms to produce pictures.

You see this is the only reason I am anxious to work in "Sorkins" otherwise I could go into the building line and help to build houses which is the most burning question of the day here, and will be for a good many years to come, but then I must settle here for good.

How do you think you can manage to stick it for a time? I know how difficult it is for you, that is the reason I am so anxious for you to get some one to live in order to make it easier with money matters. I know that within 2. or 3. months time you will have very little left of the money you have. I wonder what your expenses are at present. I myself need very little at present, and will of course try to be as careful as I possibly can in order to send you a half of my salary it leaves me £2-10 a week and I am paying for the room 10/- a week, gas, electric light, water about another 5/-, washing & mending 3/- so, that it leaves me about 3/- a week to live on, but I do not mind.

Last year when I was in Moscow I managed to go to the theatre 3, or 4. times a week. This time I have not been once, because I need the money, I will go when I can get tickets free which sometimes can be got through friends, but at present I have not been able to get any.

Something which will surprise you
 Now I will tell you ~~that~~ I have not met Levin yet, although I know where he works, Poor Levin is in trouble, don't say anything to any body. I am told that he is cleared out of the party, and worse still, he has got a trial hanging over his head for some big some sum of money which the Government has lost through his negligence. Botchka told me, that every body thinks he is quite innocent, but yet, the matter is rather serious and very difficult and it may end in his down fall for carelessness in money matters. However I do not know any details & can not say whether he is guilty or not, but his present position is not very enviable.

I think I have told you every thing to last you for a good long time, if there are any changes in my own affairs you shall of course know soon enough. At present I am feeling well in health and better in spirit in spite of my first bad impressions a few of which I am sending you herewith, I put them down just as I lived them through without any exaggerations.
 Life is very puzzling, one gets accustomed to every thing good or bad.

Poor Gerus! as soon as he came here he met with bad luck, he had £52 left, all their Capital, and lost the whole lot, it was stolen from his pocket. They have no rooms yet, the Mrs. Gerus & Gally are staying with some relations next door to me, & Mr. Gerus & the boy are temporary somewhere also with some friends. That is how difficult it is to find rooms even for Communists...

Now it seems to me that you are slightly influenced by the way our friends live, they seem to be well off, and only I, & You have to be content with any thing. Of course if you want a life like Barlows, Munshaus, Larins & k. I am awfully sorry I can not get it for you, I am not made that way, I can not do it, I'd rather go to work. but the trouble is if I go to work I shall not get more than I am getting now.

I am sending you herewith £30- that is for Aug. Sept. & Oct. 3. months £10- per month

Later on we will see, at present there is nothing I can do, and all the talk of your friends you meet, "about some arrangement" with the delegation & k. is utter nonsense.

No one will give me any thing, I must get what I can myself. If I can manage to get an advance and pay it off afterwards I will do it; I have written to Sundukoff he knows whom to ask, and he will probably tell you the result. There is no one in the Delegation to whom you can apply, they have no funds for such purposes. The Party may sometimes subsidise members whose children are being educated, but for that, they want to know whether the children are being brought up in a way to deserve it from their point of view... You see there are so many difficulties, but some how or other I think in 2. or 3. months time I will be in a position to do more than now. There is serious talk of the Salary's being raised, and if my salary is raised to £25 or more, I will

be able to send you £15. per month.

H

Conclusion.

I am sending you this letter & £30 with Professor Tahl, you can have from him a personal regard, I saw him nearly every day & asked him to see you there. I am also enclosing a letter addressed to Comrade Jukpin from Dikansky, you had better give this letter to Dona Roberts & tell her that she must take it to Jukpin & handed to him personally do not send it by post.

There is nothing else I think, all I could say you have got here, I am sending Hilda & Russian hat, for Vera I do not know what to get, but if I can find something nice I'll send it. I hope you have been successful in finding some one to look after the house, here in that respect you are quite alright, there are plenty of woman willing to help and fairly reasonable, but of course when you compare it with the average salary there is not much difference.

I am trying hard to get used to the conditions prevailing here, and if not for the children's sake you can believe me I would not keep you there one day if only for the reason to let you see things for yourself. But poor kiddies I do not know what they would do... Later on let them decide themselves. Of course I am writing you all this for your own self. It is not the fault of the government when the Russian present is one hundred years behind, they are trying their very best, under terrible odds, but the progress is so slow! so slow! for those who imagined things far better, but there, what can one do? & what can I do? I must make the best of it under circumstances. Perhaps if I had an income from some source, maybe I would think matters over... but as I have no other source, I thank heaven you have £20, per month for a 6, hour day, only think of it! where would you get it? the time will soon pass, & I don't say you will be glad that you stuck to it, & the children will have the benefit for their lives. I am sorry perhaps you may feel different, I see no other way, I can not do more. If it comes to the worst, well, you can still sell the house it is all yours.

Now I will say finish, I think you will have enough for now. Love to you & the children always Sara.

25th Sept. 1925

I presume you have by now received the long letter I sent you through Comrade Gubanoff, but if you have not received it, it does not matter very much. I am having an opportunity again to send you a letter by hand, as you must understand that in such matters concerning only our own affairs through post would not be wise, not that I am afraid, but as all letters going to England, or any country abroad are opened, and mark you, not only by our Russian customs, but also by the English authorities you will comprehend that one has to be more or less carefull in writing things in such a way as not to be compromised in the eyes of party members. For instance I am writing about the misserable conditions. Well, naturally this may be explored by the English government, or you are writing me about the house & money. I do not wish anyone to know our affairs. I am a Communist, but am very far from the conception of a Communist in Russia. No one here would understand or believe that it is possible or permissable for a Communist to have a house of his own, they can not understand it after all they lived through these years.

It is very amusing your writing to me that Levins can-not understand how I could leave you improvident. But who in the name of heaven should bother about giving me sums of money say £40, or £50 per month when a Russian workman receives now somewhere about £3. per month. Why should they pay me such sums & yes, it is true that in some very rare instances the Government has to pay such people as Krassim more, but those people are so important that they can-not do without them, but as far as I am concerned nothing much will be lost without my help. I am given the same

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opportunity as every body else. Orloff, Sundukoff, and many such. I receive the same salary and that is all I can expect and nothing more. There is talk about the salary of Communists being increased shortly to about £23, or £25 per month, and in all probability I will get the same as the rest but beyond that there can be no question about any arrangement for any body helping you there.

Now I will tell you the reason why I am going to work at the "Sorkino". Not because I am looking for something new for myself, I have been offered a post in the Company connected with Botska Kahan, as Chairman of the Company, which is a very important post, and also another post as Chairman in another Government concern conected with passenger Emigration & shipping, but I refused, and you know the reason why? because that would mean that I have to settle here for a few years on the salary of £20 per month. Where as in the "cinema" business I may have an opportunity within a few months to be appointed representative for England & America ... and even if I have to travell backwards & forwards, I will get enough money to enable me to support you & the children untill they are on their own feet, that is my only thought. I can not write you this in an open letter by post you will understand that.

You think you would rather come here? as far as you, yourself are concerned I should like it myself very much, I would like you to have the experience. Mind you, you must not think that you can come here, and if you don't like it you will go back. Oh no! No body will give you permission to go back, you are not "Miss Palmer", a British subject who can go backwards & forwards, and then it is only

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in so far as you are on the Government staff, but how else do you think you can come here, and then go back. But that is not all, that would not matter, it is when I begin to think about the children, that the whole question takes a different turn. I feel that I have no right to bring them here at this age. Later on they can do as they please, but as they were born there, and got as far as going to a Secondary School, under conditions unknown at present here, it would cripple them for many years, and they would be neither one thing nor another and they would in consequence have to suffer for lack of knowledge & Education. But what is to be done?! Well believe me if I had any other way I would have taken it. I have no business to rely on, no rich friends to fall back on, and no prospects to live better than we can at present that is, you receiving £20, & I receiving the same here, that is £40. per month, Supposing I give it all up & by some means come back. What would I do there? Or any where? Your post is guaranteed, & with my help say £10- (I will try & be as stingy as I can in order to send you £10 pr month) so you have £30. per month guaranteed. If you can manage to let one room or even 2. and get at least £2.10. p.w. that would bring your income to £40. per month. Supposing you have to manage on that for a year (I hope less) but suppose? Would you rather break the childrens future than keep on that? I ask you to consider this very carefully, and you will I think come to the same Conclusion. On the other hand if you decide to break it all, & transfere here, I will give you a small idea how you will live here. If I am very lucky. All I can hope to get is 2 rooms equal to Stolboffs in London, the same surroundings as there, and practically the same conditions, and with a probability that some time or other I may be

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sent from here any where to any place, and you & the children will of course remain here, as it would be impossible to keep moving about from one town to another. On the other hand I am practically certain that in time (may be a year, may be less) I will get some sort of work abroad, and will go back to London. At present I have not even started the work I am going to do, and for a short time I am at Dobroflot and doing very little, and that is the reason that I am sitting here at the office and can write you long letters. I do not suppose I will have time to continue to write you in this style much longer. When I begin serious work, as well as party activity which for me is the most important question of all to get into the party work and find myself on a level with those who on the whole know much less than myself, but in particular on questions concerning the Party machinery & Soviet institutions which unfortunately I know very little as yet, not having worked here, & not having lived here for so many years. And only when I have worked here for a time the question of my going abroad can be raised and not before.

Have you any other way out? I am prepared to listen, but do not send it by post. You can always find out from Roberts, who is going to Moscow and send me a letter by hand.

Of course things change here very often and it is difficult to predict any thing for a length of time, but if I am to rely on a normal period I may look forward that with everything going well, I may be sent to England or America to get in touch with big Cinema firms with a view of importing films for Russia, and exporting Russian films abroad as well as arranging mixed company's, that is Russian and American or English firms to produce pictures.

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You see this is the only reason I am anxious to work in "Sovkino" otherwise I could go into the building line and help to build homes which is the most burning question of the day here, and will be for a good many years to come, but then I must settle here for good. Now do you think you can manage to stick it for a time? I know how difficult it is for you, that is the reason I am so anxious for you to get some one to live in order to make it easier with money matters. I know that within 2 or 3 months time you will have very little left of the money you have. I wonder what your expenses are at present. I myself need very little at present, and will of course try to be as carefull as I possibly can in order to send you a half of my salary it leaves me £2.10 a week and I am paying for the room 10/- a week, gas, electric light & water about another 5/-. Washing & mending 3/- so, that it leaves me about 30/- a week to live on, but I do not mind.

Last year when I was in Moscow I managed to go to the theatre 3 or 4 times a week. This time I have not been ones, because I need the money. I will go when I can get tickets free which sometimes can be got through friends, but at present I have not been able to get any.

Now I will tell you something which will surprise you. I have not met Levin yet, although I know where he works. Poor Levin is in trouble, don't say anything to any body. I am told that he is cleared out of the party, and worse still, he has got a trial hanging over his head for some big sum of money which the Government has lost through his negligence. Botchka told me, that every body thinks he is quite inocent, but yet, the matter is rather serious and very difficult and it may end in his down fall for carelessness in money

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matters. However I do not know any details & can not say weather he is guilty or not, but his present position is not very enjoyable.

I think I have told you everything to last you for a good long time. If there are any changes in my own affairs you shall of course know soon enough. At present I am feeling well in health and better in spirit in spite of my first bad impressions a few of which I am sending you herewith. I put them down just as I lived them through without any exaggerations.

Life is very puzzling. One gets accustomed to anything good or bad.

Poor Gerus! As soon as he came here he met with bad luck, he had £52 left. All their Capital, and lost the whole lot, it was stolen from his pocket. They have no rooms yet, she, Mrs Gerus & Gally are staying with some relations next door to me, & Mr. Gerus & the boy are temporary somewhere also with some friends. That is how difficult it is to find rooms even for Communists . . .

Now it seems to me that you are slightly influenced by the way our friends live. They seem to be well off, and only I, & You have to be content with anything. Of course if you want a life like Barlows, Nussbaums, Levins &tc. I am awfully sorry I can not get it for you. I am not made that way. I can not do it. I'd rather go to work. but the trouble is if I go to work I shall not get more than I am getting now. I am sending you herewith £30- that is for Aug. Sept. & Oct. 3. months. At £10- per month Later on we will see, at present there is nothing I can do, and all the talk of your friends you meet, "about some arrangement" with the delegation &tc. is utter nonsense. No one will give me anything. I must get what

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I can myself. If I can manage to get an advance and pay it off afterwards I will do it. I have written to Sundukoff he knows whom to ask, and he will probably tell you the result. There is no one in the Delegation to whom you can apply, they have no funds for such purposes. The Party may some times subsidise Members whose children are being educated, but for that, they want to know whether the children are being brought up in a way to deserve it from their point of view ... You see there are so many difficulties, but some how or other I think in 2. or 3. months time I will be in a position to do more than now. There is serious talk of the salary's being raised, and if my salary is raised to £25 or more, I will be able to send you £15 per month.

I am sending you / ⁱⁿ this letter & £30 with Professor Tahl. You can have from him a personal regard. I saw him nearly every day & asked him to see you there. I am also enclosing a letter addressed to Comrade Inkpin from Dikansky. You had better give this letter to Dora Roberts & tell her that she must take it to Inkpin & handed to him personally do not send it by post.

There is nothing else I think. All I could say you have got here. I am sending Hilda a Russian hat, and for Vera I do not know what to get, but if I can find something nice & reasonable I will get it. I hope you have been successfull in finding some one to look after the house. Here in that respect you are quite allright. There are plenty of woman willing to help and fairly reasonable, but of course when you compare it with the average salary there is not much diference. I am trying hard to get used to the Conditions prevailing here, and if not for the children's sake you can believe me I would

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not keep you there one day if only for the reason to let you see things for yourself, but poor kiddes I do not know what they would do Later on let them decide themselves. Of course I am writing you all this for your own self. It is not the fault of the Government when the Russian peasant is one hundred years behind, they are trying their very best, under terrible odds, but the progress is so slow! So slow! for those who imagined things far better, but there, what can one do? & what can I do? I must make the best of it under the circumstances. Perhaps if I had an income from some source, may be I would think matters over ... but as I have no other source, & thank heaven you have £20. per month for a 6. hours day, only think of it! Where would you get it? the time will soon pass, & I dare say you will be glad that you stuck to it, & the children will have the benefit for their lives. I am sorry perhaps you may feel diferent, I can see no other way, & can not do more. If it comes to the worst, well, you can still sell the house it is all yours.

Now I will really finish. I think you will have enough for now.

Love to you & the children allways

Sam.

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