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Dear Lee,

Pretty fancy stationary, huh? Bob and Hannah (and Charlotte) left in a driving rain yesterday afternoon. Ivan kissed Bob on the neck, Regina and Bob cried in each other's arms. We got to take the roses home.

Thanks for the good news about the raise. I honestly did not expect it, but I am delighted to have it. One of the things I have learned here is that the Soviets expect people like me to pay income tax. Another thing I have learned is that punching copy is an enormous pain in the neck. My first reaction was to run around the courtyard in the vain hope that I could persuade UPI to punch for me at a minimal expense. Since then, I have more or less mastered the machine. ~~Since~~ I am not a touch typewriter, however, I'll never be very fast. Susan has agreed to learn and that will be a big help. Little did I know when I marched up to Reuters in Saigon at 1 a.m. that I was relatively well off -- copywise. very

Needless to say, the Kaisers were a great help. They took us to meet virtually all their friends, official and unofficial. Bob, it is generally acknowledged, has succeeded far beyond his colleagues in getting to know people here well. They (the Russians) all admire him enormously. That is both good and bad for me; good because I am in the front door, bad because it is hard to duplicate such close friendships, I've found. It has not been easy for Bob to disengage. Aside from the stories resulting from his trip, he still plans to write a number of features and editorial page pieces when he gets back. I tried gently to talk him out of one or two of the pieces that for a variety of reasons, I'd rather he save for his book. We'll see.

And so, now it's up to me. My plans for the summer, contingent of course on getting approval from the locals, are to travel quite a lot. Next week we're going to Alma-Ata (I will have cabled you about that before you get this) and I have asked for permission to go to Murmansk in early August. ~~and~~ Then I'd like to make an extended trip through the Baltic states in the latter part of the month. It is clear to me that most people (including Regina and Ivan) will be on holiday in August, so I just as soon take advantage of the weather. I've got a long list of requests into the Foreign Ministry, but those are the starters. I'm starting on the businessmen in Moscow piece this week, but they too will be gone in August.

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I will be working on other features as well -- a very popular movie magazine, the television industry, the automobile explosion -- along with some hopefully insightful first impression stuff.

I have no complaints and for the moment, at least, I'm not fishing for compliments. All your correspondents should be so little trouble.

If we're not in touch before, have a grand vacation. And thanks again for innumerable assistances and kindnesses while we were in Washington. XXX to Becky.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Roh' or similar, written in dark ink.

P.S. I haven't started receiving my cost of living allowance. I guess its been three weeks now.