

# The Washington Post

MOSCOW, USSR

MAILING ADDRESS

U. S. EMBASSY (M)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA - A-1091

PETER L. W. OSNOS  
MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT

TELEPHONE 243 18 48  
TELEX 7430

FILE MOSCOW

Aug. 8, 1974

Dear Lee,

You'll be impressed to learn that over dinner two nights ago at the Chinese Embassy, your correspondent completely lost his voice. The Peking Duck was delicious, but now I sound like a frog.

Thanks for your letter. Our mood is generally very good and we enjoy those trips enormously. I am glad that you are interested in those stories and hope it is understood that my plaintive queries are not pique but zeal. Moscow is very quiet at the moment and I am, as they say, collecting string. Mostly, I spend from 8 to 10 in the morning flipping dials and listening for the snap, Nixon, crackle, resigned, pop, today.

On Tass. Al wants to wait until he gets himself organized. He is trying to move the office, settle his family and cover the wars, such as they are. I have made no big issue because the multi-~~ply~~ paper hasn't arrived yet anyway. In principle, we are all set, but in practice I think its going to take a little longer. Incidentally, Tass is making threatening noises to other Americans about tripling the price. For the moment, I have heard nothing.

one

The problem I have ~~struggled~~ inter-murally speaking is the old one about full advisories from the desk. Its not serious obviously, because everyone has managed to survive will with what we get, but feeling out of touch makes me nervous. For example, Bob's material from Israel was never mentioned. I knew it had run because he telephoned me from London, but if he hadn't I wouldn't have known what Tass was talking about when they quoted it the next day. Then yesterday, there was a big attack on the Post for an Outlooker by Brezinski. Who knew? During the Cyprus peak, I received no advisories, so I had no idea what the Post was running and where my own coverage, meager as it was, fitted in. On one day Dan Griffin sent me a long cable and that was swell. National stuff on the Sovs, of course, almost never gets mentioned. Why can't someone be detached late at night when things are slow to advise those few of us in minimum-information areas what is in the Post that day? Once the habit took hold, it would probably become automatic. Do I get \$25 if the suggestion is accepted?

I hear that Don Graham is the new sports editor. That boy has a future. Love to Becky.

Best,

*PK*