

PETER L. W. OSNOS

Dec. 5, 1976

Dear Phil and Rony,

Time moves swiftly on. By the time you receive this Susan will be in London with daughter Katherine and I will be joining them thence for the birth of number two. I have been giving increasing thought to what I'd like to do after Moscow and want to share my ideas with you in the hope that they will influence your decision.

As I said last summer, I would like to spend some time (here right after we leave writing. Anyone who has spent three years) owes it to himself and indulge me a pomposity, the community, to force out some conclusions and pull together the disparate observations of daily experience. Steve Rosenfeld, Shub, Susan Jacoby and of course, Kaiser, did it. I haven't yet decided exactly the form of my project (s) but I have some ideas percolating.

v Next question is how that might be arranged. I have been invited by Marshal Shulman to come to his institute at Columbia whenever I'd like. We haven't discussed anything as specific as money or time because that is irrelevant until I've been in touch with you. But here is a proposed scenario: a sabbatical (sic) from the Post, assuming that they are still available and Ben and Howard are willing to give me one. A fellowship of several thousand dollars from Columbia to make ends meet and period of months to do what ultimately seems most promising.

There are a couple of other institutions where I might be welcome: the director of the Murrow fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations has said he "would like to see me there." (this is a very fancy deal which pays full salary and I wouldn't need the Post sabbatical) and the new Kennan Institute of Advanced Soviet Studies in Washington might consider me. But I am flattered by Shulman's interest and for a variety of personal reasons a block of time in New York appeals to us. Columbia therefore seems for the moment the best bet. All that, of course, is based on the assumption that you do not object to my taking the time away from the Post.

As to what happens after I come back, you know my basic feeling that I'd like another foreign assignment. The more I think about it the more it strikes me that Bonn makes sense. I could be increasingly ~~useful~~ useful to the Post, I suspect, as I develop more experience and a better understanding of Europe, especially East-West relations. In Washington people specialize in politics, education, the arts or what-not for years. Yet in foreign news we tend to get pulled in and out. I haven't a clue what Mike Getler's plans are but someone told me that he might be staying on until summer 1979 so that his child could finish high school. In that case we would have some time in Washington which would probably be a good thing. In any event, if we were to go to Germany, I think it is essential to study language. Indeed, we might even start next fall, should that seem desirable.

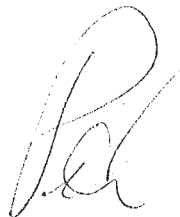
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If Bonn doesn't work out, perhaps Tokyo would be possible or when I let my fancies really fly, London. As for Washington, I have less to suggest because I know little about the prospective set-ups. As I've told Phil, I harbor a quiet passion for the job of foreign editor, but since that job is ably filled for the foreseeable future I will have to restrain myself. Perhaps some other similarly challenging editing chair would be available. Maybe Stern would have me. You know my reluctance to take a third bash at Metro.

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It is not my intention to badger you about the future -- that is how lame duck correspondents start to be thought of as "problems" instead of assets -- but the Osnos family kit and kaboodle is a ~~fairly~~ fairly complex one now what with children and all and I'd like to start making arrangements with months to spare.

Merry Christmas and Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'R. Osnos', is written in the center of the page below the closing text.