

April 17, 1978

Dear Sylvia!

I recently received your letter of March 28 and, as always, I was both very happy and very upset. I was happy about the letter, but I was upset because I do not know English. I immediately ran over to my neighbor-acquaintance, taking notes from her dictated translation, and now I am sitting here and again rereading your "Russian" letter.

I am answering your questions in the order you asked them.

Dear Sylvia, you yourself understand how much I wanted to travel. But though you write: "Try again," I will not. There are several serious reasons and, plus, as the wise ones say, nerve cells are not restored.

I still have not received the bras, so I do not know anything about the custom fees. An acquaintance of ours received a fake-fur coat from the U.S. (like the one that Luba sent), and she paid 100 rubles in custom fees. Taking into consideration that the coat costs 400 rubles here, this is not very much. I do not know of other examples.

You write that you visited Leo and Dorothy. I am very sorry that you did not describe how they live and how they are feeling. I know that they have a son and granddaughter. Write about them – this would be very interesting to me. I have been contemplating for a long time about who this Louis is who went with you to Harrisburg. And then I remembered that Bob listed all the relatives in his first letter. I reread this letter (I have kept all the letters) and I understood that Louis is your

brother, just like Leo. Is this right? Please, I beg you to describe to me in detail the wedding of Louis's son.

How do I know that you were born in March? Also from a letter, but from one of yours. Last summer you wrote: "In March I will be 60 years old." Like you, I count us as sufficiently "mature" for not celebrating birthdays. Still, write to me the precise date. I am also a Marchite; I was born on March 11, 1919.

Lev's situation has, unfortunately, not improved. Because of various circumstances, he had to give up his idea – and he is really suffering over this.

It has been two months since Laura's birth. How is she? Do you see her often? Do you live far away from each other?

On March 11, Victor and I are leaving for 24 days in a sanatorium. It is not far from Moscow and it is in a very beautiful area. If there is good weather, then we will be able to relax there. Are you and Stan going somewhere for the summer?

Regards to all your family from Victor and me.

Be well. Write.

Kisses, Sara.