

May 4, 1978

Dear Sylvia and Bob!

In a few days, on May 11th, we are leaving for a Moscow region sanatorium. We will return home on June 3rd. Thus far, I do not know what we will do once after that. During June, when real summer begins, it is not very pleasant in the city to sit around in the heat, but there is nowhere to go. True, we are able to go outside of Leningrad. Two of our very close relatives live there (Victor's nieces) and they are always glad to have us. But we have been there for several summers in a row and I am somewhat tired of this.

Right now in Moscow there is really bad weather – it is cold and rainy. If this continues, then all the charm of our trip will vanish. The thing is that the sanatorium we are going to is located in a really pretty area. There are wonderful places for walking, there is a lovely forest, and there is a river. If it is impossible to make use of these because of the weather, then it makes no sense for us to go. But let us hope for the best.

Bob, how are things with you? How did your discussion regarding work for the publisher who is translating the Great Soviet Encyclopedia turn out? It also seems to me that this would be interesting work, but most importantly, it would be daily practice in the Russian language. It would be a pity if you were to start forgetting it. I do not fully understand what this means: "I decided to take a break [*prevat*]' from my studies." This word has two meanings in Russian. *Prevat*' can mean temporarily or it can mean permanently. What do you have in mind? It would make me sad if you quit graduate studies. My dream is that you will finish them,

that you will receive your academic degree, and this will send you to Moscow. Here, we can get acquainted for real and perhaps even become close despite the difference in our ages.

For God's sake, do not apologize for writing in English. It is easier for you, and it makes no difference to me. You should know that every one of your letters is a huge joy.

Dear Sylvia, when is your holiday this year? How do you think you will spend it? Is everything okay with little Laura? In your letter from March 28th you wrote that you sent me several bras. The package has not yet arrived. I want to hope that you did not send it by air, but by sea and therefore it is still en route. Regardless, I am very grateful. I really need these things.

A big hello to Stan from Victor and me.

I will write when I return from the sanatorium.

Kisses, Your Sara.

Yes, how was Louis's son's wedding?

Does anyone you know collect postage stamps? If so, then I will try to use different ones each time.

S.