January 20, 1978

Dear Sylvia,

I received two letters from you: from December 22nd (it arrived January 12th) and from December 31st, which arrived today. I decided not to drag things out and that it is necessary to answer.

I did not answer the first letter because I was hoping that I would be able to write you something definite regarding my trip. I handed in my documents on December 12th and I thought that I would receive an answer any day, but there is some kind of delay. They told me, however, that the decision usually takes place after a month-and-a-half.

Dear Sylvia, whether I come or is not dependent on me. But what I *really* want is that our acquaintance and our correspondence do not get interrupted. These things bring me great pleasure and I really value them, the more so because our acquaintance and meeting were so unusual. It is not often that relatives are discovered after 50 years, and that they get together despite the huge time gap and feel close to one another.

I am very busy right now. January 25th is Victor's birthday. I really do not like to fiddle around in the kitchen. But I have to. Some 16-18 people are coming over, so it is necessary to cook.

I recently received a postcard from Lev's mother. They no doubt already told you about what is going on. So far, unfortunately, for them nothing has changed. We really feel for them. We are sorry only that we are not able to help.

Bob, almost a year has gone by since we became acquainted. Alas. In one of your letters you wrote that it will only be possible to come to Russia in a couple of years. Have your plans changed? That would be good.

Sylvia, you have a big family and many relatives (ours mutually). Write about everyone. Write at length, even in detail. I am interested in everything.

Be well. Greetings from Victor.

I kiss you.

Your Sara.

P.S. Just in case, I am reminding you again to send me your telephone number and Luba's, please. The books that you sent to Erma and Lev at the beginning of December have not yet arrived.