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Seattle, Washington
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Rockefeller Center
New York, N. Y.

[1/1] My Dear Friend,

[1/2] Sincere thanks for the letter from the 17th of the previous month, which [1/3] arrived today. Don't be mad, please, at my silence. [1/4] I know eng. Rosenberg's address, nor have I ever [1/5] seen the man, and since I had nothing else [1/6] to write about I sat in silence. Especially, since I [1/7] had a mass of other work. Once one of the papers was published, [1/8] the manuscript of another just went off to the editors [1/9] of a mathematical journal. I'm meditating on other things [1/10] related to math, in other words, business is booming.

[1/11] Above all, taches¹ and business. I have here, [1/12] waiting, access to the largest "groceries" [1/13] in the West and now I'm only waiting for concrete news [1/14] from you, so that I can begin selling bananas and other [1/15] delicacies from South and Central America, "the Inter- [1/16] American Way."² I'm glad that your uncle already set [1/17] in motion the ozokerite³ business. Please give him [1/18] some good bows and wishes of all the best luck.

[1/19] Ad⁴ the insurance project: of course, with great pleasure, [1/20] I'd spend my summers looking at Central America, not excluding [1/21] Central American women. If it can be done and if you [1/22] can make money from it, then I'm willing to sacrifice some time [1/23] toward this project. If in addition I could make that [1/24] trip with you, then I'd be even jollier about it. [1/25] Anyway, I'd like to see you again.

[1/26] I'm glad that you've had calming news about your sister. [1/27] Always, Switzerland is always better than Eastern Europe, and besides, [1/28] from there, sooner or later, you'll obviously get her out [1/29] to America.⁵

¹ The meaning of this Yiddish word is not clear, but within the context, it seems that the sentence is trying to say, "Above all, work and play."

² Original is in English.

³ A yellow-brown to black or green hydrocarbon wax, found in irregular veins in sandstones and used in making electrical insulation and polishes.

⁴ This word is Latin for regarding.

⁵ It is not clear whether this rumor was ever substantiated. Even if she did make it to neutral Switzerland, somehow, along with her parents, she was sent to a German concentration camp.

[1/30] I had a cable from my family at the end of January, from which [1/31] it appears that they've filed a request with the [1/32] American consul in Moscow and my sister's request is en-route [1/33] from the American Consul in Warsaw to the consulate in Bucharest. [1/34] I sent them a telegraphic confirmation of my having gotten the cable and [1/35] I took the following steps: 1/ I wrote a moving letter [1/36] to the consul in Bucharest. I informed him—with proofs—

[2/1] of my present post and financial situation, and, [2/2] I pleaded that he make possible for my sister to come [2/3] here, to be with me. 2/ I put effort into getting Senator Schwellenbach [2/4] —a Washington State Senator who is in Washington D.C.—to write a letter to the Consul [2/5] in Bucharest regarding my sister. 3/ I sent an affidavit [2/6] for my parents to the Consul in Moscow. I don't know what else [2/7] one can do. If you can advise me, then I'll be really [2/8] grateful. So far I haven't had any news from Lwow [2/9] besides the cable, and my cousin from London writes me, that he [2/10] received several postcards or letters from Lwow, then again, [2/11] only the stereotypical few sentences clearly written for the [2/12] censors.⁶

[2/13] Kac's⁷ Address is as follows: Department of Mathematics. Cornell University, [2/14] Ithaca, N.Y.

[2/15] I don't have much of interest to say about myself. Besides [2/16] the mathematical work there are things going on such as [2/17] skiing. I haven't let any opportunities pass by and I've tried [2/18] to spend my time on the slopes every Sunday and during the holidays. Because it would be a shame [2/19] to have the mountains nearby that are taller than the Jungfrau or the Matterhorn [2/20] and not take advantage of it. Skis or no skis, if you'll have [2/21] a little bit of time and money to throw around, then [2/22] come here and take a look at this beautiful country.

Sincere Hugs and Greetings for your family
Yours

⁶ This explains why many of the wartime letters are so brief. Many things could only be said, at best, with the help of allusions.

⁷ Mark Kac (1914-1984) pioneered the modern development of mathematical probability, in particular its applications to statistical physics.