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8/27/62

Dear Marina! Your letter is in front of me. I still cannot believe it. Goodness gracious, America! You know, I would be less surprised if you sent me a letter from space. At first I could not understand, why the U.S.A. (?) and who Marina Oswald was; then, after I opened the letter, everything fell in place. That is what I call a staggering surprise! I have always supposed that you can go far, but you surpassed all my expectations. In short, I congratulate you and wish tremendous (grossimus) happiness to all your family. Be sure and send me your photograph.

Well, and now, get ready. I am going to ask you an endless number of questions

(after all, I belong to the female sex).

I will begin with this: how did Aleck get to be in Minsk; where did he graduate from and, generally, what sort of a family has he? Is one dollar equal to our new ruble? Is it 200 dollars a week or do you speak of monthly earnings? Generally, write about everything in more detail; customs and manners of the local population.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 39

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What is this state like? In short, put yourself in my place and answer all questions arising in your mind. Agreed? In my opinion, this is not too many questions for a start.

Oh, yes, most important: how about your citizenship? My advice—keep ours and register the girl in ours. Life is too complicated and different things may happen.

Well, now about me and everything else. I have just returned from my vacation. I traveled through the Northern Caucasus. It was wonderful. I bought a tourist pass and went. Of course, you only vaguely imagine me as a tourist, but a fact is a fact. I walked in the mountains and even carried a knapsack. The mountains were splendid. In short, recall paintings by Roerich the elder and there would be no need to describe anything for you. Afterwards, I licked my scratches in Sukhumi, on the shore of the Black Sea. I had a wonderful rest. On my way back I spent eleven days in Moscow; I covered it all, in length and breadth. All in all, I shook myself up in one respect and shook myself out in another. I am stony broke. Do not worry about the 500 dollars of debt you owe. Mine is only slightly smaller, a total of 200 rubles. All this is of no consequence.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 39-Continued