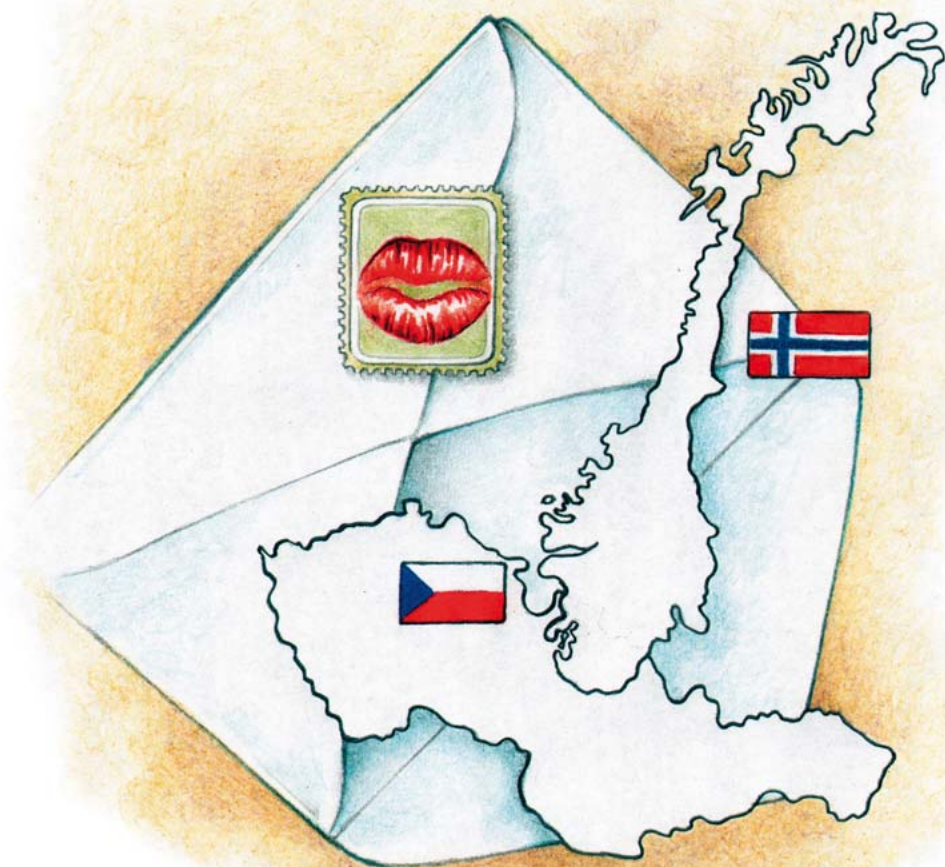


Ivana Dirk Lukačovičová:
Pleading Guilty of Innocence
Copyright:
©2010 Ivana Dirk Lukačovičová
ivana.dirk@dirkgroup.com

Cover Art:
Mgr. Lucie Lukačovičová
Photos:
Per Romanowski and Ivana Dirk Lukačovičová
Print:
www.TiskovyExpress.cz

Pleading Guilty of Innocence

*40 Years of
Correspondence
from Czech(oslovakia) to Norway*



**IVANA DIRK
LUKAČOVIČOVÁ**

*This book is dedicated to Lucie, Petra,
Georg Stephan and Peter Nicolai.*

Author's Introductory Note

It was a beautiful spring 1968 in Prague, hope and love in the air. Ivana studied Foreign Trade and lived at the boarding school. As a best typist of her class she was selected to type a thesis of Jiří, son of a friend of the director of the school. That was the reason why she spent quite some time in Jiří's family and when he graduated at the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences of the Czech Technical University, she was invited to his graduation ceremony. Besides the family members, there was another interesting guest of Norwegian nationality, his name was Per. That was the start of a friendship between the two which survived more than forty years. The intensity of the contacts varied according to their life situation, but if needed they had always been there one for the other. Unfortunately, in a turmoil of Ivana's moving to various places, Per's letters to her have not been saved. However, even one sided information about this lifelong friendship expressed in Ivana's letters to Per gives an overview not only about their lives, but also about the reflected history and philosophy, about their hopes, books they were reading and songs they were listening to. In the times when even sms messages are shortened by abbreviations, it might be of interest to read these letters and to remember the times when to type a personal letter would have been considered as impolite (Ivana started to type some of her letters at the beginning of nineties). For those who like to remember, there is a chapter at the beginning of every decade (sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties) which summarizes the main events in the history, science and culture (music, film, literature) of those periods. The selection makes no claim to be complete, it is as subjective as any choice limited to two pages for each era only can be, including especially those events which were of importance to Ivana and Per, therefore also concentrating more at Angola, Cuba, India, United States, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Norway. Every decade is also accompanied by some photos, some of them connected with visits of Per in Czechoslovakia and Ivana's visits in Norway. Letters from the recent period might be published later in an extra book, most of them were already sent by email. This miraculous invention enabled to a lot of people who live separated by distance to be in touch on every day basis. So, this book is meant not only as a melancholic dive into the past of traditional letter writing culture but also as a praise of new technologies which should make keeping life long friendships much easier than it was the case for our generation.

Nashik, India, June 2010

Biography table

Year	Ivana
	Events in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic
1943	
1949	16.3. born in Kutna Hora, childhood in a small village Lipina
1964	Started studying at the Secondary Economic School, specialization Foreign Trade, in Prague
1967	Got acquainted with Jiri, typed his thesis, got an invitation to his graduation ceremony
1968	Passed A-levels, meeting Per for the first time at Jiri's Graduation Ceremony in Rudolfinum , started her studies of English and German literature at the Charles University, Prague Spring crashed by Russian army
1969	Slow progress of so called "normalization", achieved freedoms cut in a creeping way, the permissions issued for travel to the West to be cancelled at the end of the year
1970	Escaped to West Berlin with a friend, 3 months work in West Berlin was followed by 9 months of travelling, hitchhiking to India , returned back to Prague
1971	Continuation of studies at the Charles University
1972	
1973	Graduation at the Charles University, visited Norway (simultaneously with Per's visit in Prague), first teaching job at the Secondary Economic School in Prague (English and German)
1974	
1975	Change of job – started to teach Business German at the University of Economics in Prague
1976	Getting married to Ivan

	Per	Visiting each other's country
	Events in Norway	
	12. 2. born in Oslo	
	Lived in Stockholm, Sweden from 46 to 49 with stepparents	
	Military service 61–62	
	Started studying at the University of Oslo	
	Met Ivana August 68	Ivana and Per first met in August 68 Prague
	Visited Prague	Per visited Prague, Ivana on her way hitch hiking to India – they did not meet
	Visited Prague	Per visited Prague, Ivana visited Scandinavia including Oslo at the same time (he stayed with Ivanas friend, she stayed with Per's mother)
	Married to Ann-Elisabeth Nordby	
	Started to work in Oppegård, moved into his own house there	

Year	Ivana
	Events in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic
1977	Awarded a title PhDr at the Charles University, departure to Angola – working at the Commercial Section of Czechoslovak Embassy, stay in Angola from 1977 till 1982
1978	
1979	
1980	First Daughter Lucy born in Prague
1981	Returned with Lucy to Angola
1982	Departure from Angola
1983	First problems in marriage
1984	Second Daughter Petra born in Prague
1985	Departure to Cuba
1986	Worked at the Cultural Section of the Embassy in Havanna, later teaching Czech at the University of Havanna (1985–89)
1987	Passed exams and defended the thesis for CSc. (Candidate of Sciences) in Arts, specialization contemporary English literature, at the Charles University
1988	
1989	Returned from Cuba to Prague, Velvet Revolution swept across the country
1990	
1991	Started parallel work for British construction company Higgs and Hill – marketing manager
1992	
1993	December – Divorced from her husband Ivan – keeping it secret from family and friends

	Per	Visiting each other's country
	Events in Norway	
	Started to work for Student welfare organization (SIO)	
	Peter Nikolai born	
	Ann Elisabeth moved out	
	Per and Peter visited Prague and Lipina	Per with his son visit Prague and Lipina
	Formal divorce from Ann Elisabeth completed	
	Visited Prague	Per visits Prague

Year	Ivana
	Events in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic
1994	Lucy started to study Business School of Foreign Trade, the same as Ivana
1995	
1996	Visited Norway
1997	Met George Dirk, declared being divorced to daughters, parents and friends
1998	Lucy passed A levels (Abitur), started studying at the Charles University
1999	Father Zdeněk died, Petra started to study at the Secondary School (Gymnasium)
2000	
2001	Engaged to George, Lucy awarded Bachelor Degree at the Faculty of Humanities
2002	
2003	Left the University of Economics and started to work as Business Development Executive for Central and Eastern Europe with Bovis Lend Lease, Petra passed A-levels (Abitur), started her law studies
2004	Lucy awarded Master Degree at the Philosophical Faculty in librarianship
2005	Married George
2006	Moved to India – circle closed after 35 years
2007	
2008	Petra finished her year abroad at the University of Law in Passau, Germany
2009	Lucy married Ondrej Morava, Petra awarded Master Degree in Law, Mother Jaroslava died

	Per	Visiting each other's country
	Events in Norway	
		Ivana visits Per in Oslo
	Per's mother Solveig died	
	Per's father Franz Josef died	
	Per retired, visited Prague	Per visits Prague

FAMILY PHOTOS

Per's mother and Peter at the Christmas tree



Per's father at the lake



Ivana's mother, father and brother 1978



*Ivana with her daughters Lucy and Petra
1986*



SIXTIES

1960

—

1969



Sixties

Only the second half of the sixties has a relevance for this correspondence, but these were very exciting times, although many of the events had their roots already in the late fifties, first half of sixties and continued to the seventies. In the second half of the decade, young people began to revolt against the conservative norms of the time, as well as remove themselves from mainstream liberalism and in particular from the high level of materialism which was so common during the era. This created “counterculture” that sparked a social revolution throughout much of the western world. It began in the United States as a reaction against the conservatism and social conformity of the 1950s, and the US government’s extensive military intervention in Vietnam. The youth involved in the popular social aspects of the movement became known as hippies. These groups created a movement toward liberation in society, including the sexual revolution, questioning authority and government, and demanding more freedoms and rights for women and minorities. The movement was also marked by the first widespread, socially accepted drug use (including LSD and marijuana) and psychedelic music. There was a growing interest in Eastern religions and philosophy, and many attempts were made to found communes, which varied from supporting free love to religious puritanism.

Events in the World

- **All World – Cold War** is at full swing.
- **U.S.A. – Vietnam War** (1959–75) comes to its saddest chapters. 1964, after the incident in Tonkin Bay, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution which gave to the President Lyndon Johnson the right to use military force in Southeast Asia without a formal declaration of war. After 1966, with the draft in place, more than 500,000 troops are sent to Vietnam. A strong youth movement against the war in Vietnam brought an unrest to all society. 1969 Richard Nixon is inaugurated as a president and promises to end the war and to achieve “peace with honor”. In the U.S., political murders were on the agenda of the day. 1968, Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, was assassinated in Memphis. Later that year, Robert Kennedy, Senator, and brother of John Fitzgerald Kennedy (President of USA, murdered 1963), was assassinated in California.
- **Africa** – decolonization of Africa dramatically accelerated with 32 countries gaining independence between 1960 and 1968. The high hopes of these countries had quickly faded, as many of them would fall into anarchy, dictatorships and civil wars. However, Portugal did not want to give up its colonies and continued in its Colonial Wars – brutal conflicts developed especially in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea
- **Arab-Israeli Conflict – Six Days War 1967** – a war between Israel and the neighboring states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria. At the war’s end, Israel had gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region till today
- **China – Cultural Revolution** (1966–1976) launched by Mao Zedong who insisted that “bourgeois” elements should be prevented to penetrate society. He mobilized China’s youth and formed Red Guards over the country, the movement subsequently spread into the military, urban workers and party leadership itself. Mao officially declared the end of the Cultural Revolution **1969**.

- **France – May 1968** is a protest period with the largest general strike in a history of an industrial country. It started as a series of student occupation protests, but later it involved eleven million workers for two weeks. May 1968 was a revolt against modern consumer and technical society being critical of Western consumerism in the same way as Stalinist Authoritarianism. The movement contrasted with the labor unions and French Communist party which started to side with President de Gaulle government in the goal of containing the revolt. May 1968 was in the end a political failure for the protesters, similar as the Prague Spring 1968, but it had an enormous social impact. In France, it is considered to be the watershed moment when a conservative moral ideal (religion, patriotism, respect for authority) shifted towards a more liberal moral ideal (equality, sexual liberation, human rights)
- **Bolivia** – the Argentine revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara, who was a key figure in overthrowing a dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in Cuba, started 1965 his travels to Africa and then to Bolivia in his campaigning to spread worldwide revolution. He was captured and executed in 1967 by the Bolivian army assisted by CIA. He became an iconic figure for leftists around the world. By the late 1960’s, revolutionary Che Guevara had become a popular symbol of rebellion for many youths of all nationalities.
- The **Merger Treaty** (or **Brussels Treaty**) came to force in 1967. It combined the executive bodies of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the European Economic Community (EEC) into a single institutional structure. They were generally known as European Communities.
- **Czechoslovakia – 1965**, the Communist party approved the New Economic Model, which had been drafted under the direction of economist and theoretician Ota Šik. The program called for a second, intensive stage of economic development, emphasizing technological and managerial improvements. The leading role of the Communist party was reaffirmed but limited. **1967**, at the meeting of the Communist Party Alexander Dubček challenged party first secretary and president

Antonín Novotný. As university students in Prague demonstrated in support of the liberals, Novotný appealed to Moscow for assistance but did not get it. **1968**, in January, the Central Committee elected Dubček to replace Novotný as first secretary of the Communist Party and in March 1968 Novotný resigned from the presidency and was succeeded by General Ludvík Svoboda. Censorship was lifted. The media – press, radio, and television – were mobilized for reformist propaganda purposes. The movement to democratize socialism in Czechoslovakia, formerly confined largely to the party intelligentsia, acquired a new, popular dynamism in the spring of 1968. In April the Presidium of the Communist Party adopted the “Action Programme” that had been drafted by a coalition headed by Dubček and made up of reformers, moderates, centrists, and conservatives. The program proposed a “new model of socialism,” profoundly “democratic” and “national,” that is, adapted to Czechoslovak conditions. However, the Action Program also reaffirmed the Czechoslovak alliance with the Soviet Union and other socialist states. The reform movement, which rejected Stalinism as the road to communism, remained committed to communism as a goal. In June 1968 Ludvík Vaculík, a writer and a lifelong communist, published a manifesto entitled “Two Thousand Words”. The manifesto expressed concern about conservative elements within the Communist Party and “foreign” forces as well. (Warsaw Pact maneuvers were held in Czechoslovakia in late June.) It called on the “people” to take the initiative in implementing the reform program. Dubček, the Party Presidium, the National Front, and the Cabinet sharply denounced the manifesto, the Soviet Union leaders started to get deeply worried. 20th August 1968, during the convention of Presidium, the anti-reformists planned to make a bid for power, pointing to the imminent danger of counterrevolution. Some of them presented a resolution declaring a state of emergency and calling for “fraternal assistance.” The resolution was never voted on, because the Warsaw Pact troops entered Czechoslovakia that same day (in the night of **20th–21st August 1968**). The Czechoslovak population was unanimous in its repudiation of the Soviet action. In compliance with Svoboda’s caution against acts that might provoke violence, they avoided mass demonstrations and strikes, but popular opposition was expressed in numerous spontaneous acts of nonviolent resistance. But against the army, there was no way out. Dubček remained in office

only until April **1969**. Anti-Soviet violent demonstrations, following Czechoslovakia's victory over the Soviet team in the World Ice Hockey Championship, precipitated Soviet pressure for Presidium of the Communist Party reorganization. Gustáv Husák (a centrist, and interestingly one of the Slovak "bourgeois nationalists" imprisoned in the 1950s) was named first secretary. Only centrists and conservatives led by Vasil Bilak continued in the Presidium. **1968**, the year of **Prague Spring**, was a source of inspiration to many Western leftists who admired Dubček's "socialism with a human face". The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia ended these hopes and also fatally damaged the chances of communist parties for drawing more recruits from the student and youth protest movement.

- **Norway** – The discovery of oil and gas in adjacent waters in the late **1960s** boosted Norway's economic fortunes. In the general elections after the second world war, the Labour Party won an absolute majority of seats in the Parliament (Storting) and went on to rule Norway for the next two decades, retaining its absolute majority **until 1961**. Save for a few weeks in 1963 when a center-right government held power, Labour remained in office as a minority government until 1965, when the four right-of-center parties – *Høyre*, *Venstre*, the Center Party (before 1959 the Farmers' Party) and the Christian Democratic Party won a clear majority in the Storting and subsequently formed a coalition government.

Science and Culture

- The Apollo 11 mission landed the first humans, American crew, on the Moon in July **1969** (taking the lead over Russians who could claim that the first man in the outer space, Jurij Gagarin, was launched by them 1961)
- The world's first human heart transplant was performed by Christian Barnard in South Africa in **1967**
- **Expo 67** in Montreal Canada – new film formats like Imax were invented and new ways of displaying film were tested.

- The “counterculture” movement dominated the second half of the 1960s, its most famous moments being the Summer of Love San Francisco in **1967**, and the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York in **1969**.
- **Music** – In the second half of sixties, the music groups became more popular than individual singers. Our favorites were: **the Beatles** who after having conquered US in 1964 released Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967. **The Rolling Stones** with number 1 hit (I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction (1965). **Bob Dylan** who went electric at Newport Folk Festival 1965 and his Blowing in the Wind. **Joan Baez** and her House of the Rising Sun and We shall Overcome. **Simon and Garfunkel** released The Sounds of Silence in 1965 and Mrs. Robinson in 1968. All this was combined with **Jimi Hendrix**, **Johnny Cash**, **Bee Gees** and **Pink Floyd**. The variety was enormous: rock, soul, pop, reggae, blues and folk, all coexisted next to each other. We could sing most of the hits.
- **Film** – That was the time when most American films which were imported to Czechoslovakia must have been worth it as they were expensive. Therefore not much of the mass production of Hollywood, which certainly produced a lot of rubbish too could make it over the border. However, the American film became a synonym of good and interesting film: Psycho, Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Spartacus, Lawrence of Arabia, The Birds, The Pink Panther, Marry Poppins, Doctor Zhivago (which we had to see outside the country, in my case in West Berlin), The Jungle Book, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Bonnie and Clyde, The Graduate, Rosemary’s Baby, Midnight Cowboy, 2001: A space Odyssey, Planet of Apes, The Lion in Winter, Easy Rider, Barbarella. Additionally, we saw the most of the films by French la Nouvelle Vague, by Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, Polish Roman Polanski and Italians Michelangelo Antonioni and Federico Fellini. Two Czechoslovak movies that won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film were *The Shop on Main Street* by Ján Kadar and Elmar Klos in 1965 and *Closely Watched Trains* by Jiří Menzel in 1967. Several others were nominated. The Czechoslovak New Wave, the golden age of Czech cinema, is most frequently associated with the early works of directors such as Miloš Forman, Věra Chytilová,

Jiří Menzel and others, although works by older, more established Czechoslovak directors such as Karel Kachyňa and Vojtěch Jasný are also placed in this category. A frequent feature of films from this period were their absurd, black humour and an interest in the concerns of ordinary people, particularly when faced with larger historical or political changes. The only Norwegian film we heard of was a comedy from the year 1968 *The Man Who Could Not Laugh* about psychologist who has a task to teach his patient to laugh.

- **Literature** – Only a handful of novels can be viewed as being remarkably influential on the youth movements of the Sixties: for the most part, inspiration was sought, and found, elsewhere. But of those that were influential, their influence was pervasive, and they represent cultural touchstones for an entire generation irrespectively if they were written in the sixties or earlier. Most important examples: **On the Road** by Jack Kerouac was published at the end of fifties but formed “the beat generation” of young travelers of the sixties. Novels by **Vladimir Nabokov** had an irresistible attraction for us. **A Clockwork Orange** by Anthony Burgess had an alarming and controversial view of a future beset by violence, technological excess and authoritarianism. **Naked Lunch** by William Burroughs, one of the great drugs novels of all time which was censored in the US and could not be published there until three years after its publication in Paris. **In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote, nonfiction novel about the brutal killings of a Kansas family and the subsequent arrest, trials and execution of the killers, predecessor of all nonfictional novels. **Beautiful Losers** by Leonard Cohen, Canadian poet-folksinger, which became one of the key books of the Sixties, a “visionary counter-culture religious epic”. **The French Lieutenant’s Woman** and **The Magus** by British John Fowles, the former a story about a woman choosing to raise a child on her own as opposed to marrying into money and high society, the latter a near fantasy set on a Greek island. **Dune** by Herbert Frank, a classic science fiction saga set on the windswept planet Arrakis, whose only export is the drug of immortality, Melange. **Glass Bead Game** (Glasperlenspiel) by Hermann Hesse, an utopian novel set in the distant future, in which an elite group of adepts rise to greater levels of perfection in a symbolic bead game that incorporates all the knowledge of the ages, “the total contents and values of our culture” while shunning the actual world,

originally published in Germany 1943. **Island** by Aldous Huxley, his vision of a utopia founded in a shared experience of religious bliss, a direct rebuttal to the vision he proposed in **Brave New World**. **The Lord of the Rings** by J. R. R. Tolkien, although published a decade earlier, provided a “lingua franca” for the counterculture, and place names, characters and other references drawn from it were instantly recognizable, even among strangers. **The Golden Notebook** by Doris Lessing, one of the most important novels by a woman in the past fifty years, which helped define the issues confronting the Women’s Movement, before there was such a movement. Latin American literature started to attract the youth by its magic realism – **One Hundred Years of Solitude** (Cien años de soledad) by Gabriel García Márquez was published.

PHOTOS

1965

—

1969

*1966 / hop picking with the secondary
school*



*1966 / Ivana with aunt Zdena on the top of
Wenceslaw square Prague*



1967 / Ivana's portrait



1967 / Ivana's portrait



*1968 Lipina – village of Ivanas childhood,
view from the native house window*





*1968 first meeting Ivana and Per at Jiri's
graduation in front of Rudolfinum
Prague*



*1968 / Ann's visit from Blackburn –
precipice Macocha*



*1969 / Ivana, Majka and Andula
in the vicinity of Duesseldorf*



*1969 / Ivana, Majka and Andula
in the vicinity of Duesseldorf*



1969 / Ivana's portrait in Germany



Correspondence
Ivana to Per

1968

—

1969

LETTERS

1968

1968 / 1

12.12 December, 1968

Dear Per,

Thank you for your letter, I was pleasantly surprised to hear about you.

First of all I should excuse myself for mistakes in my English, but I think it is not necessary because you could hear my English by your own ears.

Many changes have occurred in my life since we met us. (and, of course, not only in my life). I finished my studies at the Secondary Economic School of Foreign Trade and passed an entrance examination to the Charles' University. I have been accepted there, so that I study English and German now. (it includes, however, not only grammar, conversation, phonics, but also history and literature of English and German speaking countries). I have just started to learn French too, and we learn Russian at school in spite of all events - so that I am very busy all the time - sometimes it is quite difficult for me, because I am not used to the new teaching system.

I live in another hostel than before, here is my address in Prague:

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ

OPLETALOVA 38/428

PRAHA 1

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I don't know what to tell you about the situation in our country - maybe your information is better than ours. Everything is very uncertain, because, according to my opinion, nobody knows, what to do, how to solve all problems - political and economical ones, if it's worth to fight or not. (I am afraid that even our government does not know it).

All students were on strike for 4 days two weeks ago, and workers in some factories also stopped working for a quarter of an hour as demonstration of agreement with our requests. (There were 10 principal requests stated - among them freedom of speech, press, gathering, scientist research, travelling abroad; then legal security of all citizens, resignation of all politicians who have lost people's confidence; at the field of foreign policy no Czechoslovak participation in the actions purpose of which doesn't agree with the General Declaration of Human Rights, etc.).

I've just read a Kipling's poem, which was the favourite poem of our President Masaryk (he lived before the 2nd world war) and which has just become very popular among Czech people:

Rudyard Kipling: If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting
Or being lied about don't deal in lies
Or being hated don't give way to hating
And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise.

If you can dream and not make dreams your master
If you can think and not make thoughts your aim
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And meet the two imposters just the same
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken
And stoop and build them up again with worn out tools.

If you can make one heap of all your winning
And risk it at one turn of pitch and toss
And lose and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss
If you can make your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone
And so hold on if there is nothing in you
Except the will which says to them: "Hold on."

If you can walk with crowds nor lose your virtue
Or talk to kings nor lose the common touch
If neither foes nor loving friends can hear you
If all men count with you but none too much
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds worth of distance run
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son.

And that's everything I wanted to write you.

Have a good time.

Best wishes,

Ivana.

PS: Thank you for your poem,
I like it very much.

LETTERS

1969

1969 / 1

22nd April, 1969

Dear Per,

I have been pleased to receive your letter because I could see that not only me think too much about world, human being, life and everything.

As you probably know the situation in our country has just done another step back, instead of forwards - it makes me doubt about continuous progress in human history - history repeats itself, history does never stop, - certainly - but people are too unwise to make use of the old faults. And I can believe in such words as absolute democracy and freedom no more. Fortunately there are also other values worth of living - art, friendship, love, even if I am not too happy in the last one; I hope you are because if you have no luck in playing cards, you must be happy in love - it's a very old Czech proverb.

I think that it isn't really possible to divide things in black and white ones. There must exist another colour - and it isn't grey, it is no compromise, because I hate compromises, but that colour is red or blue and has the same value as the black and white ones.

There is no certainty in this world and everyone must find it in oneself. But it is very difficult, especially for a girl and I myself am not able to do it - I need other people to my life, I must help to somebody and have the feeling that other people need me. That's why there are many changes up and down in my life and sometimes I should wish to be a man and to be very strong.

The humanist ideals are as old as mankind. More certainly wanted to fulfil them, but he chose the way of violent proletarian revolution, the way with which I can't agree, even if I am afraid that it is the only possible way how to reach something.

Marx wrote that only masses did history,
but I think it isn't quite right -
of course masses but only with one
great personality at the head.

I think it is the greatest dilemma -
masses or individuality. I believe that
workers are able to do revolution and
change everything, but they are not
able to rule. I believe in government
of intelligencia, excellent specialists in
their branches and honest people,
who will direct the state in accordance
with humanistic ideals.

And Marx seems to me sometimes very
dogmatic, because he doesn't admit
any exception. Maybe you are more
revolutionary than me now, because
I could see too many changes and
I know that I can rely on nothing.

Have a good time,

I hope to see you again,
in Norvegen or in Prague.

Yours
Ivana

1969 / 2

Dear Per,

I was very pleased to receive your letter even if it was not too happy and I should like to discuss a little with one of its ideas. You shouldn't talk in that way that you don't belong any country, any place, even if you are sad. I am sure there must be many places in your country which are very dear to you. If you were not fond of your country, no power couldn't make you to stay there. But just therefore that there are such beautiful places and some people you love - that's the reason why a man stays

in his native country. It doesn't matter that I could have better life conditions, higher standard living, wider possibilities, comfortable life, freedom of speech and gathering and writing and travelling etc. ... in another country. I know that.

I couldn't feel happier in no country if I couldn't come back home.

In a poem "Your country speaks" by Czech poet Dyk there is said: "If you leave me, you'll perish, if you leave me, I won't perish."

I know the way of thinking in your country is sometimes very different from ours and you can find some of my views traditional. But I can't prevent myself from trying to reach the highest possible life certainty - and to feel some country as Home is one of the most important things which contributes to it in this mad world.

In the last days I have often thought of the problem of emigration, which is just now very actual in our country.

I think that people could emigrate only to such an ideal country, which doesn't exist at all and it will probably never exist. Otherwise it would not make them happy. When they don't like lots of things in their country, they can be unsatisfied, but they always know that it is their country where they were born and that place doesn't depend on their wish or choose, but it was given them by destiny. But if they didn't like something in foreign country they would ever know that it was in accordance with their choose to live just in that country. An emigrant will always compare the new country with his native country and think whether his choose was right.

You have written about another problem - what is the worst: to have nobody to love, to love somebody that do not love you or to be loved by someone that you don't love. I don't know what is the worst, but I know what is the best for me - (because I don't believe that the ideal possibility to love and be loved is possible for me - by the way, you don't

write about this possibility either. But it doesn't mean that I don't believe that mutual love can exist for other people, I believe in love, even if not in immortal, eternal love) - anyway - the only, though the most painful and difficult possibility, which can give me something, is to love somebody that don't love me - and it happened to me this year. just in this case when man gives everything, gains - on the other hand - the most.

I'd like to speak with you once again. I've passed successfully all my examinations and I have holidays during all July, August and September. I've left Prague and I am at home. Next week I go to West Berlin - so if you can come to Berlin (East or West, that's the same for me) or to another part of East Germany, we could meet each other. Please, write me to my home address (LIPINA 2, P. ZRUČ N. SÁZAVOU, OKRES KUTNÁ HORA) and after I know my address in Berlin, I'll write it to you - I am going to stay there for a month.

That's everything for today.

Love,

Ivana

1969 / 3

5th October, 1969 1

Dear Bob,

I am sorry I couldn't answer before and thank you for your letter and photograph. I came back to Czechoslovakia on 10th September, but I didn't get all letters I got to my home address during holidays at once, because my parents were on their holidays just at that time and returned by the end of September only - so I've received your almost two months' old letter now.

It's always good to hear something about you.

You look for tenderness, sympathy, understanding - everybody does! But I think that the life of those who can give is better - giving stands always higher than taking - you must only find pleasure in it and not to take it as injustice of fortune.

It's a great gift you are so strong, stronger than most. You must not feel so much pity for yourself, that nobody wants to give you anything. Surely they would want, but they can't, because they need more than you.

And I always try to find satisfaction in giving and I can tell you that the worst feeling in the world is that nobody needs you but I guess it can never happen to you.

The most of men have a great advantage that love is not the most important thing for them and I like the persons who are able to create something, it doesn't matter what - paintings, books, music, photographs, machines, buildings, simply anything - and men are able to do such things better than women. I have always tried to live as the men do - that means to take another sex as a pleasant supplement in life - but I have been convinced, that it's possible for a man and never for a woman, I had to give up, because finally only a girl is able to leave everything for a man, it can't be in another way and it's possible it's good so.

I couldn't live in such community where everything is shared with everybody either. In fact, I have never lived alone because I have been living in student-hostels since my 15 years, I go to school where I have many classmates, I have always had many friends. I am used ^{not} to

be alone and to help to others, but in spite of it I don't find good to found such communities and I think the result of it can be only fatigue and boredom each of others.

Anyway, it's typical reaction of young people against individualistic society they live in. I could see it in Berlin very well. Much of students in West Berlin have communist ideas and they try to start living in such communities and fighting against "consume society". And students in East Berlin aren't satisfied with their society and government too - they try to be more individualists and it's similar in our country; exactly in accordance with the law action \leftrightarrow reaction or according to the slogan all pressures form anti-pressures. It's impossible to find absolute truth. That's why the best way is to look for so many happy moments as possible and to have always one great aim, try to reach it and never lose it.

My aims are in learning foreign languages and travelling, seeing other countries now. I visited Germany, Belgium and France these holidays and now I try to go to the U.S.A.

to study and work there for a year and then to travel round the world.

Maybe it wouldn't be possible in the next year yet - in this case I should like to spend my holidays in Scandinavia, I am interested in these countries very much. There are plans only, of course, but it's just the important thing to have them.

I hope to hear about you soon again. I am sending you also a small picture of mine. Please, write me to my new Prague address:

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ
KOLEJ VĚTRNÍK-SEVER
BLOK I/442
PRAHA 6
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I am looking forward to your letter.

Yours
Ivana

PS: You asked if it's possible to send some book to me, of course it is, I'll have no difficulties at all.

Dear Per,

I have just read 'The Art of Loving' the second time through and I have understood it very well /I mean its contents, not only its English, of course/. The only part, which is not quite clear to me is the difference between Aristotelian logic and paradoxical logic in the chapter Love of God. I am not able to understand such examples as; 'A cannot be A and non-A, neither A nor non-A' or 'That which is one is one. That which is not-one, is also one'. /maybe it would be easier in Czech, but it shall be no excuse for me/.

Anyway, I got much pleasure out of this book. It's written in very optimistic way - Fromm writes about all evils in the present Western society and also in Russian form of 'communism', but he has 'faith in the possibility of love as a social and not only exceptional-individual phenomenon' - and I believe in it too.

But there is one paradox - sometimes I don't believe in possibility of being loved for myself - but let's leave it.

I have obtained also little satisfaction reading this book; I have found out, that I have some character traits, demanded by Fromm - I can be alone with myself, I am able to concentrate myself

and to be patient, I am interested in other people's life and experience very much and not only superficially, I understand giving as pleasure for myself, not as sacrifice, etc.

But on the other hand I have no discipline, sometimes I make quick and not correct decisions, sometimes I am not able to see any aim, I do nothing, I am lazy, and I don't believe in my abilities at all.

But enough of such characteristic - it's just under the influence of the book, but I will try hard to improve myself!!!!

I hope you were successful in fencing match. It is good to do some sport - today I have been swimming in the new Prag swimming pool Podolí for 2 hours and then I was in sauna - I am so pleasantly tired as I haven't been long time ago.

I am going to bed now and listening to organ concert in radio.
Good night - but something in addition:
I am pleased you try to learn Czech. Here is one Czech slogan for you - it was written on the window of our faculty in the last year during the strike: "Oni mají moc, ale my zvítězíme"
/it was said by Jan Hus, a leader of Hussites' movement = religion movement in Bohemia in 15th century/. So you can try to translate it yourself with your dictionary.

Good night,
Ivana

POSTCARDS

Berlin

Ost-Berlin, Bebelplatz
Blick auf die Gedenkstätte für die Opfer
des Faschismus und Militarismus (ehem. Wache)
East Berlin: Bebel Square
View of the memorial dedicated to the victims
of Fascism and Militarism (former Guardhouse)
Berlin-Est: Place Bebel
Vue du Mémorial pour les victimes du fascisme
et du militarisme (anc. Corps de Garde)
Berlin Oriental: Plaza Bebel
vista del lugar en conmemoración a las víctimas
del fascismo y militarismo (ante Puesto de Guardia)



PER ROMANOWSKI

DAL HAGEBY

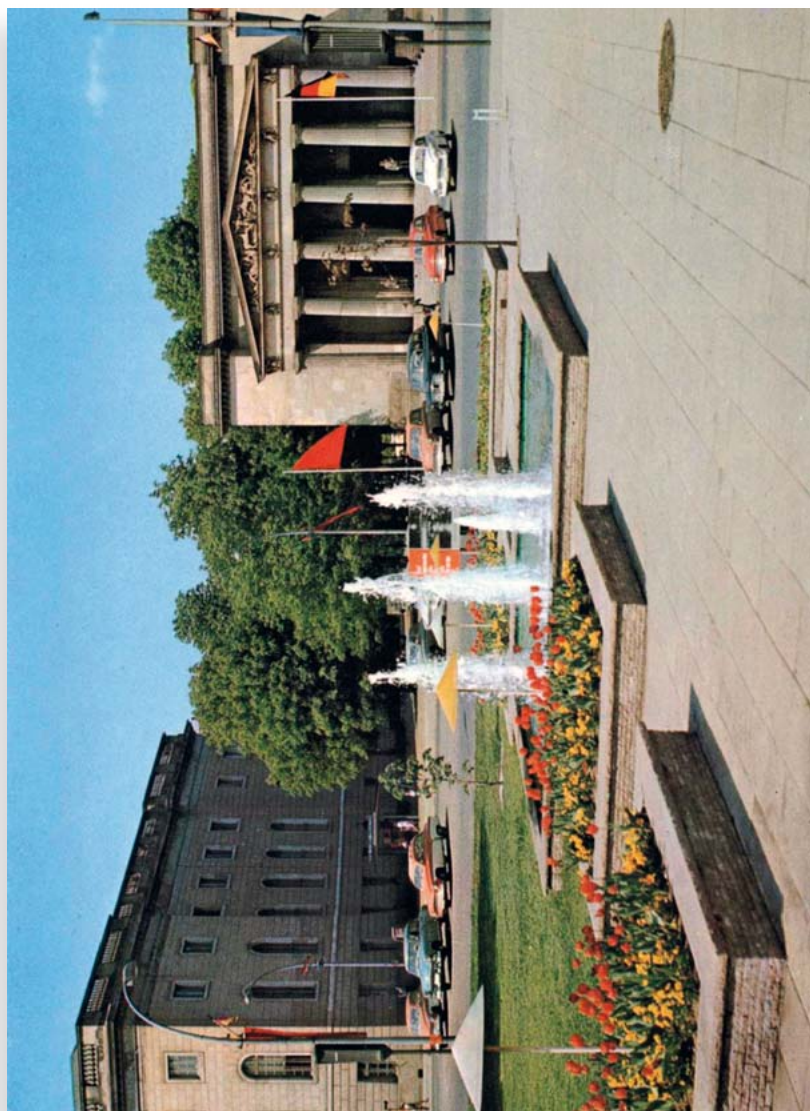
KLEMETSRUD P.A.⁶

NORWEGEN

Dear Per,

I am sending you
a lot of greetings from
Berlin. We are living (together
with my girl-friend) in West
Berlin but we can go
over border to East Berlin
quite easily (as just now)
If you wanted to write me,
my address is:
Ivana Kunesova, c/o Rotheraund & Kline
SOHMERSTRASSE 40, 1 BERLIN 51.
I'll stay here till 4th August.
I hope you are well.
Love, Ivana

Landespoststelle Berlin



SEVENTIES

1970

—

1979



Seventies

In the seventies, with Vietnam War over, the Hippie culture of youth faded away. Based on the oil crisis 1973 caused by oil embargoes by the OPEC countries and later energy crisis of 1979, the new environmentalist movement began to increase dramatically in this period. The crisis saw the first instance of stagflation, inflation combined with high rates of unemployment, which began a political and economic trend of neoliberalism, represented in Chile by August Pinochet who got into power by a military coup and in United Kingdom by victory of its Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher. Seventies were coined by the term of **Me Decade** as a result of disillusion after an unsuccessful revolt and in a clear contrast to the sixties.

Events in the World

- **Vietnam – USA:** Paris Peace Accords signed 1973. President Nixon takes last troops out of Vietnam. But nothing could stop North Vietnam from its goal of reunifying the country. It began an invasion of the South, culminating in the fall of Saigon (famous image of the last thousand US citizens climbing the ladder to helicopters to be airlifted out of the city). Vietnam was officially reunited.

- **Afghanistan** – Soviet Union started ten years war against Mujahedeens 1979.
- **Angola** – declaration of independence 1975. Shortly after, a Civil War started. Cuba sent combat troops in support of the governing MPLA against South African Defense Forces who invaded Angola to support MPLA opposition.
- **Chile** – President Allende became the first western nation freely elected Marxist head of state. In a military coup led by General Pinochet three years later, Allende was assassinated and many others killed.
- **Iran** – The Iranian Revolution of 1979 transformed Iran from an autocratic pro-western monarchy under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to a theocratic Islamist government under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Distrust between the revolutionaries and Western powers led to the Iran hostage crisis where 66 diplomats, mainly from the U.S., were held captive for 444 days.
- **India** – the country intervened in Bangladesh Liberation War (a civil war taking place in Pakistan's Bengali Eastern half), after millions of refugees had fled the persecution of the Pakistani army. The clash resulted in the independence of East Pakistan, which became known as Bangladesh, and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's elevation to immense popularity.
- **Nicaragua** – Nicaraguan Revolution. 1979, the Sandinistas and the Nicaraguan people won their freedom from the dictator Anastasio Somoza, who fled to Miami with the Nicaraguan treasury. A junta was set up to run Nicaragua until their first real election, in 1984, in which Daniel Ortega was elected president.
- **Germany** – The Palestine Liberation Organization group broke into the Olympic Village during 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, killed two Israeli coaches and took nine hostages. It later ended in the death of the hostages and the commandos as they tried to leave the country.

- Rise in the use of **terrorism** by militant organizations across the world. Groups in Europe like the Red Brigades in Italy and the Baader-Meinhof Gang in Germany were responsible for a spate of bombings, kidnappings, and murders.
- First extension of European Communities by **Denmark, Ireland and Great Britain** in 1973. Norwegian government lost the referendum and therefore Norway did not join with the others on 1st January.
- **Czechoslovakia** – 1970, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, which incorporated the principle of “limited sovereignty”. Soviet troops remained stationed in Czechoslovakia, and the Czechoslovak armed forces worked in close cooperation with the Warsaw Pact command. Soviet advisers supervised the functioning of the Ministry of Interior and the security apparatus. The purges of the first half of 1970 eliminated the reformists within the party organization. In the fall of 1970, the ex-communist intelligentsia organized the Socialist Movement of Czechoslovak Citizens, a protest movement dedicated to the goals of 1968. Forty-seven leaders of the movement were arrested and tried in the summer of 1972. Organized protest was effectively stilled. In the early 1970s, there was a steady increase in the standard of living; it seemed that the improved economy might mitigate political and cultural oppression and give the government a modicum of legitimacy. However, by the mid-1970s, consumerism failed as a palliative for political oppression. The first organized opposition emerged under the umbrella of Charter 77. On 6th January **1977**, a manifesto called Charter 77 appeared in West German newspapers. The document was immediately translated and reprinted throughout the world. Charter 77 defined itself as “a loose, informal, and open community of people” concerned with the protection of civil and human rights. It denied oppositional intent and based its defense of rights on legally binding international documents signed by the Czechoslovak government and on guarantees of civil rights contained in the Czechoslovak Constitution. The Charter had over 800 signatures by the end of 1977, including workers and youth.

- **Norway** – The seventies in Norway were years with a strong and visible women's movement. The struggle for women's rights brought results in the form of changed attitudes and practices and changed social relations in the society. Also, the government changed and accepted responsibility for implementing equality and a welfare system that benefitted women. Around 1975, both the proportion and absolute number of workers in industry peaked. Norwegian voters rejected a proposal to join the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1971.

Culture and Science

- China becomes the fifth nation to put a satellite into orbit.
- Apollo-Soyuz Mission 1975
First joint US-USSR space mission. Astronauts from both nations joined their crafts using a specially-designed docking module. This was seen publicly as a step forward in improving relations between the two superpowers.
- First test tube baby – in vitro fertilization
- Microprocessor is introduced
- First E-Mail program invented
- Cellular battery invented
- Microsoft founded 1975
- Apple Computer launched 1976
- Betamax and VHS VCR released
- Ultrasound first used
- The Sony Walkman is introduced

- **Music** – the major sad event in the early seventies were the deaths of popular rock stars **Jimi Hendrix**, **Janis Joplin** and **Jim Morrison**, all at the age of 27. At that time, our popular stars were representatives of soft rock/pop rock **John Denver**, **Eagles**, **Chicago**, **Paul McCartney and the Wings** and **Stevie Wonder**, but the mid-1970s saw the rise of popularity of disco music dominated by **Bee Gees**, **Abba**, **Boney M**, and **Donna Summer**. Rock music, called hard rock and heavy metal, became too hard-edged for everybody's taste, represented with artists such as **Deep Purple**, **Led Zeppelin** and **Black Sabbath**, **Pink Floyd** and **Uriah Heep**. Towards the end of the decade, Jamaican reggae music, already popular in the Caribbean and Africa since the early 1970s, became very popular in the U.S. and in Europe, mostly because of reggae superstar and legend **Bob Marley**. **Elvis Presley** whose top seventies hit was *Burning Love*, died in 1977.
- **Film** – American films kept their standards and popularity: *The French Connection*, *The Godfather I and II*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Czech director Milos Forman, *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, or blockbuster *Jaws*. In European cinema of the 1970s, the failure of the Prague Spring brought about nostalgic motion pictures. German New Wave and Rainer Fassbinder's existential movies characterized film-making in Germany. The movies of the Swedish director Ingmar Bergman reached a new level of expression in motion pictures like *Cries and Whispers* (1973). Interest in Asian cinema was sparked by martial arts films which reached the peak thanks to its greatest icon Bruce Lee.
- **Literature** – the early seventies returned to old-fashioned storytelling when Erich Segal's tender romance **Love Story** captured America, and later Europe. Racism remained a key subject in the works of **Nadine Gordimer** (South Africa), **Bernard Malamud** (USA) and others. In the early seventies, John Updike emerged as a major literary figure with the release of ***Bech: A Book***, a semi-autobiographical look at a Jewish novelist, the continuing Rabbit series (including 1971's popular ***Rabbit Redux***), and his numerous subtle, relevant stories. Joseph Heller's middle-age dramatic novel ***Something Happened*** brought the author one of his best-received novels since ***Catch-22*** published in the sixties. E. L. Doctorow's ***Ragtime*** became one of the most popular books with

its unconventional style and satiric nature. Saul Bellow returned with the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Humboldt's Gift*, about a failed poet and a rising playwright. The same year Alex Haley released his immensely popular *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, which followed Haley's ancestry back to the kidnapping of a young black man named Kunta Kinte, who was sold into slavery in the south. Notable works such as William Styron's Holocaust epic, *Sophie's Choice*, rounded out the decade. In *Breakfast of Champions*, Kurt Vonnegut maintained with humorous analogy an extensive satirical discussion about American society, revealing his views on such topics as marketing, government and the environment. Vonnegut ended the decade with *Jailbird*, a satire on the innocent unknown faces, the guilty known ones, and the born again Christians that spent time in prison because of Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal. John Irving's *The World according to Garp* with the reoccurring topics of wrestling, prostitutes, adultery, swinging, deadly accidents and absent parents became a finalist for the American Book Award of the year 1978.

PHOTOS

1970

—

1979

1970 / Eastern Turkey – ford across the river



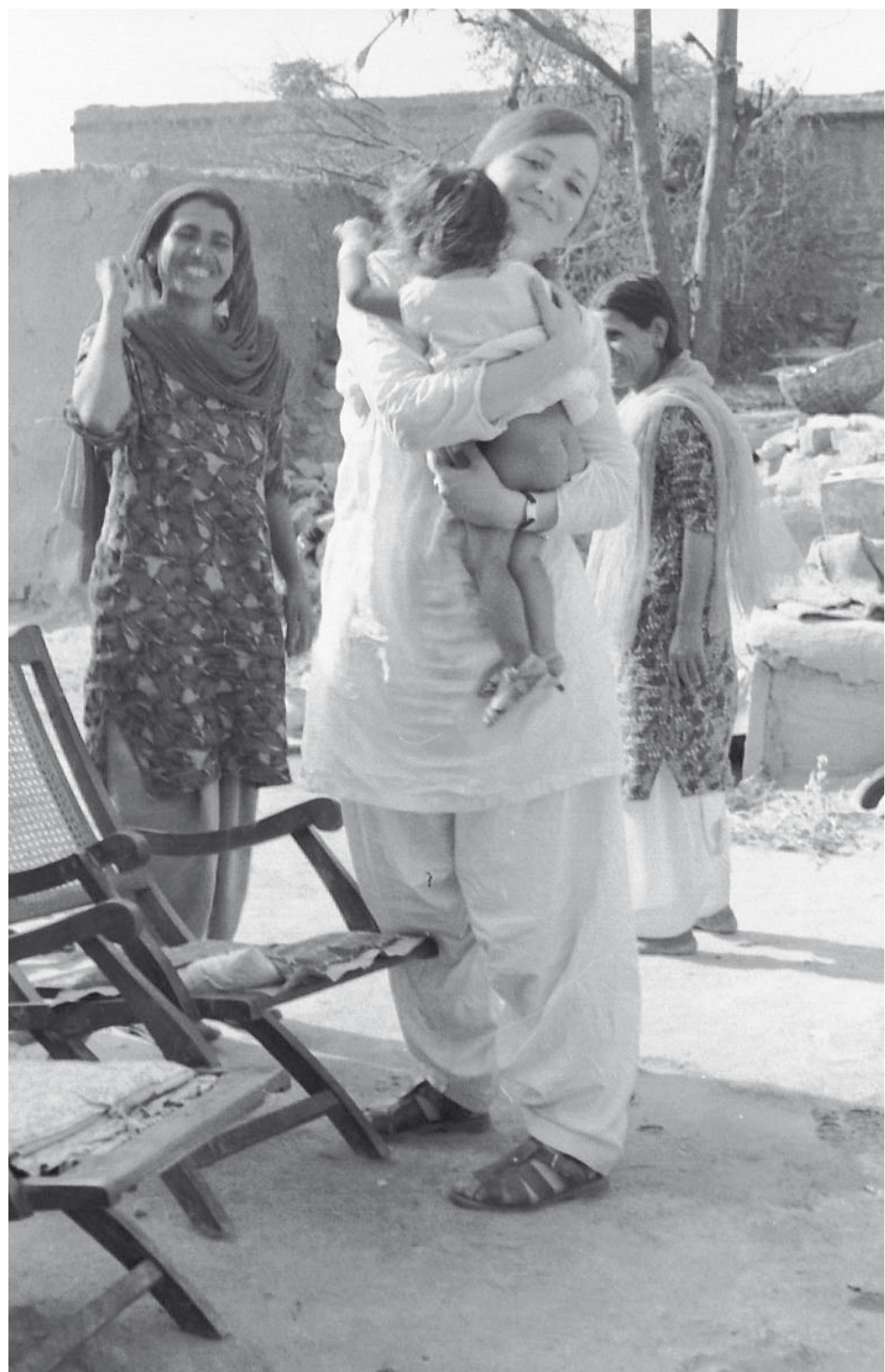
1970 / Afghanistan – Kabul market



1970 / Afghanistan – steep mountains



*1970 / Pakistan village – Ivana in local dress
with a child*



1970 / India Delhi – Ivana with cobras



1970 / Greece Acropolis – Ivana and Radovan at the end of hitchhiking trip to India



*1971 / Romania holiday – Ivana writing
diary in Danube Delta*



*1973 / Ivana's graduation – with parents in
front of the Charles University*



*1973 / Per in Prague – Ann Elisabeth in
Ivana's friend flat*



*1973 / Ivana in Norway – Tromsø at
midnight sun*



1973 / Ivana in Norway – Lapland



*1973 / Ivana in Norway – camping with
Jirina and Co.*



*1973 / Ivana in Norway – watching log
floating on the river*



1977 / Angola – tribe Umbundu



*1977 / Angola – moon landscape around
Luanda*



*1978 / Angola – Ivana with Cuban and
Angolian soldiers*



*1978 / Angola – guarding the bridge over
river Kwanza*



Correspondence
Ivana to Per

1970
—
1979

LETTERS

1970

1970 / 1

12.1.1970

Dear Per,

many things have been changed since that time I wrote you the last time. But reason of my long silence was very important one this time.

I write you from West Berlin. The political situation ^{in CSSR} is very uncertain all the time and as all my personal life has always been one great secret and uncertainty which I was not able to solve at all I've decided to change my life and I left Czechoslovakia for West Berlin. I live here together with one of my ^{czech} friends.

Our plans are following:

We should like to work in Berlin for 2 or 3 months, to earn some money and then to travel.

If we get the U.S. visa, we'd want to visit America (not only U.S.A. but also other countries, maybe South America).

Another possibility is that we'll travel across Italy, Tunis, Egypt, Irak etc. to India, maybe to Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia - everything in very simple way, hitch-hiking etc.

It's not emigration, because we want to go back to Czechoslovakia in September and continue in our studies (my friend studies electrotechnic).

So I have interrupted my studies for one term and we'll see if the situation in our country is getting better or worse.

I had to stop writing, because I had to go to work. I work in a sheaphouse bar (from 21.00 to 4.00 o'clock). It's of course a terrible change in my life, because I've been used to live in the society of students, professors, artists etc.

But I like to get acquainted with new people, with different social classes, with ^{the} different conditions people live in. It's very interesting and you can get a better picture of ^{the} life and of the world if you speak and live not only

3

with the people, ~~what~~ are like you, have the same position and similar attitude to life with all ^{the} clichs and prejudices resulting from their similar education.

I love every change and adventure, I have ~~been~~ never afraid of the things which are dangerous. But it's really a difference to know prostitution from films, books or to see such girls in the street or in a bar or to work together with them, to be in fact one of them, because some guests expect that I'll sleep with them too, even if, of course, they cannot force me to do it.

It's really a shock - to see all this "love for sale".

Anyway, I couldn't get another work at the moment and if I want to stop it I can.

I can exactly understand now how a girl becomes a prostitute.

I don't suit to that bar and to those girls in it at all and everybody sees it at once. Therefore the guests who have enough of the go-go girls

and sluts, try to get me.
 Sometimes I like to speak with them,
 because some of them are very intelligent
 ones and I like to know psychology
 of the people, their wishes and dreams,
 their opinions. If they see I am
 able to speak also about other things
 than is weather, the discussion
 becomes quite interesting.

But there are other cases too;
 e.g. one man went to the bar
 every evening and offered me 500 DM
 and ~~then~~ more and more if I went
 home with him. That man knew
 very well that I need money.

I've started to hate all the people
 who are sure that everything is possible
 to reach through money in this world!
 I'll always convince them that
 it's not true even if they are
 surprised that anybody can refuse
 500 DM (as that man).

The girls in the bar and some of
 my Czech friends (there are many Czech
 boys in West Berlin) told me that
 I am silly and naive in this respect.

5

I agree with them that it isn't possible to condemn the girls who sell their body. Many bourgeois marriages are based in fact on prostitution too (a woman gets married for a car, a house and money of her husband and for all advantages which it brings to her - the only difference is that such "prostitution" is officially confirmed and that means no difference for me); everybody is forced to sell his man-power etc. But I myself could not sleep with anybody for money and I will not do it in future either. Because money has not so great importance and value for me and I'll always believe in another ~~kind~~ of love.

I'd like to meet with you very much and I'll be waiting for your letter as never before.

We'd want to go to Denmark and I thought that we could maybe meet us in Kopenhagen. But we haven't

6

succeeded in getting Danish visa.
I hope it will be possible later on;
or maybe we could provide Norwegian
visa - I don't know how liberal or
bureaucratic is your mission in Berlin in
this respect.

Please, write me to the address:

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ
bei Ulrike HINRICHSEN
CECILIENGARTEN 7
BERLIN 41.

We don't live there, but it's the
only certain address we have and
we'll get the letters from the people.

Yours

Ivana

1970 / 2

Dear Per,

I've got your letter from my friend today at 17 o'clock and I've had no time to read it till now. Now I am sitting in that "bloody bar" as I often call the place I work. If you saw me, you would laugh - all the situation has also a great deal of comic in it. I don't suit to this bar at all and everybody asks me what I am doing here with my child innocent face.

Anyway - I think I'll not be able to stand it here for a long time - my boss has already told me that I am very cheeky -

I am not cheeky at all, I always express my own opinion only and and it's not allowed in this environment of hypocrisy, jealousy and fear. But I don't worry too much, because I can always find such kind of job.

I had to stop writing and I continue after 4 days again.

I've also read about the group of Czechoslovak students who were imprisoned in the last days. Many of them studied philosophical faculty as me and I have no power to judge if they were Trotskyists or Maoists, if I could agree with them or not. (I read it in "Spiegel" and if I should really find out the whole truth I'd have to read also other western and eastern newspapers and stay in Prag and speak with them or with the people who know them etc.)

That's why the only feeling I had after reading the news was sadness - I've been very sad that the period of persecution of people because of their political opinion begins in Czechoslovakia again.

I mean that mankind should have enough of all the "law injustices"! Per, when I think of it, I am tired, so tired with everything that I must stop writing and write you next time in more optimistic way.

Today I've received a letter from one of my Czech girl-friends - she wrote me that my parents were very unhappy that I had left. I must admit that I have bad conscience in this way and sometimes I ask if I had right to leave them (even if not for ever, as I hope), because they really love me although they don't understand me at all. But I think that everybody must spend the days of his life in accordance with his own views. In spite of it I cannot get rid of unpleasant feeling that I was selfish to my parents.

I've started (together with my friend with whom I left Czechoslovakia) to plan our journey across Europe and maybe further. We've applied for different visas and it's quite interesting to know to which countries it is easiest to get visa for people from socialist countries.

You didn't write anything about yourself in your last letter.

I hope you have not many troubles.

How does it look ^{like} in Norway now?

I must tell that Berlin is quite interesting but not nice city; Prag is much more beautiful (you can tell me that I am a patriot, but I am not at all). It's very cold here now; so I am walking and freezing in wide Berlin streets and sometimes think of cosy little streets in Prag.

Much love,

Irang

1970 / 3

Dear Per,

I like to read your letters because it's good to know that anybody knows how do you live and think and that he is interested in it. (my connections with my friends in Czechoslovakia have been limited because of the censorship - I don't like the idea that my letters are read by other persons and it could be also dangerous in certain way)

As I've already written to you I am in Berlin with one Czech boy. He doesn't speak German, that's why all troubles lie on my shoulders. He is a very good one, he has always beautiful ideas, but he wouldn't be able realize them without me, because he has really no talent for languages. I am working in another bar and I like it better there. The owner of the previous bar was a very ambitious man and he thought he could manipu -

late people as he liked - ^{2.9} we had to move twice without any reason etc.

But I stopped it - I've found another work for me and for my friend too and we live now really at our friends' (when you are sending your letters for me).

The Hinrichsen family consists of my girl-friend Ulrike and her husband Gerd.

They have been married only for a short time and they are very nice people.

Both of them are communists, but in the good meaning of this word.

I think that your opinions and Gerd's political opinions are quite near.

So we discuss policy all the time and we cannot reach any conclusion -

our education and life knowledge is too different - but it's not important.

Elsewhere - I go sometimes to the cinema, sometimes I read books, but I can't concentrate on it and I've started to write poems again (the last of my poems was written 6 years ago, when I was 15).

There are no love poems and after some time I'll surely see that there are very bad ones, but never mind.

Now when I am abroad I often think about uselessness of frontiers among countries. In fact, people are the same all over the world and I like the idea I could go to any country without all these senseless visa troubles and other formalities. I'd like to believe in the United European States. But that is only one part of "outside freedom" and the most difficult thing is to be free in your mind or soul. You know I am not just the kind of people who are afraid to do something against society norms, but in spite of it I am a slave of common prejudices very often, especially in the questions of love. I know it but I can't get rid of it. I like the "candy love" (how you called once these ideal novel feelings), even if I know that such love is not possible

for me at all. And I always have
too maximalistic requirements and
bad imaginations about absolute
feelings for ever etc.

I hope you understand what I mean
it's everything written too abstract.
What about you? and your new
(or already old) girl-friend.

I'd like the idea that such
personality as you should have
a very beautiful, clever girl. Even if
you are used to live alone and you
know as good as me that man
can find his certainty only in himself,
you can surely see now how good
and useful and important it is to have
a good friend who understands you.

But enough for today
(or tonight).

Good luck

Yours
Irana

1970 / 4

Dear Per,

you need not to be afraid
that I'll stop writing to you.

I used to have many pen-friends
and ~~now~~ I have never been the first
who stopped it. Till we have something
to tell each other (and I think
we have common plenty of things) -
it's everything O.K., in spite of shorter
or longer intervals in which our letters
are coming.

As to my life - it would be getting
boring slowly again - but I am
going to prevent it and leave
Berlin at the beginning of April.

We want to go to India; if
it would be possible for us to go
to Denmark first - it's only written

in stars, but I'll try.

Anyway, if you come to Germany,
give me a message, please.

Sometimes I miss my Prague friends
very much and I desire to go to school.
My desire after school atmosphere
was once so strong, that I didn't
go to bed after my work in the bar
at all and I went with Ulrike
to school. It was quite pleasant
feeling, even if their school troubles,
which they count for very important
and difficult ones (I did it, of course, too),
seemed to me very petty, real trifles.
Elsewhere I^{ve} started to go swimming,
I^{ve} found it refreshing and amusing.
Besides of it I have many everyday's
duties as a housewife and I ~~have~~ to do
many things I've never done before.
People can learn everything if they must

(Robinson Crusoe is only one proof for it, I'll be the second one).

I have nearly no time to reading and I am usually also so tired that I can't concentrate my ideas.

I read newspapers and Spiegel at least and sometimes I am afraid of further political development in Czechoslovakia and in the world at all.

Why ~~do~~ the people not to become reasonable finally? with all these bloody wars, frontier conflicts which have no sense, with imprisoning of the people for their opinion, which is accidentally different - what can we do with it? or against it?

Not too much, and it has been always the same during centuries. Oh, I am getting to be a pessimist.

I have some news from my Czechoslovakian friends, which make me mad. You know, I am no patriot at all, I always try to distinguish good and bad things in each country and to judge people ~~not~~ according to their qualities and not nationality. But I am quite proud of the Czech culture, Czechoslovakia has not only great tradition in all cultural branches, but ^{also} the present culture has extremely high standard (I think I can compare it with others - e.g. films, books, pictures, ceramics, theatre etc.). And now I've heard from letters that everything this (especially T.V., films, theatre) is depressed by Russian culture! Maybe that Russian imperialism is going to be worse than American one! I feel only sorry, because I can't do anything against it.

Anyway, I am waiting for your answer.

Your, Ivan

1970 / 5

Dear Per,

Thanks for your letter. I hope you enjoyed your stay in Sweden as well as Easter holidays.

Just after Easter we are going to leave West Berlin finally.

You can't imagine how happy I am to leave this city!

I've been here many times, I have so many memories bound with each place, but I don't like it too much, and sometimes I hate it as prison. Maybe if I ~~was~~ able to go back after 10 years I would be very sentimental and I would remember all nice days I had spent in Berlin, because you always forget the bad moments.

But now I desire to go away!

We are flying to Hannover on 3rd April and then we are going hitch-hiking to Denmark, to København. We must fly to Hannover - it could be dangerous to go through East Germany.

We are going to stay in København approximately 14 days - so if you had an opportunity to go and see me there, I would be very happy. I'd like to go to Norway very much too, but I am not sure if we have time enough to it, because we want to go to India afterwards, and it's such a long way and if we want to go back to Czechoslovakia we must do it till the end of September. Anyway, write me, to this address, please:

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ
c/o SONJA AJUFO
MYSUNDEGADE 26 4. LV
1668 KØBENHAVN V
DENMARK

I am so tired at the moment
that I have no inspiring ideas,
better to say I have no ideas
at all.

Hard or manual work can have
2 different effects - the first is
the positive one - if you work
you have no time to feel bored,
no time for your spleen; but if
you work too hard, it can have
the negative effect, too - you are not
able to think at all.

There are too many things in
this world you MUST do.

You are obliged to do many things
during your life - some of them
~~seem~~ to be quite useless. The life
could be much simpler, sometimes
people make it complicated themselves
(not sometimes, always).

I've just seen the musical Hair.
I don't believe I would be able to

live as hippies myself - but there is much good in their way of living - in the first place it's natural and more simple.

Czech writer Ladislav Mňačko is one of the best writers of present time. I haven't read "The Seventh Day", but I've read many others - some of them from the period of the 2nd World War, some of them from the Stalinistic period and he writes also about the situation in Czechoslovakia now - reportage etc. One of them is named "The Taste of Power", and it's written against all dictators and dictatorship. Mňačko lives in Israel now.

I am glad you like Czechoslovakia and I hope you'll be able to visit it again (and maybe, visit me!!)
Many greetings to your girl-friend.
Write soon, please.

Your
Ivana

1970 / 6

Dea

Tomorrow morning we are leaving København; we have been staying here 14 days and we have been doing practically nothing, only enjoying the time. I have been many friends, because I used to be a guide of Danish groups in Prague. That's why I didn't succeed in visiting the friend of yours - each evening we have been visiting another family, other people and 14 days are very short time. We are going to go to Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Paris now, but it is not sure.

I see according to your letter that you have been really fallen in love and I think that it is the best which could happen to you (and to everybody). I am quite sure that you'll be very unhappy sometimes because you'll be more sensitive than usually and everything each word can hurt you very easily. But sometimes you can feel yourself so high that you know exactly that it is worth of all the worries before.

I don't know what to tell you more to it - please, give my best, best wishes to your girl-friend (you haven't written the name of her)

and try to be happy together as long as you can. And your girl need not to feel threat from girls that are in strong contact with your mind - nobody can fall in love with somebody because of his mind only - to loving a person you need much more and it's difficult to explain what exactly.

Love is based on feeling, not on reason. But that's only my opinion, other persons (and my together-traveller among them) are more rationalistic and say that it's impossible to love without reason. I agree, it's impossible to love without reason but it's also impossible to fall in love with reason. Anyway, you can judge it according to your experience yourself.

As to me, the relations between me and the boy I travel with are so complicated that I can't find name for them. I am even afraid to call it love from my side and I am nearly sure that it is not love from his side. Anyway, we are very good friends and we understand each other because we know each other.

I think it can be clear after our return to Czechoslovakia.

Now I must go to pack our things. Please write me to this address:

Ivana Kunešová

MAIN POSTE OFFICE

POSTE RESTANTE

TEHERAN

IRAN

I hope to find there some news about you.

Everything good. - Your Ivana

1970 / 7

1

17th August, 1970

Dear Per,

I am happy to be able to write you again.

I am sitting at home in my room and all the events I lived through seem ~~like~~ very far away.

It was great; I've got many wonderful impressions, much experience and I think I have changed myself very much - maybe too much.

I feel much older now and sometimes very sad. Luckily it's not that desperate sadness, it's just resignation and melancholy. It must happen always, if one period of your life has been finished and you are not sure how to live further. I feel that I must (or better to say I should) change much

of my life, I should leave some of my friends and look for some others, I should find some job for me and earn some money etc., etc..

I should do many things, but I am not strong enough, maybe I am only lazy; but anyway, I am too weak to do what I want. I make e.g. some decision and if anybody tells me that the other ways are better, I am ready to change my mind in one minute and to respect his opinions - in spite of it that it might be better only for him, but not for me.

I hope you can understand what I mean.

Probably I've lost my school-friends too, because I've lost one year in studying. I will never feel pity for that, because the knowledge I've reached by that is much more

important than school knowledge.
But it's another change in my
life.

Sometimes I feel myself as you
a few months ago (before you've found
your girl-friend). I feel that
there is no justice in this world,
that it can't be my fault, because
I am the same as the others and
not worse, and in spite of it
I cannot be happy not only in my
personal life, but in anything.
But my life optimism tells me,
that everything is going to be 'O.K.'
again.

But I don't want to talk
about myself any more. It would be
better to speak about the journey.
But it's too much for a letter
and I hope to tell ^{you} about it
sometimes personally. India is a beauti-
ful country with pretty women,

many strange and old historical monuments, old tradition and with quite different way of living.

I've met many interesting people, not only the natives, but also foreigners, especially young people travelling hitch-hiking too.

Dear Per, I wonder, what's new in your country and how the life is playing with you.

Please, write me to my home-address (on the envelope) - I hope to hear about you soon.

Your

Ivana

1970 / 8

1

7th September 1970

Dear Per,

I am afraid that this letter is going to be just a little bit longer than the others. I've been very pleased that you wrote to that address in Iran. I cannot write you here about all ^{the} circumstances of my journey - but this address was the only one where we were expecting some news from our friends and parents. We didn't get any letter at all and I think you cannot imagine how depressing it was. The reason I couldn't get your letter is quite simple - you wrote it 17th May and we left Teheran 16th May and at the end of May we reached India. But the others of my friends didn't write at all and now they tell me such excuses ^{as} that they forgot or that they didn't believe I could get so far etc. (the same excuse my parents had). It doesn't matter too much now but I can't get rid of that bitter feeling I felt in that time and of that feeling that everybody must rely only on himself - anyway I've known it long time before but I find it sad again and again.

You haven't written anything about your summer holidays. I hope it will be better for me and for you too, when the lessons at the University begin. Elsewhere the physical work, but also only rest in the middle of nature (it's what I am doing now, just relaxing in my parents' country house) has always been the best medicine for me and for everybody.

I believe you'll be able to come to Prag this winter. If you really make up your mind to come, please, write me. I'll send you an invitation and I think you can get the visa quite easily. (as to the occupation, ^{on the form} you can write there whatever you like). To the problem of money - it's bad you cannot go hitch-hiking in winter, but I think the train is not so expensive in your country. The other things depend on ~~in~~ which month you would come. If I were in Prag at that time I could give you such vouchers for meals in student's mensa and also help you with money - but I'm not sure if I could help you to find some place where to live - the best thing would be if you could stay at Jiří's (I hope you have his address). Of course, we could go

to my parents' for a few days too.

You've written me (the first letter) how different it was if you went to bed with somebody you really loved. I'd like to know your opinion on this thing: do you believe that you can be happy (sexually) with anybody you love and who doesn't love you?

I know it might be very different in case of girls and boys, but you can write me what you think about it.

I must admit that I envy you - you always lose one girl-friend and find another one immediately. (maybe that the value of your feelings to the others is different, but it doesn't matter). I have many girl-friends and many boy-friends - but all these relations stay just on the surface even if I can tell about some of them that they are good friends of mine. But I cannot love any of them (and I don't believe that somebody of them love me, in spite of that he says so sometimes). And the reason of that is one boy I am in love with already more than 2 years. I know it's quite useless but I am not strong enough to break my connections with him -

and I cannot love anybody else till
 I will meet ^{with} them. It's like a vicious circle.
 I don't want to bore you with my problems
 any more but I've written about it only
 to show you that you have been always
 strong enough to help yourself from bad
 situation and to look for new friends (maybe
 you have got more chances than me) and
 to find them.

I can't believe that you could be
 getting old - the body of everybody is getting
 older and older but not the mind. I love
 children very much too, I've liked to play
 with them since 15 years of ^{my} age and
 I don't think that there is something wrong
 with me and that I am getting old and
 that I long for my own children and
 quiet family fireplace. Not at all!
 And the political struggle? One of the
 Czech writers wrote: "Each priest thinks that
 his religion is the best one." The people
 during the centuries have fought for
 some ideology and against some ideology -
 they have always been convinced that
 the only truth was on their side.

(I think not)
 I don't know if you will agree with me,
 but according to my opinion, no ideology,
 no religious belief, no political trend
 is worth of wasting the precious time of
 your life for it. The people are ready to
 kill each other in the name of some
 noble ideas. But there is no ideology in
 this world which will stand the man
 to the first place of its learning - not
 only on the paper, but in fact.

If there is some group of people who will,
 within sight, try to improve the life of
 the others and not to think about them -
 selves and about victory of their ideology,
 I will join them. But even in that case,
 it is quite difficult, because what is
 good for one man, need not be good
 for another one. And we have another
 vicious circle again. My present political
 meaning is very near to an old Christian
 idea - a man should help to others
 as much as he can and be so little selfish
 as he is able. It seems enough for me
 and I am not able to do more and
 I do not want to do more. There are so

many beautiful things in this world and it has no worth to waste the time.

As to real situation in Czechoslovakia. Please, be very careful in judging it. There is much propaganda here, but much propaganda in western countries as well! (I think in Norway too). The fact is, that we have got censorship and that we have difficulties with travelling.

Many people have lost their jobs and were thrown out of the Communist party.

But if I want to be objective and just, I must admit that in that period of "Prag spring" many people lost their occupations and were persecuted as well!

The economical situation is getting better - and if people will live better, they will be more satisfied; and common people will always back such government which is able to give them "bread and games."

It's clear, it's normal, if you ^{and me} like it or not. And I personally hope that after normalization of our economy and

policy, it's going to be better with our personal freedom, with travelling etc. too. I don't think that me and you must be careful in exchanging our meanings in letters.

It's a very good goal to build houses for you and your friends. It's just what I long for myself - to have a flat or house for myself in Prag - but I'm sorry I'm not able to build it myself and it's very difficult to get it. And that problem with getting married first? I think, better to say, I am quite convinced, you will manage it in some way.

I've always felt pleasure reading your letters, but the last one seems very cold to me (you wrote you were tired but it is not important). You did me wrong when you wrote that I didn't tell anything about poverty in India, because as far as I remember, I didn't tell you anything about it ^{at all} - just a few common phrases about the beauties of all countries I could see. There is really an unbelievable poverty

not only in India, but especially in Arabic countries. If you see the begging children, starving families, people sleeping in the streets, you feel you should be happy to be born in Europe. You should like to help them, but you cannot, because they are so many. Sometimes I was angry - all those states have got a very strong army. Their governments have money enough for food for their soldiers, but not for their children; they have money enough for the arms, but not for cleaning streets and building houses.

Elsewhere I consider India the country of future. It has many unutilized possibilities. The most ^{of the} areas of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and especially Afghanistan is covered by deserts and it's very difficult to change it. But it's not the case of India - twice a year there comes the monsoon period and afterwards the whole country is green. They could have harvest twice ^{or} three times a year if they were able to cultivate all the soil twice or three times and then they would have bread enough for everybody.

to have a cabin for ourselves, but it was also much more expensive!).

This journey took 10 days and we could visit also such states as Oman, Muscat, Trucial States (I've never heard this name before, on our maps it's called "Neutral Territory", on German maps "Geväuerküste" - it lies on Arabic peninsula), Kuwait (I could call Kuwait the small United States) etc.

I have also many impressions from Europe - we travelled only hitch-hiking and slept outside in Europe, but it was really very nice. But I hope that we'll be able to talk about it personally and I can show you then the pictures too. Now I am sending you one picture of me; it has been taken just after my return.

I should like to ask you for something. I've bought myself a new tape-recorder (Philips, 4 track) and I'd be very happy if you could send me one tape with some music you like and maybe with your voice too (you could e.g. tell me something to the songs, or just to tell me something)

11

The choice of music depends on you -
I know your favourite now is Laura
Nyro. I would like to listen to her
songs too. I like Joan Baez at the
present time very much.

I must stop writing now -
the letter is really too long.

Dear Pr, I hope I'll get
some news about you soon again.

Your Trans.

1970 / 9

Per Romanowski

Dal Hageby
Klemetsrud P.Å.

28. 9. 1970

Dear Per,

Hereby I should like to invite you to visit me in Czechoslovakia. I hope you will be able to come this winter and to spend in my family one month at least. I will provide for your food and accommodation, of course. I believe you can get visit visa for Czechoslovakia without difficulties.

I am looking forward to seeing you again.

Ivana Kunešová

Ivana K u n e š o v á

Větrník-sever I/442

P r a h a 6

Czechoslovakia

Čís. jed. I-0-I-2109/70.

Osvědčuji pravost podpisu, který na této listině připojil a



sl. I v a n a K u n e š o v á - - - -
studentka - - - - -
bytem Hodkov - Lipina č. 2 - - - -
okres Kutná Hora - - - - -
t.č. Praha 6, Větrník-sever I/442 - - -
jejíž osobní totožnost mi byla zákonitě prokázána.

Státní notářství pro Prahu 1,

Praha 1, Ovoceň trh 14,

dne dvacátého devátého září

roku tisíc devětset sedmdesát. - - -



Jaroslav Höhl
r. Jaroslav H ö l z l
státní notář

3rd October, 1970

Dear Per,

I thank you so much for the tape, the letter and the pictures; I got it only when I went to visit my parents - I've been for fortnight in Prag again and I've brought my tape-recorder with me, so that I had to wait 3 days before I could hear what was on the tape and you cannot imagine how curious I was! I like most of the songs very much - especially The four seasons, Kukuci and West Wind, Young generation. And, of course, Joan Boaz, Peter, Paul and Mary and The Rascals. The soul music is very good, too. I must tell you, I am not too fond of folk music, but I've found that Chinese song and the Norwegian with ^{the} flute very interesting. I can play both tracks together; I think it's quite a good idea to record songs and speech

together, but it must be very difficult to record it. It's also nice to hear your voice again (even if I couldn't recognize it any more, it's too long time since we have seen each other last time).

The girl I share the room with left for 4 days, the weather is awful in Prague, it is raining all the day and I am sitting here alone - it's quite good to listen to your voice, it's like if you are talking to somebody. So I am looking at your pictures, listening to your voice and songs you chose for me and writing a letter to you and thinking about all those fantastic inventions our civilisation has already brought and will bring. Can you imagine if we lived in the Middle Ages? - no photos, no tape-recorders, probably I wouldn't write to you, because I wouldn't be able to write at all.

But on the other hand I must admire the art of that time, especially

painting. One friend of mine is painter. The day before yesterday I visited him - he bought one monografie by Salvador Dali, it was a very expensive book and it was quite difficult to get it; so we were quite enthusiastic about the pictures. You know, I like Dali, Max Ernst and other surrealists very much, but then I found one book about the Middle Ages and there were paintings by Dutch painters Hieronymus Bosch, John von Eyck etc. I think the Bosch's altar is more surrealistic and so perfect like only a few pictures I have ever seen before. And the Renaissance masters as Vinci, Raffael, Michelangelo, El Greco, Giorgione are fantastic as well.

I am sending you three pictures - the first one is from Istanbul, the second one from Teheran and the third one from Delhi. You should also receive another

letter with my formal invitation^{soon}. I hope
our embassy will give you a visit visa,
if you show ^{them} this invitation and that
you will not ~~to~~ have to change that
sum of dollars for every day.

How does it go on with your
house-building? If there is something
I admire in human nature, so it
is the spirit of enterprise.

I think it's all for today. The radio
is playing "El Condor Pasa" now, but in
Czech language. I like Yimon and Garfunkel
more than this Czech version; I would like
to have the songs of their LP The Bridge
over Troubled Water very much, because it's
fantastic to listen to such words:

"When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all
I'm on your side. When times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Take a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down"....

Your
Ivana

1970 / 11

25th October 1970

Dear Per,

First of all I thank you so much for your letter and the tape. I find Laura Nyro quite fantastic just as you. Some of her songs belong to my most favourite ones now: Lonely Women; Ela's coming, Wedding Day Blues from her first record and the third LP is fantastic without exception. I've got a headphone to my tape-recorder, so I can listen to music and to be concentrated on it and on nothing else. It's a very good thing, because you cannot be disturbed by others (and you don't disturb them if they want to do something else), you can understand the words better etc. Sometimes I listen to the words of the song very attentively, like to some poem (if they are worth of being listened to in that way). But sometimes I like to listen to the voice and words only as

So another musical instrument, however good the words might be (I don't know it because I don't take them in; I hope you understand what I mean).

Laura Nyro's songs should be listened to while you are looking at the little flame of a candle or at the illuminated windows of opposite houses in the evening. I've tried it and I felt so sad and happy and reconciled with all the secrets of life and fortune - it was quite exciting.

I can imagine her sitting in a dark room, playing piano and singing; she must be a great personality, I think. Haven't you accidentally got ~~some~~ picture of her? I'd like to see her very much.

It's difficult to tell you what kind of music I like best. Firstly I like also "serious" music, my taste in this way is quite common, I am no specialist at all. I like Čajkovskij (Ywan Lake, Piano Concert B-moll etc.), Mozart (Little Night Music and many others), Bach and all organ concerts (I love to listen to it in churches, organ concert in Notre Dame and some concerts

③

in St. Jacob's church in Prag belong to my greatest experience). Among Czech composers I like Smetana best (My country etc.).

I must admit I don't understand jazz and I am not interested in it at all, even if I spent a few evenings in Prag Viola cafe (I find the combination of poetry and jazz quite good) and also in other jazz clubs, because some of my friends like jazz very much.

I like dancing and that's why I like rhythmic songs, e.g. which are sung by Creedence Clearwater Revival or ^{The} Beatles (especially their older songs). Then I am fond of chansons of the style Piaf or Matthieu; or Boaz and Laura Nyro. Sometimes I like to listen to "sweet" songs (Bee Gees, Tom Jones). You can be sure I like most of the music you've sent me very much - some of the singers I've never heard before, but they became my favourites. It would be very good if you could always write me the names of the singers (maybe also of the songs, but it's not so important) who are on the tape, because

I even if I understand your pronunciation, I don't know their spelling, so it would be very good if you could help me.

I've got the Bridge Over Troubled Water, one of my friends playing tennis brought it from abroad. El Condor Pasa is "the hit number one" in Czechoslovakia now.

I'll be very pleased if you come to Czechoslovakia. I quite envy you that you can travel so freely as you want. I think that desire for travelling and adventure belong to the most important features of my character and that I will never get rid of that, even if e.g. my parents find it unnatural (especially for a girl) and would be happy if "I finally settled" (how they call it).

If you had nothing to do in Copenhagen and wanted to spend a few days there, you could give my best wishes and thanks to & my friend Goya and her husband Justin. The address is: SONJA AJUFO, MYSUNDEGADE 26 4^{tv}, KØBENHAVN V. They are very nice people indeed.

You wrote: "There are lots of other problems,"
but them I would rather not talk about."
I'd like to assure you that if there is
anybody in this world who is interested
in all your problems very much, so that is
me - and I really mean it.

Anyway, I hope to discuss it everything
with you personally. I hope you will
bring "the romantic mood of the last
Easter" for Czechoslovakian Christmas
with you.

Good-bye for now. Thanks
for the tapes again.

Yours
Joana

1970 / 12

①
4th November 1970

Dear Bob,

It would be a lie, if I didn't tell you how sorry I was to hear, that you would not be able to come to Czechoslovakia - but I hope you can use my invitation next time and that we'll see us in spite of everything - sometimes.

But there is another thing which makes me feel uneasy and that's the reason of your not-coming. Maybe I am wrong and of course, I don't know all circumstances, but I don't find it good, if you leave your interests (in this case your desire to travel) for a girl. I know, if that girl could read my letter, she would be very angry with me. I can understand too, that you want to spend Christmas at home. As a matter of fact, I was surprised to know, that you ~~were~~ ready to spend Christmas in a foreign country.

Christmas is family feast in Czechoslovakia and the Czechs are very sentimental in this way. E.g. me, I could leave the country before Christmas but I waited till the New Year, because I wanted to spend Christmas in the circle of my family. But I think it's not your case and you have holidays after Christmas as well! so you could come later on, if you wanted to spend Xmas together with your girlfriend. But I see, that you cannot leave the country and the girl at all, and therefore I am worrying for you. You ^{always} do such things, when you are in love and that's not right, that's not right for you. Now I am writing as a girl, from the point of view of the most girls: every woman likes a man, whom she could respect, appreciate, who is strong (I mean in his character), who is able to carry through his plans and whose mind is not easy to change. It's bad for the relation

of the two people, if one of them feels that the second one is ready to change all his decisions because of him or her. It seems that you have forgotten the basic rule of life: everybody should be independent as personality, to rely on himself and then he can take another person into his firm inner world - without that danger that the other person will break it.

I know it's not too romantic idea, but I hope you are not going to tell me such words as "Love knows no tactics" or "If you are really in love, you are ready to sacrifice everything," because I think you have much more experience than me in this way.

Anyway, that's enough about it. I hope you will comprehend what I wanted to express. Please, don't think that I just want to make you come - I would write the same if you planned to go to England and changed your mind from such reason. Believe me, that I wish you the best and I'd like to share it with you and excuse me,

(4)

if I am too sceptical, you know,
I have been through too many up-and
downs of you.

I have much to do at the present
time - I don't want to ~~lose~~ the last
year, that's why I am trying to pass
all the examinations of the last year
and this year together. That means, that
I must do 5 exams of the third and
fourth terms and 4 exams of the fifth
term - everything till February, I am
trying to get driver's licence as well,
so I don't know what to do first.

There is not much new in my personal
life - I've lost much from the past
and gain something new, but all these
things don't mean too much for me.

Luckily, my nature doesn't allow me
to be unhappy more than one hour,
even if I don't consider myself
superficial - I am always ready to
make fun from myself and start on
again.

Please, write me, as soon as you can.

Love,

Trang

1970 / 13

23 November 1970

Dear Per,

Thanks very much for your letter -
I've liked it, it was such spontaneous,
sincere and frank one.

And I've been pleased to recognise
that you are no "practical man" at
all and that's all right so.

You shouldn't only suppose all the time
that everything is going to turn wrong
or become bad. I don't believe that
I could ever be happy myself, but I try
to be satisfied at least. It seems
impossible, not to think about future,
but one of the Czech writers wrote:

"You should never think that your
present life is only provisional one.
Later on, you could find out - too late -
that there were the best years of
your life." And in that sense I try
to live my present days, to take
use of each opportunity and pleasure
of every moment. (better to say, I used
to live so).

It's easy to be hard - yes, it's easy to be hard to others; but the most difficult thing is to be hard to yourself. Sometimes I am very angry with myself - it seems to me that I should know in my age (I'm no child any more, even if I must admit that I feel like that quite often) what I want actually. But I really don't know it! I'm not strong enough to carry out my plans and decisions (I mean e.g. in studying and working - if I have something more pleasant to do, I leave it immediately and then I have bad ~~conscience~~) and I don't know myself what's my relation to other people. It's like if I were fifteen, I find such, unsteady behaviour quite awful, I don't like if others behave in the same way and I look for somebody who knows what he wants.

Therefore I like your parabol about the gloves very much - it was quite exact expression of what you feel. And please, give my best wishes to Ann-Elisabeth.

I am sending you two booklets of "comics" - or what is called so in Czechoslovakia. I don't know if it is exactly what you meant and what you like. But there is nothing else of that kind in our country and there are not many of them of either. If it is what you are interested in, please, write me and I'll try to get some more and write me too, if you need more exact translation or if you don't need any translation at all etc.

The weather is very warm for this time of the year in Prag, we haven't got any snow at all till now.

I haven't seen my parents for a long
 time (because of those exams; I have
 passed two of them - psychology and
 English morphology - till now), but I think
 I should go and see them once again,
 it might be quite nice in the country
 now. You know, I long for loneliness
 sometimes, I avoid meeting people and
 talking to them; anyway I feel that
 there is something wrong with me at
 the last time - in half an hour I am
 able to change my mood completely - for
 a moment I am too cheerful and ~~for~~ in
 the next second too sad; I'm afraid
 of beginning new things and connecting
 new relations... oh, I should stop it
 because you will think that I am ill
 and maybe that I really am. I used
 to have what is called "life vitality"
 but I've lost it. I think that
 I should tell to myself what Oscar
 Wilde says: "To become the spectator

of one's own life is to escape the suffering of life."

I saw the English film Romeo and Juliet yesterday. I liked it very much, in spite of that such love (how it was presented in the film) couldn't last for ever and become a symbol of faithfulness even in the grave, if the lovers didn't die. My imagination of Romeo and Juliet's love has always been different. I've imagined steady fervent feeling and voluntary self-sacrifice one of them for another - just as they couldn't imagine their lives without their counterpart. In the film they are shown as children who were sacrificed to their passion.

I started reading the book Games People Play by Eric Berne. It's a fantastic book, even if

I cannot get rid of the feeling,
that everybody is playing too
many games in his life.

I hope to hear about
you soon again.

Yours

Irving

LETTERS

1971

1971 / 1

8th July, 1971

Dear Per,

it's very difficult to answer the old letters you've got long time before - I can see it myself now. I wrote a letter to you one month ago - and I tore it up again, so foolish it was. Now I've started the second time and I've made up my mind not to apologize myself for the long silence - because I have no real excuse in fact - and I just want to tell you how the life is running since that time you heard about me at the last time.

I've passed all the exams I had to finally. At the end

of June I was nearly exhausted -
I passed 14 examinations in
10 months. But I am alright
now.

I am going to spend six weeks
in Roumania and Bulgaria -
we are going four persons -
two boys and two girls together.
I am looking forward to it -
you know, the desire to travel
and to see new places again
and again will probably never
leave me.

I've started to co-operate with
the CKM - Czechoslovak Travelling
Agency of Youth - again.

I used to work as a guide
and now I decided to take
a group of Danish pupils and
to show them Prague and

other nice places in Czechoslovakia. I also met two girls from Oslo. It's quite easy to have contact with young people from all countries, but it's much more difficult to get acquainted with their countries (especially for us the possibilities are very limited now). And the other thing is that people usually behave in a foreign country during their holidays in a different way than if they are at home in their own surroundings.

I don't know if we could recognize each other when we met after such a long time. What I want to say is: maybe we can recognize

our faces (after photographs, at least), but each of us would probably behave differently from our first meeting. My behaviour and all my person would not probably suit to the imagination you have about me and the other way round. Anyway, it might be very interesting and I hope to see you again one day!

I wish you very nice holidays and I hope to hear about you again. I promise myself to write you a long letter about my holidays' adventures after it.

Love,

Ivona

1971 / 2

16.10.1971

Dear Per,

Thanks for your letter,
I got it yesterday, because I live
in Prague again.

This letter is going to be very
short one. There is cold and
emptiness ~~not~~ only in my heart
but also in my mind. (even if
these words seem to be too exaggerating,
especially when they are written).

Thank you for your nice and wise
words - I do believe that
friendship is the only feeling which
can last (maybe).

I'll try to explain to you what
had happen later on, if I am able
to be reasonable again. (it will take
some time). Many greetings,
Your Ivana

LETTERS

1972

1972 / 1

1st February, 1972

Dear Per,

Thanks for your letter written on the pop-art writing paper - I was pleased by both of them.

The description of your four channel system is interesting; I am sorry I must admit that I don't understand much of those things but I've told about it to one of my friends who is interested in stereos and in recording and in sound and he is going to experiment and then I'll be invited (maybe).

You are writing about problems with building houses in your country (especially when a man is no millionaire). I suppose it's much worse in Czechoslovakia, particularly in Prague, in this respect.

As a matter of fact somebody like me cannot afford to build a house for himself at all. (it's not possible to borrow so much money if you haven't got any and you don't want to pay it back till the

end of your life). Everything is O.K. until the moment I finish the University. Then I must leave the students' hostel and I don't really know where I'll be living. Families with children are waiting for a flat for 10 years in Prague, so you can imagine I have nearly no chance. If I am going to translate books or to use my knowledge of foreign languages in another way, I am supposed to stay in Prague because it offers the best possibilities for that. Another thing is that I don't know anybody, I have no friends or relatives or contacts in other places (except my parents) and I am little afraid to start somewhere alone. Therefore I feel it nearly like a vital necessity to provide some flat or room for myself in Prague but I am completely at my wits' end how to do that practically.

It's winter with much snow in our country, I wish I could go

to the mountains, but I must sit for exams (two of them are in methodology and didactics and then I'll have my teaching practise for 14 days. I am going to teach "children" from 15 to 19 years of age, that means they are not much younger than me and I feel I ^{still} need to be taught myself - in languages and in everything; therefore I am quite afraid of that). But I don't want to complain too much, it's not bad at all.

Have you read Love Story by Yegor or have you seen that film? I've read the book and I've found it quite good (I like this sort of touching stories - it's similar e.g. to Remarque stories or to the book "Say no to Death" by Australian writer Dymphna Cusack or to a novel "Une mort très douce" by Simone de Beauvoir). But there was something more I liked in the Love Story - excellent composition which made the book interesting in spite of

^{the} quite banal story and then the language which is really spoken. I am convinced it is actually a kind of fashion to use more vulgar words than necessary and I don't like it as the fact - but I find it good to write a book in language American students really use.

At the moment I am reading a book of completely different kind *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolfe and I can't find sufficient words for its appreciation - if you know it I'd like to know your opinion on it.

I hope to hear about you again soon - I thought ^{that} you were married or that it happened something to you - either extremely good, or extremely bad (I was afraid).

I am just listening to your voice from the tape, it is a pleasant, good feeling.

Good night.

Trang

1972 / 2

20th April 1972

Dear Per,

it is a very strange thing how people (maybe it's better not to generalize and just say it in the first person) are dependent on nature, weather etc. Our students' hostel is at the outskirts and in front of my window there is a large cherry-trees-orchard and further on there is a cemetery. But even there are many green trees and flowers and when I look out of my window in spring it seems to me there are only two colours in the world: white and green in many nuances. It's nearly impossible to have another feeling than that of surprise, optimism, even happiness while you are watching it and listening to some good music.

In your last letter you asked me how old I was; - so 23 on 16th March - but anyway, I don't think I have been changed very much since you saw me.

At the moment I try hard to get some money from Czechoslovak State Bank (that means foreign currency) to be able to travel during my holidays. You can't imagine how difficult it is. I'd like to go to England (maybe to Norway for a short time too) but if I don't succeed I will spend some time in East Germany and improve my German and maybe do a few trips to Poland where I have never been before. (there are no difficulties with travelling to socialist countries). I will also serve as a guide to foreign youth groups coming to visit Czechoslovakia; parti-

cularly from Scandinavia and the Netherlands. I've always been attracted to everything which concerns Scandinavia (esp. Norway and then Denmark, of course). To my birthday I got an interesting book by Kristmann Gudmundsson "Goddess and Bull" (Gyðjinn og oxinn) - he comes from Iceland but the story is situated on Crete in ancient times. I don't want to tell you a plot, but I liked especially ^{its} philosophical heart containing idealistic ideas of eternal fight between the Good and Evil.

On Wednesday I am going to see the first night of Peer Gynt by Ibsen, I am looking forward to it.

In my personal life nothing has been changed. I have a few good friends but I am not in love with anybody, neither I believe that anybody is in love with me (even if he says so).

I feel lonely from time to time but it is not bad in fact.

I don't know anything about your present life and I'd like to.

How does it look like with your house, and girl (and possible wedding); are you still interested in records and buying so many of them? Do you still work on your theses about comics?

Please, write me soon, even if I can understand how busy you are.

Love from Ivana

1972 / 3

17th May, 1972

Dear Per,

This is really only a short letter to ask you for some more details on your journey to DDR.

Firstly: is it sure that you will come on 9th June? and how long exactly are you going to stay there? Another thing is if you already know the address of the hotel or students' hostel where you will stay.

I think it would be great if I succeeded to meet you again in Berlin. It is not so difficult for me, the only problem is the accommodation, but I will see.

Please, write me as soon as possible (or maybe it would be better to send

a wire if this letter is too late)
where and when I could meet you
in Berlin. What do you think
of this idea?

Love,

Ivana

1972 / 4

14th June 1972

Dear Per,

I've been extremely sorry when I read your letter, but on the other hand I've been very angry. Don't you find it stupid that in the century in which it is no problem to fly to the moon, it is a problem (almost insurmountable one) for me to go to Norway and for you to D.D.R. or to Czechoslovakia? It doesn't help to cry, but our generation should abolish all these nonsensical frontiers for ever. I feel myself so powerless against such bureaucracy, against the "cold war" that it makes me nearly cry. But I really do believe it must be changed in the near future. Anyway, let's forget it.

I've passed all my exams for the eighth term; I have only two terms more before me. At the moment I ^{can} plan my holidays, because ^{my} lectures will begin only on 1st October.

Nothing has been settled for sure till now. I am going to serve as a guide for a month to earn some money - since 29th June I'll have one American group for a week etc. On 16th July I'll go to Poland - to Gdansk and Warsaw - for a week. Again, I'll be there as a guide of a group of Czech tourists. I have never been in Poland before and in the case I'd like it I'd spend about fortnight there privately and then I could go to DDR. to improve my German and to buy some books on Thomas Mann.

I don't know if I have already told you that the topic of my theses is "Psychologism and realism in the works by Stephan Zweig", especially in his novelleles. This theme is closely connected with psycho-analysis and with the literary trends which took it for its basis. I'd be very happy if you could send me any book about Stephan Zweig, his life, his creation, analysis of some works etc. (in English or in German). If there is something you need or you would like to have from Czechoslovakia, please, write me. I'll live in student's hostel till the end of June, please, write me after this date to my home address. (Lipina 2, pošta Zruč nad Sázavou, okres Kutná Hora).

Please, write soon.

Love,
Ivana

1972 / 5

20th July, 1972

1

Dear Per,

There is really peace breathing from the picture you sent me; I wonder if I shall ever be able to see those places myself; I am just promising to myself that I will do everything within my powers to get the money (foreign currency) from our bank in the next year and visit England and Norway - so I swear. I am reading now a book on a man who did first a tour round the world, Fernão de Magalhães. The book is by Stephan Zweig and is called, "Magellan, der Mann und seine Tat." Zweig's conception of an individual and his part

in the history is very interesting, he firmly believes that one strong individual can carry out some deed which may even change the course of the history. He is a great humanist and ^{an} individualist - his analysis of individual psyché are very precise and deep, he always tries to find the most secret motives of every heroic or unheroic deed. If you are interested in his biography, Zweig, together with his wife, really committed suicide - but in a small town Petropolis in Brasilia in the year 1942. He was Austrian Jew (born in Vienna 1881), studied in Vienna and Berlin, travelled a lot (India, Africa, America, the Soviet Union) and he had to emigrate when Hitler had seized the power in Germany. He gave himself the reasons of his suicide in a letter - he felt too old to start a new life, his powers were exhausted and he could not

see (and didn't want to see) ^{the} destruction of Europe and fall of his humanistic ideals. But enough of him, even if he certainly was a very remarkable man and writer.

I hope you've already got my postcards from Poland - it was good to see this country, in spite of the fact I had many troubles with organization of the trip. In September I am going to Roumania (Mangalia) for a fortnight (as a guide too) and I will try to visit U.S.S.R. - but it is not sure. If you succeeded to go to P.D.R. in October it would be fine - I should like to give you my congratulations to your degree personally (even delayed congratulations).

What would it mean for Norway if it entered the common market?

Does it mean not only political dependence but also economical disadvantages?

or is it very good and useful for your economy and the reasons you don't want it are principle and moral ones?

Could you write something more about it, please?

My brother has just come back from Leningrad (he is 18 now). He has brought a few records with classic music and one with Joan Baez for me. It's good because I have at least some compensation for my broken tape-recorder. I think I haven't told you yet how unhappy I am. Maybe it will seem too strong expression to you, but it is really very hard for me to live without my favourite music.

But to tell you finally what had happen: my tape-recorder has a special knob

on the other side by which it is possible to change tension (voltage) either to 110 Volts or 220 Volts. I recorded some tapes at my friends'. They live in an old house where the current is 110 Volts. Then

I came home and started listening to it (of course I forgot to change the voltage which is 220 in my students' house)

I think I don't need to tell you any more what happened about 10 minutes later - bump, fire, smoke.... oh, it was quite awful. The fuse failed and all motor was burnt. Thereby my hopeless wandering through Prague with the burnt motor began. There is no place in Czechoslovakia where they would be ready to repair it because it is a foreign product and they simply don't have the motor!

This happened at the end of May. At the end of June I found one boy in Ritz Service ~~who~~ I was acquainted with but I saw him last time 6 years ago. He promised to try Czech motor for my Philips. It was the last hope - the size was O.K., but when he put it in it proved to be too weak.

Dear Sir, I am writing you all this story (maybe boring for you) so that you would see I have no other chance, no ^{other} possibility than to ask you for this great favour. Would you find it possible to post that motor to me? The tape recorder is monophonic Philips 4307. I think it must be some Philips service in Oslo. And if it is not possible, please, write me soon.

7

I am listening to "Scheherazade" by
N.A. Rimsky-Korsakov - it is very
beautiful and romantic music -
the violin plays so tenderly and clearly
(I cannot find another word for it) and
it reminds me of Baghdad and
of passionate all-overcoming love.
Per, I think you like some kinds
of classical music too, please, would you
write me, which are your favourite
composers?

It is too late now, and I must finish.
Many greetings to you and to your friends.

Love, Irana.

1972 / 6

Dear Per,

I have just spoken with one electro-specialist and he told me that it might be many types of motors for the sort number 4307.

Therefore I am posting you exact data concerning my tape-recorder:

Tape-recorder Philips 4307

4 Track

Type N4 307/57

No. 358 227

Motor 50 Hz

I am sorry to trouble you and of course I can understand if it is not possible. But please, write me, even the negative answer, as soon as you possibly can. Thank you very much.

Love, Ivana

1972 / 7

13th August, 1972

Dear Per,

I have got your card and my non-technical mind has been a little bit confused by it. Currently I have also nobody to give me an advice.

But I believe that the information I gave you in my last letter must be sufficient. I think that a unit of current oscillation (cycles) is one Hertz.

As I told you in that previous letter (which you probably received after posting your card), our current has 50 Hertz (and I believe that means 50 cycles).

Another thing I can tell you is that Czechoslovakian current is the same as in Germany (B.R.D.), because the tape-recorder was playing there very well and nothing had to be changed in it in Prague. It is not important how many volts we have (usually it is 220V), because there is a knob behind by which it is possible to change it (thereby it happened that the motor has been burnt).

The other data of the Philips 4307 are (I write them once again): 4 Track, Type N4 307/57, Nr. 358 227.

And I am going to stop that electro-technical business now, I have only one more question: have you made any progress with your 4 channel stereo-system?

I am thinking of you picking berries (which ones? straw-berries, rasp-berries, black-berries, goose-berries..... I like all of them as I like all fruit, but most of all grapefruits).

I hope you will earn much money to be able to come to some eastern country once again. You are always very welcome in Czechoslovakia, don't forget it, please. Even if I haven't got any flat of myself in Prague, I have many friends there and I will certainly find some place for you - it will be no trouble at all. And when you are interested in countryside, you could spend a few days at my parents' in the country.

(3)

I am reading *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan you sent me some time ago once again now. Conditions for women are very different in our country, the most of our women are employed, because it is an economical necessity if the family has more children and wants to keep its living standard on a reasonable level, but in fact, it is not the point. Prejudices of the "feminine mystique" of feminine passivity, weakness, submission and the only task of women = motherhood are still more rooted in my country than (maybe) in the U.S.A. I find the book very good, because it gives you courage and the feeling every girl of my type needs: it is O.K. that you want to be first human being, to mature, to find your identity and to know what you are and what you want to be and then to share your personality with someone else. From time to time I would need desperately not only to read it but also to hear it - sometimes I don't feel very strong. I like some Friedan's

(4)

quotations very much, here is only one example:

"The most frequent manifestation of vicarious living is a particularly structured dependence on another person, which is often mistaken for love. Such extremely intense and tenacious attachments, however, lack all the essentials of genuine love - devotion, intuitive understanding and delight in the being of the other person in his own right and in his own way. On the contrary, these attachments are extremely possessive and tend to deprive the partner of a 'life of his own'. . . . The other person is needed not as someone to relate oneself to; he is needed for filling one's inner emptiness, one's nothingness. . . ."

It is pity this book has not been translated into Czech. I think if I have ever chance that it will be published I would try to translate it myself. For now I will translate at least some important parts for my friends. Thank you for that book once more.

Tomorrow I am going to post to you one record; I hope you will like it like a 'memory of Czechoslovakia'.

I can see you could understand why I put you the question about Common Market very well, even if I didn't say that. You know

I am a frank supporter of the idea of the united Europe or even the united world, of the world without frontiers and wars. But I can feel, and after your explanation I can understand,

that the Common Market is not the best basis for this union.

According to my opinion it is good also for a consumer if the sale goes quickly and easily and if he can get cheap goods from other countries as well. But I think you are right that it has no use to bring all the social and economical problems of the Common Market countries into Norwegian economy. Therefore I hope you will succeed in non-entering it!

On 12 September I am going to Roumania
(most probably). At the moment
I am still staying with my parents,
picking mushrooms, washing-up, doing
rooms and trying to help my mother.
Sometimes I am doing some cooking-
experiments and in the evenings I read
very long or I write letters as this
one to you. Please, write me soon -
Thanks very much indeed for everything.
I will say so-long to you for now,

With love

Ivana

1972 / 8

28th September 1972

Dear Per,

my holiday has been finished and tomorrow I am leaving for Prague. You have probably got two postcards from me, the first from Prague, the second one from the U.S.S.R. I should like to thank you once again for the electromotor - in fact you helped me where others failed or refused to help. I gave the motor to a friend of mine so that he might repair my tape-recorder, but then I left for the U.S.S.R. and therefore I don't know if he succeeded in doing so or not and if the motor was all right, but I firmly hope. My trip to Russia (or better to say to the Ukraine and Moldavia) was a very good experience. Our route was: Kijev - Kisinev - Odessa - Lvov. If I should tell you about these cities, my brief characteristics of them would be as follows: Kijev (the capital of ^{the} Ukraine, the third biggest city of the U.S.S.R.) is a modern city spread on the large area,

with many lawns, parks, trees, especially chestnuts^{trees}, which were flowering for the second time and had small chestnuts as well, because there was very hot and long summer in the Ukraine in this year. Streets were overcrowded with people in the evening, everybody was going out for a walk (guljat', how they call it), because there are not many places where you could sit down and have a drink or talk with friends. Therefore it is difficult to get there and everything is closed at twelve (that means they don't let you in at eleven any more). Kiev was much destroyed during the second world war, nearly everything blocks of flats, shops, department stores, underground etc. have been built after the war.

Kisinev is the capital of Moldavia, the country of wine, which we tasted in the wine-cellars and found it very good. Moldavia (Bessarabia) belonged to Roumania till the second world war, people speak Roumanian there and naturally their customs and characters are like in Roumania. We lived in the youth hotel,

the basic stone of which was laid by Jurij Alexejevič Gagarin in the year 1966 and which bears his name.

Odesa is a bit international town like all ports. There is a big bazaar where you can get (if you have money enough) everything, even ^{an} atomic bomb, as people in Odesa say. All Czechoslovakians are very fond of sea, because we have not got any. We were lucky to spend two days swimming and resting at the seaside before windy weather started.

Ivov, which used to be Polish and Jewish town, has many architectonical monuments and is very picturesque. But enough of the cities; as you know I am always interested particularly in people and their way of living and thinking. I have already been in all European socialist countries.

When I compare living standard in all of them according to what you can see in the streets (what people wear, what they buy, and in what flats they live) I must say that the highest is in Czechoslovakia and the lowest

in the Soviet Union. But most of the people seem to be satisfied, they believe that their lives will get better and better. There are nearly no private cars there; only cabs and business cars. The basic feeling is collectivism; people are used to depress their personal feelings and desires. It is very difficult to convince them that people in other countries can possibly live better. And even if they admit it their answer is: Firstly, we were an underdeveloped country when the Socialist Revolution came. Secondly, World War II crossed twice via our country and the Nazis left everything destroyed. Thirdly, we must protect our country and all socialist countries against the imperialistic war and devote much money for our army. You cannot argue very well especially with the second statement - they have certainly done much since the War and it is impossible to state if their progress could be greater. They honour their fallen and dead very much. There is

the "Monument to an Unknown Soldier" in every city. It is custom that every bride and bridegroom come and lay their flowers there. In Odessa school children stand as guards in front of the Monument to an Unknown Sailor. Every 15 minutes you can watch "Changing the Guards". It is very easy to establish contact there. I have had no difficulties in establishing contacts (superficial ones) in any country. But it was never so easy as in the U.S.S.R. It is so simple to speak to grown-ups as to children there. I love roaming in the streets and watching life of unknown cities. This time I was limited in my possibilities by my function as a guide and translator of the group, but I could repeat and improve my Russian by permanent translation at least if I have not spoken or read in that language almost 4 years). The organization of our trip was well (we have got a Russian guide, a girl 20 years old), but elsewhere the life seems to be overorganized and overdirected; also moral and sexual prejudices are

much stronger. My normal striped slacks had shocking effect, my sitting on a ballustrade as well; my question on some seaman-restaurant was answered with words doubting my moral qualities. You can often hear that this or that thing is not proper for the Soviet citizen. Of course, I could tell you much more, but it is not possible to describe all the small events, encounters, short dialogues and long discussions (we had even one Friendship Evening Party with the workers of one sugar factory etc.). All my impressions are shattering like pieces of some mirror - it is impossible (after 14 days) to come to any conclusion, generalization etc. I do not want even to try it.

Dear Per, how is your journey to G.D.R. and how are you?

I am sending you one record:

Peter Tchaikovsky - Francesca de Rimini (symphonic phantasy according to Dante) and Hamlet (overture-phantasy according to Shakespeare) played by State Symphonic

Orchestra, conducted by J. Gvellanov.
I have also translated what is written
on the cover from Russian for you.
I hope you will like ~~the~~ music.

Please, write soon.

Love, Irana.

PS: Please, write to my Prague address.

29th September

PS PS: Before than I post this letter,
I just want to tell you: how happy
I am that my tape-recorder plays
again!!!

Much love,
Irana

Peter Tchaikovsky

FRANCESCA DE RIMINI

The symphonic phantasy Francesca de Rimini was written according to the fifth song of the "Hell" (Divine Comedy) by Dante. Tchaikovsky himself wrote on the subject of this phantasy in a manuscript as follows:

Dante, together with the shadow of Virgil, descend the second part of hell-depths - they can hear cries, moans, curses. In the middle of the darkness there rules furious storm. Hell-wind takes and shatters souls of the people who were in their lives carried away from the right paths by love passion. Such sinners are numerous - but two of them, Francesca and Paolo, flying in eternal embrace, attract most of Dante's attention. He invites them to tell him why they were sentenced to suffer so much. Francesca's shadow, crying, tells him their sad story. She was in love with Paolo, but she had to marry an ugly jealous lunch-backed despot Rimini.

Shackles of such a marriage could not bear
her affection for Paolo out of her heart,
Once they read together a novel on Gancelot.

"We were alone," said Francesca, "and we read
and were afraid of nothing. Our excited
eyes often met. But only one moment destroyed
both of us: when, finally, happy Gancelot passes
his first love experience, that man, from whom
I will never be separated any more, kissed me,
we kissed each other and the book which
showed us the secret of love fell down
on the floor."

At that moment Francesca's husband
entered the room and killed both the lovers
with his dagger. And telling this, Francesca
and Paolo, she in his arms, were taken
away by wild wind, forever flying together.

Dante, moved by their unhappy fortune,
fainted and fell down like a dead.

HAMLET

Tchaikovsky dedicated his overture-phantasy Hamlet to Edward Grieg, ^{whose} ~~the~~ work of which he valued very high. Their affection was mutual - in Tchaikovsky's house-museum in Klin there can be found a suite by Grieg with a touching dedication to Tchaikovsky.

The Overture was finished on 4th October 1888 and on 12th November Tchaikovsky was conductor of its first-night concert in Petersburg. He did not let us any contents (programme) of it, but its scheme and also the music composed later, in the year 1891, for the whole Shakespeare's tragedy performed in Michailovsky Theatre in Petersburg, helped us to follow it quite easily.

The basic topics of Hamlet are: philosophical meditations, "difficult fight of Hamlet against King Claudius and his clique, the theme of death (funeral march), contrasted with tender Ophelia's love, expressed twice by Oboe's theme.

This overture was brilliantly composed

for a numerous symphonic orchestra —
contrasts of dynamics, movements, shades
bring its hearers into enthusiasm.

Hamlet belong to one of the
best "programme" music pieces
by Tchaikovsky.

1972 / 9

17th October 1972

Dear Ar,

This is going to be a very short letter, because you will soon get a sound letter from me.

I just want to inform you about the songs I have ~~recorded~~ for you :

I track

The End of Summer - Viktor Godoma
The Kingdom of Winter - Yvonne Brenosilová

II track

My love - a group "Shut up"
Mon Dieu - Edith Piaf
Je ne Regrette Rien - Edith Piaf
Move Over - Janis Joplin

III track

The beautiful and the damned Love - Hana Hegerová
Stamp out Loneliness - The Rangors
I want to live - Aphrodite's Child

IV track

Six Days on the Road - Taj Mahal
Sirtaki - Theodorakis
Sleep my little prince - Karl Gott

You know the songs have been recorded from my tape-recorder on another one (Czech one, which I have borrowed from my friends). I am sorry it cannot be stereo, but I hope that you will be satisfied at least with the choice of the songs, if not with the technical quality. (sure it is no Hi-Fi!).

Please, write me soon, if you have got the tape and the previous records. There are always some news flying in our country, that sometimes letters or parcels are posted and not received.

Now I am sleepy and tired to death - I wanted to finish it all in order to be able to post

Albi's letter and the tape tomorrow,

so I am going to bed.

Your Irena

1972 / 10

①

21st November 1972

Dear Per,

Thanks for your letter. I think I will try to post you another sound letter one day - the difficulty is not that it would be too expensive, but it takes much more time than normal letter (you know it yourself). And I also have to borrow another tape-recorder and transport everything over to my friends', because it is impossible to speak to you in presence of other people - and in the student college there are always some other people, at least my room-mate. Anyway, I will try to overcome these difficulties, because I have also great pleasure ~~not~~ only in listening to your tapes but also in taping my own ones for you.

As to your will to visit Czechoslovakia, I really meant it. You know I cannot imagine that if I said to my boy-friend that I would go to Norway where I happened

To have a friend, he should be hurt by that. But certainly it depends - maybe he would want to get some promise from me which would satisfy him (my friends know that my promises are not being given in order to be broken) and maybe that I could not give him such a promise with good conscience and therefore I would refuse to give any promise at all - then it would be different. But let's leave it - maybe (or better to say certainly) you are right that I do not feel enough responsibility to others, because I am used to be responsible only to myself.

When I read that you got a blackeye etc. the strange coincidence just strike me. Saturday night I was running away from a man who was threatening me and I nearly got under a car. Luckily I got out of that without any serious harm - I had only light concussion of the brain and my face has been hurt a little; and of course I suffered sort of nervous break-down, because all that

(3)

happened under quite horrid circumstances. I realised for the first time in my life what masculine brutal force means; and how helpless woman can be, how indifferent strange people are and what terrible consequences alcohol can cause. (The last two facts have not been new for me, however). As I said before, it happened nothing so awful at the end; but this incident has shaken my self-confidence that I am able to solve crisis situations with calm head. Certainly I could not foresee what would happen, but my reaction was really rash and emotional which can always lead to bad ends.

I am sending you some comics - it is a series called Lips Tullian at the castle Königstein (Lips Tullian is a chief robber, the most feared one). It is being published in Czech magazine "The Young World" which appears every week and which is practically the only one published for youth in Bohemia. I am not sure if it can be of any help to you. (I must tell you that I do not like the comics at all), and I will try

(4)

To send you some more.

I think I must finish now,
because I am going to my French lessons.
I take it twice a week and I am quite
"in love" with French language, I like
it very much. I think that the best
poems ever written must have been written
in French, particularly when it were
amour poèmes.

I hope you will find time
to drop me a line again soon.

Every best wish and much love,

Your still slightly shaken

Ivana

(both physically and
mentally) -

Dear Ben,

here am I writing you again.

I haven't disappeared from the surface of the world as you might suppose. I have only closed one chapter of my life and I don't want to return to that again. But I feel nearly like that little girl you met at the first time in Prag - oh, how many years ago? And I wonder what's new with you? Haven't you got married yet? how does it look like with the building of your house? and how with your book and

records? and with your job? and with YOU?
And now I'd like to tell you all about those
things, but about me. I have still much to do
in the University; it's the last but one year
of my studies, but I think it's only now
we have so many lectures and seminars I am
really interested in. I like especially an American
professor lecturing American literature, lectures
in modern English literature are good as well and
sometimes we have some very excited discussions
with an English lecturer (in lessons of conversation).
The topics are various; "The more you understand,
the less happy you are" "Are there any communications
between people possible?" "Is some kind of
censorship necessary?" "Can religion have any

relevance today" "Does romantic love exist"
"Travelling" etc. Most of them I'd like better
to discuss with you, and personally. You probably
can't know it - but in many questions
concerning life you have influenced me very much,
because you have much more experience and
you have never had reason to tell (or to write)
to me something else than ^{what} you really meant.


Otherwise I try to earn some money with
trying to be able to buy some small things
which make my life (or sometimes lives of other
people) more pleasant. It's quite a good job.
I've just got a record "Judy Collins Wildflowers"
It's another woman whose voice and songs
I like very much (after Bess, Lura Nyro,
Joni Mitchell - you have taught me to know
both of them). Then I love more and more Piaf

and one of our best chanson-singers Kana
Hegerová. Do you know her name?

You know, after my long journey abroad,
I was so glad that I'm at home again that
I didn't think of some new one too much.
But in the next year I will try hard to go
somewhere far, if only possible. My heart
has started to beat like a perpetual traveller
again. I see, that my Christmas wishes are
not short at all - but I'd like to believe
for the best in the next year for both of us
and for everybody.

~~Yes~~ I'll be more pleased than you can
think if I hear about you soon.

ORIGFOTO Kamila Skopová • BV 32840 179 - 4404/C58u

Nakladatelství  Praha

Your Wang

LETTERS

1973

Dear Per,

Thanks very much for your tape -
 I was happy to hear about you again.
 I like Norwegian and Swedish music
 but best of all I like Laila Nyro and
 that another lady (I do not know how
 to write her name) with her Child of
 the North and especially her Thanks
 for the Birthday Card - this song
 has touched me somewhere very near
 ... of my heart or soul or wherever human
 feelings might be deposited. You know
 that I like better women voices in
 music (e.g. Joni Mitchell or Joan Baez you
 sent me before, or our Hana Kegerová,
 or some French singers - lately I have recorded
 one LP by Françoise Hardy and by a singer
 of Greek origin Nana Mouskouri and I listen
 to it nearly every day). It seems to me
 that ^{only} women are able to sing melancholic

songs with real feeling, to live them over like an experience of their own.

(Of course, there are some exception to it:

Leonard Cohen and his Songs of Love and Hate and another LP I don't know the name of it etc.

As to americanising of Grieg's music, I think there are two points of view if transforming classical music to pop-music. It is possible to take some piece of old music and to modernize it just for fun or like a joke - of course it presumes that it is no music which is not allowed to ridicule with regards on national feelings (let's exaggerate - it can't certainly be national anthem, I and probably it can't also be your Grieg or our Smetana and Dvořák). But on the other hand I believe it is possible to take some tune of classical music and to use it with much sensitiveness in a new song - contemporary composers do that often with folk-tunes and it does not do any harm.

As to American musicals generally - probably we haven't seen as many of those "super-films" here in Czechoslovakia as you have.

Therefore I think that at least some of them, if well shot, have their place like ^{an} entertainment (Hello Dolly, My Fair Lady, Funny Girl) and they are harmless as to spoiling taste because everybody can see at once that they are just for a fun.

I could hear from your voice that you were tired - maybe you always take too many duties on your shoulders, but I feel you must have been strong enough to bear them. Anyway, human beings usually don't long for quiet happiness, even if they say so. But maybe you should have more time for yourself and your desires. I am sending you a few Czech jokes, mostly international ones, without comments, you might find some of them funny.

I am going to be very busy in the next one and a half month: in March I am going to sit for my

final state exam in English and I am quite afraid of it. Per, I would like to ask you for a favour. You know, I have no source where to study American literature (in English language) from. Would you find it possible to get for me in Norway either: Robert E. Spiller - The Cycle of American Literature

or: Marcus Cunliffe - The Literature of the U.S.A.?

As to my theses on Stefan Zweig, the best thing written on him should be

H. Arens - Stefan Zweig, sein Leben, sein Werk.
(Mit Beiträgen von W. Bauer u. a.)
Eßlingen 1949

or Hans Arens - Stefan Zweig im Zeugnis seiner Freunde
(Herausgeber)
München, Wien: Langen/Müller 1968

or at least any Zweig's Monography written in English or German which collects his life and work.

I do not know, which are your possibilities for getting books which were not published in Norway; but I think maybe it is possible to get some of them in second-hand bookshop or somewhere. It would really be a great help for me.

Recently I've received a few new photographs taken by my friend during holidays in Roumania and Bulgaria 1971. You know they are snapshots all of them and I did not know that he took them; I must have been tired and I had no make-up or something like that (you know my way of travelling - hitch-hiking and sleeping outside), but I feel now, how happy I was in that time. The first of the quickies was taken on board of a steamer on the Danube, the second one when we climbed up to the top of OMVL (Cămpulung, 2505 m) and the third one somewhere in a monastery-region in Roumania, in the evening, when I was writing letters.

I would like to go to Norway and England this holiday - I wonder if I'll be successful in realizing my plans.

I think that's all for now.
Have a nice time and do not work

as hard as I will have to from now
to 20th March.

With much love

Your Ivan

1973 / 2

28th March, 1973

Dear Per,

Thank you very much for the books - they arrived just in time so that I could make use of them. I passed my state exam quite well - I got twice number one and twice number two. (our university marking system is as follows : one means excellent, two quite well, three well; four means that you did not pass the exam). The state examination consists of a written and ^{an} oral part. In the written part I could choose among three literature topics and three "grammar" topics. I wrote about American novelists after the second world war with concentration on some special themes and forms (Gaul Bellow, Bernard Malamud,

Norman Mailer, William Styron, John Updike and Philip Roth).

The next day I was examined in English and American literature, secondly in grammar, historical development of English language, English phonetical system and vocabulary and thirdly in didactics (i. e. how to teach English at school). Each part of the exam takes one hour, for the written exam we got four hours. I was very happy when it was all over, but I was so tired that I was unable to celebrate it that evening. Then I left for my parents' for a few days and the very celebration of my passing the exam (together with my a little late birthday party) will take place this Friday.

Now I am going to work on my Stephan Zweig theses. And after finishing it I must sit for the final exam in German and I'll be finished with the University. (it will be in autumn - or it should be).

Another news is that I should like to visit Scandinavia this summer and I will do my best to arrange it. If everything went O.K., I would be happy to see you. But all this still lies in future, as you wrote once - "only the time will show."

I am going to be a guide of a group of Danish students since Sunday who are coming to see Prague for a week. Prag starts to be very beautiful

in this time of the year, it is warm,
the air is sweet and everybody
seems to feel spring in it.

I hope to get your answer soon.
With many greetings and much love

Yours
Ivana.

Dear Per,

I have been very happy to hear about you once again, even if the news you wrote were not very pleasing. You know I have got "sort of naïve sense for justice and I cannot understand that the people who are the best, must have so many troubles and difficulties in their lives. Sometimes I think that I do not deserve so much luck in my practical life - as to ^{the} practical things I have always reached everything what I wanted - I mean my studies, passing exams, getting a flat in Prague, travelling, I have every reason to be very

optimistic as to my future job too,
 (I should like to teach at the University)
 etc. - but I think that I should
 touch the wood!!! I had also never
 had special difficulties concerning
 money - I am quite modest and
 I do not spend much and when
 I need some money, when I want
 to buy something or to go somewhere
 I simply earn ^{for} it. I get some money
 from my parents every month, too,
 and I have scholarship at the Uni -
 versity. I have also never had
 great problems with my parents -
 they are very nice and unselfish
 people, but they do not understand
 me and the world I am living in
 at all; e.g. they have no under-
 standing for my travels, nearly every

journey of mine was done against their will and therefore completely without their help or advice; I think that they find me slightly extravagant, maybe even "not normal" and I have some quarrels with my father about politics - but in general, everything is O.K.. I admit that the reason of this ideal state might be that I have not been staying with them since 15 years of age. Now when I shall start working in autumn, I will be completely independent.

My personal life is another thing - I do not mean only love, but I always feel some thorns of dissatisfaction in my heart and

I feel lonely even in a company of friends. Usually I believe that all this is my fault but sometimes I accuse the evil destiny and then I cry. Anyway, I am not going to put my deal to your own troubles which are much more serious. I feel that you have one great advantage compared with me - you are already strong in your mind, a strong and firm personality, which cannot be said about me.

Dear Por, it is almost certain that I am coming to Oslo and I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to it. I do not know if I have already told you that I should come with the girl I have been staying with at the students' hostel for 4 years and

with 2 friends of us. They were planning to go to Scandinavia by car long before and when they found out that me and my room-mate were planning nearly the same they made up their mind to take us with them which would make our trip cheaper and more comfortable. I do not know the boys very well but I think they are quite nice. They studied chemistry and now they work and study in some laboratory.

We are supposed to leave Prague on Friday, 22nd June,

to go through Germany, Denmark and Sweden to Oslo (with short stops in Würzburg, Copenhagen and Stockholm). That means that we should come to Oslo on 30th June or 1st July (I think you can understand that I cannot tell the date exactly; a difference of one or two days is still possible). I think that we shall stay three days and then go further to the north. There is one thing I should like to ask you: would you find it possible to find some place where we could stay for three nights? Practically it means to find one room, because we shall have our sleeping-bags

7

with us and you would not need to worry with beds. I can understand from your letter that it would be probably impossible to stay with you, especially in the meantime.

You know, formerly I thought that it would be the best, particularly for both of us because we would have time enough for discussions - there are so many things which are easier to talk about if you can get an immediate answer - but I do not dare to believe that it would be possible.

Dear Per, therefore I thought that maybe you could ask some of your friends if they had no room to spare for three nights - it would be a great help for us.

But if there is too much trouble with it or if it is not possible, do not worry about it, please. In every case I should like to ask you to write me as soon as possible. Please, write me too, how I could find you - in which direction from Oslo Del Hageby lies, how far it is, which is the best way to get there and how to get there by car, (is it a villa or a flat where you stay?), what I shall do if I do not find you at home, where it is possible to leave some message, etc. Maybe that you have also some telephone number. If there is something you would like to have from Czechoslovakia, write me that too, please.

With the great wish that we might see each other soon,

PS: Write to my Prague address, please. Yours Ivan

1973 / 4

1

Dear Per,

I should like to tell you many things *
but as this letter should be posted
as soon as possible I will write only
about practical arrangements.

First, I do not know where you are
going to stay in Prague, if you have got
some hotel-booking etc. If not, I could
help you. You know that friend of mine
with whom I was in India is in the army
now for one year and I have got a key
of his flat. I am quite sure that he
would not object against your staying there
for a few days. The house is very old and
the flat consists of one room, a small kitchen
*
as the reaction on your last letter

and ^abathroom; certainly it is not luxurious but if you do not mind you could stay there. I would leave the key with my girl-friend who would take you to the flat. In the map I am posting you in another envelope there is a place where she is working marked with a circle. ~~It is~~ ~~foreign trade corporation~~ called PRAGOEEXPORT and it is really in the centre of Prague, so that you might have no troubles with finding it. The girl's name is VENDULA ŠINDELÁŘOVÁ and she was my class-mate and room-mate when I was studying the secondary economic school of foreign trade (the time when we met each other). She speaks German and also a bit English. The address of the corporation is: Pragoexport,

Jungmannova 34, Praha 1; telephone number
 24 50 51 and then you would have to ask
 for her (but it is not far from any
 railway station, therefore I have chosen her;
 it would be easier to go there personally
 than to call). She is working approximately
 from half past seven to half past three
 in the afternoon and she is there all the
 time except when she goes to eat at
 midday. Please, write me, in which
 way you have made up your mind and
 if I should leave the key there.

The second thing is that we are
 going to be in Sweden approximately
 at the same time, therefore I think (if
 your girl-friend won't mind, but tell her, please, what
 is quite obvious that I am too far to be "dangerous" and even
 if I were in Oslo I do not think I could, ^{have a} real relation between you
 that we could meet us there. We are (and her)
 going from Copenhagen to Stockholm

about 28th June, we are supposed to be in Stockholm on 29th June. We shall probably stay there on the following address (in every case the girl, who is a friend of one of the boys, will know where we are):

IRÈNE STERNBERG, SVETSARVÄGEN 17,
17573 JÄRFÄLLA, SWEDEN. I do not

know where your father lives. If in Stockholm, it should be quite easy to meet us there.

Please, write me his address and maybe you could propose some place in Stockholm which is easy to find and time when I should come there (e.g. ^{The} Main Post Office from three to four o'clock in the afternoon on 30th June or something better, because I think that you know the places better than me). I think that even if your father does not live in Stockholm we could stop somewhere on the way if you give me his address and when exactly you are going to be there (and maybe his telephone number).

We are going to come to Oslo on 2nd July and stay 3 days there. I would be much grateful to your mother if we could stay in your house with her. But please, ask her, if she really does not mind. Of course, I would be much happier if you could postpone your departure for 3 days, so that we might meet us in Oslo. Unfortunately, I have not been successful in making the others for changing our plans - there are also some serious reasons for not changing them.

As to the hints for your vacation, I hope to be able to give ^{you} more detailed information in Sweden or in Oslo. Very briefly: there is not much to be seen in Hungary, only Budapest is an interesting

city reminding me of Prague or Vienna. Czechoslovak tourists often go to the Balaton Lake, but it is overcrowded (I mean the banks of it), the landscape is flat and it is much more pleasant to swim in the sea.

In Poland, Warsaw is a modern city. I think that from the historical point of view Krakow is much more interesting. There is a region of ponds and lakes which is said to be very nice, but I have not been there. I think that you should certainly see the so-called Three-Towns (= Gdynia, Gdansk, Sopoty). There is also a monastery Oliwa with the largest organ with moving figures in Europe. If you had chance to listen to ^{some} organ concert there, do that, it is really fantastic.

As to Prague, I am really very sorry that I shall not be able to show it to you myself and to be "a private guide" once. You know the basic things yourself and I am posting you some booklets, especially where you could go in the evening. Our plans are mismatching again and again, so that ~~everything~~ remains one great IF....

Please, if you could write me the same day when you will get this letter to my Prague address, because elsewhere I would not be able to receive your letter. You can write only a short message about the key, about your stay in Sweden and if it is O.K. to come on 2nd July to Oslo to your house.

With much love,

Irana

PS : Will you excuse my bad writing, please ?

PS PS : Please, give my best wishes to your girl-friend. I should be very sorry if the simple fact of my existence disturbed her. You know, according to my opinion and my experience, where a real love-relation exists, there cannot be any jealousy, because fidelity and mutual confidence are natural, quite matter-of-fact, without doubt. And I am not so self-confident that I could imagine even in my most daring dreams or images, in which way I should threaten her peace of mind.

1973 / 5

Dear Per, I wish both of you a wonderful
stay in Prague. & My friend Vendula
is ready to help you with everything.
If you want you can also leave here
some message for me about your impressions.

I am quite unhappy that I could not
meet you and help you myself, but
c'est la vie and I am used to the
fact that we cannot have everything.

With the best wishes,

Yours, Trang

Dear Per,
it has been quite touching to see the place
where I have been posting letters for 6 years.
I would not believe that your house exists!
I saw all your records and I could convince
myself that they were really many, many of them.
Your mother has been very nice to us; she also
showed me many of your photographs with
a proper commentary; please, give her my thanks
once again.

We ~~are~~ have come to Norway and to Oslo
after Denmark and Sweden. I liked Copenhagen
very much - it is my second or third native
city (together with Prague and West Berlin),
it is very "gemüthlich" and I know many people
here - some of them are my real friends and
I feel free and happy with them.

In Stockholm I was for the first time.
It is a real city with modern buildings
or even sky-scrapers and ^{with a} port and ships and the
Old Town together - but you know it yourself,
my impression was that it was marvellous,
but "cold".

You were too modest when writing that
there was not much to be seen in Oslo.
The scenery round the city is really beautiful
and we saw also Skansen, Kon-Tiki, Fram,
Vikingships/ which is for Czech people who

have no sea always a great ^{experience} ~~impression~~)
Vigeland park, National Gallery and tomorrow
we'll still see some things, among others
Munch's Museum. I like Munch very much -
~~he represents for me~~ he is the representation of my image
of Scandinavian nature and people - all the
beautiful rough scenery and melancholic and
quiet men and women painted in soft colours
and lines. So it is a real impression for
me to see so many Munchs together.

Now I am sitting here ~~and~~ in your living
room and I am listening to Solveig's song
(original one, not the American version), it is
nearly midnight and I am thinking of
you if you are all night in Prague
at Pustarní 4^{1. KUNESOVA}. Please, after your return,
write me: POSTE RESTANTE, GENERAL POST
OFFICE, WEST BERLIN, where I'll be staying
since 20th July; & I would like to know
if everything was O.K. in Prague.

In fact, I am very triste ^{and} sad that
I have not met you, but I am happy at least,
that I saw Oslo and that I shall see
your beautiful country.

Anyway I'll close my letter now,
because everybody wants to go to bed
and I am disturbing them. Dear Per, thanks ^{once more}
for your helping me again.
Love, Ivana

P.S.: Tomorrow we are leaving to the north ~~and~~ (till Munich)
and back via Sweden - Stockholm - again.

Dear Per,

Thanks very much for your long letter; if you feel the next time that you could write for ever, please do that, because then I shall have something to read for ever.

It has been more than a month since the day I received your letter. I am happy to say that most of my existential problems have been solved in that month. I have passed my state exam in German and in that way I have finished the University; I shall take my M.A. degree (or something on that level) at the beginning of December.

I also left the student's hostel - in fact I had to leave it already at the end of September, because there is a lack of places there and our rooms

were necessary for younger students.

Then I stayed at my aunt's for three weeks which she spent on her holiday in Yugoslavia and now I live with my girl-friend in a modern flat **at** the outskirts of Prague. It is a quarter of new blocks of flats and the flats themselves are very nice, comfortable, luxurious. But the houses, which are about 12 floors high, which are monotonous, not coloured, every house looks like the others, there is a lack of green grounds between the houses and the names of all streets are after some famous Slovakian writer, so that everybody mixes them and nobody can tell you where the street you look for is to be found etc. — all that has a very depressive effect and such a uniformity let you feel that man is not really important.

Anyway, I shall stay here only till

the end of this year and then I shall move to a flat of my own. I am looking forward to it very much, but you must not think that I am not satisfied with living at my friend's. She is a nice girl and she helped me much because I was in a difficult situation when I was looking for a flat where I could study. She was making our meals, trying to keep quiet and encourage me all the time. I am ~~used to living to two~~ and I do not mind it, but I am looking forward especially to furnishing my flat in accordance with my imagination. I shall post you my new address as soon as I know it.

The fact that I finished my studies does not mean that I am not busy all the time. Since 1st November I am working as a teacher of English and German. I teach students from 15 to 19 years of age. I have been doing that only for a few days but I like it. I understand

the students very well - there is no great difference in their mentality and that of mine ; I am the same, I only have got more experience. I am supposed to teach there until^{le} July ; then I should like to start teaching at the University which is connected with translating and other creative activities in the field of language.

I do not think that I am going to get married in a very near future. I am not alone, but I still do not feel ready and ripe for connecting my life with someone else's for ever (or let's say for a very long time) and I do not feel any urge for official confirmation of my relations. I am strictly monogamous in my heart, but on the other hand (as you ^{can} probably imagine) I have got a restless nature, longing for adventures, for seeing new countries and people, learning more and more, maybe even sort of Faustian doubts on me and everything. I do not know if I have right to tell you that; but I am going to take

the liberty of our longterm friendship and to express my opinion that for the man who still likes girls so much that he can imagine from one smile of an unknown Polish girl the sweetness of love-romance he could experience with her etc. is marriage not the best he should do. I also do not believe that it is enough to say "it would be the same with any other girl," even if I believe that your feelings for your girl-friend might be much stronger than you are tactfully ready to show in a letter to me. Anyway, if you get married at Christmas I should like to wish to both of you much happiness by the old Roman sentence: *Quod bonum, felix, faustum, fortunatumque sit.*

In your last letter you wrote me about a few interesting experiences from your travelling. My Scandinavian journey

seems to me only like a dream now, because it has been covered with so many problems of the day. I found Norway very beautiful; I think that if somebody wants to see famous architecture, he must go to Italy, France, Greece (or to Prague), but Scandinavian nature is without competition. I love that rough and deserted sort of beauty we could see behind the polar circle; — mountains, lakes, water falls and the midnight sun (the most northern place we reached was Tromsø).

I believe that it is not pleasant to stay in a city when summer is so hot as it was this year and I really hope to meet you in Prague in spring.

I have not heard about the results of the elections in Norway — of course the result would interest me very much.

7

I think that is all for today.

I'd be happy to hear about you soon.

Love,
Ivana

My address:

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ
c/o BLANKA ZEMANOVÁ
SLÁDKOVIČOVA 1306/128
PRAHA 4 - SÍDLIŠTĚ KRČ
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LETTERS

1974

1974 / 1

11th January, 1974

Dear Per,

it has been a long time since I got the last letter from you. I suppose that you have got married, but still I believe that you will drop me just a few lines how the things are and what's new.

The New Year started favourably and satisfactory for me. Finally I have got a new flat for myself in Prague - it is not big (a room, a kitchen and all what belongs to that), but it is enough for one, or even for two

persons, and I am happy to have it.

I shall start teaching at the University since February, too - (besides my teaching at the Secondary Economic School) and that's also very good, because I do not lose the contact with the University milieu which offers the best opportunities and where I feel free. Unfortunately all I teach is German, I don't have any possibility to use my English at the meantime.

It has been much spoken about oil & petrol crisis which exists in all western countries in our press and radio. I would be interested very much if you

could explain me how the things
are and if it is really as bad
and what's your opinion on
this matter.

Please, give my best wishes
to your mother and write me
soon to my new address, which
will be (as I hope) more permanent
than the previous ones (but "You
never can tell" - as G.B. Shaw wrote):

IVANA KUNEŠOVÁ
SARATOVSKÁ 7
100 00 PRAHA 10
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Love,
Ivana

Dear Per,

your letter has made me think much about myself; firstly about my personal life and secondly of the interests. To the first point I have realized that I have all material prepositions to get married now - i. e. I have the flat of my own and I earn myself my living (it is a strange feeling, because I was supported by my parents until November of the last year); but the question is, if I am mentally ripe for that. The only thing ~~is~~ I know is, that I don't want to be alone, but nobody wants to. I have a boy-friend, who I have got acquainted six months ago, and I am fond of him, but.... I have a special theory on the grade of being in love with somebody. A theoretical unit of it is

one AMOR (a god of love). The maximum of love you can feel for a person is 10 amors, and every of these numbers below it is characterized by certain symptoms. So I would say that my love for my boy-friend is about 8 amors, ~~be~~ it is quite a strong feeling (I don't want to write about its features, it would take a long time and much place to explain it, it will be probably of no interest for you and I am also slightly ashamed), but I have already known a boy, whom I loved to the grade of 9 amors. Anyway, I must not forget to tell you, that such a theory has been thought out more for a fun, than for being taken seriously.

There is one more thing in my life which most of the people find strange and I would like to know

your opinion on that. I keep warm friendly contacts with all my former boy-friends - with those who left me and also with those whom I left. (By the way, they are not many, I am pretty monogam and I don't like short-termed sexual relations at all - you have written yourself that Czechoslovakia is a "puritan" country). The reason for that lies probably in the fact that we were honest one to another and that we do not see why we should be angry one with another, even if we parted. And to say the truth, I had never had such a good friendship with a girl like with a boy. Everything would seem to be all right, but imagine now, that I start a new relationship with a boy, who, let's suppose that,

because I am never sure about it,
 is in love with me. I can understand
 his jealousy, because I know myself
 the strength of some memories,
 the unforgettable charm of some
 minutes spent together, of days, weeks
 and months spent in foreign cities
 and countries and therefore connected
 with them. - I know all that and
 I am jealous, quite nonsensically, of
 the past myself. But boys usually
 leave their girl-friends definitely,
 for ever, without keeping contacts -
 fortunately. It would interest me
 what your reaction would be, if your
 girl-friend (or wife) would keep such
 friendships; I just want to stress
 once more, that word FRIENDSHIP -
 we simply have a talk from time to
 time, they help me in the things

they know better than me and the other way round.

To the second point: you have really got plenty of various interests - I think that my list will be more modest:

languages

English, American literature and the literature of German speaking countries (mostly contemporary)

psychology

philosophy

geography

What I like to do:

reading

listening to the music (very old one and very new one + French chansons)

visiting picture expositions or watching the pictures in good books (impressionists and surrealists are my favourites)

going to the theatre or to the concert

talking ~~with~~ intelligent people (or corresponding with them)

Travelling

Swimming

Walking alone in the woods

What I would like to do if I could :

Sailing round the world

Writing poems and novels

Translating good books into Czech

Living with someone I would love
on a deserted island with plenty
of fruits

And I will complete the list with
the things I like :

Channel No. 5

cold water, ice, ice-cream and everything
what is cold and clean
grapefruits

Campari

almonds

red and white roses and all flowers
fur carpets etc.

This list is incomplete.

As to parapsychology - I do not know much about it, but I have been thinking of it very often. E.g. I cannot imagine that somebody could make me to do, in a sort of hypnotical sleep, every-thing according to his will (I would like to try that once). On the other hand I believe that there must ~~be~~ some "waves" which enable understanding between persons, even if they do not speak or look at each other. And if there is something like that, why could not function it even if the persons are 100 km one from another?

I have a girl-friend whose father is interested scientifically in these things. Recently, he has made a certain discovery in this field. He found a special quality in some persons, who are able by means of

a kind of magnetic units, which he called "mentions," to influence the others. This influence is very strong; you can imagine that, especially in this country, everybody was saying that it was fraud, but no scientists were able to explain his experiments by other, "more scientific," theories. You can also imagine, how dangerous such a discovery is in its consequences, if it proves to be true. I am not able to explain it to you, because I also know about it only from his daughter, but the fact is, that he has been invited to Moscow and that he caused "sort of sensation" in informed circles.

I think that's all for today.
 Dear Per, I congratulate you to your house, because I know that is really the fulfillment of one of your dreams, and I wish sincerely to you and your girl-friend all the best in your common life.
 Trans.

1974 / 3

1

28th April, 1974

Dear Per,

I am ^{in the} country for the weekend,
but the weather is bad, cold and windy,
and I have got a bad cold, so
I am sitting at home and writing
this letter. First to the coins:
I am also not very sure if it is
allowed to post them and I have not
had time yet to inquire at
the customs-house; but I am sending
you some change (5 hellers - 1963, 1973;
10 hellers 1963-1971, except 1970;
20 hellers 1973, 1974) - if you get it
all right, I'll send you some more.

As I can understand you have
bought a nice house - very romantic

one. I hope that I'll be able to see it one day, too. This holiday, I do not plan any private trip abroad.

I shall probably serve as a guide of our travelling agency Čedok and of the travelling agency of youth CKM. Maybe that I'll go abroad (to some socialist country probably) with a group of Czech tourists for three weeks.

Our holidays start on 1st July and I have much to do until that day - I should like to have the furniture for my flat finished, so that I could arrange the flat according to my taste finally. Secondly, I try to get the telephone, which is also no easy task in Prague and it cost much time, nerves and money to receive it.

And thirdly, I try to get a full-time job at the University and to leave the teaching at the secondary school in the next school-year, because it is really quite difficult "to serve two masters" as an old Czech proverb says.

You can see that those are only "practical" things, but it is very important to carry them out so that I might feel comfortable and satisfied.

Elsewhere I do not have much time left, but I read a lot. Recently I have been helping my girl-friend with her theses on Heinrich Böll's "Gruppenbild mit Dame" ("A portrait of a lady" ~). It is his last novel which could represent the summarization

of his life-work: there is much of non-conformism, desire for free life and ridiculity of prejudices in it. You recognized that I had not been in the high spirits last time when I had written the letter to you. In fact I have no special reason for that but my recent state of mind could be called general dissatisfaction with myself. You have done a very important step in your life; write me please about your plans for holidays and about your further plans.

Best wishes to Ann-Elisabeth
and to you,

Love
Ivana

1974 / 4

1

Dear Per,

it was a very good letter you sent me, because after reading it I am feeling desire to argue with you and to explain you some things.

To those "practical things." One of my professors at the University (about 35 years old) lecturing on contemporary German literature has had long discussions with me on various attitudes to some literary works, interpreting them etc. He is a sort of skeptical person, burning for his work, with fantastic knowledge not only in his limited literature area. He does not think much of women as scientists (you will probably say that it is a wrong prejudice vaccinated to our blood by the society, but, nevertheless, the fact is, that especially in the region of abstract thinking ~~are~~ men are much better than women; maybe that there are some exceptions confirming the rule but

I do not know them). During one of my consultations with that professor (he helped me with my theses too) I got really excited and angry about some question, which was more of political than literary character (it was something about Böll and his attitudes). He tried to calm me and said: "Don't let it bother you too much, at the end you will recognize, that there are other things which matter. Finally you will find out that it is more important to buy a chair you wanted for your flat for a long time than to interpret some novel." Everything inside me cried NO, NEVER. But now, after finishing the University, I am sometimes afraid, that he was right. There are so many "practical" things which the society places on one's shoulders - not only the job, profession, but hundreds of trifles you MUST do from social or "moral" reasons, that there is little time left for

sitting, reading or just thinking.
 And e.g. furnishing the flat takes
 in this country much more nerves
 than in yours - not always you can
 get what you like, even if you have
 money. When I think of it that
 I must only take care of myself,
 not of any husband or child and
 still I have so much to do, I start
 to understand what the words of
~~my professor~~ meant. (I am twenty
 five years old now).

I don't think that there is
 put more weight on materialistic
 things in our country than in yours
 or any other western country - I suppose
 it is the other way round. If you
 are NOT a romantic person (in my sense
 of this word, & which I doubt) I certainly
 am, because I would be ready to sacrifice
 all the comfortabilities of my daily life,
 the importance of which I do not deny,

for a good human relation which would somebody offer me. Travelling means for me much more than getting acquainted with new places. The way of my travelling always brings ~~the~~ new contacts to people - travelling hitch-hiking makes you dependant on other people's willfulness to help; I am sometimes dependant on the hospitability of my friends, sometimes only on myself and my abilities of Robinson. (with the reserve, that, as you know, I have never travelled alone). And when I go abroad as a guide of a travelling agency (or serve as a guide of groups coming to our country), I must take care of other people, which is the part I like very much. (sometimes I cannot decide if it is better to be taken care of by someone or to take care of someone ~~myself~~ myself). It is really difficult not to fall into ~~paralities~~ ~~paralities~~ - unfortunately I lack the creative power of a writer. This spring I do not feel the wonderful melancholy which evokes

in me any beauty. I am too cool inside, I am only observing without any feelings at all. There is a lack of emotional impulses in my life which I try to balance by escaping into the world of other people - real ones or heroes of some fictional stories. You would not believe how young and alone I sometimes feel - like if I were fifteen. It is not a proper feeling for a person who should not only teach German, but also to educate her pupils. In fact, the only thing which I am able to inculcate them with my full conviction, is the sense of immense tolerance - maybe also the desire to know more - but that is all. I am the youngest among the teachers at the secondary economic school and also the youngest teaching at the University. It is very strange for me to examine students because I was examined myself half

a year ago. After one exam, which took place from 5 to 7 p.m. the students invited me for a drink. It is not very unusual at our universities, but still I was pleased, particularly when they said that it had been so good to have a lecturer with so much understanding.

Tomorrow I am leaving with a class of girls of the economic school for the country. We are going to help in one of the cooperative farms for a week (cultivating hops). The weather is nice and mild, so I am looking forward to it.

Today is Saturday which I like most of all days of the week, I am listening to my favourite French songs by Françoise Hardy and Nana Mouskouri and after finishing

this letter I shall go for a walk
and take it to the post-office.
I am in love with French language
and French songs for some time
and it is really pity that it is
so difficult to get such records
in Czechoslovakia.

I think that's all for today.

Love,
Yours Ivana

Write soon, please, if you can.

1974 / 5

Dear Per,

I am lying in the sun at my parents' garden - it is the first really warm week we've had this summer and I have made a pause for a week before I start with the guiding-job again. It has been instructive and entertaining at the same time until now - I was a guide of American students, Austrian pensioners, German "gymnasium" pupils and I had also a group of German people, most of them born in our country, whose parents left (=had to leave) it after

the second world war. It is a very sensitive position - being a guide of such a group - or better to say of any group.

It depends mostly on a guide which information and what impression he or she can give on the country, sometimes it is the only possible contact members of the group have during their stay. You would not believe how misinformed and uninformed the people are. I must answer hundreds of questions every time - about politics, economy, industry and agriculture, social politics, education, financial system, travelling possibilities, culture etc. At the beginning the people are ready to mistrust my answers, they think that I say what I must say. And one of the reasons why

I like this job is the constant tension, the permanent mutual exchange of thoughts, sometimes quite exhausting for me, because they are, let's say, forty and I am one. I do not want to persuade anybody that this is the very ideal country; but I feel satisfaction when I succeed in overcoming their distrust in my words, when we can start discussion like human beings without thinking of the system differences - some of them can find ^{out} for the first time in their lives that people are the same in all countries.

It is really more than 16 hours daily job and I am no professional. I take care of the meals, programme, theatre tickets,

the tea must be strong enough and the food warm enough and the service quick enough. I cannot define the strange feeling I have every time when the group has left - I feel brain-washed, with nothing to do, empty. It lasts only for a few hours, of course, but it is like if they sucked a part of my personality.

To the pornography - I think there is one true proverb which can be said on behalf of that: The forbidden fruit has got the best taste. I can also tell you without any sanctimonious prejudice that I am not interested in that kind of pictures or literature at all. I have seen too much of that without searching

it; and after the first shocking effect
("is something like that possible?")
I felt only boredom, annoyance or disgust
when it was too "dirty," very often
nothing at all. When, e.g. such
a magazine is circulating at a party,
I pass it further without watching
it - it is no pose or gesture - it
does not awake my curiosity, because
I KNOW I cannot find anything new.
There is another sort of literature
which makes me excited - there
are some authors who can describe
man - woman relation freely, completely,
but sensitively as well. (John Updike,
Philip Roth, H. E. Kossack). Also
^{quite} a few books by the "classical" writers

or books describing old civilizations (Roman, Jewish...) are very interesting in this way. At the moment I read "Der König David Bericht" by Stephan Heym - the subtitle of that could be "How to falsify the history," but except of this main point Heym talks about social habits, love and sexual relations and characteristics of Jewish people during the rule of kings Saul, David and Salomo. If you ever get the book in your hand, by chance, read it, it is quite contemporary.

I don't know which years of the coins I have already sent you, because I have the list in Prague;

but I shall try to get the missing years for you. The coin I sent you last time comes from the "treasure" which was found by a peasant ploughing the field approximately 10 years ago near the village where my parents live. The coins deposited in a earthen-ware are now at ^a museum at Kutenberg (Kutná Hora) which used to be the second most important and rich town after Prague in the Middle Ages - with its own mint for silver coins called "Groschen". (silver was exploited in Kutná Hora as well).

I think that's all for today.

Love, Ivana

1974 / 6

6th June 1974

Dear Per,

Thank you so much for the records - they have helped me to make up my mind if I should buy a record-player or not (there are so many things which I need now). But the records from you came the day before yesterday and I was so curious to hear them that I went to the shop and bought the record player at once. (I like the records very much). I have already some records at my parents', especially classics, (My parents have a record-player)

and I am going to bring them
to Prague as soon as possible.

We have also some western pop-
music records at home, but most
of them do not belong to me,
because I brought them to my
brother as presents from my
journeys abroad. I have just remem-
bered your little room at Klemetsrud,
which was overcrowded with records,
it is a sort of pleasant memory -
me being in the middle of your
things.

I hope you have got my second
letter with coins - the next time
I'll try to send you some more

from other socialist countries.

The school-year is coming
to its end and I am quite busy
with that; that's why I shall
finish for today

With much love

Your Ivana

comes

1974 / 7

13th July 1974

Dear Per,

I am just too busy and tired to write long letters, because I am working as a guide at Čedok Travelling Agency. It is really a very difficult job, even if it is interesting as well. I must always go and bring a group from the border and to be with them all the time. I must answer hundreds of questions, arrange the programme, take care even of their meals. But on the other side it is a good language practise and psychological study.

13.10 July 1929

This time I am posting you
a coin, which should please you:
it is a Czech coin from the period
of Vladislav II, a famous Czech
king who helped German caesar
to subdue the city of Milano in
the year 1158.

Please, write at least a postcard
when you get it.

With much love,

Ivana

1974 / 8

23rd August 74

Dear Per,

The holiday is over - and
I'll start teaching again
soon; but before that
I am going to hop-picking
with my students - it is
strange: it is not long time
ago when I was working
like one of the students and
now I shall be only
"an organizer."

I am sending you
a few coins for your collection.
The last of my tourist groups
were Japanese - so I got

some change from them.

The biggest coin comes from Cyprus - my aunt was there twice (for the last time in the last year) and she is very unhappy about the latest events there - she says that the Turks and the Greeks were living there peacefully together and that the struggle has been artificially evoked -

I think it is nothing new - common people could always find common language if nobody interfered. I do not understand much what's

happening there - if you were
able to explain me the situation
and tell me your opinion
about it I would be much
interested.

That's all for now -
write soon. (I hope you've got
my last letter).

Love,
Ivana

Anna Kunešová
SARATOVSKA' 7
100 00 PRAHA 10
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

26. VIII. 74

SVARČ

Parvenu endommagé

g g

1974 / 9

3rd November, 1974

Dear Per,

Thanks for your letter - the time flies really too quickly for me and there are only week-ends, when I do not leave Prague which enable me sort of rest. Then I do all the things which I like to do and I have no time for - i. e. I write letters, record new songs on my tape-recorder or simply listen to the music I am fond of. Yesterday I was to a very good Bach & Vivaldi concert and today (it's Sunday) I want to visit one of the small Prague theatres ("In the Ballustrade"). I must say that Prague still offers many possibilities in the cultural life some new small theatres (Vratislav, Rubin)

have been founded or re-founded lately
and the performances in some other
theatres are also excellent.

So when you come to Prague next time
you can find many possibilities
for using your new cordray suit.

I was ⁱⁿ England in 1964 - it was
my first journey to a western country,
I liked my stay there very much and
I should like to go there again,
because I think that I saw it
with child's eyes in that time -
I should like to visit it once more
for old memories and for a new
point of view which I have necessarily
gained since that time.

The boys in our country must
go for military service when they are
nineteen and they don't study, for 2 years
The students at the University or at some

Technical high-school must go through military training during their studies (in the 3rd, 4th and 5th year of the studying) and then they go to the soldier's for one year only.

My brother studies the second year (the third term) of the Economic High School of the Foreign Trade, so that I know exactly that the students are not looking forward to their military training at all.

I firmly hope that you have really started with your theses?! on which topic are you going to write? I remember you writing something about comics, but probably it was some sort of seminar-work. From the outside point of view nothing has been changed in my life in the meantime. I am teaching, learning French myself, furnishing my flat, recording songs, buying books,

going to parties from time to time and making plans for another journey. But inside I feel a change just now I think that I am falling in love again and I have a strong tension inside - I believe that you will understand this state very well.

It is like if the gap between many of my friends has been filled now - after approximately two years, but still I am too old and wise (25!) to make some serious decisions in this way. But only time will tell.

Please write if you have time what's new with you and your horse and thesis and mood etc.

Love, Ivana

PS: I am sending you 2 pieces of Hungarian money (20 filler, 1 forint, one Bulgarian stotinka and one Polish piece - 10 groszy)

LETTERS

1975

1975 / 1

Prague, 12th July 1975

Dear Per,

I was happy to hear that you had moved to the house of your own and you were over the most essential "material" problems. It made me also to compare the situation about flats and houses in Norway and in our country. I have never longed for a house of my own - I just want to have a big flat in a quiet quarter, but not very far from the centre of the city (I have such a flat, but a small one, it is enough for me, but it would not be enough for a family). My parents have their house in the country, which makes it possible for me to go to the country whenever I want; but I can also see there, how much money and work it costs to keep

the house nice and cosy. You know, if you once have a flat in our country, belonging to the state or to a sort of cooperative building company (which you must be member of), nobody can throw you out of it - only if the house is going to be pull down, and then you must get a flat of the same size and quality. That means, that also your children can live there after you etc. - therefore I don't have the feeling that the flat or house must BELONG to me.

But another thing is that there is a horrible lack of flats in Prague now. I had to laugh when I heard that you had got your house with two months' delay. I got my flat four months later than expected and everybody was congratulating me how lucky I was. You have still got your house ready in a very short time.

Another thing is that you are not able to get a job according to your education. I have heard much about unemployment in western countries - about sacking teachers in Denmark etc. In fact, there is still lack of man-power in Czechoslovakia, but it is also difficult to get a good job in certain professions. It is certainly hard to win a good psychologist, sociologist or teaching job in Prague. I had a good luck in this respect - if nothing changes I am going to teach at the Economic College since 1st October (i.e. if the secondary economic school lets me). It would be much better for me, because I should be teaching students of 19 years of age at least, that means grown-ups, with higher standard of their knowledge, and usually more interested. And in addition to that, I should have better conditions of the education of my own. I have a question - what's profession of your wife?