

9 July 1979

Dear George,

I have been away from the office for the past two months or so and came back to find your letter waiting for me. I did send your c.v. to our Project Manager in Colombo but I haven't seen any reply from him on this post. The Technical Adviser in charge of the project here is out of the country at the moment, so it's a bit difficult to track down any correspondence, but I'll chase it up as soon as he gets back. I think I mentioned to you that there was another candidate, and the Project Manager may have preferred him. On the other hand, it may be just a typical case of U.N. bureaucratic delay in reaching a decision on anything.

I am still here on my own in Nairobi. The rest of the family is scheduled to arrive at the end of the month or early in August. However, I must first find some accommodation which is not the easiest task in Nairobi. For one reason or another, landlords have managed to hold down the construction of rental housing far below the increase in demand, and there is a desperate undersupply with the consequent rent inflation that you would expect in such a situation. One of the big bottlenecks seems to be the land market, because there is no organized development system and property owners dribble five or six lots at a time onto the market which could probably absorb several hundred.

I am trying to see the brighter side of living in a developing country, but, after eight years in New York, it's a bit difficult. I do manage to play a little tennis and I hope to have the time, which I never found in New York, to edit my movie film and indulge in similar recreations. Also, I think we shall find having servants again a relaxing change. However, the continuous inefficiencies and inadequacies do become wearing after a while. I have noticed that staff members who had never lived in a developing country before were perfectly happy for the first six months here, but already the signs of disaffection are becoming widespread. The secretaries who were brought from New York to start the Centre on a working footing can hardly wait to finish their 12-months assignments.

Incidentally, I don't know whether I made it clear that I have moved out of the Technical Co-operation Branch and am now in the Executive Director's Office. This is why I no longer have any direct link to the projects. I am now responsible for programming and co-ordination, which sounds good but really means doing all the odds and ends that nobody else wants to touch. Well, there are reasons for the move which I may be able to explain to you in Sydney next year.

Meantime, best wishes.

Bruce

New CV & note sent  
Oct 20 / 1979

APPROD

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