

* My ticket price \$1440.00 - which includes Tel Aviv
but I can omit that.
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Dear George,

I wrote a long letter last Friday, didn't finish it and when I received telex Sat. morning, I decided that you amongst others, wanted me to cancel Egypt and Israel and therefore large parts of the letter became irrelevant so I'm starting again. I spoke to my Mother who's in Hungary for Tibor and Ica's 50th. wedding anniversary and she was very anxious that I change my travel plans re: Egypt and Israel. My Mother will be home Nov. 11th. and couldn't bear the thought of her daughter and youngest grandchild heading off into potential danger zones - though I myself wasn't too concerned and was really becoming immersed in the Egypt trip - had managed to put it all forward so we would all have met on the 16th. for Stephen's birthday. Still when I look at books about Sicily I become almost equally excited, and I really do need a HOLIDAY. I wasn't too happy about the organised nature of the Egypt trip and I would have had to make complete full payment for the three of us by Monday - so that was it - no more vacillations. Did you get my last telex indicating that we were still booked Alitalia * AZ 1761 leaving Dec. 13th, arriving Rome 05.50 Dec. 14th. Our ticket covers two days accommodation at the Alfi Hotel, Via Castello Fidardo 84A, and transfer from airport - of course we needn't stay there, but if you think that's as good a place to stay as any other, ^{at least initially} let's know - I have been trying to unscramble your last telexreceived copy in the mail this morning with airletter. The confusing words in telex are get together "ANRBBMRIDKMR KRING Sicily.... the producer of GILALP ???? Those scrambled words have me puzzled - how about some clues??? Telexes from Tandung Sari don't seem as successful as Denpasar. As I asked in ^{last} telex, please let me know if you want me to make any plans or bookings for Sicily etc. Most people here seem to feel that in winter, it's fairly easy to organise everything from Rome. As for returning on Jan. 19th. - we have the problem of leaving Sasha - Halifax will be looking after her at St. Albans but it restricts his movements, and I don't want to make it any longer - also I believe Stephen should have at least ten days ^{quietly at home} before he starts Main School, then the longer I'm away the more the instructions about house, investments, properties, farm etc. *that have to be left while I'm away*

and then there's the additional expense so for no one single reason , but altogether it really seems the best thing. At the moment, I can hardly see a spare day from now till I go . I am committed to a few days at Glencoe, unfortunately we've suffered another drought period - lost most of our wheat crop - we've had great rains in the last few days but as always, its been just two weeks too late to save the wheat. I've had a second tank installed near the woolshed at St. Albans , so in drought times we can pump from the river and from there keep the house tank always full - necessary for protection in bush fires ^{free us from} and the strain of never being sure if we're going to run out of water. This is the final major expenditure for St. Albans ??? - but it's great, though the last time I used it in the way it was intended, was for five days in September when Stephen was at camp. Its hard to leave him, ~~Release him~~ he really needs supervising with his homework - give him an inch and he'll certainly take that mile - if he can get out of any homework or written work he certainly will He's been very busy doing projects for Open Day and now studying for exams I haven't talked to him too much about the trip, because I'm trying to insist he really does well in coming exams and gets a good start at Main School - so if he hasn't written, it's not due to lack of excitement - he's really pleased that his Father will be with him, ^{but we trying not to distract him.}

^{telephone} I received a call and then a copy of letters sent to you in Bali about your contribution to Building Fund. I explained that both your movements and job prospects were uncertain, and that was ^{probably} why you hadn't communicated. The guy said he appreciated that and also that you might find it hard to maintain your initial promise, but they really needed to know what they might or might not expect, so please could I impress on you their desire for a reply, so they knew where they stood - even if unable to meet commitment, could they have something in writing for committee meetings. So please write.

I had a phone call from Ray Archer yesterday, he's spending 6 weeks in Sydney and hoped to see you. His address in Sydney is P.O. BOX597, Canberra City, 2601. In Bangkok it's c/o Asian Inst. of Technology, P.O. Box 2754. It's 40 kms. from Bangkok, and 20kms. from airport, but doesn't believe it's worth a visit unless he's there to give direct instructions

visitors in the past have always got lost - and he won't be back till the first week in December.

Andrew's very busy and doing well - obviously appreciated by Raine and Horne - a week after he started in Double Bay they gave him a salary adjustment dating back to his first week of work with them in May, which was approx. \$500.00 after tax and resulted in a pay packet of over \$900.00. He says he could never go back to Bondi Junction and worry about leaky taps - here he's organising leases for properties of over \$1,000.00 a week and dealing with diplomats and top executives. He's still trying to take care of his health and weight and goes for an early morning swim with Clifford each morning. Everyone tells me he's looking very well and handsome - he's had to spend a lot on suits and shirts - perhaps the tables will ~~return~~ and you can borrow from his wardrobe when you return ??? He plans to take a long trip at the end of '82, when he's finished the Real Estate course, but not telling Raine and Horne, who are grooming or training him to stay for ever, so he says.

Rebecca is doing casual secretarial work for the guy next door, which is working out well in that it gives her as much money as she needs, but also the time to be around and look for work should any come up, though she feels there won't be anything too much before next year now - in the meantime she's doing a photographic course at the Australian Centre for Photography - learning amongst other things dark room techniques. She's very pleased with the lense, and now we've had our first sun for a week she will spend today and tomorrow taking 36 shots of "people" - her project for the week - told her she should go to Martin Place - Rebecca recently met David Lucas - he's the only one in the family who pursued a conventional educational course - he's just completing his course at the Institute of Tech. in Communications - a course that a few of Andrew's good friends from Grammar are doing. Rebecca is enjoying his company and has spent quite a lot of time with him in the last two weeks, after breaking with Paul. She seeks excitement and new experiences, like the parachuting - knows what she wants and she'll get there - wherever. We're all, that's Ruth and Peter, (Ruth's friend) David, Rebecca a couple of the other *Lucas* kids and I having dinner at a new place in Victoria Street tonight. I am curious to see Ruth after all this time and am always rather touched ~~by~~ that Rebecca wants my approval of the people she likes and goes out with. She and David

* The price you paid seems very good.

*540. DEMP-DISK. SING. BANGKOK

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feel there's something significant in their parents having been past friends. Ruth's father died only a few days ago - 84 - a large obituary in paper. I hope that one of the benefits of the friendship will be that Rebecca give up smoking - none of the Lucas family smoke.

I was in Donovan's office the morning your letter to him arrived, and he's taking care of ~~all~~ everything you asked him and will have it ready in time.

Dear George, take care of yourself, letters from the children will be sent during the week. Though your questions about fares isn't so relevant & now, unless you take excursion tickets without stops, or Apex booked so many days in advance, its worked out in mileage, as the Bangkok - non excursion ticket - with freedom of stops and return time was approximately \$920.00⁺ single - return exactly double.

I'll await to hear about your next movements - whether you'll meet us in Rome on the 14th, & whether we should make any further bookings before departure -

For Ed.