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George Clarke

Av letter written 7/11/81  
giving Nicosia + Rome  
addresses + dates + asking  
for reply at latest Feb/Mar. in Bali

Australia  
Box 423 GPO Sydney NSW 2001  
Telegrams Urbsearch Sydney  
Telephone 311543 Sydney

address for reply:

d.a. Campuan Hotel  
P.O.Box 15, Denpasar  
INDONESIA

Dear Ben and Jean:

12 October 1981

A greeting card from Jean was waiting to welcome me home to Bali from 3 months Missions for UNCHS (Habitat) in Somalia and Kenya. I gather that you're in Nagoya, then Australia during December, and then Fiji for two years. I'm not that certain of my movements! I've recently had a variety of offers and enquiries, but don't yet know which is going to turn into something real.

I spent the best part of 3 months working with the Somalia Ministry of National Planning trying to help make sense of the 1982-86 National Five Year Plan. I wrote slabs of it on Regional Development, urban decentralisation and the creation of a hierarchic system of urban centres, the creation of indigenous construction industries, development of appropriate building materials and technologies, the need for a Technology Leadership Training Institute run by the Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development to produce the cadres needed for Regional and Local Governments, and so on. Goodness knows what will happen to the stuff I wrote. Somalia's absorption capacity is very low.

Attended the UN Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and learnt the state of the art while watching African delegates, with their wives and retainers, driving around in Mercedes to give speeches on energy conservation.

UNCHS loved my final report on Somalia identifying more projects than they ever dared hoped for, especially because of its title: "National Urban Strategy for Rural Development". I managed to justify attention to regional and urban problems in a country where rural development is top priority and other matters have been so far left to look after themselves. UNCHS then promised me a five week Mission to Ethiopia as their representative on a larger FAO Mission; and also nominated me to the Greeks and Turks as a member of a Distinguished Panel of unbiased experts to visit, inspire and referee the planning of Nicosia, Cyprus, which is a divided city like Berlin, I believe.

So I set off for a couple of weeks holiday in Bali with UN's demands that I return quickly ringing in my ears. Once out of sight, out of mind, and so far, for the last month, there's only been an eerie silence from Nairobi, and I'm left wondering about Ethiopia and Cyprus.

On the way east, I visited Colombo, and Arthur Rowe at the Sri Lanka Urban Development Authority, an UNCHS project. Arthur has been nominated to head up the new Indonesia National Urban Strategy Project, and he asked me if I'd be interested in a few months on his team sometime in 1982 or 3.

Meanwhile, waiting for me in Bali was a letter from USAID's Office

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of Housing, asking if I were interested and available for a two year senior policy advisor post in Sri Lanka. The letter was two months old by the time I received it, so I written to Washington saying how keen I am to help them in other posts if Sri Lanka is already spoken for.

Anyway, one thing is definite: I'll be at the Sheraton Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, on December 17th for ten days. I'm meeting my youngest son Stephen there, and will take him up the Nile and back, on to Israel and to Rome for his Australian summer holidays.

I don't think I've mentioned that Valli and I broke up early this year. All last year during our Japan and European trip she seemed to become more edgy and depressed. Then came three months of quiet life in Bali, and she didn't become any happier. Then my divorce from Eva came through and we had the chance to marry and have children, but she simply got more moody. She's now back in Sydney as a big shot Editor of a national women's magazine. Don't ask me why; maybe I tried too hard to make her happy; she certainly was torn between being a career woman and a dependent wife and mother.

In Somalia, I was able to put my copy of UNCRD's Report on the Workshop on Training Packages for Regional Development Planning into the Library of the Ministry of National Development, and to discuss the possibility of setting up some such courses with my counterpart and the Director General. But Somalia can't stage such courses itself, and I wrote programs and job descriptions for staff to begin with the basics, like setting up communications between Regional Governors and the MEF, while sending several young people out on secondment to similar Ministries of National Planning in other countries.

Please give my regards to Professor Honjo and colleagues at UNCRD. Just in case there's any opportunity to consider me for any assignment, I enclose an updated Resume. I would love to visit Japan again, or help out in UNCRD's work elsewhere.

Write to me in Bali by return mail, more or less, or write to the Sheraton Hotel, Cairo, by the Nile, so as to arrive between 17 and 25 December. Meanwhile, I may be in Ethiopia, Cyprus, Bali or even at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, where I might wander in search of a new wife... I'm told that Chiang Mai girls are the most beautiful in the world.

Love,

George

PROJECT BUDGET COVERING GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION (cont.)

		TOTAL		1981		1982		1983		1984	
		m/m	Rupiahs	m/m	Rupiahs	m/m	Rupiahs	m/m	Rupiahs	m/m	Rupiahs
40.00	EQUIPMENT										
41.00	Expendable Equipment & Supplies		18,000		4,000		6,500		5,500		2,000
42.00	Non-expendable Equipment										
42.01	Vehicles <i>6 cars/buses</i>		36,000		36,000						
42.02	Office Equipment		6,000		6,000						
43.00	Premises		48,000		10,800		14,400		14,400		8,400
49.00	COMPONENT TOTAL		108,000		56,800		20,900		19,900		10,400
50.00	Miscellaneous		18,000		4,000		6,500		5,500		2,000
59.00	COMPONENT TOTAL		18,000		4,000		6,500		5,500		2,000
99.00	<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>		269,340		93,125		87,550		63,640		25,025