

P.O.Box 15, Denpasar.
Sunday, 25 October 1981

Dear Eva:

Your letter dated 20.10.81 arrived here on 22.10....in Sayan !
Two telexes also arrived, dated 15.10 and 20.10.

I feel that you've made a wise, if conservative decision, to avoid Israel and maybe Egypt also. Anyway, as you say, we could still visit either or both countries if it seems safe to do so, and we feel like it, and if Egypt is not fully booked out... which seems unlikely in view of the scare caused by the political situation.

The garbled words in my telex from Tanung Sari were "mediaeval and romantic Taormina in Sicily".... and a reference to the fact that Martin Cooper was producer of the movie "Callipoli".

I can well imagine that you need a holiday: and that running about trying to catch the sights will exhaust you... and probably Stephen as well. I've seen enough sights in my life and now seek peace, a quiet and pleasing environment in which to cultivate my own peace of mind and relationships with others. So in as much as you feel that our trip should bring Stephen close to his father again for a month, it would seem best for us to give first priority to togetherness, in a pleasant environment, with an occasional touch of history for Stephen.

Taormina, on the west or right hand, side of Sicily, would supply these needs perfectly. It is a medieval hill town of astonishing shape and form, overlooking the sea, with views also to Mount Etna. It is the only comfortable place to stay in the whole of Sicily, and indeed in the whole of Italy south of Umbria. It has been well preserved and indeed modernised appropriately for tourists... mainly quite well-to-do Germans, French, Italians and other continental Europeans. It has lots of accomodation at all price levels. It may well be heavily booked at Christmas, which is why I suggested that you might try to book at least some accomodation for the first two or three days, giving us time to find something we really like. See what you can find out about the climate, and the likely degree of crowding in Taormina in December and over Christmas.

My only serious concern now is the climate in the Mediterranean region in December January. I seem to remember our time there in 1965/66; it was pretty cold and dull on Mykonos, although not too cold in Athens and Tel Aviv. But NOW I HAVE NO CLOTHES OTHER THAN TROPICAL GEAR... except for one black cashmere polo neck and one other light sweater !

PLEASE BRING SOME BASIC CLOTHING FOR ME... WINTER WEIGHT. It doesn't have to be much in quantity... one suit, two shirts, or else an overcoat.... whatever you can find... Don't buy anything new... because I can always shop in Rome for a few things. I may have to shop before I meet you, because I'm due in Nicosia Cyprus between November 23 and 27.

My PAN-AM World Guide tells me that daily low and high temperatures in Cyprus for November and December are:-

Bangkok 12 68 68
88 87 87
17 25 30

Kenya p336
Thailand 657 Nandi

56 55
74 74
15 20 26

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Nicosia	p57	
Degrees Farenheight	November	December
Average Low	51	45 42
Average High	72	62 58
Days no rain	25	23 21

It may be that I'll get by in Cyprus without having to buy much. My silk safari suits seem to be comfortable in quite temperate zones.

Similar info for Rome:	p164	
	XL	XL
Average Low	46	41 39 Freezing
Average High	63	56 54 is 32 !
Days no rain	22	22 23

I will need an overcoat in Rome... but could buy one there, I guess, although I would rather not... I've already got a perfectly new Burberry bought in Hongkong last year, in store in Sydney. If I do have to buy another new one, you can take it home with you for Andrew.

Similar data for Jerusalem:	p420	
Average Low	53	45 41
Average High	70	59 55
Days no rain	26	24 22

I suppose that the Low comes in the middle of the night, when one would normally be under blankets in a room with some kind of heating ... even in these days of energy crisis.

Sicily is likely to be about the same as Nicosia and Jerusalem, I guess.

From Taormina, we could tour Sicily to see the Greek and other sights. Maybe by bus; or at greater expense, by car. There are ferries from Napoli to Palermo, but Palermo is on the left hand or east side of Sicily and is not the place to begin the holiday.... Perhaps we ~~not~~ should fly Rome to Messina or whatever the airport is nearest to Taormina.

So I insist on at least a week, maybe ten days, in Taormina ~~initial~~ as a holiday without too many long and tiring tours. Maybe two weeks in Sicily altogether. That really only leaves 2 to 2½ weeks for other places.... maybe Rome, and Naples. If you'd like a warm climate, we must go south to Egypt, or even Kenya, or India and/or Singapore if you can get a stopover there on your ticket. Athens, Crete are also possible. I have with me a top quality Baedeker-type Guide Book for Greece... do you want me to bring it ?

Accept you Rome hotel booking; we can always scout around for something better. Rome has very very few modern type hotels. Most accomodation is in pensiones and such like in old buildings. So I'll see you at the Alfi Hotel, Via Castello Fidardo 84A on Monday 14th December unless you notify me to the contrary. I Can't guarantee to be at, or to find you at, Rome Airport at 6AM in the morning. There's a good bus service from Rome Airport to the City Centre, from which you take a taxi- don't take a taxi from the Airport.

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Thanks for the news about Ray Archer, St Albans, Grammar and the rest. It does not seem likely that I will be able to spend any time in Thailand before I go to Cyprus...if the Cyprus trip is finally confirmed. If Cyprus is cancelled, then I might have some time for Thailand before I see you. Otherwise, I'll stop off for a month in Thailand on my way back from the Middle East; February in Bali is windy and wet. I don't want to be back here in Bali until March or April, the beginning of the dry season, when I'll probably get on with building the house again.

PLEASE DON'T GIVE VALLEI, or anyone likely to pass information on to her, any information about my movements... or the fact that I'm meeting you in Rome.... the less she knows about where I am and what I'm doing, the better. So tell me I'm still in Bali, but might be travelling to Africa or Europe, but that you don't know when or where. Try to get the kids to cooperate, if you can without upsetting them too much.

I hope you'll be able to go through my mail immediately, and let me have anything significant before I leave Bali... which I should do before or about 14 November...try to post things to me in the first few days of November latest.

TELL REBECCA that I've now asked three men here who are in the film making game whether they would be able to accept the services of a young technician without pay. John Darling is not filming... he complains that he can't get any sponsor. ~~Lawrence~~ Laurence and Lorne Blair (brothers) are touring Indonesia making films for television along the lines of the David Attenborough series. But they already have a small crew, and travel by small bus. They can't fit and don't need or want, anyone else. Martin Cooper of Associated R. & R. Films, Surrey Hills, the chap who took Rebecca's camera to Sydney, producer of Gallipoli, said that men were continually asking him for jobs for their daughters, and he couldn't help.

Maybe Rebecca should contact Brian Ellis of the ABC. I spoke to Brian in Sydney in May and he agreed to see Rebecca and do anything he could to advise here or help her. She should follow that up.

Glad to hear of Andrew's successes. Maybe soon will be the right time for him to take over the management of my Albion Avenue house, and Randwick too, if he wants. I'm less happy with Anderson's efficiency than I used to be. Please let me know whether Andrew wants to take over the management, either through Raine and Horne, or on his own ~~an~~ account.

I particularly need to know what rent I could now get from a reliable tenant for the place at 15 Albion Avenue. Can Andrew advise me? Does he need to see inside? If so, he could just ask the tenant, James Erskine for an inspection on my ~~with~~ behalf... or I could send him a letter of authority. I'd like to know how the place is, whether it's knocked around or not, and what Erskine is saying. The telephone numbers there (two phones) are 3511543 and 3561608.

Erskine's number at work is 2903200 or 2902211. He's very pushy, feels himself to be a really big shot. Let Andrew have a try at handling him.

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I left the heading above on Sunday... and the blank paper has been sitting in the typewriter for two days while I read Gregory Bateson's books "Mind and Nature" and "Steps to an ecology of mind" together with "Godel, Escher, Bach" while playing Indian "Ragas" and Bach's Sonatas and his "Musical Offering" breaking only for demcents to the river to swim, and for meals which appear around the corner of my balé at noon and 6.30 pm. I now eat "red" rice, a very rich, natural grain, with the full complement of Balinese spices, to the same strength as eaten by the family here.

The news this morning (Tuesday 27th October) seems to indicate that life in the Middle East is going along quietly, while bombs are killing innocent bystanders in London. It does seem a pity to pass up Egypt when no of us has ever been there... it would be new for me too... and in December and January are the right times to go there... the coolest ime of the year.

Cairo	November	December	Jan
Average Low	58	50	47
Average High	78	68	65
Days no rain	29	30	30

No need to put up with the cold, dreary weather of Italy, Greece or anyplace else further north. No need for special clothes for me.

Perhaps you can keep your options open until we get together in Rome. The scare should have put off enough tourists to make late bookings possible in Egypt.

This probably means that you and Stephen should get Egyptian Visas before you leave Sydney, just in case. You probably should also get Visas if required for Israel, and possibly Greece. I'll get them if I can, but should be able to fix things up in Rome if necessary.

I see that I didn't give you enough information about the house at 15 Albion Avenue. The rent is still Aust\$175 per week, unchanged since it was first fixed nearly two years ago in December 1979. Some items of furniture and equipment are included.. a double bed, sheets and blankets with pillows etc; a washing machine, fridge, stove, dishwasher, garbage disposal etc; some chairs and tables etc; and some kitchen equipment together with central under-floor heating, stereo outlets, TV and radio aerials etc. The tenant has refused to increase the rent, although inflation has been at least 20 per cent over the last two years.

Some of the furniture (tables and chairs, washing machine) are Valli's but she hasn't been pushing to get them because she hasn't anywhere to put them. I am pushing the Agent through Ken Boyd to get them out of the house and back to Valli. This is complicated becuase the tenant doesn't want to yiled them. I'll probably offer a substantial reduction in rent to get the. Then I want to demand an increase in rent to \$200 a week...surprise for the tenant... and if he doesn't agree, I would like to serve him a Notice to Quit (his 12 month 5A lease expired last December) and try to find a new tenant if he doesn't come round.

Before I do this, I want Andrew to tell me if he is sure he could let the place, say next January or February, for \$200 or more a week.

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In case you didn't know, V. is pursuing me with legal claims to half the house. She has no case, or evidence, but can make a damned nuisance of herself serving Notices, Caveats, Summones and so on.

That's why it's important that she doesn't hear too much about me, and why I don't want to return to Australia for a while. I'd like to give her opportunity to forget me and her claim.

I trust you had no trouble in collecting the A\$101 from Air India, and the Andrew or Rebecca will be able to fix up Rosamble's accounts with Donovan before you bring things to me for my signature.

Don't forget to bring my German sandals-

I've received a cable from U.N. Habitat in Nairobi saying that the Ethiopian Mission has been left hanging in the air because of unresolved issues between the Ethiopian Government, FAO in Rome, and UN Habitat. I want to visit the UN FAO head office in Rome in December.

I've heard nothing further about the Cyprus Mission, so everything is almost as vague as it was before.

At least I've been fully paid for the work I've done this year. Please burn any Statements of Expenses from UN.... but not the cheques! if any should mistakenly arrive in Sydney.

Because of the problems of getting anyone to handle mail going to Box 423, I've been giving everyone 28 Olphert Ave as my address; this may be used by only by new contacts... all the old stuff will still go to Box 423. At least it means that you won't receive a large volume of mail or telegrams at Vaucluse: but what you do receive could be important..

When you leave in December, you might ask Andrew to open and pass on to you any the content of any mail or telegrams or telexes which might arrive at Vaucluse for me.

Address for me between November 20th and 27th:

If all goes well, I'll be in Nicosia, Cyprus: care of the U.N. Resident Representative. You should address:

George Clarke,
U.N. Habitat Consultant,
care U.N. Resident Representative,
United Nations Development Programme (U.N.D.P.)
Nicosia
Cyprus. Cables: UNDEVPRO, Nicosia.

The U.N. Information Office in Sydney might be able to give you something more specific, like a P.O.Box Number in Nicosia, or a Telephone Number.