

DOC 1935

Rome 14/4/64

Dear Rena & Boia,

My personal stationery is difficult to reach, air-letters are not available, so please excuse this blank sheet.

First, an account of my travelling adventures - or, rather, vicissitudes. Last night the El-Al people rang to give me the happy news that their continuation plane from Rome to Lod would leave not at 5.40 p.m., as originally scheduled, but well after 11 p.m. At the expression of my consternation over the prospect of a practically sleepless night they proposed to explore the possibility of an earlier departure from Rome and, true enough, their this morning message was to the effect that I could take the Alitalia plane which would leave Rome for T.A. at 4.30 p.m., landing at Lod at 8.45. Thus everything seemed to have taken the best possible shape & it was in a buoyant spirit that I started from the hotel at 7.50 this morning, accompanied by Ory Sella, even though I had gone to bed at 12.45 & got up at 6.15. But upon reaching the Alitalia counter at the Airport I was smitten by a staggering blow: I was told that my plane, which was due from New York, was late & would not reach Rome before 1 p.m. - the hour fixed for my interview with Sarapat! Immediately a wire was sent with top urgency to the Rome office of Alitalia to inform the Embassy of this calamity. I realised straight away that if Sarapat would at all be capable to alter his time-table out of consideration for me, he would not possibly manage to see me in time for me to catch the 4.30 plane, so that perforce I would have to fall back upon my belated El-Al, with the night sleep smashed to bits & pieces. This was actually