

London, 5 June 1978

MCH91-27-1-2

Dear Albie,

I did receive your very long letter, and you can judge its impact by the length of time it's taken me to recover enough to write you back. But no apologies; I take it as the statement you say it's meant to be, and rather not discuss ~~the~~ matter any further by letter; otherwise I won't get round to write at all.

So let's talk about life here and there. We have had reports from Christine about Mozambique and ~~the~~ our friends who are there; nobody seems happier with life there than you, I interpret from what I've heard. She now got a very good job at University College Hospital as a Senior Nursing Officer in charge of teaching organization, she's starting in July and is doing agency work at the moment.

Steve is supposed to be finishing his book Today - a bit later than the 1st. of May he promised himself. He, did, however, finish writing the manuscript in April; the rest of the time has been taken up by typing, photocopying, writing table of contents, bibliography, but particularly with receiving comments from various peoples and making alterations to the text as a result. He hopes however that he will be able to take it to the publishers today if the last bit of typing and photocopying has been done as it should be. With all this, half term, children with mumps, etc., life has been very hectic for the last few weeks.

In the last ~~three~~ ^{two} months we have had several birthday parties, in full style; Joshua and Julie in April, Michael in May, Selena yesterday. The big children all got bicycles - so they're out going round the corner a lot of the time. ~~Julie~~ Julie has learnt to pedal and follows by tricycle. Unfortunately she still needs an adult around so I've been getting a lot of exercise in the afternoons walking round the block several times a day.. The children's reading has improved enormously and they can stay in bed at night reading stories to themselves properly - they even can read stories to Julie and therefore relieve adults of that task. yudkin

The weather has been awful for most the winter and spring, until about 3 weeks ago in which it turned sunny and summery non-stop. For the last three days however we had the occasional thundery storm and today it's a bit cloudy and the temperature has dropped a few degrees C.

This term I am doing "Scientific and industrial applications of photography" and therefore have to photograph things with complicated techniques, microscopes, stereoscopes, lasers, etc. I took "the plant system" as a subject and therefore have been photographing close ups of plants, high speed pictures of dandelion seeds flying away, plants with infrared film (which produces a peculiar inversion of colours) macrophotographs of the insides of flowers, stereoscopic views of flowers, time lapse photos of a developing new leaf, ~~xxxx~~ geotropism in roots, etc. This week I've got to take to the microscope and take some plant tissue. It's not as exciting as last term, but it's got its interesting things.

Yesterday I took some pictures of the children during the birthday party, if I like the results I'll send you some of Alan & Michael. They're just back from a short holiday in a farm (something arranged for ANC kids I believe) and look healthy, tanned and blonde. They went for rides in proper horses, to the beach as the weather was good and generally seem to have had a lovely time.

When are you coming back to England for your vacation? We are this year going to Bulgaria for two weeks to the same place you went last year - we were trying to arrange to go to Greece to Stephanie's (ex Segall) Island, but it turns up to be too expensive and two difficult ~~and~~ as Steph is expecting her third baby for October. We hope to make it another year.

Just one thing I feel I should say - I think Stephanie is very well, very together, doing a lot of things, knowing where she is going, trying to sort out her money problems, trying to make up to the children for what they miss you. She has her occasional 'downs' still, but anybody does, and she is mainly 'up' which makes other people's relationship with her so much easier. The children as I said are also very well, but there is no doubt that they do miss you quite a lot. They do talk about you a bit now, which they didn't do a few months ago.

I'll leave off here. Have to study this morning; I have an exam on June 22nd. Cheers.

Albia