



Generale Bank

30th July 1995

Dear Enrico,

Just a scribble. My life doesn't seem as well organised as formerly. Commuting is time -as well as energy consuming. And finally at the office my subordinate position did not permit me to order my thoughts during office hours. Apparently there are periods in one's life that thoughts are switched off. Then the whole system is geared to survival and you act on your instincts. It's only when the basics of life are fulfilled that a human being thereafter is capable of adding a thin layer of civilisation over his egoistic, barbaric, wild and murderous inner nature. Daily we are nowadays being informed about the atrocities committed in former Yougo Slavia and there is no immediate solution. God, they must hate each other! It is my opinion that without thoughts a human being has stopped to be a human being. Writing is clearly the end product of the thinking process. **WRITING IS BEING!** Sure, it is all a bit philosophical, but not bad for the beginning of a letter.

What are the thoughts which need some ordering? For instance:

- 1) How will the world survive in the year AD 2020 when it will definitely lack the leadership of John Major?
- 2) Today with a world population of 6 billion, we lack a proper distribution system to give everyone his appropriate-or rather equal share. If you accept this, then God has condoned a system that all men are not born equal.
- 3) Can the world cope with a population of 10 billion people and if so, what about 15 billion?
- 4) My estimate is that fossil fuel, taken into account the ever increasing need for it, will dry up in say about 45 years hence. My question is: "What will be the rent of the top floor of the O & Y skyscraper in the docksland in London by then?"
- 5) If mass production can be realised thanks to robotising -and computerising all factory handlings whilst shedding more and more labour (and thus purchasing power), who will buy the finished products in the next periode?

It is hot and humid today and we are not in Pianello. It is a kind of strange not to be in Italy during the month of July. This year I decided to skip a long summer vacation. Joining the Generale Bank, I am requested to start up a branch in Rotterdam from scratch. I have at this very moment no customers with outstandings. I am generating expenses without income. How then can I afford to go on holidays? It is only last week that we moved into the new office in Rotterdam. The office is located in a new building

down town, near the Central Station. When
I sit behind my desk, I can see the office block
in which the Lloyd's Bank was located 2 years
ago. Despised and rejected (by Lloyd's Bank) and
acquainted with Prief (lyrics from the Messiah
from Handel) 2 years ago I have returned.
Ritorno vincitor." (Aida, Verdi) I feel a sort
of 20th Century Napoleon. When he was sent
to Elba (for me that was Amsterdam) he came
back to France (for me that is Rotterdam)
Yes, I know his defeat was at Waterloo
near Brussels whilst I am working for the
number one Belgian Bank!
Yesterday Reinoud returned from a 4 month
stay in France to get a better command of
the French language. We told him that
on 3 hours driving distance we arrive
at the border of France. It is ridiculous
when you cannot communicate with 55
million Frenchmen of which about 50%
is of the female sex! We did send him
to a 3 month course in Tours and one
month in Nice. He came back in good
spirits. Floris is working in a dedicated
manner to pass his exams whilst reading
fiscal law. Hopefully he will graduate in
1996. Vera is the centre of our lives. She is
seeing to it that everything is running clockwork.
I hope you are all in a good health.
Thank you for your Post Cards.
Incidentally, the typing bit has been done all

my myself with word for kindness. I am quite pulled in to the 21st century by these news
most likely true words. I am quite pulled in to the 21st century by these news
not alone profession. I am quite pulled in to the 21st century by these news
one also from Vera's father.