

Write Bergman

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TRANSLATION of a letter in German from Roman Kempler, Habana (Cuba), Damas 964 to Samuel Neumann, Richborough near Sandwich, Kitchener Camp, Hut 2/II B 56, Kent, England.

Letter 1: Havana July 7, 1939 **Dear Sami,**

Today we received your letter and know what is going on, through newspapers, partially also from people who receive reports from their relatives living in Germany about the measures taken in the "Third Reich".

We only turned in our application on ^{April 8, 1938} ~~August 4, 1938~~ and the chances of getting away in 8 weeks are very poor. One didn't know at that time the importance of turning in the sheets, because one otherwise would have registered in the middle of March. Many mistakes have been made, among others also that one hasn't transferred money which the concerned people, who do this there as a business, would have found also of certain interest!

Because of prohibition for foreigners to work, there are no income possibilities. Also, I have not received any support from Joint, hence I have to fight with pecuniary difficulties.

Furthermore, the heat is getting more and more intolerable and influences the mind, one doesn't have zest. All in all it can be said that in light of above mentioned, life is empty and only the hope for a miracle, which seldom occurs but happens, keeps my will to live going.

Hopefully, that for you it will go faster with the Vienna quota and at least one of us will reach the destination. Cohn does not give a sign of life which frankly doesn't surprise me, because I know this kind of people. In regard to the dear mother as well as other family members, I am really worried because it is my nature not to think egoistically and being sympathetic. I wish you continuously all the best for the future and remain with heartiest greetings your **Roman**.

PS: Did you get rid of the ballast of your wife? Do it, the sooner the better, break up the relations definitively. It is in your best interest.

Letter 2: no town, no date **Dear Sami!**

I was pleased to receive your letter and also cried bitterly about what you wrote about our mother and Selma. That they were expelled touched me terribly, because I am sorry to state that there is no possible way to help. One is so far away and powerless. I had already a premonition which bothered me all week long and hurt my heart. I had to cry continuously and felt that my dear ones had to put up with much unpleasantness. Sorry to state that here is everything totally closed and nobody gets in because in September are elections and they say that afterwards one can enter again. I don't know if this is true. With Gods will it should come sooner as a great help to our people in Vienna as well as for us, because such a life is really not worth it to wait for a few Dollars which my brother-in-law sends me. Had a renter for a room with board. Now she was talked out of it and has left me. It was easier for me because of the pay, inspite of all the work I had with her. Furthermore, she is already old and I had to serve her. Now, I look for somebody else to rent the room without board in order to make it cheaper for me with income, but I have more zores (problems) when at home, but believe me dear Sami, one doesn't know what is correct. Perhaps, it was good that mother got expelled and with gods help she will get somewhere and then they shall burn up Vienna without jews. Dear, do not loose the courage because we must live on in order to see our return and witness that Hitler and his friends are layers and responsible for the injustice to us which chased us away, each one to somewhere else and made us homeless and feel miserable. I really believe that we will live to that day and Sami be courageous and be a man. You will surely with gods help soon travel to New York and when you get there it will be good for you. You are young and

kind and can relate with pleasure old stories I am sure we will have our mother with us. Tell me Sami, how is it with your wife - give up on her and don't play around too long, better earlier than later because **my Roman** will take care of you. He has already "on tap" for you a nice American girl. You ask if **Elly** thinks of **Sami**? How can you raise such a question since the child, in her memory, is always with you and at your place. She continuously asks what does my dear **Omama** (grandmother) do? She is surely at Lise and Fredi. She is envious, that she can't be a part and always ask when is uncle Sami coming to New York and we will travel there and he must stay with us in order for us to have at least one left over. She is very brave, but doesn't have much appetite. I was with her at a doctor who prescribed for her a medicine to improve her appetite and he told me to go swimming with her in the ocean. We were already there a few times, it is salt water and should be very healthy. Dear Sami, I believe to have written enough to you. It is already 1 o'clock in the evening and the heat bother me With heartiest greetings and many kisses and hope to see you soon and receive good news yours **Elly and Gusti**

Translators footnote: The two letters are from two different parties. Letter one is from Roman to Sami, while letter 2 is from Elly and Gusti to Sami, but it doesn't say where they are, but interpreting the letter, they must also be in Havanna (salt water). Ramon is the son of Elly and Gusti. If by that time Ramon was in New York, because of the remark about an American girl, is not clear. The other question is if Elly is the child of Sami, because jews do not name children after a parent who is still alive. It seems that Sami and Elly/Gusti are brothers/sister because they talk about grandmother in Vienna! Too bad there is no city or date on letter two and I doubt if both letters were sent in the envelope at hand?