

My Dearest Kath,

8³⁰ PM
July 1, 1977

First, don't get upset by the #3; I sent you a postcard prior to mailing this just to see if they get them - some people ^{→ in the states} said they never received cards, only letters. So let me know.

Today, Friday, I sort of took it easy, did a laundry, read some flight magazines, napped, etc. & generally took it easy. Last night it was hot, muggy, & no breeze, so I slept very poorly - first thing this morning I went out & bought a fan similar to ours, so I can at least sleep better if the same conditions prevail.

I'll be arising every work day at 5⁰⁰ AM, picked up at 6⁰⁰, & at the airport by 6³⁰ AM, classes start at 7 AM, so I guess I'll shower & shave tonite ^{→ & every night} and go to bed no later than 10 PM. I don't like the early hours, but 't will be nice to be home (when you & MBO are here) by 1:30 every day.

There is a newly arrived ^{→ 2 weeks before me} couple with a 5 month old baby boy here, who just got their apartment & moved in, so it will be nice for you to know someone with a baby near MBO's age. Perhaps we'll get a place near them. A lot of the people are clustered in this one section of town - near most of the food shops, tho' some live further out of town, & some right downtown in highrises. Housing here is scarce, so I'll have to find a suitable place first & then check out the area.

Now, about airfreighting: from what I've been told by reliable people, freighting stuff into this country is difficult at best and takes months. One instructor airfreighted a number of technical manuals here from Italy, and didn't get them out of customs for 5 months. Seafreight is worst than AD. I guess it's a combination of lack of personnel, official indifference, $\frac{1}{2}$ military priority over cargo handling, plus customs, that cause the problem. Fortunately, one can purchase a much wider range of things here than AD - today I saw baking sheets, pie plates, bread pans, etc in only one small store.

So, we may decide to not airfreight anything as much as I don't like the idea. One good point is that it's no problem to sell one's entire household when leaving, for at least as much as its original purchase price. Ah, well - we'll figure it out when you're here. I'm going to shower & go to bed. I'll try to finish this tomorrow so you can receive it reasonably soon. Goodnite, my love. Hug Matty for me. I love you!

5:50 AM

Good Morning! Just wanted to say hi to you - I really miss you & the baby badly, Honey - almost started to cry last nite thinking about last scenes at the airport - Matthew didn't know I was leaving - he probably thought I'd be back any minute. Oh, Sweetheart, I can't wait til we're all together again. I'll cheer up & write more this PM - bye -

Howdy! 3:15 PM. I took a quick nap after returning from work & feel much better. This afternoon I'll do some ironing, mail this, study, etc. I hope to be paid today, from which I'll send to you a \$500⁰⁰ check, which you should probably put in the checking account for moving costs, etc. If you need more, let me know. Oh - please mail me a couple of checking account deposit tickets, so I can give the number to the Swiss office. They will then deposit any amount of money we specify. Once you're here, we'll figure out how much money to put where. For July, I'm having them hold out a thousand dollars, rather than get it here in Dinars, again until you're here & help decide.

Quite hot here today - 40°C, about 105°F out at the airport. But it's usually 10 to 15 degrees cooler here in town.

~~I~~ Well, I have my ups & downs about the wisdom of coming here, but I did about Abu Dhabi, too. I worry about uprooting you & MBO, particularly since we were so happily settled in Wapp. Falls - already I dearly miss that place, (probably because that's where you & M. & Khalifah were). But in calmer moments I realize that we'll get along fine after an expected period of adjustment. Our ^{close} friends will come from outside the company I think, since the calibre of most people I've met so far is less than we are generally

comfortable with. There is a beach club we can join that has a pool, too, so we can take our darling son in to splash around (a happy image). We'll probably buy a used car, in order to have more freedom for you during work hours. As we agreed on, the first few months will be the most difficult. And if we handle it right, we can save a bundle, too.

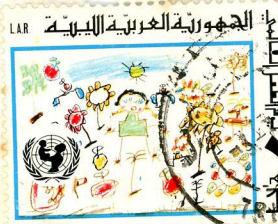
Well, I got paid - \$4440⁰⁰, but I can't cash the check & get you a dollar check 'til tomorrow or the next day, so I'm going to mail this right now and send the check in a couple of days. I just ironed 4 shirts & my white pants. Proud?

I love you, Cath. We'll be together soon. Hug & kiss to Matthew. Hope to hear from you soon.

Love,
Jon

Air Mail

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