

مخاتبرای شاه عباس

Dear Penny, Len, + children:

Sept 9, 1977

We arrived in Tehran bedraggled to say the least after a 12 hour delay in New York. The Iran Air flight scheduled to depart at 9 pm didn't leave until 6:30 am the next day so we slept the best we could in the airport until we finally left. Once in the air, we had no further delays except for refueling at Orly instead of Heathrow. The kids were thrilled to see the Eiffel Tower as we landed, but otherwise they have become rather "air-wary" travellers and have indicated that they could easily pass up future flights. Moe was no less weary after having made several false visits to the airport and finally waiting at 2 am for our flight which arrived at 5 am on August 29 (instead of 11 pm Aug 28).

I find our situation quite muddled as after we settled in and had a few discussions about going to Isfahan in 2 or 3 years, Moe suggested we drive with him to Isfahan on his next trip (instead of his taking the plane alone) - I should explain ^{as you may know} that this summer he apparently has been in Isfahan 4 or 5 days out of every week and his schedule remained the same in the effort to finish the University to the extent of accepting the freshman class. We drove to Isfahan last Saturday morning, but Sunday had to return suddenly for the signing in of the new Chancellor of Arya Mehr, by Mahdi Zarghamee having been given the post of Managing Director of the NICC (National Iranian

Copper Company). After we returned to Tehran (this stationery is from the Shah Abbas Hotel in Isfahan) (2), we spent several days swimming in our pool, which was apparently destined to be a short-lived luxury since Moe announced the other day that we should move to Isfahan this week!

Since the school destined for the children has walls, roof, but no windows, doors or plaster as of our recent visit to Isfahan, and the faculty housing is not ready either, I discovered the plan was to move to an apartment in Isfahan and then move to the housing when completed in a month or so. Since I didn't think this was such a practical idea (ie 2 moves in 6 weeks, plus the kids missing 1 to 2 months of school), I voted to stay here in Tehran and Moe go ahead, planning a move to Isfahan next summer. I gather Moe has not totally made up his mind, and I don't relish working full-time and handling everything connected with this house, especially without a phone or car, but unless Moe can come up with a less haphazard schedule, I don't see much choice.

Moe's sister arrived last night from England with her son and the 3 children swam most of the day with me performing my usual life guard duties (a great excuse to avoid housework). I gather she will find her house no farther along,

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since Moe hasn't had time to work on it. Massoud English has become much better for his stay in England.

There is nothing to be gained financially by our move, ^{now} since we can't rent out our house since we haven't yet received the "paianikai" or find approval that our house was built according to the original permit. Again, Moe hasn't had time to do this, but it's necessary before we move since we can't have a lease otherwise and may have trouble with a tenant without one.

The new Arya Mihar is still a vast construction area, and although the initial buildings are nearly done, there are no sidewalks, grass or even streets and the area is a sea of dust, bricks, iron beams, and workers' cottages and I think it's a real hazard for children of faculty and possibly the students, especially when everything becomes masked by winter snow. However, as usual, not to be blocked by reality, the government presses on, and the Shah plans to inaugurate the school in a month.

I guess with the departure of Moe for Afghanistan, we might see him on occasional Fridays, when he can get away, but considering all the flying back and forth he's doing now it's probably better for him to stay there since he can't seem to get any rest at all constantly travelling back and forth.

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I have made some half-hearted efforts toward job-hunting, but am sort of waiting until the kids begin school on Sat., Sept 17. After I'm sure their bus schedule etc is established, I'll put my ad in the paper.

Although, Mom said the power was off for about 3-4 hours every day all summer, and presently TV is on only ~~off~~ ^{from} 7pm to 10pm each night to conserve electricity, the weather has cooled off to 85° so coolers are not being run and the blackouts have stopped since we returned.

I expect to see them again as the evenings darken and in cold weather people use their electric heaters and the central heating motors (electric) go on, but for now, no problems.

I am trying to remain cool and not think too far ahead and worry, but the relaxed feeling I gained from my stay in the States is already beginning to wear thin. But instead of screaming and shouting, I jump in the pool and swim a few laps (though I've already ~~was~~ worried about what I'll do in the winter for ex. probably ~~the~~ ^{get} skis to help me out with the downhill trek of 6 blocks to the nearest phone booth!) I'll send you a map of how to get to our

house in Clapham next summer, provided I have the energy left to draw it. Take care and write when you can. Love to all
Glória