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Dear Frank,

I confirm with thanks receipt of your letters of June 12, June 17 (with copy of Julek's memoirs) as well as of June 22, 93.

First of all, let me express my compliments for yours (and Vlad's) decision to move Stefan to a nursing home in San Jose. During my visit to Stefan early May this year I was depressed not only by Stefan's mental (and physical) health but also by the nursing home itself. Lets hope that in the dark winter of his life Stefan will have better comfort.

I would like to rectify your impression, that I wrote to Julek, that I am going to write my life-story and send a copy to you. I did not write to Julek any statement of this kind, but sent him only a copy of your first letter to me, asking him also to send me a copy of his memoirs - and advising him, that I will send you an answer, which I did. No promise of anything else.

The more important confusion on my part was however your statement that you "were not aware of the extent of (my) role in helping to bring (your) family to this country." - - and that you " would like very much to learn these details."

In my letter of June 7, 93 the question "are you aware that Stefan, your mother, Vlad and Kathy came to this country etc..." - was ment to be a rhetorical one and that you know the story either from Stefan, your mother or Vlad.

The embarassment on my part is now that my rhetorical question became just a question which should require an answer; and I would have somehow to deal with it.

It took me several days to ponder the matter and one morning I decided to make an experiment in writing down my story; I tape-recorded a chapter of it with a title "How the Wroclaw Droboats came to America", played it (twice) and hoping that it might look better on paper, I transcribed the tape. After reading it - decided not to send it to you.

It was an emotion-draining experience to relive a painful story, covered until now with a heavy blanket of time and silence. I realized that if my emotional reaction was so intense, it could be even more hurting for you, who - as you claim - does not know it. Because of of the overriding requirement that the story should not be embellished I just cannot send it to you, at least at the present time. You better ask Natalie or Vlad for their version of this chapter.

This test brought me also to a general conclusion not to put my life-story on paper or even on tape. Although overwhelmingly large part of it would be (probably) very interesting, amusing, unusual, unorthodox and, may be, even flattering, there would have to be also true events and situations, which would again jerk a raw nerve not only mine, but also of the readers emotions; an exhumation of affairs, dead for a long time and covered with a thick layer of, sometimes, bitter ashes.

And of course, thank you very much for your "computerized bribe". There is no need to bring computer to my place. Adam, who lives 15 minutes from me and makes a (good) living from computer has two sets at home and his daughter, Clare, aged 12 has another ~~xxxxxxx~~ one. Adam offered me many times the use of of any of these gizmos and in particular during day-time, when he is working on a Cray in his office.

However in line with the wisdom " never say never" I keep my options open and do not exclude, that in the future I would make my story available to selective and interested readers. It would be rather in a form of me talking to somebody willing to listen, with permission by me to make tape-recording and transcribing it, however in a form and audience to be approved by me. It would be - in other words - " come and get it affair."

I read with interest Julek's memoirs contents of which I knew from many talks with him.

I am also enclosing a transcript from the book by Prof. Hugo Steinhaus, Stefan's older colleague from Wroclaw university. I bought it during my recent trip to Poland (March and April this year), also because I knew the author personally too.

It took me some effort to go thru it, not without some amusement. It is basically an unorganized bunch of loose, daily written observations and remarks of a professor with parochial mentality and not very high ethics, which he tries to cover up by sharp but obvious criticisms of life in Poland; it is also an ego trip "proving" that he knew it all.

I am in good shape and so is the rest of my family.

"I received today (April 12, 1952) a cable. Dr. Drobot and Dr. Warkus have applied the dimensional analysis to the problem of the quantities of test samples, thus breaking a new window to the world of statistical sciences."

With kindest regards

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Julek

The Drobot has been in the USSR a conveyor transporting iron ore, coke, limestone etc. to the blast furnaces, 50 meter high. The furnace was surrounded by a fence. A workman - a Kirgiz - who entered in the lower part, not protected by a fence - was accidentally caught by this conveyor and everybody had seen how he was slowly carried up to the opening at the top of the furnace... It would be easy to sweep the conveyor, but nobody thought about it - it would have costed the life of Kirgiz, but there are plenty of Kirgiz's around... (Note dated Feb. 12, 1952)

Comment by Jan Drobot:

Even if the story was not true it is a nice one. It is not true, because technically not possible, there was no easy or not-easy access to the conveyor at the Kuznetsk blast's blast furnaces and nobody could be caught by the conveyor. I know it, because I was working closely to the conveyor installations at all (four) blast furnaces at Kuznetsk. The story was invented by somebody as a (gristly) joke and then circulated among the employees. I was told that a few people were sent to the gulag for circulating such "malicious-misinformation-anti-party-propaganda-gossip". Stalin was funny that he started distributing it only in the USSR when he was out of Russia. But even in Poland his big mouth could bring him a lot of troubles by telling such stories. Fortunately Hugo Steinhaus kept such stories and others in his drawer, to be published only when the time would be safe to do it.

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"... (the existing situation) compels a gross majority of Polish Jews to emigrate. And on the following people went to emigrate: Dr. Ludwik Hirsch (alternate member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a biologist), Kirgiz and Hajduk (students of Hirschfeld, Bakierkumet (from the Hirschfeld's Institute, presently in Leningrad), the naturalist bear, prof. Drobot etc. - ... (Note dated Jan 6, 1952)

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"Dr. Drobot solved the general problem of domes: he knows how to determine a dome for every contour, such dome does not create - in the gravitational field - in a point of the shell other forces than pressure; that it has to be built of concrete which is not uniform; besides he knows how to find the best coordinates for every dome - until now curvatures lines were used and this is useless. I write about it, because Dr. Drobot accepts orders to calculate some static calculations, not available to engineers; he recently got 2000 zlotys for a calculation based on a single formula; it is the first time I heard of a somebody really solving a mathematical formula." (Note dated May 14, 1952)

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"Dr. Drobot is about to move to the apartment left typical. Drobot was sent to Chicago... (Note dated Feb. 10, 1952)