

#21

Phyllis
P.S. Got a great letter from Sukho today... She wants to return to Leetho... where there is sun, & caring, open people -- and to be with her Mom!

May 29, 1983
New Delhi

Dear Phyllis and Sukho,

I could tell you about Delhi's heat, dust storms, ants, mosquitoes --- but you must be as tired of hearing about it all as we are tired of experiencing it all! Ah, but with our faithful desert cooler, we have an "island of decency," here. And after all, Delhi is having the "coolest" May in years, (95-104°), instead of 106-112°.

Monroe is off to the office to pick up some young visitors from the U.S.A --- from Charlotte, North Carolina of all places. A brother/sister duo here on a visit. Apparently their parents & Monroe's parents are good friends --- They're just out of college & decided to see the world (seeing India in summer should surely make Charlotte look good.) We are quite looking forward to hearing their impressions & thoughts. We are "tourists" no longer --- and see not with wide-eyes, nor incredulity. Sometimes visitors reawaken the senses to this incredible world. Incredible it is.

Last night we attended a dance performance --- this time "Chau" dances from a northeastern state. The performers are all male, & all wear elaborate masks & headdresses (covered with tinsel, glittery stuff, etc.) They acted out tales from the Ramayana (India's great epic --- or more correctly, "scripture") most scenes ended in tremendous battles --- drums beating, the men jumping, twisting --- such vigorous involvement. It was not hard to imagine a village audience participating & loving it all. The variety of cultures, dances, costumes, languages, music, art, etc is unbelievable --- Each state, each district in the states seems to have its own type of dance --- vastly different from others --- as well as its own music, dress, language, etc. It makes living here a never-ending

Learning experience.

Phyllis, when are you leaving for the U.K.? Where are you stopping on the way? It is for us an opportunity to get some mail, & perhaps photos, to you safely. We need to know addresses & dates.

We have read in the Indian papers & in the International Herald Tribune about the Pretoria bomb & the Maputo attack. I cringe at the violence, as I know you must cringe - having experienced its horror too often. It seems inevitable that the violence must escalate. When will the Whites be ready to talk, & at what cost? The blacks, I know, are ready to pay the cost, already are paying the cost. The strike on Maputo was yet another reminder of the superior military might the Government brings to the struggle, yet another indication they will not respect another country's sovereignty, nor attempt to avoid civilian casualties.

The ANC rep here, Mr. Mulla, had not heard any details of the Maputo incident. We do not know the casualties, we only know that spokesmen for RSA had a far different tale to tell than spokesmen from Maputo. We at least know which one not to believe. And we know the attack, with or without ANC casualties, is yet another cause for fear in Lesotho, for uncertainty, for mourning those who died. And again we send our love & support. for whatever comfort it may give.

Mona is swamped with work - with Bill gone on home leave & the Country Director about to go & a NY visitor arriving ... well, 12 hr. days have become the norm. I hope he can survive until August when they both return.

Then, we are taking off for the hills - the Himalayas (hardly hills I guess) - & hope to go hiking & camping with friends from Hyderabad - (the ones from my home county & college in the USA) Haven't been camping since we left Lesotho - so it's about time! Hope to hear from you soon. Love, Fern