

LETTER IN LIEU OF MARCH VISIT

129/67 M. Meadows

10th May, 1968



My dear Sam,

Almost a year has already gone by. And since you visited me it is nearly 9 months. Many a time have I wondered what has happened about the Church property or the head of affair. But my curiosity (not to say interest) has had to remain unsatisfied. I feel sure that these matters are being pushed to a satisfactory conclusion. Meanwhile, I am sure I wish you luck. And have there been any further developments in regard to the projects you were working on? (Tote and Vettes)

Last Xmas, you and all our friends were much on my mind. You see, I could send one Xmas card only, hence it became a problem. Should I send it to you, or Dad, or Mummy, or one of my numerous friends? Eventually, I thought it best to send it to Sissy - I hope she received it. I feel confident you will not mind my not sending it to you. As you must know, you are often in my thoughts and it does not need a Xmas card to prove how close we are to each other.

You will no doubt have heard that I am now studying - since I received my lectures in February; I applied in August last year. My courses are Business Economics I, Accounting I and Maths I for the B.Com. degree. I am uncertain about writing that this year as, pressed by the limited time, I am finding it very heavy going brushing up my matric maths side by side with doing Maths I (a tough enough course in itself). Study time here is from about 4.30 pm. (after lock-up) up to 11 pm. A well-nourished body ought to put in 4-5 hours daily but I find that I need to rest after the days work and valuable hours are lost. The problem is aggravated by shortage ~~of~~ of text books and the tendency to tire quickly. Age presents its problems. Anyway we shall see.

In this part of the world, winter comes quite early. Dublin in July is not as cold as it was here last month. Unfortunately, prisoners nowadays are issued not only with jerseys but also with long trousers. When these arrive, I should feel the cold less. Perhaps one day I

will also have a warm jacket. So far, I have been able to resist the temptation to get under the blankets and read - experience teaches that sleep then comes quickly, and too-early sleep is a costly luxury the next 3 months being, in terms of conditions here, the least unfavourable period for study.

Sabahau's ears have been causing me much worry. I feel certain you will give what help you can to Phyllis so that he suffers no permanent injury. I have not heard whether the Telugu classes have commenced. And what is more, I do not know if any arrangements have been made about swimming. These are matters well within your powers. It also worries me that Shab is not at school this year. These are the things constantly in my mind. Phyllis being unwell and at work all day must make the load rather heavy for her. But it will comfort her to know that I am fit and well and in excellent spirits. This is not merely a matter of faith but of knowledge and understanding. Incidentally let me know on what dates Deepavali falls this year.

With the approach of the Olympics, has Member got down to serious training? It is a pity for I think he would have stood a chance. And how is uncles life agreeing with him? What a proud grand father you must feel!

I must assume as I trust is the case that you and the family are all well. Give my warmest regards to the wife, Kimbin + family, Rabi, Vilo and especially Thugun. Also ~~to~~ to all our mutual friends.

The thought that keeps running through my mind is that life is so short and there is so much that needs to be done - one needs many lifetimes and yet they will not be enough!

Soon, the time will have flown and I will have that glass of beer. Or perhaps - - - - - (there are better things than beer!)

With kindest regards
A.P.