

Outline of letter not yet written

I would like to inquire about a commitment that was made to me last Fall and again this Spring.

I met a distant relative of mine in New York last September and as he realized I traveled here and there considerably, so since I said I ~~was~~ was considering going to USSR ~~xxxxx~~ at some future time, he asked if I could go within the next 2 months and also said that all of my expenses would be paid, as well as same for my wife. I told him that at that time it would be impossible for me to get time off from my place of employment and that I could ~~xxxx~~ consider going during this past summer (July 1959), and he said he would let me know further on what type of arrangement he could make.

So, after several months he had the opportunity to again talk with me and said that if I went this summer (1959) my plane fare for a round trip, as well as for my wife, would be paid for in full. He also stated that other expenses could not be paid for, but the plane fare would definitely be paid for by whoever he was associated with.

He told us not to ask who had offered to pay for our fare and since we felt it was secret work and our trip would be of value to a worthwhile cause, we questioned him no further. Also

I would like to point out that I can speak Russian fluently and was told to go to the Minsk area and take all the pictures of the city

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possible, also to notice all people in the area, etc. As I have relatives about 4 hours ride out of Minsk I made it a point to try to get to see these relatives as my father had always wanted me to try to make this visit. Due to the fact that I could speak the language we felt this visit could be accomplished. However, after many tries and going to all sorts of offices, I was denied permission and along with my stay in Minsk experienced many unfavorable experiences.

Upon my return to this Country late in July I met my relative a few weeks later to discuss the trip, and of course, to find out when we would receive payment for our plane fare. After discussing the matter with him he said he had been advised there would be no reimbursement of plane fare. He said he had made a trip to Washington, D.C. to talk the matter over and there again was told the ~~trip was~~ trip was to have been cancelled. All this happening after we had left the country for 3 weeks.

~~xxxxxx~~ The day after we returned home your representative, Mr. James Pye, of the Boston, Mass office called me and wanted to talk with me about my trip... he was very anxious to talk with me, and as I couldn't talk with him when he suggested he said he would call at another time to make arrangements. ... He called a week later and advised he couldn't come the day originally specified as he would

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be out of town that week and suggested another date --- so a couple of weeks later he called and came to my house to talk with me. He told me who he was and obtained ~~any information~~ whatever information he was told to obtain.

Now, what I cannot understand is why all the change-of-mind about making payment of our plane fares. Before we left we were thoroughly investigated, and surely if you had no plans for our bringing back whatever information you wanted, why should someone investigate us.....

We cannot understand the type of business this was set up on --- so when a word is given it is accepted as such and one goes along with their commitments.....

Can you please give an explanation why this trip was not reimbursed as originally promised? *as we expect some form of reimbursement in a short while*

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To test the Russian statement that we could travel freely and speak with everyone and how far one could go without a guide being present in other words that Russian statement to the limit of fact.