

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SHILLONG  
ASSAM

30/10/48

Dear Dimka & Svetoslav,

I really can't go on calling you <sup>Mr.</sup> Mr. & Mrs. "Rorrich" for ever, it makes you seem so terrible distant, like lesser inhabitants or foreign potentates. So if that resolution is carried & seconded, as I hope it will be, we can sigh with relief & get on to "affaires". Very pleasant affairs - <sup>in the business of India</sup> I have just seen my name <sup>Yoda</sup> lies there. <sup>member of</sup> Your Indian Committee of the International Pact for the protection of cultural treasures. I hope there is no mistake? - I feel somewhat unworthy of this honour but would ~~be~~ very much like to have it, nevertheless. This is the only sort of committee <sup>on which</sup> I would



(2)

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Really be happy to serve, I had the greatest  
admiration and affection for Professor Ramesh  
I would feel it a very great ~~honor~~ privilege  
to be associated with a movement so dear  
to his hearts in which you both, who are my  
very good friends, take a leading part.  
When I look at the list of members I feel  
a bit like a school girl on Olympus. All  
gods & goddesses one way or another, but  
of course it should be refreshing for them  
to meet someone not at all famous for  
a change & if they frighten me too much  
I shall look through the wrong end of  
the telescope! So when the Hon. Vijaya-  
lakshmi pours forth her golden oratory,  
when Sir C. V. starts spluttering alarms & Sir S. S.  
produces rabbits out of his hat & Dr. Jha feeds  
the philosopher's stone & Soelvaso paints



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(3)

the portrait of the era. pass me well  
buddle my thumbs & try furiously to think  
of what I am good at.

I am having a wonderful time  
selling house coats & Assam selts to all  
the shanty broke in habitants of this province.  
all the Shillong ladies, brown, black & cream  
(just a few white) are milling round, carrying  
trays of tea & cocoa, selling the most hideous  
dots I have ever seen to people, too as -  
tongued to protect. Our little Kennece de -  
signer keeps careering along between kitchen  
& studio, boiling messy vegetables which  
we all hope will become dyes <sup>one day</sup> & making  
fancy <sup>wooden</sup> blocks of fat Assamese ladies &  
Jareuni - Rayesque peasants, Rhinoceri &  
Peacocks, to be printed on silk. We live  
in a most heavenly mêlée of silk worms



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(4)

2 castor oil leaves, of museum pieces  
torn off the backs of reluctant citizens,  
line balls for bailing vegetables, Vally posters  
for publicity, little Khase girls in blue  
shawls stitching away on remnants of  
velvet & old Red gloves, which, optimis-  
tically, perhaps, we think are going to  
sell as tags for X-mas. And through it  
all there is an all pervading smell of  
Zaamasas & pakoras, which are being  
cooked for tea by our Cooking ladies.  
I wish you both would come & see for  
yourself <sup>one</sup> day but do come before we  
have to ~~bring~~ <sup>give</sup> up the ghost, for lack of money  
& patronage. For this is Assam, where every  
thing moves slowly except crazy we, who  
are trying to pep up this nation. You  
never know, we might even succeed!



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(5)

We are up against all sorts of elements  
who don't like popular movements of  
any kind & who think that Co-operation  
is particularly obnoxious. There are  
Jesuits & missionaries, middlemen & soured  
Englishwomen who like us not at all,  
but whilst it lasts we get a lot of fun  
out of the whole thing, the whole thing  
being the Assam Co-operative Cottage In-  
dustries Association, which we hope, one  
day, will revolutionise the province if  
we are tough enough. We have taken on every-  
body including our little Banya - Finance Minister  
what a nightmare! We are flying to Jorhat  
tomorrow - I wish you could see our little  
Silver Dove. She is a beauty & takes us nearly  
everywhere though not yet to Shillong, but one day <sup>she will perhaps</sup>  
if the fates remain favourable. Love to you both.  
I hope you will reply. (no letter please when you reply).  
Signed My dear



6

Lady Hydari,  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SHILLONG  
ASSAM

22nd February, 1949.

1

*Dear friends,*

Thank you very much for your ~~very~~ kind letter dated the 5th of January. Please forgive this long delay in replying, but, I am sure, you will understand how fully occupied I have been during this time with preparations for my departure from Assam. I hope to sail from Bombay on the 4th of March and will be arriving there on the 1st of March. I shall love to come and see you both if at all possible whilst I am in Bombay.

Please convey to your family my very kind regards and tell them how grateful I am for their message of sympathy in my sad bereavement. You can imagine how great a shock we have suffered and how difficult it is for me to realise that my life's companion is here no more. I shall, of course, always look on India as my own country and will be returning here after a year or so. At present I feel it is my duty to be with Booj in London for as long as she needs me and I will probably be going to Sweden in the summer, ~~and~~ it is difficult to make any detailed plans.

With affectionate regards to you both,

Yours ever,

*Sigis Hydari*

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