DEAR RUTH, (you prefer to spell it that way) HELLO!

Not only do I congratulate you, but I am also very happy for you that you can have work according to your liking. How fine that everything has come out well in this regard at least. But it is very sad news about your relations with Michael. Very, very sad. And I understand you doubly, as it is the same story with Lee, who has made it plain that he doesn't want to live with me. But he doesn't give me a divorce, rather insists that I go away to the Soviet Union—which I certainly don't want to do. I can only console you with this: that you are not the only rejected one in this world. In many ways you and I are friends in misfortune. But surely a person can carry on through all the most heavy losses, trials and misfortunes. I think we will not perish, but that something will smile brightly on us too. Don't you think so? Soon you will set out on your vacation, and I wish you and the children a good trip.

With us everything is as it used to be. A gloomy spirit rules the house. The only joy for me and for Lee (I think) is June. It seems to me the baby has moved, but very weakly, and this time I worry. It's high time to go to the doctor.

Today I received a letter from a girl friend (from Russia). Her mother has died,—it is such a pity both for her and her mother. Cancer is a frightful thing, and to lose one's mother is also frightful. I love this friend of mine very much and grieve.

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for her terribly. They have written me nothing from home for a long time. I don't know their news. It is good you write me, otherwise I would have no one to talk to. You know that Lee either yells at me or is silent, but never talks. It is oppressive. But no doubt it is tiresome for you to read my melancholy letters—they cast a gloom, not cheer. But for the time being there is nothing cheery about me. Please write me your news when you have time and inclination. Thank you again for everything and for your letter. Greetings from Lee. I kiss and embrace you and the children.

Sincerely,

MARINA

[Then, written on my letter (Mrs. Paine's) to her which she corrected and sent back, was the answer to a question I had asked: “Have you and Lee found any Russians in New Orleans yet?” Her answer: “Not yet, and Lee doesn’t want me to make contact with them.”]

[At the end of the corrected letter she writes:]

You write well. When will I write that way in English? I think never. Very likely I will have to go to Russia after all. A pity.

P.S. Dear Ruth, don’t be hesitant to write and send me all which you need to know in Russian. I will be pleased to help you with corrections or in any way I can. O.K.?  

MARINA

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 409-B—Continued