

16.1.94

Dear Chris:

So both Christmases have passed and I am nearing the completions of my plans taken since the uncertainty in the US translation and in "S. Mike" appeared. I think that politically the BBC or any other TV are not up to your script the public is used to a cliché of K&SB and to breakfast requires time or... it should be a more or less <sup>known</sup> personality in Britain. Therefore I decided to finish my book on the British where the last two chapters are devoted to my visit to you (all in a jocular way as a whole book). As by now I had plenty of request from the British to write something like that I hope that it will be published in UK. It may get public interest in your script.

- material support of  
2. your ~~gold~~ ~~whisk~~ ~~hand~~ BBC interest we may try to realize some projects with the shooting both in UK + Russia.

a) A serial on a British pensioned spy who has adventures in Moscow and Russia maverick agent (even a pensioner like me) in London.

For this we have already some staff: 1) "Murder for export" which may be used for a film in a situation.

2) A Legend of a Legend, a funny play on Bond in Moscow, which I gave you and you declined (of course I'm speaking using only of some parts).

3) My new auto novel "Player with a Dagger and the Cloak", ~~the~~ which

contains something used in your script, but there are many more stories, each can be made a film. I actually dream of writing with you (or consulting) a film of about a British spy who comes to Yalta and falls in love with a girl <sup>or my story</sup> (A Lady with a dog) with a chair to be turned into a script ~~but~~ provided that the main character <sup>I think</sup> about all this is British, and inform me.

4) I read Julian Barnes' "The World History..." in our "Foreign Literature". The book is wonderful, the translation is also very good. Tell Julian that it now a hit with the reading public here and to give him my ~~IP~~ phone if he comes to Moscow. Nesterov is finishing "The Servant" and I'm sure it will go very well alongside with Machigvell.

5) I plan to come to UK in April. If you are out is it possible to stay with your brother 3-4 days (and the late vicar's widow of course)? What is his phone number? Address? I plan to move from Cornwall to all Wales where I have never been. I want to go to Britain through Paris. May be you'll join me there? We can walk through literary sights, my liver is now very English and not against your moderate habits and you remember how skillfully I make contacts with blondes and brunettes.

5) So I'm on the spot. In the beginning of March we may go to Thailand for 10 days but I'll give you a notice and exact dates when David sends me concrete

October events were an internal fight between former Communists and appealed to the people to go to bed and not to barricades to defend Gaidat. It's amazing that the people who were afraid to utter a word even under Gorbachev (I feel a hero in comparison to them) are now great democrats, providing that democracy permits anything. The apparatus is doing too well, an appartement like Oleg's costs about \$300 000 (!) and they buy and buy. I fail to understand and it's not an envy as I lived in two-storied mansions as Lord Foulteroy, and actually like only writing women (wife of course) and Glenlivet (quite modest, ain't I?). Politically we are developing into a crisis and a coup, but Russia is an odd country: people are angry, but they bear the burden. One friend of mine spent a New Year in a Swiss chateau with aristocrats and by the morning he found that 50% of them were Russian. We have a ~~to~~ fantastic skill to adapt. I myself consult a lot of foreign film producers and recently even took part in a film of an escape of your Kim in our Firm.

I could come to you somewhere  
in April or may adapt to another  
time if you give a few alterna-  
tive dates. I tried to get to  
you by phone, but in vain, though  
Chris, your neighbour, was obtained  
at once - ~~MR~~ they have evidently  
this line is under a good care.  
Could you phone or faxes or  
use Chris? When Zirinovsky  
comes to power I'll use pigeons  
and fish (Moskva river - Volga -  
S - Archangel etc). God help  
us all!

My best regards to Jane  
and Nicholas

Look forward to meeting you

Sincerely yours

Michael Lyubimov

P.S. It's a funny story about Oleg's  
arrest. I'll need something like  
that when my book is translated.  
He was a bit surprised when a polic-  
man looked into the depths of his  
pants, as he remembered well Colonel  
Lawrence's experience with a Turk.  
Close public schools!