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Joe to Jim, 29 September 1962

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Robert College
Bebek, Istanbul
Turkey--Sept. 29, '62

Dear Jim,

I have a strong hankering to know what really goes on in Mississippi these days. We are getting, a little belatedly, a good deal of coverage in the European edition of the New York Times. Even the Turkish students here show mild interest in just how far the governor of a state can go in defying the Federal government. Probably some of them have mental pictures of the story ending with the execution of either Barnett or Kennedy. What is the Ole Miss faculty doing? Nothing gets in our papers about the faculty and very little about the attitude of the student body.

We have been in Istanbul for almost a month and classes have been under way for a week at Robert College. It is all an interesting and in some ways ~~xxxx~~ an unexpectedly strange experience. I had not anticipated, for example, being distracted as I was yesterday afternoon by a Turk and a dancing bear just outside my study window. It was ^{hard} to tell which looked sicker. Being an animal lover, I didn't feel like imposing on the bear by asking for a performance. We have a 'modern' apartment, lots of glass and modern furnishings, and a balcony that overlooks the Bosphorus at close to its narrowest point. But there are restrictions on the word modern. For a bath we have to light up an ancient woodburner and for heat we have kerosine stoves. Robert College ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ illustrates this contrast between the New and the Old, the East and the West. My main job is to participate in Humanities Survey which at least theoretically is both a bi-lingual and a bi-cultural affair. There are usually two lectures a week, one in Turkish and one in English, and the quiz sections are conducted alternately in English and Turkish. The main idea is to introduce the 'discussion' method, but its like pulling teeth. "either by temperament nor by tradition do the students incline to discussion. About the best I have been able to do so far is to extract a timid answer to a direct factual question from one of the bolder souls in the class. We shall see.

The best to Dutch and all. Tell Joe Baylen I would welcome a report. Tim has started classes at the University of Cincinnati and seems to be off to a good start.

Yours,

P. S. My assumption that you are using Oxford as ^{Joe} home base and that you are there in body may be all wrong. Somehow I have a feeling that you would return for the spectacle even if it mean't altering your research schedule.