

(E)rased, (R)eply, (S)ave, (Q)uit, (N)ew:

Message #1 (100 lines)

From sovamsu.sovusa.com!teolog Thu Feb 11 12:11:19 1993

From: teolog@sovamsu.sovusa.com ()

Date: Thu, 11 Feb 1993 23:09:14 MSK

To: jtsyivo@pandora, dafishman@theo.jtsa.edu, teolog@sovamsu.sovusa.com

Subject: Third Attempt

Cc: dafishman@theo.jtsa.edu, teolog@sovamsu.sovusa.com

Having received a battery of error messages just now, I realize that the messages I sent you last night and this afternoon via internet (dafishman) did NOT go through. I've been wondering why I hadn't heard from you; you're probably wondering why you haven't heard from me.

I received your messages re: arrivals and whatnot. PLEASE give me precise, detailed arrival info (flight nos., times etc.) ASAP. I do NOT have that information. I had old info for Kassow and none for Roskies. Could you just restate the details for me so I can inform Kniazkov and Slava? It's already late night here and there's only Friday during which to push through the housing paperwork and we already know that Vlasova is OPPOSED to the arrivals since not all of the repairs are finished and since she's still fighting the overall money battle.

The assessment made by Starostin, Nina Vasilyevna, the chief engineer and me <Return> for more, (Q)uit:
is as follows:

- 1) There's a good chance that two rooms will be done by the END of the weekend.
- 2) The others will DEFINITELY still be under construction for another week or so.
- 3) The kitchen nnddand new dining area will be done by the time they arrive.
- 4) If their rooms are NOT done, there are singles (with toilets) available on a stopgap basis on the first and fifth floors. Even if the rooms ARE done, they may choose to live elsewhere till the noise, dust and odors settle.
- 5) Everyone agrees that the workmanship in the rooms is pretty shoddy.
- 6) The chief engineer thinks the price we're being asked to pay is absurd, given the change in the exchange and the poor work quality as compared with the fourth floor doubles.
- 7) It's good they're coming, since the semester is underway and we'd best get started. We'll do our best as always to accommodate them. I got Shmuel

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and Sheva to stay, didn't I?

Starostin met with the students today (the nine that showed up, that is) and gave them an update on the semester and reassured them about the continuation of their specialization. He also expressed to them some disappointment in the caliber of their ARCHIVAL work and told them he'd want them to pursue the bibliographic projects he'd discussed with them wwyay back when. He granted that

the trudoviye dogovory they signed with fictive, but he still felt that the work would advance their professional education. Motya, who receives no stipend anyway, said he wouldn't sign the next dogovor out of concern lest it be used to compel additional work or to justify punishment of students at some point on the grounds that they "owed" such work and hadn't provided it.

The library move was almost entirely completed, in orderly fashion, in a single afternoon\evening under the command of Anya Levitova who organized and commanded the student brigade. I'm impressed.

The Nikolskaya office should be functional by the close of business tomorrow. The techies did what I think is a stupendous job under Russian circumstances and within the allocated budget. Starostin agrees that, their "wish lists" aside, they're both diligent and honest. And they even accept "no" for an answer

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when their "wishes" come up...though that doesn't keep them from making new requests. Nu, meyle....

Belaya's been out sick. She's expected back tomorrow and we have a tentative meeting set up for after lunch.

Basovskaya's home and doing better, but she and Kior remain out sick. Pivovarov will do battle with us against Vlasova tomorrow if necessary, but he says he's a bit depressed that he only sees us when the "firemen" are needed (i.e. in emergency and as a last resort). I tried to explain that your research (and any I might have hoped to do) have been put off in the face of pressing bytoviye problemy, so when can we talk nauchniye voprosy?!

Anya finally got her academic schedule confirmed today. She can't be quite fulltime in the office, but she's pretty sure she can come close. She seems pretty responsible, eager and, most important, effective in the tasks she's been given initially, so that's encouraging. She's also willing to do tasks at odd hours, if need be, to make up day periods when she must be in a seminar or some such. It ain't perfect yet, but I think it's workable.

Kaplanov and Shulman await the arrival of their American colleagues eagerly. We'll have to have a few quick meetings almost immediately when they get here.
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It's been a hellish few days and I can't think any more. PLEASE respond QUICKLY, at least as regards arrival info.!!!

How'd Rebecca do on Jeopardy? Dare we ask?

Yehiel