



Ashoka Hotel

Letter #1

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Sunday, December 15, 1974
11:30 PM

Dearest Sharon and Glenn,

It's all here I am in India. When possible I will write each night to keep you up on events. This will also give me somewhat of a diary when I return.

The flight over was very long, but comfortable I went first class between New York and Frankfurt. Then because of a full plane was moved to economy for the remainder of the flight. Except for a little more room I still can't get excited over first class. On a long flight like this you get too much to eat in both classes. It seems as though you just get finished with one meal and they are trying to give you another one.

After arriving in New York from Cleveland my transfer was painless. I had plenty of time. A porter took my bags and got me a taxi which took me to the Air India office in the International Terminal. When I walked up to the Air India desk the girl just happened to be making out my ticket. As soon as she finished I checked in. Delhi allowed me the first class allowance of 30 kils on my baggage plus 90 kils over. They are very efficient and write this on the ticket so there won't be a hassle at each place. After checking in I went to the first class lounge. While there I took my first class look at my ticket and found they had me going to Bombay. According to the schedule I

had flight 110 didn't go to Bombay. It went to Delhi. And besides my itinerary had me going to Delhi. Then I didn't know if there was a change in flight destination, or a change in my itinerary or a mix-up. I called Iyer Murthi and got it all straightened out. The flight now (as of Dec 1) goes to both Delhi and Bombay, stopping in Delhi first. I was still to go to Delhi so they rewrote my ticket and rechecked my bags. Other than taking a short walk to the PanAm terminal I sat in the first class lounge until flight time. The flight departed right on time (8 PM). The movie between N.Y. and London was "The Three Musketeers" which, as you know, we've already seen. We arrived in London just at sunrise. It was a beautiful sight seeing the lights of London at sunrise. Had a two hour layover at Heathrow airport where I sent you and Glenn cards. After taking off from London the rest of the daylight flight was very cloudy so I couldn't see too much. They didn't let us deplane in Paris. In Frankfurt we had only about 20 min in the terminal. From Frankfurt to Kuwait they had another movie. It was "The Day of the Dolphin". This was about the best movie I've seen on a plane yet. We arrived in Kuwait around 10 PM their time. It was quite a sight seeing the lights of the city and the country side lit by the fires burning excess crude in the oil fields - It gave me a strange feeling looking at them with current events as they now are. - After leaving Kuwait I shaved and cleaned up, and felt much better. - We arrived in Delhi on time, and it felt good to arrive. I left my watch on N.Y. time to see exactly how long it would take. She left N.Y. at 8 PM EST on Dec. 13, and arrived in Delhi at 7:15 PM EST on Dec 14. (This was 5:40 AM on Dec. 15 Delhi time.) We had a full plane when we arrived, so you can imagine the crowd

going through the formalities at the airport. I immediately went to one of the airline personnel and told them I was to be met by someone from the Tourist Info. Office. The man went right away to see if there was anyone looking for me. It wasn't long before he came back with two men and a woman who were there to meet me. After the introduction he handed me a letter of greeting from their director then detoured me around all the crowd & finish with all the entry formalities as quickly as possible.

Going through customs has never been easier. All I had to do was sign my list of equipment and a form stating I would take everything out. We were then on our way by car to the hotel. You can see by the letterhead where I am staying. It is a beautiful place built during the British days.

After checking in the Tourist office people left me to get some rest. I immediately went to my room (635) and got that rest. Mr. Gove Kanjilal who is to be my guide while in Delhi said he would pick me up around 12:30 to start our sight seeing and filming. - Would you believe that when I arrived in Delhi it was raining. They assured me it would stop. - The first thing I did was take a shower. Then I set the alarm for 10:30 in case I fell asleep, so I could get up, get my equipment ready, have a light lunch and be ready to go at 12:30. Then I started looking at some of the literature they gave me to read. The next thing I knew the telephone was ringing and Gove was waiting for me downstairs. It was 12:30 P.M. I'm afraid I fell asleep and turned off the alarm when it went off and never knew it. I jumped out of bed, threw on some clothes, grabbed film and camera and rushed downstairs.

Since my days and nights are still mixed up I wasn't too alert during the days tour. I ended up taking no pictures, but just sort of oriented myself. I took a general tour around the city by car, visiting The Red Fort, Shanti's monument, a rose show, etc. At the rose show I was elbow to elbow with The President of India. We ended the day around 5 PM, and I was ready to end it. Getting back to the room I fell asleep again, and didn't wake up until 10 PM. I went downstairs and had some supper, then started writing this. It's now 1 AM and I am wide awake. I imagine when Gaur picks me up at 9:30 AM I'll be ready for bed again.

As soon as I finish this I'm going to get my equipment organized for tomorrow's work, and then try and get some more sleep.

To wind this up I would say that so far I am extremely impressed with the overall courtesy and efficiency of the people I have dealt with. They are by far the best I have ever dealt with. I hope this is an indication of what the future has in store. The one man who met me at the airport was even smart enough to weigh all of my baggage before we left the airport so he would know exactly what to tell the domestic airlines regarding my excess baggage. This way, I also know what I have. It all weighed 72 kilo.

Well sweetheart that's all for letter #1. Until #2 all of my love is with you both. Give love to all. Maybe they would like to read this. Daddy.