

[1/1] Dear Willy!

[1/2] I haven't written in a long time and I haven't even thanked you for the nice [1/3] postcard, but I was so depressed, that I couldn't gather myself [1/4] to write a letter.

[1/5] On the day of 12/III I got news from my father in law in Tarnow [1/6] from whose contents I realized that my wife is arrested [1/7] The critical sentence said: "Anton and Irene (my [1/8] brother in law and wife, identified by their middle names) have a lot of [1/9] troubles, which have lasted from as early as the start of January, I can't [1/10] write about it, I think you understand."

[1/11]...² letters, in order to figure out what happened. [1/12] Exactly one month passed before I got a letter from Tarnow that arrived [1/13] on 12.IV. In this letter they wrote: "Irene came back for the holidays. [1/14] Anton to this day has not." With this my [1/15] father in law concluded by adding a warning, that I should not [1/16] expect any letters from my wife and daughter.

[1/17] News "on the side" only confirmed the fact [1/18] of my wife's and her brother's arrest, but I don't know the [1/19] cause. It's possible that they caught her preparing [1/20] to leave the country, or maybe it was in connection with [1/21] something else.³ In any case, for now I am [1/22] totally paralyzed when it comes to this matter. [1/23] If I have to say and write something happy⁴

[2/1] then it depends on the fact that the considerably small amount of money [2/2] I have has not slipped through my hands, it is earmarked for [2/3-4] bringing over the family. But when will we renew our ties?...

[2/5] You understand that I was really mad... I think, my [2/6] dear that I'm boring with own problems, but I don't [2/7] know how to write about anything else.

[2/8] What's going on with you? Are you coming to Europe? Write [2/9] me something.

[2/10] Kisses for all of you

[2/11] ...⁵

[2/12] Ludwik

¹ The letter was written in 1951. This was a period of purges within the Polish Communist party and Polish society in general. Stabilization came with the "thaw" of 1956.

² Illegible

³ Internment of family members of those who fought abroad and did not come back after the Second World War was common practice in Communist Poland. Usually the arrests were used to lure the soldiers back to Poland where they were either arrested or killed. The fact that Ludwik Rubel was a prominent pre-war intellectual, a newspaper editor with a Jewish background, only makes this possibility more likely.

⁴ This part of the original is hard to read, the reconstruction is the best one possible.

⁵ Illegible.