

April 13, 1940

[1/1] Dear Sir,

[1/2] I was gladdened by the news from you.¹ Unfortunately, [1/3] the story about my family's preparation for their departure² [1/4] does not square with reality. I did everything [1/5] I could, but my optimism for this subject has come to an [1/6] end. I corresponded with the consulates of countries that [1/7] neighbor Poland and they have promised me [1/8] that when Nusia shows up³, they will handle her case [1/9] favorably, however, it appears that getting out of the [1/10] Russian annexation is becoming more and [1/11] more dangerous, so I'm not betting on [1/12] any results.⁴

[1/13] Everything would be well with me, if not for my worries about [1/14] the family. I am content with my situation, work and [1/15] people are nice, and the region is very beautiful.

[1/16] I send you a hearty handshake and full bows for your wife,

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¹ Sol Berger's letter is also in the Birnbaum collection.

² In his own letter Mr. Berger mentions a rumor that the Birnbaums were packing and coming to America.

³ These connections did not pay off. The family did not escape from the Russians in time to avoid being captured by the Germans.

⁴ This is in contrast with Professor Birnbaum's reaction at the beginning of the war, when he said that it was better for his family to be under the Russians than the Germans. Slowly, over the months, he even got news of some people he knew being sent deep into Russia. Some were sent to labor camps in Siberia.