

October 11, 1950  
Okayama City

Dear Bob:

I have been putting off this third report in the hope that I would be able to report the successful conclusion of a couple of problems. One, the purchase of the 18,200 volumes from the Kamada Library, is now all set up; the other, the continuing problem of the elusive electric stove, continues to remain unsolved though hopeful. I have given up waiting on this, however, and will at least start this report for September.

Everyone continues in good health, although I have about decided that I am allergic to rice (I would choose to specialize in Japan). I have had a continual and miserable allergy ever since the rice began to come to head in August. This is a minor ailment, however, and in no way disabling. I had particularly hoped to be able to report Connie's safe delivery and the arrival of a Ward heir, but she still continues in fine health though of alarming bulk. The doctor told her last Thursday that she was carrying "takusan" baby, so I guess it will be a pretty large child. I have been going to Osaka every weekend, hoping each time that this would be the last trip. Perhaps this week will do it.

Joe arrived for a 3 day visit on Sept. 25. We had a long talk about his plans and Joe suggests the following arrangement which seems quite satisfactory to me. He is now settled in an apartment in Tokyo - address: c/o Nakayama Tadashi, Yumi-machi 1 - 8, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo - and will be quite busy consulting people there and in Kyoto and Nagoya for another month or so. Thereafter he would like to make Okayama his headquarters though, of course, going off to Tokyo and Kyoto for occasional research. He would arrive here in early or mid-November for a more or less continuous stay according to this schedule. He would be quite willing to take on some sort of informal supervisory responsibility here whenever I depart, though he says that he would like to avoid any formal or public responsibility lest it give the Rockefeller Foundation the idea that he was not devoting his time to the purposes for which his grant was given.

This arrangement seems desirable to me for the following reasons. My departure and probably Dick's is going to take place considerably earlier than we had thought. The American President Lines informs me that the only possible sailings of the General Gordon are December 4 arriving in San Francisco on December 16 and January 16 arriving on January 28. With a new child, family to be seen on the West Coast and housing arrangements to be made, furniture purchased, etc. in Ann Arbor before the semester begins, that leaves us very little choice. The Gordon is the only ship on which ~~our~~ reduced ~~xxxx~~ fares are applicable. It appears, however, that the schedules are now in a state of some uncertainty, so some change may be made. At present, however, it seems that we will sail on December 4. It would, I think, be quite desirable to have Joe on hand during the interregnum from my departure to Mischa's arrival. Dick will probably not be here, since he too will probably be taking the Gordon, and in any circumstances he will be leaving only slightly later. Also he wants to spend two or three weeks in Tokyo immediately prior to his departure, so this too will move ahead the date at which he leaves Okayama. I would prefer not to leave Norbeck or Cornell in charge for any considerable period. Doug would be better, but, if Joe could be here, it would settle the problem in more satisfactory fashion. Incidentally what is the probable date of Mischa's arrival out here? Is it certain that he is coming? You indicated in a recent letter that you might yourself be returning. This sounds too good to be true, but I hope there is something to it. I have quite a few suggestions to offer about future operations and arrangements here, but I have