

April 27, 1972

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Dear Gus:

Your letter of April 19 moves me deeply, and my first instincts would be to say yes, immediately. Every consideration you mentioned would be important to me too.

But a wiser voice says "wait!" I have an agonizing problem reshaping my commitments to my capabilities, and have been progressively occupied in this rationalization. In due time I will have made room for such gratifications as you propose as a regular part of my agenda. As it is now, I fear that when the time actually approached, it would seem a mixed blessing and that I would be particularly apprehensive about having had the time to prepare my lecture in a way that would fulfill your expectations (and perhaps more troublesome, for you are a generous friend, my own.)

May I then accept in principle - and with Marguerite's equal enthusiasm - but ask you to wait until I can approach you with a less cluttered prospect (and with ample advance notice.) I would certainly hope this would not be postponed more than another 2 or 3 years - to be optimistic about my general sanity as well as about the enjoyment of this particular trip.

P.S. My (step)-son David is now 7 1/2. We have already taken him with us to Israel and to France, and with great profit. When he is 10 or 11, we would certainly expect him to be able to join us South Seas-ward with equal enjoyment, and this is another consideration in waiting a while longer. Otherwise, arranging his care is a problem rather than an added joy. And we could then think of planning the visit with a real sense of freedom about time. When we come I would certainly want us to have at least a couple of weeks to include a proper sample of the Australian environment, which I enjoyed so much in 1957.

ORIGINAL DEPOSITED BY
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JL:mf

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