Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992
Box 90, Folder 5, Rivka Alexandrovich, undated.
my very dear Marc!

Again thank you so very much for everything you have done. I shan’t go into details. I hope we (I and Ruth) will be able to thank you personally when in New York in December and kiss your lovely family. Now to business.

As you remember you wrote in one of your letters that to meet Pope Paul VI is possible. I immediately asked for permission at our Misrad Hakefir (that of Golda – meaning...
Nechumi Leonov. It took him time to answer. And the answer was, that he, and Eban, and even (hints to Golda) don't like the idea of going to the Pope.
I took it for granted: he (the Pope) is anti-Jewish and his position in the question of Jerusalem is indeed not to be nice. But then I thought the thing over and wrote a letter to Golda telling her among other things the following:
"Is it indeed correct for me not to make use of
The possibility to meet the Pope? I believe that all Jews also as individuals must follow all paths open to them. This, in my opinion, is an opportunity for this Pope to make amends for the sins of his predecessor. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to speak to him, if it would change something in the fate of Silva Salomunson?"

For a long time, there was no answer. Then suddenly two days ago I was invited to the Foreign Ministry of Eban. A man named Prayag spoke to me. He said they think it rational for me to go to Rome on condition I act...
on my own private behalf. I myself (!!!!) must organize the meeting with the Pope. He recommended me to look for your assistance and parallel to write in my own name to Cardinal Josef Slipyj what I did and am sending you the copy of the letter. Well, a little bit strange, but it is not the time for offences and details. Silva is dying and that is no exaggeration. Mark, darling, do whatever you can and in the shortest possible time if the answer comes and if the answer...
is positive cable the date and
I'll leave immediately for
Rome.
There is another way: the
way through a man
named Jakob Jeshuer
in Paris who is said to
be a bosom friend
of the Pope. Shall I
approach him?
Please, Marc, answer
me as soon as
possible.
My love to your
children.

Yours rivers.

21. XI. 71

P.S. Perhaps to ask for Cardinal
Heenan's help in the question
of the Pope. Rivers.
Your Eminence!

Only the question of life and death urges me to write this letter to you. I hope you remember Eduard Kuznetsov - you were together with him in prison in Russia.

Some words about Eduard after he was released. He met a girl, Silva Zalmanson, married her, came over to live in Riga (Latvia). They together applied for a visa to Israel and received a negative answer. For Silva, it was her second negative answer. And then, the misfortune came - the Leningrad trial in December 1970.

Eduard was sentenced to 20 years, which was later replaced by a sentence of 15 (!!!) years, and Silva was sentenced to 10 years of prison. The 27-year-old girl is confined in Potmakh prison. Her physical condition is more than bad.
My daughter, Ruth Alexandrovich, who recently arrived in Israel after a year of prison in Potwala, where she was together with Sierra, informed us that Sierra has contracted tuberculosis with complications. She is losing her hearing and cannot digest her food. Her condition deteriorates from day to day and her life is in danger.

Your Eminence! Edward spoke of you with admiration and respect. He said you "act with love to people and respect to God." You opened the world of God for him. Do help 27-year-old Sierra!

Please, use your influence to further the humanitarian cause of the poor girl. Perhaps you can organize a meeting with His Holiness Pope Paul VI for me? And, please, make it clear to the Pope, that I have absolutely not the slightest
intention to involve His Holiness into any political activities, I’m going to ask only about Silva’s release from prison — about saving her life. I know how great your personal influence is. I beg you to do anything possible for Silva (Cf. also, I am asking nothing for Eduardo!) if you’ll be so thankful to you. I’ll be so thankful if you prompt anything of use for Silva. If His Holiness agrees to see me, I’m ready to be in Rome any time. I know that the xx routine doesn’t.

I know that the difference between religion, it differs between those who believe and those who don’t. And Silva is a religious girl.

God bless you!

Respectfully yours,

RIVKA ALEXANDROVICH

Jerusalem, Talpiot, En Zurim 201-3.
my very dear Marc!

I don't go into details - hope to meet you in N-Y. But, because I'll stay there for only a few days, do organize things so, that you can meet me on the very first day (12/11). Pratt will evidently know more details. Eager to meet you.

Rivka, Ruth.

3/11
My dear friend,

now it is high time to thank you again for all you have done for my family and are doing for the Jewish cause.

Ruth is at home, and life would be fine if not the image of poor Sierva, dying in prison.

give my love to your family.

I'll be happy to meet you in December.
in N.Y. and to make Ruffy acquaintance with you and your family.

Please post the letters I insert after you have read them and o.k-ed them.

With Love

Rino
My Dear Marc!

My gratitude to you is inversely proportional to the time we met. The more days pass, the more and the more days pass, the more and I am thankful to you for all you have done and are doing. And not only for Ruth, but for Soviet Jews in the whole, for the Jews, the Jewish people, for Jerusalem. I mean what I earnestly mean, you were the good angel of Ruth. And I hope, that you will also be the angel for the other arrested people, our people in Russia. The world gets tired of Jewish
problems and even the Jews themselves begin to feel bored.
I am you so very much to be a kind and wise adviser for Rabbi Riskin who is going to pay you a visit (or has he already seen you?)
He will tell you in more details of our plans (our: Soviet oil and good American Jews). I hope you will give us your frank opinion and enlightened advice.

Coming back to the question of my going to Rome. After many bitter days of thoughts, I have come to the decision that I have the moral right to act as I
Suppose I should act, as my heart prompts, as my duty towards my friends in Russia dictates. Even without the blessing of my Misrad Hachnua. But not unreasonably like that of going to Rome for the God knows what time I spoke to Lebanon (Pratt → Necer → Lebanon) about it. He says he has to consult the very, very...

He promises to give me an answer whether they agree to my going to Italy next week. I don’t think the answer will be positive, but in case it is I’d like to have
your opinion about it. And there is another consideration: Ruth is on the eve of being set free. I would like to move the stress from Ruth to the other women prisoners. What do you think about it, Max?

A high school in Israel, which thinks that the pupils must be not only fine Israelis, but also Jews, goes into studying the case of Ruth. They have already issued

(now they are ready to
publish a second book where your name is frequently to be met (they publish all the documents they think important - that's how you appear on every page). When it is ready I'll send it to you.

Sometimes I think of your role and a feeling of terror comes over me. I love you as a friend and I'm taken aback by the responsibility that lies on you. God bless you!

How are the children? The little "man"? How is your lovely wife? I don't feel like describing...
my life. I have got a flat already, but unless the family is together there can't be a feeling of home. I try not to allow the trifles of life to make me forget about bigger issues.

All the best and my love to your family.

Yours, Rivka

3/4

Jerusalem,
Talpiot,
En-Zurim 201-3

P.S. I beg your pardon for the form of the letter: my furniture hasn't yet arrived.