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St. John College  
Santa Fe

/// 5362 5 April 1974

Dear Istavan Fekeyary:

If I have spelled your name wrong, blame it on Joe's handwriting. I was glad to hear from you indirectly and remember Joe talking about you during the holidays. I would be happy to see you come to Naxos and make arrangements ultimately to stay there, whether part or all of the year.

It is a good island, with a number of little green valleys in the interior and many miles of fine wide beach. There are practically no houses or even ruins on the shore so one must build, which is no great trouble or expense. Naxos is a large island; its topography makes it appear much larger than Elba for example, which is about the same size.

The island is self-sufficient in food, vegetables and animals. Potatoes is the export crop, also some beef, and fruit. Tourism has been slow because the people don't much encourage it and the first sight from the harbor lacks the charm of other island ports. Marble is mined. Water on the island is relatively plentiful and the best there is. Electricity is available in all the towns and here and there near the sea. So is telephone.

I own about fifty acres by the sea and mountain several miles out of town, and rent a town apartment too because it is cheap and is in the old castro above the town, which is medieval and fine. I have a chance to rent long-term a school that has closed down on top of the castro, and am searching for several persons who would take the risk with me for as long a lease as possible. I have in mind fellows who would be advanced, interested in prehistory and ancient history, and pay about \$1000 a year for five years to build up the place. This location, like many another on the island will have practically disappeared from any reasonable possibility of use or purchase in several years. Costs of living are low on the island. It has a superior pharmacy, several inexpensive doctors.

I would be interested also in the possibility that you might want to purchasing some land for building not only your own house but several others for congenial persons from Europe and America. There is no problem of interest. The building can be done in phases and much of it can be done by persons such as ourselves with local help (or young people like my nephew Augie de G who wants to work there this summer). It is difficult to talk about land prices, but the best thing to do is to say, I have this much for land, leaving out the barest minimum of say \$2000 for a house (cabin, of course, for a family of four), and then we can hunt the best piece for the price. Land continually rises. If you can manage to put up together with me enough money or land, then we can think about building the houses later. The only island that I've seen that is better than Naxos in beauty is Corfu, but it very costly (5 times more) and quite hot in summertime whereas Naxos is almost always cool when the rest of the world is sweltering. I expect to be there from June 25 to Sept. 12 (a month less than

usual because I am chairing a panel at McMasters in mid-June.

My brother Edward may be able to sublet his apartment to you if you decide to spend two months on the islands. It is cheaper to make one place like Naxos your headquarters and then go to other places alone or with family and return. I don't know what he'll ask, maybe \$180 a month but I don't know. Other accommodations are possible, probably for less, but not so nice. Here again, say what you can afford.

I have no doubt but that you will love Naxos once you know it. It has wild and tame places. The waters are magnificent and everywhere. There are some of the best walks of anyplace in the world, along ancient stone paths beneath walls and trees.

Group flights go daily to Athens non-stop from New York and return as well. The charter situation is now uncertain. Once it could be done many ways and for very little. We shall see. Maybe you see what the Greeks of Houston or Dallas are up to; there may be some direct special flights.

There are a number of adequate and inexpensive restaurants on Naxos.

Tell Joe that he should come too or does he want me to find out if the sea breezes blow away the July and August pollen? Or perhaps another time. I'd like to hear what he thinks of my manuscript, even though I've improved the version he has. Please tell him too that I hope to make a multi-media and multi-dimensional movie or drama out of Moon and Mars but it can wait until his Geronimo is finished.

Don't hesitate to write personally about anything.