

May 6, 1946

Ilya Ehrenberg

Dear Friend:

I should like first of all to use this opportunity to welcome you to America in the name of 55,000 Jewish men and women, the membership and leadership of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order. It is with a great degree of pride that we welcome you here, friend Ilya Ehrenberg, as one of our own: as a fighter; as a Jew; as a citizen of your great Soviet fatherland; as one of the world's outstanding anti-fascist writers. We in the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order fully realize to what degree you have been a source of courage; a source of hatred to the enemy and love for the people, not only to your own countrymen, but also to us here, as well as to the anti-fascist masses the world over. It is in truth a joy and a pride to welcome you.

I am writing this letter to you in connection with an important cultural event in our Jewish life in America. It is 30 years since the immortal Sholem Aleichem, the greatest folk-artist of the Jewish people, in the past generation, has died. We are now honoring the memory of the great Sholem Aleichem and on Saturday evening, May 18th, we are celebrating, in Hunter College Auditorium of the City of New York, a memorial evening dedicated to Sholem Aleichem. You in the Soviet Union have fully evaluated this great spirit. Your presence at such an event would help us keep alive the memory and the creative greatness of Sholem Aleichem for the Jews in the United States.

We have been informed that you will be in the South at that time. We would however be only too happy to make airplane arrangements for you to fly here and back. May we hope that you will be able to comply with our wish and express to you the greetings of our organization.

Very truly yours,

R. Saltzman,  
General Secretary

RS:JC  
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