UNITED STATES LINES

S.S. WASHINGTON

Aug 1, 1946. Mid ocean.

Dear Margaret,

We are having a third day of fog, — with lots of vibration, as you can see. Nothing much happens on board, except for Irish jigging and Holy Masses every half hour from 6 to 9 a.m., + an extra one during the afternoon. All the Irish seem to be going home for a visit.

It looks now as though we should not reach Havre before the 4th of August and should not be on time for the opening of the Council meeting on August 5. La Guardia was in the ship's news-sheet yesterday commenting on the serious situation in Austria.

The ship is crowded but very respectable. There is no bar,

but considerable liquor in suitcases. At breakfast one of the women reported that her cabin had been kept awake by a woman who was trying to catch a monkey that kept looking at her with its big eyes. It was invisible to the others.

We have ~~many~~ flying fish, passing ships, & beautiful sunsets, but otherwise the trip is rather dull. I have just in a few hours reading & wondering on my paper.

I hope Peg has recovered & that everyone is in good form. It is almost chilly here, and I am reminded that I did not bring a light overcoat, - only a raincoat. It was too hot when I left home to think of any kind of an overcoat. But then it is August.

We are eating Argentine pears on this boat. They are similar to the ones we had from Australia in Washington. The food continues good and abundant, and appetites are still strong. Perhaps the next 24 hours will diminish attendance at table.

Aug. 3, 1946. Saturday

Last evening we dropped anchor at Cobh and ~~landed~~ deposited 600 Irish with bags and baggage on a lighter. Only about half the passengers are left, and the majority of the remainder will probably land in Southampton to-night. The trip has been

(over)

marvelous as far as weather is concerned. Even the few days of fog and rain produced no rough seas or seasickness. Our table of 20 people had no absentees, throughout the voyage.

Mrs. La Guardia is on board, but I have not knowingly seen her. Mr. La G. had his picture in the Cork newspaper which was brought on board yesterday. It carried an account of his statement on landing in Trieste and his interview with Maj. General Lee at AFHQ in Italy. Is this Ruth's general? A few of our UNRRA deleg. will fly from Southampton so as to arrive about on time but I shall stay by the group and travel by train from Le Havre via Paris. Do you remember when I met you at Le Havre? Wish you were meeting me there to-morrow.

With lots of love,

Hilda.