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MAY 02 ANSD

20 March 1990

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APR 03 RECD

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 N. Capitol St.
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

1368-90

Dear Sir: Mr. Lamb:

First, let me say that your program is great. I watch it all the time, which may seem odd, but at 48 I'm confined to a nursing home, which is annoying, to put it mildly.

Secondly, I heard on an interview day before yesterday of a woman who needed an address to subscribe to Stern. I had exactly the same problem, so I wrote to the general consulate of the Federalrepublic of Germany in Boston and I have the answer. I realize you almost gave her the answer already, but here it anyway. I don't have much energy and I had run out of envelopes.

My Mother was a Mennonite from Russia and she knew High German (which she spoke at home) and Russian (she went to Russian schools) she also could read Plattdeustch (Low German) which is more like Dutch than High German. In the 19th Century there was a revival of Low German as a literary language. One of the authors was the humorist Fritz Reuter, whom she liked to read. Now it's mostly a spoken language in the Lander of Scheswig-Holstein and the city-states of Bremen and Hamburg. My Mother knew English well, she always said because she read Agatha Christie, when she spent one year in 1933-34 in England, during a long tortuous road from Russia to the U.S. Actually, some Mennonite communities in Russia spoke only Low German, not even High German, not to mention Russian. That really isn't so odd considering that many people in the U.S. don't know English. As a young girl in Russia my Mother read Dickens, Thackery, Jane Austen, the Brontës, James Fenimore Cooper, Bret Hart etc. If she read much Schiller or Goethe, she never said. I never will again because I spent 2 years reading 2 epic poems of the latter, several hundred pages long each. And all in Fraktur, too. Several years after I left the school I saw an obituary of my German professor in the New York Times and found

out that he had taught German at the school since 1916 so almost half a century. I was pretty anti-German in my teens, which I absorbed from my Mother. She tried to teach me Russian, but like many native speakers she knew the language perfectly,, but she didn't know much grammar, which was fatal. I learned German because there seemed to be many more possibilities in German than Russian. Now, of course, Russian seems to be useful to know; actually I was in a private class at my home for a year and a half, but, my life blew up last year when I was hospitalized, in 3 different hospitals from February through October and then the nursing home. I have staring at me from the top shelf of one of my bookcases, 27 volumes of Chekhov in the original which I inherited from my Mother. She was on kidney dialysis the last 4 years of her life,, so she had to rest a lot and my Father bought her Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy and Golgol in the original Russian. So I have a prod.

Now, that I have rambled all around. I should say that I have subscribed and read the North American edition of Die Zeit, for approximately 20 years. I think it's the best newspaper in the world. It's now the largest selling weekly paper in the Federal Republic of Germany. It's published in Hamburg in more than 100 pages. Then Lufthansa flies plates to Toronto, from where an edition of 24 pages is distributed all through the U.S. and Canada. A similar edition is produced in Buenos Aries and distributed through out Latin America. In any case my subscription expired while I was in the Hospitals. After I got out I looked through my files and finally wrote the General Consulate of the Federal Republic, which sent me a subscription form, the correct address is as follows:

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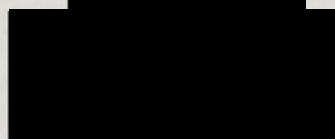
560 SYLVAN AVENUE

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632

TELEPHONES: (212) 736-7455 OR (201) 871-1010

Obviously, the first phone number is a New York number but there is no address.

Sincerely yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.