24 August. 91

O Mother, much loved! —

WHAT A WEEK!! I am dizzy from TV and newspapers as you must be. How I wished that your brother Bronek, and even Daddy and Grama, had been ~~there~~ here to see it!! They must be jumping up and down, wherever they are. I wish ~~they~~ we could skip the next part, when everyone will accuse and fire and justify and pretend — there will be an orgy of exaggerations and lying (I can already hear the Nürenberg-ian excuses — "I was only following orders —") and I-told-you-so and self-righteousness — "Cut" to a few (?) years from now — a peaceful union of Democratic Republics, serenely participating in various global enterprises, encouraged by their happy, free, and well-fed, harmoniously-living people! (Oh well. I can dream, can't I?!)

2/ I couldn't ~~think~~ help thinking of what a goldmine this whole week's happenings will be for Wojtek! and God knows it's not over yet —

I am so glad we located another lion (the last one in N.Y.!) and Monday or Tuesday I will arrange with Pan Ludwik, Esq. (van Cleef will send someone to his office, so he won't have to go himself —) then they will engrave it — can you remember if the A (Nele) had a Å or not? Also she asked me if you had a chain, and I didn't know if the original came with a specific chain or not —? maybe you had better pick it yourself in Geneva or Paris when you get back?

I am jealous of you and Johnny and Wojtek and Serpel together (I forget if Wojtek speaks English or French?? I hope English —) What a pity that Johnny

3/ can't understand enough Polish to "get" Wojtek's marvelous wit in his "songs" — he sent me a recent cassette which I heard several times but I really need him to explain to me very pedantically what the lyrics really mean as well as what they say — often I get the words, but miss the point — frustrating! (sometimes I get nuttin'!)

I have 3-4 darkroom-days more to do to finish the Łódź prints — they would be finished already if it hadn't been for Yanaev, Yazov, Pugo and company! — It is really such a weird thing these days that when something like this happens in the world, we simply turn on the CNN channel and watch it as it happens! The next day's newspapers have become as sort of fill-in-the-blank-spots — hardly "news"! This

morning over breakfast I hear on the radio that Gorb. has quit as head of the party — instantly I turn off the radio and see it on TV. It's both good and bad — good because "they" know that everything is being watched all over the world, and maybe (except the Chinese!) will think twice before shooting or running over people with tanks. (the ones who were squashed by a tank were behind it, and the tank was set afire, so the fellows inside were cooking, probably panicked & put it in reverse —) — The bad part of the 24 hr. a day CNN coverage is that we get hypnotized and "collée" as you said — one almost feels guilty turning it off — as though one didn't care — but being riveted can put a large monkey-wrench into the day's work — especially if work is at home !!

Jeffrey is away "working", but very unwell

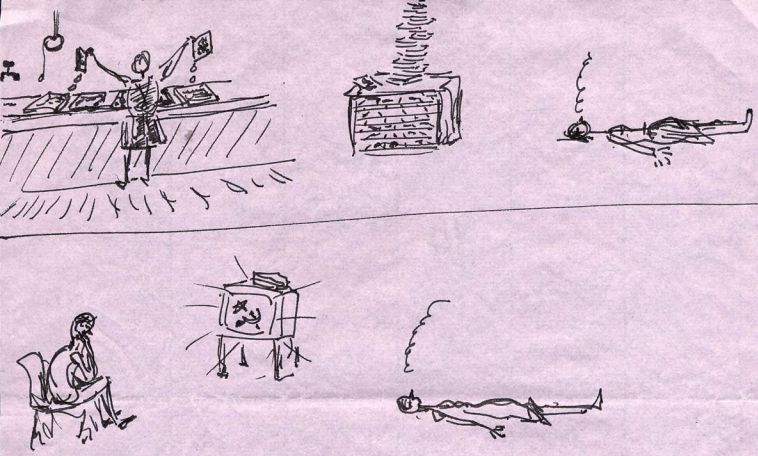
5/ and I have other sad news of an ex-student/friend with cancer. Too much this year - !

If I manage to finish Łódź before David's wedding (leaving with Jason early Friday 30th by train, back late Sunday 1st Sept.*) I will be able to start on the work for the gallery in Paris (Jean-Pierre Lambert**) which wants to sell my stuff, who and then some more recent work which is piling up - still praying the Japaneses will produce some results before too long! —

Mami — enjoy your "wizitors" — wish I could share the fun and tomatoes and music and kwaśne mleko! Have some (of all of it!) for me — I kiss your ręczki and your nóżki your Stara

* you won't be tested on this!

** or this, either.



etc

etc

etc

main hand of John

PAR ~~AVION~~ - BY ~~AIR MAIL~~

n° 1

MOTHER