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CHILDREN'S DENTAL CENTER

27 Dec 01

Dear Slava:

It was good to hear from you. I hope you and your family are doing well. I heard from Azamat a couple of times about the time he was getting settled in Hawaii. I haven't heard from him lately.

I was just thinking about Azamat last week because there is a new movie out based on one of J.R.R. Tolkien's books -- **The Lord of the Rings**. When I asked Azamat what books he might want, his first choice was the Olde English saga **Beowulf**, but his next choice was a Tolkien book. Your son is unusual in his tastes in reading. I bet he's excited about this movie. I plan to see it myself this weekend.

I suppose some of your law enforcement colleagues that you brought over to visit with us are delving into terrorist activities in your part of the world. I can't recall such a collaborative effort in the world community before this Sept 11 attack.

Two weeks after the attack I arranged for a speaker at my Rotary club from the Islamic Education Center here in Houston. He was unusual in that he was raised Jewish and converted to Islam. He came to talk about some of the tenants of the religion. He did a good job.

I heard from Tad Pilinski just yesterday. He went on three of the Project Free Enterprise teams I arranged into Eastern Europe to give seminars on small business, American style. He also helped me with the group of Russian doctors which we had here for a vocational visit just prior to your trip. He helped a little with your project. He's from Poland but got his engineering degree in Moscow and speaks Russian fluently.

I hadn't heard from him for a year and he called to extend Christmas greetings. He's now the President of a Rotary club on the west side of Houston! But he also has been doing business in Russia -- contracting to prepare companies there to meet ISO9000 standards in manufacturing.

So these international projects I have gotten involved in have created a circle of friends such as yourself whom I would never have known, and who have been touched in their own lives by their involvement.

Let's keep in touch. Give my regards to your family.

Sincerely,

David

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