

APPENDIX B: A FAMOUS LETTER

March 20, 1968

"Dear Parents:

"We have been captured. I only hope this letter reaches you. We were on our way to the Kibbutz when a truckload of Syrian soldiers overtook us. They took us across the border and into a prison camp somewhere in Syria.

"They work us over 16 hours a day and give us very little to eat. Today, however, we did get to chew on a left-over chicken bone.

"The living conditions are really horrid. There are the 22 of us in a 9 by 15 room. Not all of us can lie down to sleep so we take turns every other night. We don't have a bath and thusly everyone is filthy. All there is is a little straw on the floor.

"The labor we do is very dull. We crack rocks. These cracked rocks are to be used for the new freeway between Syria and Jerusalem.

"The other night a few of us tried to get out. The barbed wire was too thick and I was injured in the attempt. The guards caught us and we were put in solitary confinement for a week. They took all of our possessions away. I managed to sneak my pen and one aerogram. We are trying to send a boy out again tonight to see if he can make it to civilization. I am sending this letter with him. I hope he makes it.

"I don't know whether the Israelites will help us or not. It would be great if we could get out of here or if not, I wish they would build a swimming pool.

"The light is slowly getting dim. We only have a small window but no curtain.

"Syria is planning something sneaky. We often hear training going on outside our compound. We can't tell what they are shouting, though, because it is in Arabic and none of us understand the language. We have managed to hold a few Church meetings in secret, but if they catch us they'll torture us and take our Book of Mormons away.

"I think I have developed some sort of friendship with one of the guards. The other day he sneaked me an extra piece of bread.

"There's really not much that is new to tell. Besides being a little hungry and tired, all is well in Zion.

"Hope everything is well. Miss you all greatly and wish you were here.

"Love,