Lambaréné,
February 20th, 1964

Nell, Darling,

I was so sad not to have seen you before my departure! But you are always in my heart! I am happy to report to you that A.S is in very good form again, Thank the Lord. At the moment he is cutting dead branches in the plantation and the whole terrain looks like I imagine Paradise! over 1000 fruittrees, Oranges, Grapefruits, Mangustans, breadfruittrees, hanging heavy with fruit, on hills and in ravines — between majestic palms and lush shrubs. The path leading through is of ~~red~~ red earth with a strip of green in the middle and after a heavy rain at night it all looks like the very first day of creation. O, how I wish you, of all people were here! You who understand the beauty of simplicity! The beauty of burning leaves and working in the garden. More and more I think of city life as madness.

How is Chris? Did Jenifer arrive?
Soon your garden is going to start
its new cycle and I picture you watching
the first Spring flowers and shy green
leaves –
So many of the staff are nice young
people, interesting, each having a story,
a motif of why they came, why they
wanted to be around Schweitzer. He means
something different to each one. In the
evenings one is visiting here and there
and those who have been here a long
time are glad to hear from the rest of the
world. We start the day at 6.30 A.M. – by
10 one is tired enough to sleep through
any storm. Well darling, keep well and
give Chris, Jenifer and Bertha my love –
I think of you often because I
belong to you

All my love

Erica.