ALNIS'S LETTER TO HIS MOTHER FROM MOSCOW

Moscow, September 16. There are no stamps.

Dear mummy!

We are in Moscow. Today two women, some kind of officials, came here and wrote down what each of us needed. I was going to get a blouse and shoes. My 'cipki' (shoes) wore out before reaching Krasnoyarsk. Now I stay indoors. I have no money left, because I spent the last thirty rubles on bread. Today Sauleskalns went to take care of everything, to get provisions and the clothes. Sauleskalns has been in the labor camps and has endured some three years there. Now he is going home with his wife and children. He is our accompanying adult. Eating is rather poor, because now we are given only some 300 grams of bread a day and nothing else. Only today we will be getting our provisions. We are not quite sure when we will start for home. It will be when everything has been received and taken care of. Mummy, I worry and think all the time only of school because I am afraid how I will be able to catch up. I will have missed a whole month. One boy left the train to go buy something and was left behind.