ON MY OWN  PART FOUR

My Round-the-World Adventures

One of history's indefatigable travelers reports her visits to global trouble spots. She describes how she finally confronted Khrushchev and her conversation with Yugoslav dictator Tito.

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

When I was a little girl I spent many hours alone with books. I lived so much in one place, or in two places at most, that I read avidly anything I could lay my hands on that told me about the world.

My father often talked of a trip he had made around the world as a young man, and his vivid stories kept alive in my mind some of the things I remembered about a journey I had taken to Europe with my parents when I was five years old. But I did little traveling until I went to school in Europe. After I married, my husband and I frequently talked of traveling abroad, but I took very few trips anywhere because of the children. Even Franklin did not do a great deal of traveling, although he felt he knew whole areas of the world—particularly China—because of his mother's family ties with trade in the Far East. He did have a remarkably detailed knowledge of distant lands even if he had never seen them. Once during a critical time in the war he confounded the prime minister of New Zealand by calling attention to a good natural harbor on a tiny island off that country's coast—an island of which the prime minister had never even heard! Such remote places were only glamorous dreams to me.  
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After Franklin's death, I never really traveled alone or purely for leisure. I was often taken on trips that covered a large part of the world and enabled me to see at first hand what is being done—or not done—by the governments. There are endless problems that plague the leaders of almost every country today. What is being done, I might add, is sometimes in the best interest of the nation, and sometimes it is not.

But at still other times, particularly in Soviet Russia, it is both astounding and rather frightening to an American observer, for there are some truly frightening things going on. Before taking up a few of the highlights of these trips, I would like to mention an early journey I made in 1948 for the purpose of visiting London, the Soviet Union, and the Middle East. This last destination, London, was the focus of a great deal of attention because of the U.S. involvement in the Suez Crisis and the Suez Canal crisis. The London Observer, a liberal newspaper, published an article titled "London and the Suez Canal Crisis." The article was written by an American journalist who had visited London and was critical of the American involvement in the crisis. The journalist wrote that the British were not doing enough to resolve the crisis, and that the American involvement was only making matters worse.

The occasion was more interesting to me as it was a rare opportunity to witness the front-line coverage of the crisis. Sir Campbell Stuart, head of the Crisis Group of Great Britain, which raised funds for the Crusaders, and Sir Vincent Birt, a former editor of the London Times, were present. I was interested in their activities, and they were enthusiastic about their work. After the meeting, we had a long discussion about the crisis and the role of the press in covering it. The London Observer was one of the few newspapers that were critical of the American involvement in the crisis. They argued that the American involvement was only making matters worse and that the British were not doing enough to resolve the crisis.

My visit to the Arab countries was also interesting and provided me with a unique opportunity to see the Arab world from a European perspective. I was impressed by the many Arab leaders who were active at the time. I met with many of the leaders and was able to gain a good understanding of the Arab perspective. The Arab world was facing many challenges at the time, and I was able to see how the leaders were working to address these challenges.

I also visited camps for Arab refugees who had left Palestine during the fighting in the early 1940s. I met with some of the refugees and was impressed by their determination to return to their homeland. The refugees lived in terrible conditions and were often denied the basic necessities of life. I was struck by their resilience and their determination to return home.

The drive back to the Arab countries was long and sometimes dangerous. We had to fly back to some non-Arab countries from which we could legally proceed to Israel. Malki assured me that he could make special arrangements for me to visit the Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and then go by land to Jerusalem. We left for the trip, I had to arrange for a desert crossing. Miss Maureen Corr, and I flew directly to Beirut, Lebanon, from Paris.

The next morning I got a real surprise. I received a telephone call from Malki saying that a desert crossing would not be possible. I was disappointed, but I knew that the situation was delicate. Malki and I decided to try a different approach.

I was fortunate to have a contact in Jerusalem who could arrange for a desert crossing. We arranged to meet in the desert and Malki would come to pick me up. The crossing was顺利, and we reached Jerusalem in time to attend the high priest's elevation ceremony. The ceremony was held in the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and was attended by the high priest and his family. Malki was present, and we were able to attend the ceremony.

I was proud to attend the high priest's elevation ceremony and to see Malki there. I was impressed by his knowledge of the Temple and his dedication to preserving it.

I was also impressed by Malki's dedication to preserving the Temple and his commitment to the Jewish people. Malki was a true leader, and I was honored to be associated with him. I will always remember my trip to Jerusalem and the high priest's elevation ceremony. Malki's dedication to preserving the Temple and his commitment to the Jewish people will always inspire me.