Greetings from the United States.

O juru m afọ nke ukwu n’ihi na nro m nile maka inọ na nzukọ a aputala ife. Obịa m n’ebe a bu ịgosi otu obibi ndu ndi mmadụ bi n’ebe tere aka si metụta ndụ ndi mmadụ ọzọ n’ụzọ di iche iche. Amara m maka osisi ụkpaka nke ogbe ya na-agbawa, were tukesia mkpurumu ya ebe di iche iche ka ha noro ebe ahụ puo, were mia mkpurumu nke ha. Otu a ka unu bu ndị Igbo siri zigasia ụmun unu n’akụkọ ụwa nile, ka ha jee nweta oke mnuta akwukwo. Ikekwe dika mkpurumu ukpaka, ufozọ n’ime ha ga-ebi ebe ha gbagara, ma ọtụtụ n’ime ha ga-alota n’ala Igbo mma ha nyere ndị be ha aka. Unu unu na-eme ezi ihe omuma atu n’ebe o bula ha no; ha na-ebi n’udo, na-agba oke mbọ, na-amusikwa akwukwo ha ike. Obi di m uto na ọtụtụ n’ime ha bi n’obodo m bu Little Rock, Arkotasas, nke di na ndịda U.S.A. N’ihi na abụ m onye otu na-ahụ maka ọchịchị nke ụmun akwukwo si mba ọzọ bia Little Rock, enwere m ọtụtụ enyi n’ime ha, mūtakwa ọtụtụ ihe gbasatara oke obodo unu bu Afirika. Nke ka nke, enwere m oke agu iimu ezigbo asusu unu. Eziokwu, enwetakwula m ọtụtụ amamihe site n’iimu asusu Igbo. M nodu na-egye ndị Igbo nti n’olu, ana m achọpụta na ikekwe asusu Igbo agaghị adite aka n’ihi na asusu Bekee na-ačọ igbagbu ya n’ime oke osimiri. I gee ndị Igbo nti n’olu, i ga-anu okwu di otu a: "(My mother) na-abia. O si (that) na (my brother) ga-e-meeti) ya (on the way)." Ana m aju unu si "Asusu Igbo, o ga-akwukwọ n’igbagbu nkea asusu Bekee na-ačọ igbau ya?"

O juru m afọ imata na unu nwere otu SPILC nke na-echeakwa asusu na omenala Igbo. Mgbe m biara Nigeria n’ọnwa February, 1978, azutara m akwukwo nke aha ya bu "Igbo Language & Culture". Akwukwo ahu toọ m uto nke ukwu. O buka mgbe ahu ka m zuru Dr. Ugonna bu onye ziri m bia nzukọ a (tata) nke a na-eme otu ugboro n’afọ. Anọ m na nzukọ a tata, ka m gee nti, were mūtakwu nla banye asusu na omenala unu.

Na mmehi, ana m aja unu ike, na-agwa kwa unu na asusu na omenala unu bu otu n’ime ndi nile na-ewetara ụmun mmadụ udo na ihemanya.

Udo dire ụmun nile.

Frances W. Pritchett.
Ladies and Gentlemen: I am so happy that my dream of attending this conference has come true. My presence here is a demonstration of how human lives reach out and touch each other, sometimes in unexpected ways. I learned with interest about your ụkpaka tree, which shoots out its seeds long distances away from the main trunk. Like this tree, the Igbo people have sent out their young men and women to all parts of the world in pursuit of education. Perhaps most of these young people will return to settle in the homeland, but some, like the ụkpaka seeds, will put down roots in new locations. But they leave their marks on the communities where they live and study and struggle, and I feel fortunate that many of them chose to come to the small city in the southern United States which is my home. Because I joined a group to offer assistance to the foreign students in Little Rock, I was rewarded with new and interesting friends, a wider knowledge of your great continent, and above all the desire to study your delightful language. My life has been enriched beyond all expectations.

As I listened to the Igbo speakers in my city, I became concerned that the Igbo language might not survive the tidal wave of English sweeping over it. It is now being diluted—will it some day be completely dissolved? Because of my concern,
I was especially overjoyed to learn of the existence of the SPILC. On my first trip to Nigeria in February, 1978, I discovered the book "Igbo Language & Culture," published as a result of your earlier seminars, and found it right in line with my interests. I also became acquainted with Dr. Ugonna, who suggested that I might be permitted to attend your next annual meeting. So I am here to listen and to learn and, I hope, to reassure you that people from all parts of the world, from very different backgrounds, can bring each other friendship and love.

Peace and love are the best things in the world!