

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO.



## AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

American Consulate General  
Lisbon, Portugal  
October 12, 1941

Dear Folks:

Many thanks for your kind and thoughtful birthday telegram which arrived here in plenty of time for the event. I suspect it must have been sent just before you received my ~~wife~~ regarding my transfer to Lagos. I really do appreciate your having thought of my birthday at a time when you doubtless have many other more important things on your minds. You will be glad to hear that the day passed off very pleasantly. I worked (probably for the last time) at the office in the morning, slept in the afternoon, and went out for dinner in the evening with the Jonses, the Parrys, and George Miller, a Vice Consul here. The Jonses and I planned the thing to pay off some social obligations which had accumulated during the past few weeks, and if I do say so, the party was a success. We went to one of the best restaurants for dinner, where we had a delicious meal, and then we went to a night spot and later to another. The group didn't break up until six A.M. - a good proof that people were enjoying themselves. I myself had a very good time, and hasten to add that I don't even have a hang-over today - a fortunate circumstance.

to  
Your two letters written ~~from~~ Dakar were forwarded here at my request by the Consul. I want to thank Daddy for paying my insurance premium, which I had completely forgotten under the circumstances. Now that I am leaving Europe for the comparative safety of Africa, perhaps it would be just as well to have them send the notices of payment directly to me, so that I could arrange for the payment myself. I will send Daddy a check soon; right at the moment, my checking account is very low, due to the fact that I have been drawing checks to live on rather than drawing my pay. I haven't received a cent from the government since the end of May, and I will have a very nice sum due me when I collect. Please remind me about the insurance payment in case I should forget; there is no reason why dear Daddy should have to ~~fork~~ fork out for these things. He didn't say for sure which of my accounts at the Park National he was going to deposit the check for bond interest in; I suppose the checking account. If I were sure of this, I could send you a check right now. I wish you would remind Carl Ankele whenever you make a deposit for me that he should send me a duplicate of the deposit slip, or that he give one to you to send me. Otherwise I am never sure how much money I actually have in my accounts, and the whole business could get very mixed up in the course of a few years.

I am not at all unhappy about my new assignment. It sure looks as if they had me slated for the Tropics at any cost, doesn't

it? The principal advantage of Lagos over Dakar is that it is in regular contact by ship with the United States. The service is maintained by the American West African Steamship Co., usually known as the Barber Line. I do not know exactly how often the ships come to Lagos, but I think about once a month. I hope it will be possible to send things by parcels post from America, as there are several things I need which I cannot get here. I seem to recall that, just before Italy came into the war, you sent me a parcel containing my white suit and shoes and perhaps also some underwear which was returned from New York by the postal authorities on the outbreak of war. That is one thing I will probably want, but I think it would be better not to do anything until I actually arrive in Lagos and learn how the communications are. It wouldn't hurt, though, to call up the Post Office and inquire. If the local Chamber of Commerce subscribes to the Journal of Commerce, you will find the shipping notices on an inside page. The New York Times also used to carry notices regarding the shipment of mail etc.

You will find quite a lot of information in the Encyclopaedia about Nigeria and Lagos. Since that is about all I know of it, I won't attempt to say anything more, except that I recently talked to a Vice Consul who passed through here en route from Lagos to Zurich, and he said that it wasn't too bad. However, I gathered that he was perfectly content to get away. It is rainier than Dakar, and probably hotter. I hope the work will be interesting, although I am not very confident that it will. You will probably want to hear how I propose to get there. It is considerably easier than going to Dakar. There is a British plane from London to Lagos via Lisbon, Bathurst, and Freetown, and I will probably go that way. It has been necessary for the Legation here to wire to the Embassy at London to arrange for what they call "priority" - a complicated system the working out of which causes a great deal of bad feeling on both sides. In my case, of course, I should be most happy if they refused to give me a place on the plane, in which case it would be necessary to travel via the United States. However, I talked recently to an employee of Pan American Airways who is going to Africa, and he said he had no difficulty in getting on the plane, except that the formalities took about three weeks. I suppose that I will have to send my trunk and radio and books via the U.S., as of course it is impossible to transport them by plane under present circumstances. I will, of course, wire you as soon as I arrive.

During the last week or so we have been having the most lovely weather you can imagine. Towards the end of September, we had some equinoctial storms and unsettled weather, but since the first of October, it has been clear every day. It is still warm enough to go without coats outside and have the windows open most of the time, but it isn't hot, as it was during the summer. On the whole, it has been the most perfect weather I have ever experienced. Lisbon is a very lovely place, and it is too bad that I cannot stay here. However, most of my old friends will be leaving around the end of the year, and perhaps it would not be quite the same afterwards. We still have plenty to eat at the hotel - too much, in fact - but people who have their own houses say that it is getting harder and harder to find meat, rice, sugar and some other items. Several persons have been arrested recently for speculating in food. I do not think that it will be long until they have to introduce rationing, and then the happy days will be over.. The staff of the Consulate are ordering supplies from the States which they hope will arrive before they are too urgently needed.

In closing, I want to wish Daddy and Grandpa a very happy birthday, and health and good luck to you all.

With all my love,

