

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 41



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Lagos, Nigeria; November 6, 1942

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My darling,

I have just been reading over the first letter I wrote you from Lisbon, one year and four days ago. I see that I had become very used to having you around practically all the time and to telling you all the little details of what I was doing and thinking about, and I missed you very much. I still miss you, dearest, but naturally the first days were the worst. The first days after you left were a horror that I never want to have to experience again. I hope and believe that we will have no trouble in restoring that intimacy of thought which we once shared; I don't see any reason why there should be trouble, even though now over a year has passed since we saw each other. It will seem very strange to have you again for the first few days, but then I think we will settle down to the quiet life of close comradeship which we both want and need so much. I do love you so much, darling, and I get so impatient some times, waiting for you to arrive. But we will persevere and get what we want, and the day is drawing steadily closer.

I have not had any letter from you since I wrote last week, so I don't know what, if any, new development there are on your side of the water. A week or so ago we received a cable from the Department saying that they were appointing a Miss Iris Johnson as clerk at Lagos. The chief has found out since from others who know her that she is not a typist or stenographer, which is what we really want, so yesterday he cabled the Department and said in view of the complete lack of appropriate housing for a single woman, he recommended that you be appointed instead. I have no particular hope that they will adopt his recommendation, because Perry Jester has been working on it before, apparently without results, and the personnel division will think that I have talked Mr. Shantz into it. Actually, although we have discussed the possibility of your being assigned here, I have never asked him to do anything about it because I didn't want him to feel that I was putting him in an awkward position. Mr. Shantz is a man who likes to make up his own mind and does not like to be pushed. If you had only learned stenography, we could have had any number of jobs for you, but the other U.S. government agencies here need principally stenographers. That was why the O.S.S. decided not to ask for your assignment here. I suggest you get in touch with Mr. Jester and see what the reaction to Mr. Shantz' proposal is; unless it looks very hopeful indeed, I wouldn't delay my departure. According to your last mention of this point, you were going to sail for Lisbon at the end of November. If so, this will probably be the last letter you will receive from me; however, I will continue to write until I hear that you have left. You will probably have to phrase your telegram rather carefully or the censors will object; I will understand

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that any telegram which isn't about something quite clear and definite will mean that you are leaving. I will make this letter short so I can write to Perry and ask him to continue to do all possible for you and us. He has certainly been very kind in the past.

The traffic system of PAA-Africa has been ~~whipped~~ abolished and travel is only by Army warrents. There is no charge, but it is very difficult to get permission to use their planes. This is an additional argument in favor of the Loanda route, since that way you will avoid completely the clutches of the U.S.Army. Although, as I said last week, you may be delayed somewhat in Leopoldville, I am sure you will be able to get out of there without losing too much time, and there are fairly decent places to stay, although certainly not good. However, if you can reach Bolama, and get from there to Fisherman's Lake, I would not hesitate to do so, since the Army can't let you stay forever in Fish Lake; they will have to send you on ~~sometime~~. Bud Francis called up this morning from the airport and said he had been flying the Fish Lake - Accra run for some time, and that he didn't think you would have trouble getting to Accra and Lagos. The control officers on the spot have some discretion now, and I think perhaps we could work on him through some people I know. Please keep me informed on how you intend to travel so I can write letters to people along the way. For example, I am going to write to the Linton Wellses in Loanda about your possible arrival, so they can look out for you there. I know the new consul there, Sam Day, only slightly.

Although I don't suppose you will be writing me many more letter, if any, here is a point about mail: With the militarization of PAA-Africa, the boys must now receive all their letters through the Army Post Offices, and they are forbidden to received any mail through other channels. Therefore, don't address any more mail to me care of PAA-Africa. Put on "Atlantic Division" instead, and I will receive it though my still civilian friends there. Your last letter came by Clipper, and perhaps that explains why I have not received another - there haven't been any more Clippers since last week. In Lisbon, the Consulate General can forward mail by air ~~kk~~ through the British Embassy, and it makes reasonably good time - two to three weeks, as a rule. So if you expect to stay in Lisbon long, you can write me from there. However, once you start moving, I imagine we will have to rely mostly on cables.

Mr. Shantz was in Accra for a couple of days this week and at my request spoke to Andy and Mr. Browne, the new consul, about you. They said they will be glad to do anything they can to assist when you come through. I hope they will be able to find you a place to stay other than the hotel; it is pretty terrible. In other words darling, we are preparing a net here in Africa for you to jump into when you arrive. It can't be perfect because there are so many unknown factors; you will have an unpleasant trip and you will have to make many decisions for yourself, because the situation changes so rapidly and so often that it is impossible to know just what is going on, but I am doing the best I can, and I think everything will work out O.K. To summarize, travel via Loanda seems best, but you will have to decide for yourself when you get to Lisbon.

I've got a lot of love stored up here for you.

