

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 43



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Lagos, Nigeria; November 19, 1942

Darling Philinda,

L-220 p1/2

At last your letters have commenced coming through again. The letter of October 27th came by State Department pouch and the letter of November 1st appears to have come by Army Post Office 606, care of the Post Master, Miami. I am not sure whether you changed the address yourself before mailing or whether it was done in the Department's mail room ~~did it~~. In any case, it was a reasonably quick trip; both letters arrived yesterday.

Reading these letters in connection with your subsequent cable saying that you would sail if the Department revalidated your passport makes me think that between the first and the fifth you must have received your Portuguese visa. I hope so, and also that the fact that you have not cabled again means that your passport has been revalidated and that you will be on your way before this letter reaches the States. Incidentally, I am pleased that my letters have apparently been making very good time: you spoke of receiving the one I wrote on October 16th on the 27th, which is very good indeed.

This morning I had a talk with the local head of Socony Vacuum Oil Co., Field by name. He was in both Bissau and Bolama recently, and added to the general confusion by saying that the ferry between Bissau and Bolama, although only scheduled to run twice weekly, actually made about four trips while he was there. In that case, if you were in Bissau, you could probably wait on the boat until just before the ferry was to leave, and then go immediately to Bolama. Mr. Field says the Pan American quarters there are very pleasant and would be quite satisfactory for you to stay in. He did not think much of the hotel in Bissau, however. Another slightly encouraging thing is that, if the local boys are right, there are now about five flights every two weeks from Lisbon to Bolama and Fisherman's Lake. This improves the very slight possibility that you might be able to fly all the way from Lisbon instead of coming by boat. In spite of PAA in New York, Field says there is lots of room between Bolama and Fish Lake, which is a very short run. This does not apply, however, to the Lisbon-Bolama run, and it would be in the nature of a freak if you were able to get down from Lisbon by plane. However, there's no harm in trying, and I have asked Jessie to write his pals in Lisbon about your approaching arrival. I will check in day or so to see if he has actually written it. Other than this, there is no change in the situation. I think Mr. Shantz will probably have the Army to transport you from Fish Lake to Lagos, which will be in the care of that part of your journey. Mac will be on hand in Accra to greet you. I have asked him to come down with you if possible. Mac is our best man, but it hardly seems likely that he would be able

L-220 p 2/2

We have just received word that Andy Anderson left Accra for Washington last night. Mac is planning to go up about the first of December, but Mr. Shantz is planning to take a trip up north and expects to be away about two weeks, and I hope we will be able to hold Mac until he returns. While we are not terribly busy right now, I don't like the idea of being left all alone, as you can never tell what may come up. There are two of them still at Accra, so there isn't really any great hurry, although I suppose Altaffer would like to get home by Christmas. Besides, just for personal reasons I want Mac to stay as long as possible.

I find I have had bad luck with a shipment of 50 cases of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer that Mac and I ordered. It now reposes on the bottom of the sea, along with a car for the official use of the Consulate, a car for one of our associated agencies, and box of clothes I let one of the native clerks order in my name, etc. It is not very cheerful, and I am very glad that you are coming by air or neutral ship. I only hope the glasses I have been trying to get for over a year were not on that ship too. I lost the original pair last April, and if these are sunk too, the floor of the ocean is going to be strewn with spectacles.

Regarding the possibility of your working here, we have just received a letter from Jester, written before the boss's telegram, saying that he had urged them to send you out, but that they had refused, although they said they had no objection to your working here after you arrived. The dirty bums! Anyway, I don't want you to work in this office; I would rather have you work for Pan American, except in case of an emergency, in which case we would need you. But there is no emergency in sight. So Miss Iris Johnson will probably be transported out by air, and you will come by ship. I imagine you would have wired me before this if the Department had changed its mind upon the receipt of the chief's telegram.

I don't think I mentioned last week that I had had dinner with the Governor recently. PAA put on a showing of "Mrs. Minniver" one Sunday evening, which I saw and thought was excellent. Jesse thought it was so good that he held it over for another showing for the benefit of the Allied Forces Canteens on Tuesday. Monday, the Governor's A.D.C. called and asked me to go, so I had to see the picture again for the ~~same~~ second time in three days. The dinner was quite dull, and so were most of the people. The Private Secretary is a nice chap named Ramsey, but with one exception, the rest of the guests were very dull - a Resident and two District Officers on their way home on leave. H.E. himself is a very difficult man to talk to, but he's supposed to have a very sensitive eye for the feminine figure, and what's worse, he wants to do something about it. I have been told that most ladies will do anything to avoid dancing with the old goat. On the whole, I think he is an uninspired and uninspiring character.

Darling, I think this about exhausts the topics for sation, except I love you. I do, you know. Terribly much. I hardly bear to wait until you get here, and I am going to be indeed until then. Don't make me wait too long!

