

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1942.

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p 1/2

Dear Philinda:

Your letter of November 30, 1942 has been received. Unfortunately it became mixed up with some other correspondence and I have just come across it this morning.

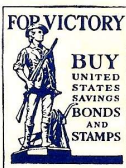
I regret to report that the Army has decided that they will not fly any woman into that territory at the present time, and the possibility of obtaining a priority for you to proceed by air therefore appears to be nil at the moment. I endeavored to have Miss McMillen advise you by wire of this fact on the thirtieth of last month in the hope that you might carry through your arrangements to sail on the Portuguese ship as planned, but she informed me that it could not be done since your special passport had not been completed nor had you received all required visas.

In a letter received from Mr. Shantz at Lagos under date of November 20, 1942, he remarked that Mrs. Price had arrived, having crossed from New York to Takoradi in eleven days, and that on learning that the vessel had several vacant berths due to a lack of priority passengers, your friend Bill was fit to be tied. Mrs. Price traveled on a Norwegian vessel which was very fast. They seem to feel in Lagos that these boats are quite safe.

It appears that you are now faced with the original problem of making your own way out there. In the event that you wish to pursue the possibility of proceeding via one of these so-called fast vessels, I am enclosing a letter of

introduction

Miss Philinda Jones,
761 Scotland Road,
Orange, New Jersey.



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introduction to Mr. Finch and a copy of a letter which I have written to Mr. Fyfe. I suggest that you initiate your quest through Mr. Fyfe. I shall continue to try to find some way to get you out by air but the prospects are not good.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a paraphrase of a telegram received from Bill, dated November 24, 1942. I understand that your letter of appointment will have to serve as your evidence of official status and hence priority. Once you get to the West Coast of Africa, the Consulate General at Lagos can take the necessary action out there as regards priority.

Please keep me informed of developments.

Sincerely yours,



Perry W. Lester

Enclosures:

1. Letter to Mr. H. J. Finch, December 3, 1942.
2. Copy of letter to Mr. Howard Fyfe, December 3, 1942.
3. Paraphrase of telegram from Lagos, November 24, 1942.

