

*Copy for L.P.A.*

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Lagos, Nigeria; July 8, 1942

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Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley  
Chief, Passport Division  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Shipley:

After having handled many passport cases in the course of the past two years, I am now taking the liberty of writing to you personally to request your approval of the passport application of my fiancee, Laura Philinda Campbell Jones, which will probably be forwarded to the Department by the Passport Agent in Miami. She is applying for a passport to enable her to travel to Lagos so that we can be married.

I sincerely hope that you will see your way clear to approve her application, as I really believe that her travel to Nigeria and residence here as my wife would not in any respect be detrimental to American interests. I will not go into our personal sentiments and the strain which is imposed upon both of us because of our enforced separation; I am sure you will appreciate our desire to be united as soon as possible without the necessity of further discussion. In view of the war emergency, it is impossible to say when it will be impossible for me to come home on leave so that we could be married in the United States. Consequently, although we are aware that there are some risks involved, as well as considerable expense, we have decided that the only solution is for Miss Jones to come to Lagos.

I am of course familiar with the fact that Lagos has a bad reputation from the health standpoint and that this might be advanced as one reason for withholding a passport. Nevertheless, there are several hundred British women who live here for considerable periods, the majority of them without any appreciable damage to their health. In this connection, I should like to refer to the Post Report prepared last October by Mr. Jester, and also to his despatch number 621 dated April 15, 1942 in which he stresses the advisability of permitting women to come to Nigeria. Mr. Jester is now in the Department and has told me that he would be glad to discuss this problem with you if you so desire. It may be that the suggestions made in his despatch were already in accord with your policy, since three lady missionaries have recently arrived here from the United States.

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The transportation problem is not going to be easy for us to solve, and it is impossible to make any arrangements along this line until we know whether a passport can be issued. My fiancée is now employed by Pan American Airways in Miami, and we would naturally prefer air transportation if space is available. Pan American's Lagos office would be eager to have her services if it were possible for her to get here. As a matter of fact, I am sure that she would find a great deal to do here in the way of war work, since women workers are so urgently needed in Lagos that the local Government has recently introduced conscription for British women. The immigration officer of the Nigerian Government has told me that he would authorize the issuance of a visa without hesitation.

As regards the possibility that Nigeria might become the scene of active military operations, that is something which cannot be predicted. It does not seem likely at present, but it is not out of the question. I can only say that we prefer taking risks together to living safely apart.

If there are any further points which you would like to have information on, please do not hesitate to inquire. Besides my fiancée and myself, Mr. Jester and Mr. Shantz have consented to assist in any way possible. Mr. Hervé J. L'Heureux of the Visa Division is personally acquainted with my fiancée, and she will be able to give you the names of other people who may be consulted if you so desire.

You may be sure that I shall be most grateful for your consideration of this case.

Very respectfully yours,

William L. Krieg  
American Vice Consul