

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. 36



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

L-110
p1

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Lagos, Nigeria; October 2, 1942

Darling;

I was good and surprised to learn from your letter of September 18th that you were leaving PAA and going to New York, but I am very glad you did, as it will have put you in a good position to take advantage of the situation which I hope has been opened up as a result of my cable to you of today and the cable which the Barber Line is sending to Mr. Finch.

As you probably know by now, I learned that a fast ship would be leaving New York soon for this coast, and Captain Roberts, General Agent for the Barber Line here, whom you will soon meet, said that he considers it as safe a way to travel as any in these days. He said furthermore that he didn't think it would be a good idea for you to have to stop over in Bolama or Bissau because they were terrible dumps of places and he wasn't sure you would be safe there. I thought you could stay with Pan American, but I am not actually sure that this would be possible. So I asked him to cable Mr. Finch and have him try to put you on this vessel, which I am told is very comfortable. For all I know, you may have left before receiving this letter. I have told Cap that I would pay your fare here, so that should leave you plenty of money ~~which~~ to buy clothes and the other things that we will need. I have already send a cable to the British Passport Control Officer in New York authorizing the issuance of your visa, and you should also have visas for Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast, in transit.

So now perhaps you have enough positive action to satisfy you, my impatient darling. I will be terribly worried about you, and I will either come up to meet you at your disembarkation point or arrange with the Barber Line agent to see that you have a place to stay. Right now I see no reason why I shouldn't be able to come up to meet you, unless Mr. Shantz goes away and leaves me in charge of the office. However, before you leave, I hope you will get your father's permission, as I don't want to get off on the wrong foot with your family.

By the way, they must think it very funny that I haven't written to them. You remember that I asked you to send me his first name and address so I could write. If you haven't done so already, please do so right away, as I don't want to risk making him any angrier than he probably is already. Your mother has been hearing from me through my letters to you while she was staying in Miami, so although I haven't actually addressed a separate letter to her, I don't feel quite so bad about that. If she

L-110 p2

would like a letter, I will be glad to write you, but right now it takes all my time just writing to you. Please give her my best love in the meantime.

One of the advantages of traveling by sea is that you will be able to take most of your baggage with you. You can consult with your father and/or step-father as to whether they think it should be insured against war risk. I have heard that the rates have recently been reduced, and if so it might be worth while. Before, it was so expensive that it hardly paid.

I was a little surprised at your saying that I had only mentioned that you should bring towels and asking whether there was anything else. On page two of my letter of August 27th I mentioned two light blankets, and a dozen sheets and pillow cases. In addition, I think we ought to have a set of inexpensive china ~~for~~ to serve 12 persons, glassware, including water, highball and cocktail glasses, and some cheap silverware. I could get the latter wholesale at a greatly reduced price, but I have been afraid to order anything for fear you wouldn't like it. You should tell the seller to have it packed very carefully for export. If you have any particular kind of soap you like, bring some along. We have some soap which is much like ivory, and there is some soap locally made, but it is not up to American standards. It would be nice to have an extra pair of cheap men's swimming trunks to when we have guests at the beach. A cocktail recipe book would be handy, although we lack most of the ingredients. I see I mentioned in the other letter that you should bring all the sanitary equipment you will need, and, since we won't want to have any babies until after the war, or at least until after we leave Lagos, better bring along whatever articles you need to see that we don't. This is one of the things it would be nice to talk over in person instead of writing it in a letter, but we have no choice.

When Jesse Boynton heard that you had left Miami, he suggested that you go to see the man to whom he wrote a memorandum about you - Mr. John C. Schroeter, PAA-Atlantic Division at La Guardia Field. He think that might do some good, if you have time. I'm afraid I mislead you into thinking there was some chance of your being employed by PAA-Africa. I have never for a moment considered such a thing. If you work for PAA here, it will be the Atlantic Division. PAA-Africa will soon be taken over by the Army, so no wonder their representative in Miami wasn't very helpful.

Well, darling, they are holding up a pouch for this letter, so I must finish it. I wish mail left oftener than once a week, so I could write you more frequently. One last word, dearest Be sure to wire me before you leave. Just say, "On the way", or something like that, so I will know and can make arrangements to meet you or have you met at your destination. I am terribly excited at the prospect that you may be able to come soon; I do love you so much, darling, I can hardly wait until you step off the gangplank into my arms. Please be careful, dearest love.

Your
Allan