

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 38



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Lagos, Nigeria; October 16, 1942L-205 p 1/3  
original

Dearest love,

Your letter of October 3rd came yesterday, just at a time when I had decided that something had gone wrong with your system for sending mail, because I never dreamed that you would go so long without writing, and at a time like this, too! For shame, faithful Philinda, and don't let it happen again!

At the time when you wrote, you hadn't yet received letter 34 telling about the Portuguese route, although, in view of the fact that it was only sent off about 15 days before your letter was written, I think there is a good chance that you have received it in the meantime, as it was addressed to you in Florida, and would have to go by train from Washington to Miami and then back to Orange. It was sent through the pouch, not by any traveller, and was addressed to your house, not the airport, so it couldn't have been the letter your boss referred to. However, just to clear things up in case you didn't get it, I said that I had just learned that there were Portuguese boats running between the United States and the Portuguese colonies in Africa via Lisbon, and that I thought this would be a reasonably safe way for you to travel. Our new American clerk, John Burleson, traveled on a ship called the "Mouzinho" between Lourenço Marques and San Antonio, at the mouth of the Congo, and found it very comfortable. This boat was on its way to New York. As soon as I heard of this, I called up Jesse Boynton and asked him if PAA was still running between Bolama and Fisherman's Lake, Liberia. He said there was a plane every other week, in what they call the "Clockwise" service - New York, Lisbon, Bolama, Fish Lake, Natal, Trinidad, New York. I didn't explain this in any great detail since I assumed you would know all about it in connection with your work with PAA. Jesse says that there should be no difficulty in getting a place from Bolama to Fish Lake, since the run is very short compared to Lisbon, -Bolama, and they can consequently take on more passengers between Bolama and Fish Lake. I hope he is right about this. I ~~of~~ course have no way of checking up, unless I happen to meet some one has recently been there, which is unlikely, as few people come here from Bolama. Once at Fish Lake, you would come on by PAA-Africa, unless there happened to be a Clipper coming to Lagos directly within the next few days, which is unlikely, as we only have two a month now. The Clipper would be much more satisfactory, as it is much more comfortable and comes directly here. On the overland service, you have to stay overnight in Accra.

I have also been in touch with Jesse about where you could stay in Bolama, as it is natural to assume that you would have to wait there for several days for the plane. This is especially important, as Cap Roberts says Bolama and Bissau are terrible places, and that there

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is no place for young ladies to stay. This information was what led me to wire that the Portuguese route was impracticable. However, Jesse tells me that they have overnight accommodations for Clipper passengers in Bolama, and that if you arrived between Clippers, there should be plenty of room for you to stay in. If you let us know approximately when you expect to arrive there, Jesse will wire the boys to look out for you. We will also get in touch with Fish Lake about expediting your passage.

Here is a point there may be a little confusing. Cap says that most of the large Portuguese vessels go to Bissau instead of Bolama. However, they are only a few miles apart, and he tells me you would have no trouble arranging for a launch or boat of some kind to take you over. I suggest you try to have the purser or some other sympathetic person on board ship arrange it before you even go ashore, for, as I said, there is presumably nowhere to stay in Bissau. You didn't mention how much the first class fare was going to be. I hope you will not be short of money, not only for the passage but for all the things I have asked you to bring in previous letters. It might be a good idea to lay in a supply of escudos before leaving New York if it is legal and there are any for sale. I hear the exchange in Lisbon is rather unfavorable to the dollar. And don't forget about taking most of your money in checks, not cash. The cash is worth much less abroad now owing to the risks connected with repatriating it.

The last telegram saying Jester had approved your sailing via Angola was a bit amazing, and seems to indicate that you had not received my letters describing the Bolama route. You might just as well stay in New York as go to Angola, and it shows how completely Jester has gotten out of touch with things while on his long vacation. There used to be a Portuguese air line between Luanda and Leopoldville, and I suppose that this was what Jester was thinking of, but he is all wet, because this line was discontinued months ago. Within the last few months some U.S. Government people trying to get to Luanda have had to hire private cars to take them from Matadi. It would be an impossible trip for you, not only because of the expense, but also because the conditions of travel there are definitely unsuited to ladies. Similarly, Jester probably doesn't know about the Pan American service between Bolama and Fish Lake; he advised me to come that way last year several months before the service was commenced, and would have left me in a fine pickle if I had taken his advice. I am very fond of Perry, but I am also quite aware of his propensity for going off half-cocked, and talking learnedly about things he has a half-knowledge of. Ergo, don't go to Angola, and better check with me by cable before making any changes in route. I know the cables are expensive, dear, but they're worth it if they serve to bring us together.

As far as action goes, I guess you will, if you haven't already, want to go to PAA and prepay your ticket from Bolama to ~~Lagos~~ Lagos, so that you can then apply for a Portuguese visa. I hope you will be able to get off by the end of November, if not before, because we usually have a pretty gay time here at Christmas, and it is a fine chance to meet people informally. I still hope that we will be able to go to Jos on our honeymoon, but there's nothing new.

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I am sorry that your contact with the cold northern climate had a depressing effect on you, and I gather you must have been very depressed indeed if you couldn't even write to me. You will not have to worry about being cold here. You will be arriving right at the heart of the hot season, and I hope you will enjoy it; hardly anyone else does. We will have very humid weather until April sometime, when the rains come and cool off the atmosphere. Even then, though, we don't worry much about snow.

Although I have mentioned it in previous letters, perhaps I ought to say something again about your baggage. Since you will be coming part of the way by air, you will not be able to carry very much with you. The heavy stuff, and especially the household stuff, should be packed up and addressed to me and turned over to Mr. Howard Fyfe, U.S. Despatch Agent, whose office is located in the Federal Building on lower Broadway. He, in turn, will have it loaded as a government shipment and sent off via the Barber Line. I will get the bill, so you shouldn't have to pay anything. He or Mr. Finch of the Barber Line should be able to advise you as to how to obtain insurance. I think you should have both marine and war risk insurance. As I mentioned before, the latter is pretty expensive, but I hear the rates have recently been reduced, and I think it is probably wiser to take it out. I think you should have this stuff shipped as soon as possible, and in any case before your departure, as it will take from two to four months for it to arrive. I will write to Mr. Fyfe, by this mail if possible, but if not, then next week. I really must write to the family, as they have not heard from me for a very long time.

The only other thing I said in the letter which you apparently did not receive was that I loved you very much. As you have heard that several times before, I don't suppose you are interested any longer, but if you are, it's still true. There isn't any use elaborating the point; I love you so much it has almost burnt me out, and I have been waiting so long that I don't believe I'll be really convinced it's true until I see you step off the plane. Sometimes I think I'm not thinking of you as a person at all, but just as a disembodied idea, for it seems so utterly long ago that I held you close in my arms and heard you whisper in my ear. It will be good to hold you again, loved one, and to know that you're real and that you're mine, and that this isn't all a pipe dream conceived in a moment of delerium. It will be extra nice to feel I have the right to you - something I never felt in Lisbon for obvious reasons. It will be heaven to hold you for long hours without having to fear interruption - just to be quietly together. That is what you bring me when you come - heaven.

So, once again, my love, good-bye. Don't hesitate to wire me if there is any other information ~~maximized~~ you want and also to let me know when you propose to leave. You can probably wire more fully from Lisbon and Bolama, as the censorship is not, I hope, so strict. Don't forget that I want to write to your pappa. Be good, and careful.

With enormous quantities of love,

