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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL  
Lagos, Nigeria; March 25, 1943

Dear Folks:

Your letters of February 8th and 9th, following the receipt of the cable about our wedding, arrived here the 15th of this month. We thank you all very much indeed for the many kind and loving thoughts you expressed. We naturally agree in hoping for a life-long and successful marriage, and I am glad to say that the signs at the present time are most encouraging. As we become more accustomed to living together, we find our love for each other increasing. We are enjoying life even more than we did at the beginning, although then we didn't see how we could love each other any more. We enjoy going out together, and we enjoy staying home together. We really don't have much chance to do the latter, as we get invited out a great deal, and of course have to reciprocate the invitations. We also have a few invitations which I suspect are due largely to the desire of the young men of this community of more feminine company, and especially for an attractive dancing partner. This works out quite well, however, since I don't care a great deal about dancing, and I don't mind sharing Philinda with other less fortunate people in this way. Sometimes, I admit, I would enjoy being able to sit out a dance with her. It is pretty tiring for her, too, to be dancing all the time.

The principal event since my last letter has been the arrival of our new Consul, Mr. Lynch. He comes to us from Montreal, via a long wait in Washington for transportation. He came all the way by air except for the stretch from here to Accra, which he made by auto, thus having a chance to pass through the French territories which have recently joined the United Nations. He seems to be a very pleasant man, and I have every expectation that our personal relations will be most friendly. His wife remained in the U.S., and he is going to try to have her come out. However, Mrs. Shipley, the head of the passport section, has indicated an unwillingness to issue a passport, so Mrs. Lynch will remain in Washington for a while. She has a job with one of the government agencies. I can't understand why Mrs. Shipley has refused Mrs. Lynch a passport after she granted one to Philinda. As you recall, it proved impossible for Philinda to get transportation without a government job, but the passport alone was no great difficulty.

Mr. Lynch will take over the office formally from Mr. Shantz on the first of April. This will relieve Mr. Shantz from all responsibility for the routine conduct of the office and leave him free to travel up and down the coast. He will probably be leaving only a short time after the 1st, and expects to visit Leopoldville, Brazzaville and other places on the first stage of his travels. He

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will probably return here for a short time, then continue westward, eventually going to Washington for consultation. He doesn't expect to return to Lagos, except perhaps en route to another post. As I said in my last letter, this makes all of us very sad. He is by all odds the largest calibre man I have ever worked under in the Foreign Service, and it has been a good lesson to me. I have learned a great deal about the value of patience, and the advantages of not going off half-cocked. Mr. Shantz is slow and deliberate, but when he makes up his mind, his judgment is as sound as human fallibility permits. It is a great experience, and from every personal consideration, I am most regretful to see him go. He is as charming socially as he is intelligent, and some of my most delightful evenings in Lagos have been spent in his company. He is also one of the most interesting people I have ever met. He has served all over the world, except in South America, and he has a choice collection of anecdotes from all over. He is tolerant of everything except injustice and intolerance. Mr. Lynch is taking over his house.

We had a very nice farewell party at Mr. Shantz's a week ago Tuesday for John Weaver, who was leaving the next day for Accra. All John's best friends were invited for a buffet supper, and his official friends were invited for drinks only. After supper, Mr. Shantz hauled out his guitar and played while the rest of us sang (?) all the old favorites. It was a most successful occasion, and probably would have continued until far into the night had it not been for the fact that Mr. Shantz and John had to leave early in the morning. They drove to Accra, stopping off at Cotonou and Lome on the way to see the Governors of Dahomey and Togo, and arrived at Accra Thursday afternoon. The Chief returned by air Monday morning.

Philinda and I have decided that, instead of the usual dance or movies Saturday night, we will go over to the beach and stay over night. It should be a welcome ~~return~~ change from Lagos, as it has of course now been well over a month since we spent our one day honeymoon there. One does get a little tired of the so-called "squirrel cage" existence of Lagos. Parquah Bay is about the only place around where ~~you~~ can get a slight change of environment. The Chief and his party will come over Sunday as usual, and we will join them.

The weather has been unusually moderate this year so far, and it looks as if we might really miss the worst of the heat. It has been much cooler during the past week or so than at any time during the hot season last year. The old-timers are all remarking about it. Please thank Melody for Philinda and me for her fine letter, which we read with much pleasure. We are very proud of the fine progress she is making at Denison, and especially of the fact that she has been selected to play the new concerto at its first presentation. We wish her the best of good luck, and hope the young man will be able to confine himself entirely to music in the future. It is quite a change to have a real artist in the family! Philinda joins in sending you all our love.

*As ever,  
William*