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By	NARS, Date 9/9/93

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1937.

9-12-21
K/geo
Howland
Islands

Mr. George Palmer Putnam,
2 West 45th Street,
New York, New York.

My dear Mr. Putnam:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter dated June 4 regarding Miss Earhart's round-the-world flight. I was extremely glad to read in the press this morning that she arrived safely in Africa after a 1900-mile flight across the South Atlantic from Natal, Brazil. I sincerely hope that success will accompany her throughout the trip.

I have noted the itinerary for Miss Earhart, which you outlined in your letter, and although I appreciate that the dates are approximate and subject to change, I gather she will arrive at Howland Island in late June or early July. Our next regular quarterly expedition to the Islands cannot be undertaken before July 1 due to the fact that appropriations therefor do not become available for obligation or expenditure before that time. Of course, this is quite aside from any special arrangements which you may have made with the United States Coast Guard or the Navy Department direct to receive Miss Earhart when she arrives at Howland Island. As you may know, the personnel maintained by this Department in the equatorial islands consists of four Hawaiians on Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, respectively, and I am not informed as to what other arrangements and facilities may have been made with other departments of the Federal Government. Mr. William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce who, I understand, is now in Australia, had been coordinating flight arrangements on this end, and I believe that Miss Earhart had a special representative in Honolulu who was looking out for her interests there and on Howland Island. While we are extremely desirous to cooperate in every way possible, we are in this instance restricted in the measure of cooperation which we can accord by the nonavailability of appropriations. I suggest that you advise me further by return mail as to such arrangements as you may have with other agencies of the Federal Government in connection with Miss Earhart's flight. In the meantime, I am communicating by radiogram with Mr. Richard B. Black, Field Representative of the Department of the Interior, in charge of the equatorial islands, requesting that he inform me as to the date

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of the next scheduled expedition to the Islands. It is my understanding that he is planning the expedition for July 1 or promptly thereafter, which would place him in the vicinity of Howland Island a few days later.

I regret that there appears to be some confusion as to arrangements at Howland Island, but as you, Mr. Miller, and your Honolulu representative have heretofore coordinated all arrangements, I have not been fully informed as to the entire picture.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) WILLIAM HAMPTON

Acting Director.