

DECLASSIFIED
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By WPN NARS, Date 9/19/97

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS

Air Mail - Clipper Service

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1937.

*K/Ge
Blanchard
White
9-12-21*

Mr. Richard B. Black,
Field Representative, Department of the Interior,
8th Floor - Aloha Tower,
Honolulu, T. H.

My dear Mr. Black:

Miss Amelia Earhart called today and we had a very pleasant visit discussing her forthcoming 'round-the-world flight and other matters of mutual interest. As I have long supposed, she is a charming lady and it was indeed a pleasure to meet her.

Miss Earhart plans to start her next flight leaving Oakland, California, toward the end of May for Hawaii, where she will probably stop over for a day or two depending upon weather conditions. Her next objective would be Howland Island, in which we are particularly interested. I understand that the airport there was completed under the direct supervision of Mr. Robert Campbell of the Bureau of Air Commerce and that the colonists on Howland were instructed in the proper use of the tractor and other equipment to maintain the field constantly in good condition. Also, I assume that all other preparations made in connection with Miss Earhart's previous flight from Honolulu to Howland Island remain intact. However, as a precautionary measure, it might be a good idea if you could arrange with the Army for a service plane to visit the Island sometime prior to Miss Earhart's arrival there, as recently suggested by you. I leave that to your discretion, and it is quite possible that the Army would desire to make such a flight for military reasons.

I understand that Miss Earhart has conferred with Admiral Waeche of the United States Coast Guard and officials of the War and Navy Departments here in Washington, and she has been assured of their cooperation in the same manner as provided in connection with her previous flight. Although we have no funds with which to finance another of our regular quarterly expeditions to the equatorial islands between now and the end of the current fiscal year, I believe that in view of this Department's administrative interest in Howland, you as our representative should go along on the Coast Guard vessel, which will stand by at Howland awaiting Miss Earhart's arrival. Also, I assume that Mr. Campbell and the other official personnel interested in the preparations for the last flight will go along.

*2 ✓
Abstract
for
9-12-37
Blanchard
&
White
9-12-21
St. Paul*

Kindly confer with the other interested officials in Honolulu and keep this Division informed as to progress. As additional information is received here, we will keep you advised.

Sincerely yours,

[Ruth Hampton]

Acting Director.