6. The question of where the aircraft was, or is, remains. Because the B-24 parts were clearly imported from elsewhere, it is certainly possible that the same is true of the Electra parts. However, the wealth of archival documentation which supports Nikumaroro as the most likely site of the Earhart flight’s end; the repeatedly corroborated anecdotal accounts which describe the discovery of the skeletons, clothing and shoes of man and a woman by the island’s first settlers; and the well-demonstrated ability of the island’s environment to conceal large objects for many years, mandate a thorough inspection of Nikumaroro’s remaining unsearched regions before giving serious consideration to an alternative hypothesis.

7. Experience has shown the advantage of having specific targets to inspect, and the deployment of reliable remote-sensing technology over those areas of Nikumaroro’s dense vegetation is a high priority. Exactly how this might be best accomplished is presently under investigation while preparations move forward toward the Niku III expedition in September 1996.