

DECLASSIFIED	1/11/73
By <u>SS</u>	NARS, Date <u>12/11/83</u>

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM

No. 100 for Mr. Johnson
2 West 45th Street,
New York City.

May 10, 1937. *for Mr. Johnson*

Dear Colonel Johnson:

Miss Earhart, as perhaps you know, expects to renew her world flight attempt. Likely she will be ready to start towards the end of this month.

The plane has been thoroughly repaired in the Lockheed plant, of course under the direction of Department inspectors. Material strenghtening has been effected, notably in connection with the landing gear.

Please consider the following information absolutely confidential.

Because of the delay, weather conditions different from those encountered in mid-March will prevail in June on certain stages of the journey. After careful study it has been decided, because of this, that it will be better for the flight to proceed from west to east rather than east-west as originally contemplated. This reverse course is definitely decided and arrangements are being made accordingly.

The Navy, the Coast Guard and Department of Interior, are generously cooperating again. Admiral Waesche of the Coast Guard has agreed to send a cutter again to Howland to take there the Interior Department's personnel as approved by the Department. Thanks to Admiral Lahey Navy mechanics and an aerographer will accompany the cutter. Admiral Lahey also is repeating his generous cooperation of the first attempt and two Navy vessels will stand by, one mid-way between Honolulu and Howland, and the other between Howland and New Guinea. The Army has graciously given its necessary permission for the use of the military fields involved, etc.

The State Department is securing the extension of permissions. Incidentally, the most difficult

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of these, involving the British Possessions, have already been arranged directly with Sir Francis Sheldermine.

I am advised by the Department of State that in view of the revised direction route it will be necessary to get a new letter of authority from the Department of Commerce. I am venturing this letter to request such authority.

For your own information, it is probable that Miss Earhart will take off from Oakland without any prior announcement, presumably for a test flight. She hopes to proceed to El Paso, New Orleans and Miami. If everything is then okeh with the ship, she will fly from Miami to San Juan, Porto Rico, thence to Venezuela and on to Natal. The balance of the route will be the same as that originally planned except in reverse direction -- subject only to certain local variations due to the changed weather conditions of the later season.

The route from Dakar to Karachi will either be directly via Karfoum and Aden, or via Casa Blanca, Benghasi, Basra via Baghdad to Karachi.

Amelia and I are most grateful for all the help you have given the flight in the past. I know you sympathize with her determination to try to finish what she has started. Indeed, your friendly message, and the cooperative attitude of the entire Department, have helped her immeasurably in her determination to carry on.

By the way, I cannot express too strongly our thanks to you for permitting us to utilize the services of W. I. Miller. He was extraordinarily helpful. I only wish he were around now to lend a hand!

Sincerely,

GP Putnam

J. M. Johnson, Esq.,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.