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April 19, 1977

Dear Mr. Reichek:

Tour letter of March 10 to President Carter has been referred to this office for reply. The Government's assumption at the time of the disappearance of Miss Earhart and Mr. Nomen was that they had died in or immediately after a tragic sireraft accident. As far as we know, there has been no conclusive evidence to support any theory contrary to the assumption that Miss Earhart and Mr. Nomen were lost at see in the vicinity of Mowland Island in the Pacific.

Since 1967 all of the Department of State files on Assalia Earhart have been open to researchers. The Department's papers in the Estimal Archives and Records Service contain a bulky file on arrangements for the Earhart flight and a such smaller number of documents relating to the search for Miss Earhart after her disappearance. The entire file is identified as case 870.79611 Putnem, Assalia Earhart, enclosures 1 to 212 inclusive. These documents can be inspected at the National Archives and Encords Service or copies can be ordered from that agency, although the cost of copying the entire file would be considerable. Inquiries about obtaining copies of papers in the file should be sent to the Diplomatic Branch, Civil Archives Mivision, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. 20408. Nost of the Government's documentation on the search for Miss Earhart, however, is in the files of the Navy Department, which conducted the search.

Mr. Edward R. Reichek, Swite 512, 75 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

The Department of State still has in its files a few papers deted 1960 relating to a review of the Earhart ness and an investigation by the Japanese Covernment of allegations that Miss Earhart was imprisoned on Seipen in 1937. This investigation, we ware told, included a mearch of all available Japanese records and questioning of Japanese efficials assigned to Saipen in 1937 and of former Seipen residents repatriated to Japane after World War II. This Covernment was informed officially by the Japanese Covernment that the investigation had failed to disclose my basis for the allegations. Copies of the 1960 documents, which have now also been declassified, can be obtained for a fee by writing to the Freedom of Information staff, hoom 2811, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20320. You should refer to file 200.113 Earhart, Amalia and cits that you are making your request under the previsions of the Freedom of Information Act. I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Sinceraly yours,

Predrick Anndehl Director, Operations Staff Office of the Historian

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EDWARD R. REIGHEK AYTORNEY AT LAW OUTE DIE 10 PUBLIC BRIANK CLEVELAIR COMO CATIS

March 10, 1977

President James Carter White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Although I would have liked to have spoken with you on the telephone last week, I realised my chances of getting through were rather slim and even if I had you would not have been able to answer my question immediately. Several years ago Fred Koener wrote a book entitled, "The Mysterious Disappearance of Amelia Erhart". In the book the author maintains, and with some documentation, that the government is withholding information concerning Amelia Erhart's last flight. It would seem to me that forty years after her disappearance that there would be no national security interest to prevent the publication of any documents pertaining to Miss Erhart.

As you may know, there is much suspicion that Miss Erhart met her end on a Japanese held island prior to World War II. Even if this is true, I believe the public is entitled to know the facts and that you should authorise the release of this information, if it does, in fact, exist, to the public without further delay.

Edward R. Reichek

ERR: jd