

P780177-1941

November 30, 1941

Dear Mr. Coffin:

This is in response to your letter of November 14 concerning records of the flight and disappearance in 1937 of Amelia Earhart Putnam and Fred Noonan.

The Department of State file on arrangements for the Earhart flight and on diplomatic aspects of the search which followed her disappearance is in the National Archives here in Washington. It is entirely open for research (file 800.72611 Putnam, Amelia Earhart). Inquiries about obtaining copies of documents in this file and about other pertinent documents that may be available in the National Archives should be sent to the Diplomatic Branch, Civil Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20403.

Various reviews of the Department of State's records have disclosed no indication that the flight was an intelligence mission or indeed a government mission of any kind. There is, furthermore, no evidence in the Department's files that this Department or any other branch of the Government knew the whereabouts of the two aviators after their disappearance or believed anything except that Earhart and Noonan had died in or immediately following a plane accident.

This Department has still in its files a few papers dated 1960 relating to a review of the Earhart case and an investigation by the Japanese Government of allegations that Miss Earhart was imprisoned on Saipan in 1937. This investigation, we were told,

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included a search of all available Japanese records and questioning of Japanese officials assigned to Saipan in 1937 and of former Saipan residents repatriated to Japan after World War II. This Government was informed officially by the Japanese Government that the investigation had failed to disclose any basis for the allegations. Copies of the 1960 documents can be obtained for a fee by writing to Mrs. Barbara Ennis, Director, Freedom of Information Staff, Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. You should refer to file 200.113 Earhart, Amelia.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

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Fredrick Aandahl  
Director, Operations Staff  
Office of the Historian

DM  
PA/HO:DJJohnson/FAandahl:bjm

PA/FOI - Mrs. Ennis