

P770060-0475

April 19, 1977

Dear Mr. Reichel:

Your 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. Noonan was that they had died in or immediately after a tragic aircraft 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. Noonan were lost at sea in the vicinity of Howland Island in the Pacific.

Since 1967 all of the Department of State files on Amelia Earhart have been open to researchers. The Department's papers in the National Archives and Records Service contain a bulky file on arrangements for the Earhart flight and a much smaller number of documents relating to the search for Miss Earhart after her disappearance. The entire file is identified as case 800.79611 Putnam, Amelia Earhart, enclosures 1 to 212 inclusive. These documents can be inspected at the National Archives and Records 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 Division, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. 20408. Most 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. Reichel,
Suite 512,
75 Public Square,
Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

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Sincerely yours,

Fredrick Amundahl
Director, Operations Staff
Office of the Historian

PA/BO: [redacted] bjj
4/15/77

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S-H

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March 10, 1977

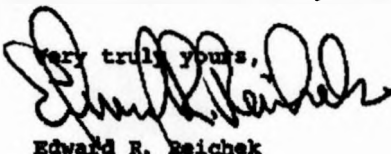
President James Carter
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Although I would have liked to have spoken with you on the telephone last week, I realized 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 Earhart". In the book the author maintains, and with some documentation, that the government is withholding information concerning Amelia Earhart'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 Earhart.

As you may know, there is much suspicion that Miss Earhart 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 authorize the release of this information, if it does, in fact, exist, to the public without further delay.

Very truly yours,


Edward R. Reichel

ERR:jd

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