

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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- 2 -

The Department of State still has 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, 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, which have now also been declassified, can be obtained for a fee by writing to the Freedom of Information staff, Room 2811, Department of State, Washington, D. C. 20520. You should refer to file 200.113 Earhart, Amelia and cite that you are making your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

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Fredrick Amundahl
Director, Operations Staff
Office of the Historian

FA/NO: [unclear] PC
4/15/77

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March 10, 1977

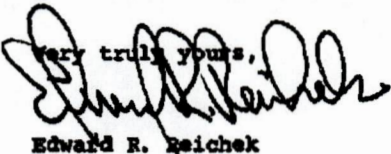
President James Carter
White House
Washington, D.C.

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:jld

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