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DOD DIR 5200 70	
By <u>WBN</u>	NARS, Date <u>9/9/93</u>

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM

2 West 45th Street,
New York City.

June 9, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Hampton:

I hasten to reply to your letter of June 8th in reference to Miss Earhart's flight and arrangements for Howland Island.

From the schedule at present being maintained, it seems quite possible that Miss Earhart will reach Howland before the 1st of July. I think we can know with some definity the approximate date by the time she has arrived at Karachi. If all goes well that should be in about a week.

I have today received a letter from Admiral Waesche of the Coast Guard. He informs me that a cutter is at Honolulu and will depart for Howland when required. He has requested at least a weeks notice, preferably a bit longer. This notice of course readily can be arranged.

Admiral Leahy informs me that the necessary has been done so that Navy mechanics will accompany this Coast Guard cutter as arranged on the previous trip. Admiral Leahy also confirms the Navy's intention of further stationing a vessel mid-way between Howland and Honolulu; while the cruise of another vessel now stationed at Pango Pango will be so arranged that it will be approximately mid-way between Howland Island and Lea, New Guinea.

As far as your Department is concerned, it is my understanding that Mr. Black in Honolulu has in hand the gasoline, oil, spare parts, etc., which we previously arranged. I further gather that he is ready, upon instructions from you, to proceed to Howland on the

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Coast Guard cutter, as he did before, presumably taking with him any additional personnel required. From all standpoints I assume it will be desirable for the cutter's departure to be so timed as to reach Howland at the minimum several days in advance of the date of Miss Earhart's probable arrival there. Thus any repair work or whatever on the runways could be effected and the matter of scaring off the bird population also got in hand.

Our representative in Honolulu generally looking out for our interests there is William Cogswell, Pan Pacific Press Bureau.

From my understanding, as above set forth, it would appear that the departure of Mr. Black for the Island, even before July 1st, would not necessarily entail any special expenditure of Department funds as transportation, and I assume sustenance, are supplied by the Coast Guard.

I have taken the liberty of assuming that Mr. Black would, so far as Howland Island is concerned, be in charge of the entire matter. I have had very pleasant and helpful exchanges of letters with him and am deeply grateful for his intelligent and efficient cooperation and his evident intention to follow the matter through thoroughly.

The absolutely vital point, of course, is that the Coast Guard cutter shall take to the Island at the proper time the necessary supplies. And further that there is advance assurance that all is well on the Island itself so far as landing and taking off the plane is concerned.

It is the intention of the Coast Guard that the cutter will stand by at Howland until after Miss Earhart's departure for Honolulu. With its radio facilities it thus will be a guide for her to the Island itself, and will also be able to gather weather data by radio from the other Navy vessels stationed as above indicated from Honolulu and elsewhere.

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Please let me know if there is anything that I should do in the premises. You realize, I am sure, how deeply Miss Earhart and I appreciate your friendly interest and the generous cooperation of the Department.

Sincerely



Mrs. Ruth Hampton,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.