

TIL F. H. WHITEHOUSE ↗

Lysaker, ~~den~~ 24th August, 1928.

My dear Mr. Whitehouse,

In continuation of my letter this morning there are still a few points which I ought to answer. I have the following letters from you lying before me: one of June 17th and of August 2nd and 20th. I had the impression that I had answered your letter of June 17th, which arrived when I was in Russia, but I think now that this must be a mistake. I thank you heartily for your kind invitation to come and stay with you. There is nothing I would like better. It would indeed be delightful and interesting to see you in your own home and to see your splendid boys in their school. Unfortunately, however, there will be no time for me this year, but I do hope that the possibilities might be better next year, and if it is in any way possible, you may be sure I will come.

You ask whether I have a copy of the address I gave in America. I regret that this is not the case. The address was never properly written, and I have no manuscript which could be used for the press; unfortunately my time is too much engaged now so that it is not possible for me to prepare such a m/s for you, which would have given me much pleasure indeed.

As to the prospects of the planned Polar expedition in airship, I cannot say anything with certainty yet. It is decided that the expedition shall take place, but it depends on several conditions which are not settled yet, and which may prove very difficult. The Italian expedition was really a tragedy, and I regret deeply its sad fate, and that so many people should be lost. I think the newspapers are, to a great extent, to be blamed for that and the way in which they were filled up, here and in Europe, with all kind of nonsense, was most regrettable and gave people a perfectly wrong idea of things. It caused the many relief expeditions which were sent out without any definite plan or organisation instead of waiting for those undertakings which had most chance of success, namely with the great ice-breakers. I regret more than I can say that Amundsen and Dietrichson and the Frenchmen were also induced to start on their risky enterprise. I am afraid that there is not now much chance of their being alive, as I do not see any longer where they could be. I had hoped that they might have taken a too easterly course and had come to the Ice regions east of Spitsbergen, and had safely come down there, but I do not think that there is much ~~hope~~ prospect now of this being the case. It is sad beyond words. Amundsen was a splendid man, and the young Dietrichson would certainly have had