

TIL J.A.FLEMING

117270

24. May, 1929.

Dear Mr. Fleming,

Many thanks for your very kind letter of the 27th ultimo with enclosures, which I have received on my return from a journey. I have also just received your kind letter of the 6th instant.

I am extremely grateful for all your splendid efforts to overcome our difficulties. It seems encouraging that the American Army may be able to loan us the necessary gas cylinders. It is, however, a question what the transport of them and the filling with gas will amount to and whether, in spite of everything, it may not be preferable to establish our own plants for making the gas in Fairbanks. This is now being examined in Germany where I have just been a few days ago. By the preliminary investigation we came to the conclusion that the establishment of plants for hydrogen and perhaps also for blue gas, or similar gas, would be considerably cheaper, and also perhaps have other advantages, but, of course, we have to go more thoroughly into this question before we can arrive at any definite conclusion. On the other hand, it would naturally be most desirable that all details as regards the cost of transport of cylinders to the American West-coast, and to Seward and Fairbanks, as well as the cost of the filling of the cylinders with gas, should be carefully examined so that it may be possible to arrive at a definite conclusion as regards the total cost. It would also be desirable to examine as soon as possible how the mooring mast could be best obtained, whether it could be made on the West-coast in order to save transport etc.

It is obvious that it will not be possible to give your precious time to all this work, and we have, therefore, reason to be doubly grateful to you for all you have done. I hope that von Meister can do much, especially after having heard from and seen Dr. Eckener and Lehmann. I have discussed with them all those questions very thoroughly when I was in Friedrichshafen just before Graf Zeppelin started. We will, however, send a special man over as soon as possible to arrange matters.

It is, of course, very regrettable that Graf Zeppelin has had these difficulties with the motors and has thus been detained. I am afraid it may make a bad impression in America and may not be favourable to our plans. But still I hope that a successful journey across may do much good. With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Fridtjof Nansen.