

20th, December, 1929,

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My dear Dr.Fleming,

I have several very kind letters to thank you for. I have been awfully busy, and have therefore postponed writing, as I continually hoped I would have something definite to tell you about our prospects of carrying out our plans. But this is not yet the case, as you probably know we have serious difficulties with the insurance of "Graf Zeppelin", as the German Companies have refused to insure it, and negotiations are still carried on with the British and American Companies, but it appears to be very doubtful, what will come out of it. So you understand the situation is now most disagreeable, and I do not know what to do, as it is getting very late, and all preparations ought to be hurried on, if we shall get ready in time, but on the other side, if the insurance or guaranty question cannot be settled, the expedition will have to be postponed.

In the meantime I wish to thank you most heartily for all your splendid work for the expedition, and for all the valuable and interesting material you have sent me, and now in your last letter of November 27th, the splendid photograph of Fairbanks (Oh, I wish I were there with the "Graf Zeppelin") and blue print of the planned highway from Fairbanks to Seattle. With all the best wishes of the season, and a happy New Year Yours sincerely

Fridtjof Nansen.