

27th February, 1930.

My dear Dr. Bowman,

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I would have written you long ago to express to you my warmest thanks for the splendid help you have rendered our society the "Aero arctic" in so many ways in its efforts to prepare and carry out the planned expedition with the "Graf Zeppelin" in the Spring of this year. I have also to express our deep regret and disappointment that owing to circumstances over which we had no control, your valuable efforts have been made in vain, at least as far as an expedition this year is concerned. Why I have not written to you before about this is because my time has been so extremely overburdened with work of different kind, some times even to a breaking strain, and I do therefore hope that you will forgive if I write only now.

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I am perfectly aware that the keen disappointment we all have felt by the necessity of postponing the expedition may be felt with even greater force and perhaps even resented by those of our American members who have spent so much time and sometimes also money to help us towards the complishments of our plans. The refusal of the insurance companies to insure the ship for a Polar expedition came perfectly inunexpectedly, as we thought for certain that we would easily get insurance and even at a comparatively low premium, when the "Graf Zeppelin" had fulfilled the round-the-world-trip, and considering that the conditions and especially the meteorological conditions ~~is~~ in the Spring so very much more favourable for the airship than ~~it was~~ during the journey in more southern latitudes.

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Our hope now is that it may be possible to carry out the expedition in the Spring ~~of~~ next year, and every possible effort is and will be taken by the men concerned in order to assure this. The aspects for the covering of an adequate insurance of the airship begin to look brighter now than they did a couple of months ago, and since this was the chief obstacle encountered, we feel entitled to look forward with better hope now.

I hope you will allow me to keep you informed if anything of importance for our future plans is attained. With renewed thanks for your valuable assistance in the furtherance of our work, I am,

[Yours sincerely],

Fridtjof Nansen.