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Charles Ingram Stanton, Sr. Papers - Civil Aeronautics Administration, Spanish Mission, 1944-1945

Extracted on Apr-24-2024 03:36:37

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Charles- To keep you informed. Dick

Copy for Mr. C.I. Stanton

American Embassy.
Madrid, Spain,
October 24, 1945.

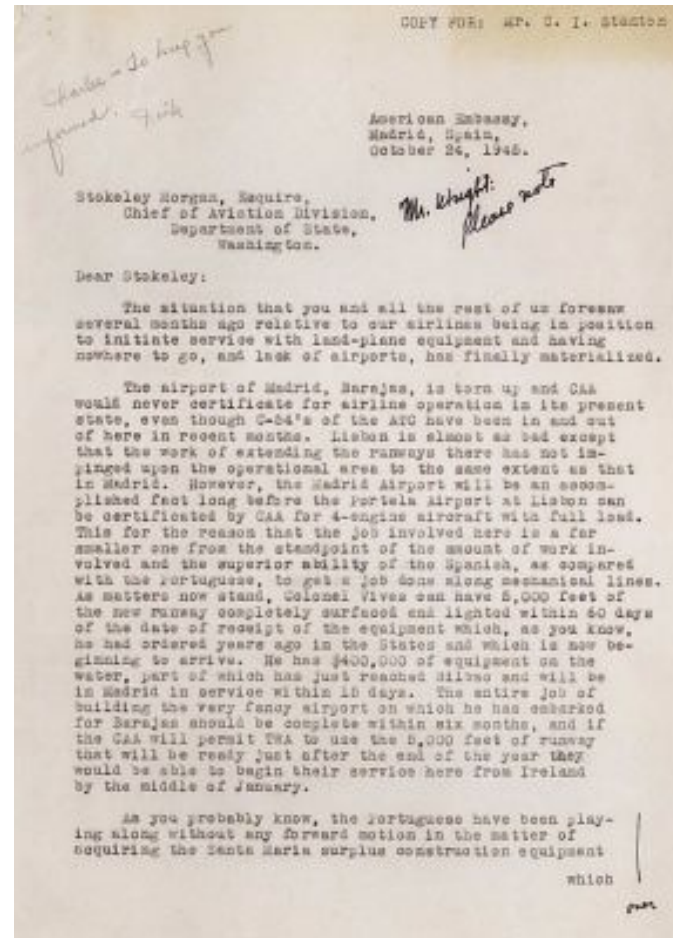
Mr. Wright Please note
Stokely Morgan, Esquire,
Chief of Aviation Division
Department of State,
Washington.

Dear Stokeley:

The situation that you and all of the rest of us foresaw several months ago relative to our airlines being in position to initiate service with land-plane equipment and having nowhere to go, and lack of airports, has finally materialized.

The airport of Madrid, Barajas, is torn up and CAA would never certificate for airline operation in its present state, even though C-54's of the ATC have been in and out of here in recent months. Lisbon is almost as bad except that the work of extending the runways there has not impinged upon the operational area to the same extent as that in Madrid. However, the Madrid Airport will be an accomplished fact long before the Portela Airport at Lisbon can be certificated by CAA for 4-engine aircraft with full load. This for the reason that the job involved here is a far smaller one from the standpoint of the amount of work involved and the superior ability of the Spanish, as compared with the Portuguese, to get a job done along mechanical lines. As matters now stand, Colonel Vives can have 5,000 feet of the new runway completely surfaced and lighted within 60 days of the date of receipt of the equipment which, as you know, he had ordered years ago in the States and which is now beginning to arrive. He has \$400,000 of equipment on the water, part of which has just reached Bilbao and will be in Madrid in service within 15 days. The entire job of building the very fancy airport on which he has embarked for Barajas should be complete within six months, and if the CAA will permit TWA to use the 5,000 feet of runway that will be ready just after the end of the year they would be able to begin their service here from Ireland by the middle of January.

As you probably know, the Portuguese have been playing along without any forward motion in the matter of acquiring the Santa Maria surplus construction equipment which-- over



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