

Kopi. *ang*

TIL TRYGGVE A. SIQVELAND

p. t. Haukeliseter, Telemark,
14. August 1929.

My dear Colonel Siqveland,

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with a letter about our forthcoming expedition with the airship "Graf Zeppelin" across the Arctic.

According to our plan the expedition will start from Northern Norway (probably Tromsø) in April next year, and will travel across the Arctic region, on the Greenland-American side of the Pole, to Fairbanks in Alaska, where a station with mooring-mast etc. is being prepared. When the air-ship has been filled up with necessary gas etc, it will make a trip back into the unknown Arctic towards the Pole, and return to Fairbanks. When it has been filled up with gas there for a second time, the air-ship will start on its homeward journey along the Siberian side of the Pole, and after having, among other things, surveyed the unknown Nicolaus II Land (or North Land) it will return to the station in Northern Norway.

[of] If this plan can be carried out, the expedition will practically cover the whole of the still unknown parts of the unknown Arctic regions, and according to my expectations this expedition may be a very important event in the history of exploration, marking the beginning of a new era in scientific exploration of the Earth, and especially of the Polar regions, in which aircraft may be used with much advantage. The researches carried out during the several cruises may be of great value. The chief geographical problems of the Arctic may be finally solved. Important meteorological investigations of the higher layers of the Atmosphere may be made. Magnetic observations and other important observations may likewise be made. Thus an important foundation may be laid for the future methodic scientific exploration of the north polar regions, and of special great importance will be the experience gained as to the future use of air-ship (aircraft) for scientific polar research. As you may probably be aware, the Arctic regions have in recent years become specially interesting for the inhabitants of the Northern Hemisphere, after it has been proved, especially by the Norwegian school of meteorologists, headed by Prof. V. Bjerknes, that the physical conditions there have such a great influence upon the meteorologic conditions in our latitudes. The knowledge of the conditions in the various parts of the Arctic is therefore necessary for the forecasting of the weather etc., and the so-called "Polar Front" plays a greater and greater role in our modern meteorology,