[Envelope:]

Captain A.S. Aiken O – 406500 18th Fighter Squadron A.P.O. 980 c/o Postmaster Seattle, Wash.

[Transcription begins]

I wrote to Janet. Charlotte sent your pictures to me.

Greenbelt, Md

Hi baby –

You really shouldn't write me such sweet letters, I felt worse after I read it than I did the night you left. It made me realize just how much we're missing by not being together. Ordinarily I avoid thinking how much you mean to me, but after reading the letter you seemed so close, and so sweet that it was almost more than I could bear to know you were probably well on your way to Fairbanks. Really if you feel the way you say about staying in love I'm sure we can, because I'm certain of myself and I know we can work something out. I think it will help a lot when we can live by ourselves together, especially under normal circumstances. And in someplace more ours than a hotel. We're always subject too much to other peoples ideas as it is. Mostly when I'm real mean it's been because I'm under the strain of your coming departure—and nothing is harder on my mental status quo. You really shouldn't laugh when I let my feelings (by you) get hurt too easily either, because everything you say or do means too much to me to take lightly and not be hurt. I'm not at all tough about you even tho [sic] I try at times to appear so, simply because I'm too proud to admit how I feel. Then if you just don't stop wanting to kiss me I'm sure to me presents aren't at all as reassuring. In fact, I usually like things first because you thought enough of me to send it and then because it's nice. But remember not to stop kissing me, because if I once thought you no longer needed me it would spoil everything in the world.

Spent my first whole day at work today, but I'm still not assigned to any permanent office. In fact the officers I'm to work for haven't arrived in Washington as yet. However I worked hard on T-O's and already know how many U.S. Army fighters there are in each theater of war as of Feb. 1—which I'll bet you don't know & I can't tell you either—so there. The people seem very nice and of course it's nice to have lunch & coc's with Becky at various times of the day.

I'm going to try and get chummy with some officer (not too chummy) who knows about that replacement deal. Maybe I can send you some inside dope. They handle it in the office where I worked today.

I dispised [sic] the thought of your having been in the states for eight days. That's an eternity of time, and who are we to waste it like we did.

I love you so terribly much. I think about you practically constantly and bore everyone I know talking about you. But mostly is just reliving times when we were together and wondering how I'm going to stand it for months.

I try to feel that our thoughts are sort of reaching out toward one another but it's hard to believe that you think of me as much as that. Please keeping [sic] remembering and praying that we'll be together sometime soon, and love me 'til I can feel it clear to Maryland.

Pat. [Transcription ends]

¹ Coke® (?)