Reg. 25, 489 D. D. 1500-T-1 Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson 22 November 1940. November 22, 1940. (1) Confidential DEAR JO: While you were here in early October we sent a despatch to Comfourteen to accertain from Admiral Bloch whether or not the protection being afforded to the vital elements of the Naval Establishment in Hawali was satisfactory, this in order that, if required, we could make representations to the War Department to direct more thorough protection on the part of its Hawaiian Department. Admiral Bloch's answers to this despatch and to a second despatch on the same subject were not very definite, and did not provide basis for further action by the Department. Since the Taranto incident my concern for the safety of the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, already great, has become even greater. This concern has to do both with possible activities on the part of Japanese residents of Hawaii and with the possibilities of attack coming from overseas. By far the most profitable object of sudden attack in Hawaiian waters would be the Fleet units based in that area. Without question the safety of these units is paramount and imposes on the Commander-in-Chief and the forces afloat a responsibility in which he must receive the complete support of Commandant Fourteen, and of the Army. I realize most fully that you are giving this problem comprehensive thought. My object in writing you is to find out what steps the Navy Department and the War Department should be taking to provide additional equipment and additional protective measures. For instance, it is desirable to place torpedo nets within the harbor itself? I will appreciate your comments and those of Comfourteen on this question. Antiaircraft protection can be provided first by units of the Fleet actually in Pearl Harbor with guns ready at all times; by stationing about the Nevy Yard of Army A.A. defense measures including mobile batteries; and possibly by utilization of Marine Defense Battalion Antiaizcraft Units now available in the Pearl Harbor areas, or that could be made available. Also by keeping carrier fighters squadrons alerted and ready to go. Another aspect of local security which prompted the Department's original despatch was the security of the oil tanks against attack from the road passing near by. I would like to have you take up the whole question upon your return to Hawaii with Comfourteen and with the Army, and let me know of any deficiencies which will require remedial action here in Washington. Much is being done by the Army, and by the Navy in support of the frmy, to maintain a security of the Panama Canal. Of at least equal importance is the security of our Fleet against sudden destructive attack. And the Fleet is, as usually must be the case, in a more exposed situation. I have been in somewhat of a quandry whether to write this letter to you or to write one on similar lines to Admiral Bloch to take up with you and /rmy. It really is immaterial so long as we get the answer - but after all the Fleet - your command -

D. D. 1500-T-1

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson 22 November 1940.

is the subject. I am sending Admiral Bloch a copy.

My best to you both and to "all your works" 
Sincerely,

Op-12-VED Serial 050312 (SC) A16/FF1 H.R.S.



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