

D. D. 1500-E-1

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson
8 April 1940.

8 April 1940.

DEAR JO: I have just been glancing over your letter of 8 February to Admiral Nimitz to check my memory on one of your questions as follows: I did it because of some information which came in this morning.

(a) Is "Circus facing trouble in the Western Pacific" so surely as to warrant giving that consideration greater weight in the preparation of the flag slate than the usual peacetime considerations of training flag officers for higher command: If so, the best should be kept at, or ordered to sea.

I believe Nimitz answered your letter but was not able to answer the above question. I want now to answer that question with an emphatic affirmative. I believe the situation in the Far East is continually deteriorating so far as our relations with Japan are concerned. I may be unduly pessimistic but I do want to communicate my thoughts for what they are worth and I might add they are backed by some pretty concrete evidence. I think you should continually keep uppermost in your mind the possibility of trouble in the Orient, and the means to meet it.

The President has been troubled with a bad cold and we are about two weeks overdue in an appointment with him; however, we are hoping we will have it within the next few days and after he has agreed to the topside slate we will send you his desires for your further recommendations lower down.

I am also in hearty accord with the last paragraph of your letter and to save you the trouble of checking I am quoting it:

"If the eminence of trouble does not outweigh other considerations, I think that the most promising material for high command should be given adequate sea experience at the expense of the less promising, and that a long range plan should be prepared with a view to having the best possible available with recent Fleet experience and with adequate time to serve when those now in high position in the Fleet step out of the picture."

Here's hoping the Maneuvers are highly beneficial from every standpoint.

Every good wish as always,

/s/ BETTY.

- 1 -



辯護詞文書 一五〇〇一五〇一

エツチ、アール、スターク提督よりジェー、オー、リチャードソン
提督宛書信（一九四〇年四月八日）

ジョー殿

余は二月八日附ニミッツ提督宛の貴下の書信に唯今眼を通してゐた
ところですがそれは貴下の下記の如き疑問に對しての自分の記憶を
正したい爲です。それは今朝或る情報を入手したからです

(a) 「米海軍司令長官が西太平洋で困つてゐる」と云ふことは海軍の
將官を高級指揮の爲に訓練するといふ在り來りの平時の考へ方よ
り將官名簿の準備の方により大きな重點を置かなければならぬ程確
實性があるのか果して然らば最優秀な人材はそのまま海に勤務せし
むるか、又海上勤務を命ずべきである。

余はニミッツが貴下の書信に返事をしたと思ひますが右の疑問に
は答へることが出来なかつたでせう。余は今強い肯定を以て此の疑
問に答へ度いのです。

極東に於ける情勢は對日關係に關する限り絶えず悪化しつつある
と信じます。余は餘りにも悲觀的であるかも知れませんが、余の
考へが當つてあるかどうかは別として敢てそれをお傳へしておき
たいと思ひます。余の考へには具體的な或る證據に基いてゐるこ
さを附言します。東洋に問題發生の可能性があること及それに對處
すべき手段を絶えず貴下の念頭に置かれるべきであると思ひます
大體領は惡質の感冒に悩んでゐられるので我々は彼との面會の
約束が約二週間延引してゐます。然し茲數日中には會へることを
望んでゐる。そして彼が最級名簿に同意した上で、貴下の下級の
者に對する推薦に關する彼の希望を御知らせしませう。

余は貴下の書信の最後の節に付ても滿腔の同意を表すぬ。それ
を對照して見る手間を省く。茲に引用しよう、「問題が他の重要
な事柄よりも急迫しないならば高級指揮官さもて最も有望な人材
はさ程有望でない者達を犠牲にして海上勤務を十分に經驗せしめ
なければならぬ、そして最近の艦隊の經驗に依り又艦隊の高級將

校が退職しても相当期間内に合ふ様な可及的有效な最上策を得る目的を以て長期計畫が樹立せらるべきである、と考へる」
茲に貴署が凡ゆる點に於て極めて有益である様に祈ります。

ペテイー（署名）