

D. D. 1500-R-1

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson  
(with enclosures) - 12 November 1940.

(1) Secret

12 NOVEMBER 1940.

DEAR J. O.: You may think I have been unusually silent for the last couple of weeks, - and so I have. Truth of the matter is that a great part of this time was spent in making up an estimate of the international situation, together with a number of officers in Naval Operations and two from the General Board. As a start on this I sat down one early morning and drew up a twelve page rough estimate, working on up till two o'clock the next morning, this in the effort to clear my own mind as I sometimes do by drawing up a paper. After I finished the rough notes, I then got together Ingersoll, Turner, Savvy, Charlie Wellborn, Forrest Sherman, Hill, Sexton, Moore and Oscar Badger and we went to it, day and night, Saturdays and Sundays, for about ten consecutive days. The product which no one claims is perfect is now in the hands of the President. I am hoping he will give some definite pronouncement on it in order that I may send you something more authoritative than I otherwise could do.

You know that we have no definite commitments. Perhaps none can be made. The direction which things finally take may be forced upon us.

For example, as you stated in a recent letter: - Upon your first visit here you found us of the opinion that in the event of war, we should not become involved in the Pacific and that any major effort, we might make would be in what we considered the most vital theater, namely, in the Atlantic. I have never changed my viewpoint on that and I may say that so far as I know, neither has the State Department. I believe the Secretary of the Navy also holds this view. But no appeasement.

Nevertheless, we can not afford to neglect the possibility of hostilities in the Pacific and that is why in so many of my letters I always mention keeping a weather eye to the Westward.

I think the study which was made when you were here, has been highly beneficial; studies of this sort always are, whether or not they are implemented.

I had hoped before this to get you the Navy end of RAINBOW III as a more thoroughly considered directive to meet the possibilities of the present situation in the Pacific. This RAINBOW III plan is nearing completion now and I expect to send it to you in a few days. I trust that you will find the tasks assigned to you are (2) within your power. We will await your comment.

We are pushing District preparation and degaussing work with all the speed we can command and if by any chance I could have until 1 April on this I would give a good deal. One January should see degaussing well along; one April much essential work accomplished in the Districts. Please do not construe that statement to mean that we might get into the war tomorrow, as I have nothing but my own thoughts on this. Nevertheless, you know I have felt right along that it is only a matter of time before we do get in (though I can not say this out loud). The chief question that concerns us is where we get in, and whom we will fight - and

D. D. 1500-R-1

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson  
(with enclosures) - 12 November 1940.

"tomorrow" or perhaps "today" is what I am working towards.

You have received the despatch directing the sending of submarines to Manila. There are no plans at present to send anything more in that direction. But present conditions are far from static, the Japanese appear to be making preparation for a definite move of some kind, and the answer we will give, if any, to the steps they may take in the future can not be predicted at this time.

Your letter regarding the retention of a part of the Fleet on the Coast beyond the date of its intended departure, and also holding another part in Hawaii, arrived at a time when the election prevented my presenting this question promptly to the President. Since the scheduled departure of the units from Hawaii was the day following my receipt of your letter, there was nothing for me to do other than to radio you to carry out the approved schedule. As you know, the matter of withdrawing the Fleet from Hawaii is delicate, and could hardly be accomplished without a certain amount of preparation in Washington. It does not now appear that we can withdraw it without some good pretext.

Regarding this Winter's exercises there is no question as to the desirability of training both the Fleet and the troops in expeditionary operations which will simulate war as closely as possible. Therefore, I believe we should go ahead with the essential features of such a plan. As I understand the plan, you propose to assemble in Pearl Harbor an Expeditionary Force comprising most of the Fleet, plus transports in which are combat-loaded the west contingent of the Fleet Marine Force, plus tankers and supply ships. This expeditionary Force will then set out from Hawaii and will simulate the actual capture of an island, using Christmas Island or some other, perhaps San Clements for example - I have not received a copy of exactly what you plan to do and therefore this conception may be at fault.

We have all been greatly pleased over Churchills statement of recent British action against the Italian Fleet. Also we are more than pleased over the success of the Greeks, - even though it may prove in the end to be temporary. We have nothing more official to date on this than newspaper reports.

(3) Regarding the German claim that they had sunk every ship in the 39-ship convoy in approximately longitude 32, latitude 58: - all but 6 of these ships have safely reached port.

Am expecting King to relieve Ellis shortly after the middle of December.

Hope the enclosed to Tommy Hart and Ghormley will be of some interest to you.

Best wishes as always.

Sincerely,

Admiral J. O. RICHARDSON, USN,  
Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet,  
USS "New York" c/o Postmaster,  
Long Beach, California.

/s/ BETTY



一九四〇年（昭和十五年）十一月十二日附エツチ。アール。スターク海軍  
大將よりジエー。オー。リチャードソン海軍大將宛書翰（封入物共）

(一)「秘密」

拜啓。此の二週間すつかり御無沙汰したのは珍らしいと君も思ふだらうが、その通りだ。實は此頃海軍作戰部の將校若干と總務委員二人と共に國際情勢の目算を立てるので殆ど暇がなかつた。先づ最初に朝早くから仕事にかゝり、翌朝の二時迄働いて十二頁許りの概算表を作つて見た。之は時々論文を書いたりするのと同じに自分自身の精神を澄まさうと努力してやつたことだ。この大体の覺書を作つてから、インガソル、タレナイ、サヴィ、チャイリ、ウエルボーン、ラオレスト。シヤーマジ、ヒル、セクストン、ムリアとオスカリー。パツジャーとを集めそれから晝夜を問はず土曜日曜も連続約十日間といふもの仕事にかゝつたのだ。その成果は完全とはいへないまでも今大統領の手許迄出してある。他の何によるよりも君にもつと確かな事を知らせられるやうに大統領がそれ成就てはつきりした聲明をしてくれるやう望んでゐる。

知つての通り我々は何等明確な公約を持たない。恐らく出來ないのだ。

結局事物の赴く方向が我々の上に強ひられるのだ。

例へば最近の便りで君が述べてゐるやうに……君が始めて當地を訪れた時の我々の意見は、戦争の際我々としては太平洋の問題に捲き込まれてはならない。我々がなすであらう主たる努力は我々が最も重要な活動の舞台と考へるところ即ち太平洋に於てであらうといふにあつた。之について私の見解は少しも變らないし、又私の知る限りに於て國務省も又然りであるといへよう。海軍長官も又此の見解を持してゐると信ずる。しかも少しも緩和しないで。しかしながら我々は太平洋に於ける戦争勃發の可能性を等閑視する余裕はない。だからこそ之迄の手紙でも度々、西方に氣を配れと私は何時も云つてゐるのだ。

君が當地にゐられた頃勉強されたことは大變役に立つたと思ふ。此の種々の勉強はそれが成就されると否とに拘らず常に有益なものだ。

太平洋の現状のあらゆる可能性に對處するため一層徹底して考へられた指令として君にレインボー第三次計畫も今や完成に近く二三日中に君の許に届けられるつもりだ。君に托される此の任務は十分君のなし得るものであると信ずる。君の批判に俟つ。

(二)我々は今全速力で管區準備と非磁化作業を推進してゐるが、之については四月一日迄にもし機會があれば詳しく書いて知らせよう。一月には非磁化作業も進捗してゐる筈だし四月には極めて肝要な事業が各管區で完成せられるであらう。

この言葉を我々が明日にも戦争を始めるかのやうに取らないでいたゞきたい、之については私一個の考にすぎないのだから。それにも拘らず、我々が戦争を始めるとは一之は大きな懸てはいへないが、單に時間の問題にすぎないといふことについては私が常に正しく感じてゐたことは君も知つてゐる。我々に關係のある主要な問題は何處で戦争に入り誰と戦ふかといふ點であり、明日か、事によつたら今日にも、といふのが我々の目指す所なのだ。

君は潜水艦をマニラに派遣せよとの急便を受取つたといふが、今のところその方面にどのやうなものにしろ増派するといふ計畫は全くない。しかし現状は決して静止してゐるのではない。日本軍は或る種の明確な行動のための準備を行つてゐるらしい。彼等が將來執らんとする處置に對し我々が與ふであらう回答は現在之を豫言することは出来ない。

艦隊の一部を出航豫定日を超えて太平洋沿岸に留め又他の一部をハワイに置くといふ君の手紙が到着した時は丁度選挙のため此の問題を直に大統領の許に提出することが出来なかつた。艦隊のハワイ出航豫定は君の手紙を受取つた翌日に當つてゐたので君に承認された計畫を實行するやうに打電するより外に仕方がなかつたのだ。君も知る如く艦隊をハワイから撤収するといふことはテリケートな問題でワシントンに於ける或程度の準備なしには遂行され難い。今のところ何かよい口實がなければ撤収は出来ないやうに思はれる。だから私はかゝる計畫の本今冬の訓練に就ては艦隊及び陸上部隊を出來るだけ實戦に近い特別演習で訓練するのが望ましいことは勿論である。私かその計畫を了質的特徴を更に押し進めなければならぬと信ずる。私がその計畫を了解する限りでは君は艦隊の大部分、に加へて西方派遣海兵隊を滿載した輸送船、及び油槽船、補給船よりなる遠征部隊の眞珠灣集結を提案してゐる。遠征部隊はそれからハワイを出發し、クリスマス島その他……を恐らく例へばサン・クレメント……を利用して實地に島嶼占領演習を行ふだらう。未だ正確な君の計畫の寫しを受け取つてゐないから、この

考へは間違つてゐるかもしれぬ。

イタリヤ艦隊に對する英國最近の處置についてのチャーチルの演説には我々は皆非常に満足してゐる。ギリシヤの成功についても……たとひ結局は一時的なものとなるにしても……我々は十二分に満足してゐる之については新聞の報道以上の公報は何もない。

(三) 獨逸側が三十九隻の被護送船をすべて大凡緯度三十二、緯度五十八の地點で沈没したといふ主張については……その中六隻以外は全部無事港に着いてゐる。

國王は十二月中旬直後にエリスの任を解かれるものと思ふ。

同封のトミー。ハート及びゴームリー宛の手紙は君にも若干興味があると思ふ。

では御機嫌よう。

一九四〇年（昭和十五年）十一月十二日

ベ  
テ  
イ

カリフォルニア州、ロングビーチ郵便局長氣付  
「ニュー・メキシコ」號乗組、米國艦隊司令長官  
海軍大將ジェー。オー。リチャードソン 殿