

D. D. 1500-V-1

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson
17 December 1940.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
Washington, Dec. 17, 1940.

Secret

From: The Chief of Naval Operations
To: The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Subject: War Plans - Status and Readiness of in View of
Current International Situation.
Reference: (a) Cinc's Secret Letter A16/01705 of October 22, 1940

1. In reply to your recommendation in the above letter that a new war plan be issued, you are informed that Navy Basic War Plan - Rainbow No. 3 (W.P.L. 44) has recently been completed. Four advance copies have been forwarded to you by officer messenger. The finished copies of this plan, plus such revisions of WPL-42, Navy Basic War Plan - Rainbow No. 1, as have been found desirable for making parts of that plan usable with Rainbow No. 3, will be distributed as soon as practicable through the Registered Publication Section.

2. War Plan Rainbow No. 3 is designed to provide against the most imminent and difficult war situation which may confront the United States in the near future. It is, therefore requested that the Commander in Chief prepare as soon as practicable the operating plans for a war envisaged by Rainbow No. 3.

3. The Chief of Naval Operations has, in the past, kept the Commander in Chief advised as to all matters within his own knowledge which related to current national policy and pending national decisions. This past practice will be continued in the future. However, the Commander in Chief is doubtless aware that the changing world military situation will continue to affect policy, and thus will influence plans for the war operation of the naval forces. It is, of course, impracticable to draw up and to issue new Navy Basic War Plans when merely minor changes in policy occur. The Chief of Naval Operations considers that Rainbow No. 3 is, in its major aspects, suitable for all probable situations which may arise in the near future where the principal portion of the national effort is directed westward. Under study now by the naval and army officials are plans based on assumptions requiring the exertion of the principal portion of the national effort to the eastward (Rainbow No. 5), and also a plan, somewhat similar to Rainbow No. 1, involving the defense of the entire Western Hemisphere against attack from both the east and the west (Rainbow No. 4). So far as now can be foreseen, these three basic plans should be adequate to guide mobilization, initial deployment, and initial operations under all contingencies which are foreseeable at present.

4. In view of the above, it is believed unnecessary to comment on the present applicability of the Orange War Plan, as that Plan was drawn up to guide the prosecution of a war under circumstances which do not now exist.

5. The urgency of this document is such that it will not reach the addressees in time by the next available officer courier. The originator therefore authorizes the transmission of this document by registered mail within the continental limits of the United States.

/s/ H. R. STARK



辯護側文書第一五〇〇一V一號

一九四〇年（昭和十五年）十二月十七日付
海軍大將エイチ。アール。スタークより海軍大將ジェイ。オー。リチャードソン宛の書翰

一九四〇年十二月十七日
ワシントン、海軍省、海軍作戦部長室に於て

秘

海軍作戦部長發

米國艦隊司令長官宛

題目「戦争計畫、

現下の國際情勢に鑑みての現状及用意

關係書翰「一九四〇年（昭和十五年）十月二十二日付

司令長官發秘密書翰A一六一〇二七〇五號

「前記の書翰に於て貴下が新戦争計畫が發せらるべき旨勸告せられました
たか、その御返事として海軍基本戦争計畫「レインボウ第三號」（W
PL 44）が最近完成した事をお知らせ致します。右計畫案四通は既
に文書送達將校により御手許に發送済であります。本計畫の完成した
る書類並びにWPL 44二號即ち海軍基本戦争計畫「虹、第一號」の



修正書類、一同計登の一部を「レインボウ第三號」と共に使用し得るやうにする爲めに斯くの如き修正をした方が好ましいといふ事が解つたのであるか。此等の書類は出来るだけ速かに登録出版局を通じて領布されます。

ニ戦争計登「レインボウ第三號」は米國が近き將來に於て直面すべき最も緊急にして困難なる戦争情態に備へる爲めに立てられてゐます。其れ故に司令長官に於て「レインボウ第三號」によつて考察されてゐる戦争に對する作戰計登を出来るだけ速かに準備する様願ひます。

三海軍作戰部長は過去に於て現在行はれてゐる國策及び懸案の國家的決定に關して自分の知つて居る事項は全部司令長官に知らして來ました。斯の如き過去の習慣は將來も續ける積りであります。併しなから司令長官が御存知の通り世界軍事情勢の變轉により國策は引續き影響を受け従つて海軍の作戰計登も影響を蒙る事は勿論であります。たゞ國策上の些細の變更が起つたに過ぎない場合に新規の海軍基本戦争計登を立案し發する事は勿論實際的ではありません。海軍作戰部長は「レインボウ第三號」はその主要なる面に於て近き將來に起り得べき且つ國

家的努力の大半を要すると云ふ想定に基く計盪「レインボウ第五號」並びに「レインボウ第一號」に幾分類似し東西兩方よりの攻撃に對する西半球全体の防衛を包含する計盪「レインボウ第四號」は只今陸海軍當局によつて検討されて居ります。現在豫見し得る限りに於て此等三基本計盪は現在豫見し得る凡ゆる不慮の場合に際して動員、初期展開及び初期作戦を指導するに適してある筈であります。

四前述べたる事實に鑑み「オレンヂ戦争計盪」を現在適用し得るや否やに付き述べる事は不必要と思ひます。何となれば同計盪は現在存在しない情勢に於ける戦争の遂行を指導する爲めに立てられたものだからであります。

五本文書は緊急を要するものでありまして此の次の文書送達將校によつて受信人に送達されるのでは間に合ひません。其れ故に、發信者は米國の大陸地域内は書留郵便で本文書を送達し得る認可を與へます。

エイチ。アール。スターク（署名）