

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart
The Chairman

1
2 the Pacific and Asiatic Fleets between 1 May 1940 and 1 February
3 1941.

4 The Chairman: Yes.

5 Admiral Richardson: They might have been numerous, but
6 within my recollection they were not substantial, except possi-
7 bly some cruisers and destroyers.

8 The Chairman: Will that record show the class of ship?

9 Admiral Richardson: Yes.

10 The Chairman: All classes of ships?

11 Admiral Richardson: Yes, even show the name of them and
12 the class.

13 Senator Brewster: Mr. Chairman, can you bring that down
14 to December 7, 1941?

15 The Chairman: The Chairman would suggest, from other
16 sources and under the testimony of other witnesses, it ought
17 to be brought down to the 7th of December.

18 Mr. Gearhart: I have already requested that, Mr. Chairman.
19 That was promised me yesterday. I presume it will be coming
20 along pretty soon.

(4) 21 The Vice Chairman: Mr. Chairman, I assume the reason
22 the Admiral requested the material on February 1st is because
23 that was the time of the change of his command.

24 Admiral Richardson: Exactly, Mr. Cooper.

25 The Vice Chairman: As the Chairman suggests, of course

Witness Richardson

Questions by: The Chairman
Mr. Gearhart

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2 for our purposes we will probably want it to come on down to
3 the date of this happening at Pearl Harbor.

4 Admiral Richardson: That has previously been requested.

5 The Chairman: You can only speak for the time in which
6 you were in command.

7 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

8 The Chairman: That will undoubtedly be furnished.

9 Mr. Gearhart: Did you, during your command, have occasion
10 to protest to the Chief of Naval Operations against the detach-
11 ment from your command of ships and their transfer to the
12 Atlantic or any other place for duty?

13 Admiral Richardson: Not to my present recollection.

14 Mr. Gearhart: Can you tell us, as a naval expert, as to
15 whether or not your Fleet, the one you commanded, was numerically
16 inferior to the Japanese in the Pacific, or superior?

17 Admiral Richardson: Well, our knowledge of the Japanese
18 fleet and its composition was not complete and therefore, any
19 answer I give might later be proved inaccurate, in the light
20 of better information. But to the best of my knowledge and
21 belief, the Japanese fleet was either equal to or superior to
22 that part of the Fleet that I had with me in the Pacific.

23 Mr. Gearhart: Then calling for an opinion answer too,
24 this being addressed to you as a naval expert, which you un-
25 doubtedly are, what effect would the detachment of three

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Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

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2 battleships, one aircraft carrier, four cruisers and nine
3 destroyers in May, 1941, have upon that numerical comparison
4 of strength?

5 Admiral Richardson: It would have made the Pacific Fleet
6 relatively weaker than the Japanese fleet.

7 Mr. Gearhart: And wasn't it that transfer which caused
8 the change in the name of the Fleet that you have been the
9 commander of, it having been known as the United States Fleet
10 and because of these detachments it was actually known there-
11 after as the Pacific Fleet?

12 Admiral Richardson: I think that had no bearing on it,
13 insofar as I know.

14 Mr. Gearhart: When did the change occur, Admiral?

15 Admiral Richardson: The change in the name?

16 Mr. Gearhart: Yes.

17 Admiral Richardson: The first day of February, 1941.
18 In my opinion it was occasioned by the increasing importance
19 of naval activity in the Atlantic.

20 Mr. Gearhart: Then really you were the last Commander
21 in Chief of the United States Navy?

22 Admiral Richardson: Until Admiral King was made one,
23 and a bigger one.

24 Mr. Gearhart: Is there a United States Fleet now?

25 Admiral Richardson: Admiral King is Commander in Chief of

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart
Sen. Ferguson

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2 the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations -- at
3 least he was during practically all the war.

4 Mr. Gearhart: That is, he is Commander of every naval
5 ship afloat, is that correct?

6 Admiral Richardson: He was and is today.

7 Mr. Gearhart: You, as Commander of the United States
8 Fleet, were Commander of all ships afloat except those that
9 composed the Asiatic detachment?

10 Admiral Richardson: No, Mr. Gearhart. I will answer
11 that question this way: As Commander in Chief of the United
12 States Fleet I was in command of every combatant ship in com-
13 mission in any ocean that did not belong to the Asiatic Fleet
14 or was not serving directly under the orders of the Chief of
15 Naval Operations. Many ships serve directly under the Chief
16 of Naval Operations, because when a new ship is built, until
17 she has had some cruising, some target practice, some training,
18 some tests of new equipment, she is not considered worthy of
19 joining a fleet, and she may be in an ocean, but she does not
20 belong to the Fleet in that ocean.

21 Mr. Gearhart: I see. Thank you very much, Admiral.

22 The Chairman: Is that all?

23 Mr. Gearhart: That is all.

24 The Chairman: Senator Ferguson.

25 Senator Ferguson: Admiral Richardson, can you tell us when

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 the Fleet went from the West Coast to Hawaii in the spring
3 of 1940, if there was a definite date for its return, or
4 whether there was not a definite date for its return?

5 Admiral Richardson: There was a definite published schedule
6 available to all officers in the Fleet.

7 Senator Ferguson: And what was that date?

8 Admiral Richardson: Based upon dates that occur in this
9 correspondence, it is my opinion that it was on 9 May.

10 Senator Ferguson: The 9th of May, 1940?

11 Admiral Richardson: The 9th of May, 1940.

12 Senator Ferguson: Who would fix that date? Would you
13 fix that date, or would it be fixed here in Washington?

14 Admiral Richardson: Actually it had been fixed either by
15 me or possibly by my predecessor and approved by the Chief of
16 Naval Operations.

17 Senator Ferguson: So it would be really an order of the
18 Chief of Naval Operations?

19 Admiral Richardson: A Fleet schedule is prepared well
20 in advance that shows all the exercises planned, all the Fleet
21 activities well in advance. The over-all plan is prepared in
22 the Fleet and is approved by the Chief of Naval Operations and
23 then it is carried out without any further orders. In accrd-
24 ance with that approved plan all of the ships participate in
25 the annual Fleet exercises and leave the West Coast, and the

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 Hawaiian detachment left Hawaii to join the Fleet in the
3 exercises of the Fleet.

4 Senator Ferguson: Was there any delay, Admiral, in leav-
5 ing the West Coast at that time to go to Hawaii or did you go
6 on the scheduled day?

7 Admiral Richardson: We went on the scheduled day.

8 Senator Ferguson: When did you first get word that you
9 might not return in May of 1940?

10 Admiral Richardson: I received it in the dispatch which
11 I put in the record yesterday, on the 4th.

12 Senator Ferguson: That is the dispatch that you were to
13 make a press release?

14 Admiral Richardson: No. This is the dispatch from OPNAV
15 to CINCUS;

16 "It looks probable but not final that Fleet will
17 remain Hawaiian waters for short time after May 9. Will expect
18 to apprise you further Monday or Tuesday next."

19 Senator Ferguson: When you received that were you out
20 in the Hawaiian waters?

21 Admiral Richardson: No, I had finished the Fleet exercises
22 and we were all, except the big ships, big carriers, in Pearl
23 Harbor.

24 Senator Ferguson: Yes, sir.

25 Admiral Richardson: Because at the end of a Fleet exercise

Witness Richardson

Questions by Senator Ferguson

1
2 all of the senior officers are assembled.

3 Senator Ferguson: Did you give us the date of that
4 order?

5 Admiral Richardson: Which order?

6 Senator Ferguson: The one you just ready. I haven't
7 seen it.

8 Admiral Richardson: 4 May.

9 Senator Ferguson: The 4th of May?

10 Admiral Richardson: Yes.

11 Senator Ferguson: What is the date of the memo that you
12 were to release a press release?

13 Admiral Richardson: I received that on 7 May.

14 Senator Ferguson: The 7th of May?

15 Admiral Richardson: Yes.

16 Senator Ferguson: Have you ever discussed that with
17 Admiral Stark or anyone here in Washington?

18 Admiral Richardson: Before the event?

19 Senator Ferguson: No, after the event. After you had
20 that paper asking you to make a press release, did you ever
21 discuss that with Admiral Stark or anyone else?

22 Admiral Richardson: No, sir. No, I never discussed it
23 with anyone.

24 Senator Ferguson: Have you ever discussed your testimony
25 here with anyone other than the counsel? You have never written

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 any books about it, or magazine articles, or anything of that
3 kind, have you?

4 Admiral Richardson: No, I have never talked to anybody
5 about it.

6 Senator Ferguson: Now when did you first receive definite
7 information that the Fleet would be kept at Pearl Harbor?

8 Admiral Richardson: We never received any definite infor-
9 mation as to the duration of our stay in Hawaii. We just
10 gradually drifted into staying.

11 Senator Ferguson: At that time were you receiving any
12 diplomatic information between our country and Japan?

13 Admiral Richardson: No.

14 Senator Ferguson: Did you, while you were Commander in
15 Chief, receive any diplomatic information?

16 Admiral Richardson: No.

17 Senator Ferguson: As I understand it, you came here to
18 Washington to receive your instructions as far as any diplo-
19 matic relations were concerned.

20 Admiral Richardson: I came here to find out the background
21 of our stay, the purposes back of it, and, if possible, how
22 long we would stay.

23 Senator Ferguson: And did you get the background from
24 the State Department or anyone?

25 Admiral Richardson: Well, I acquired the information that

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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we would stay there as long as it was considered essential for us to support diplomatic representations by being there.

Senator Ferguson: Now were you told what the diplomatic representations were that you were supporting? Were you taken in on those?

Admiral Richardson: No, but I can read it in the paper.

Senator Ferguson: Well, will you state what your opinion was as to what were the diplomatic relations that were going on at that time?

Admiral Richardson: Well, the United States has always believed in a strong China, a China that could stand alone, and we were doing all that we could, without going to war, to induce Japan to cease what we considered was aggressive action in China. We also were opposed to the extension of Japanese activities and Japanese influences further south in Asia.

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Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson
The Chairman

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2 Senator Ferguson: Did you discuss with anyone the
3 question of a patrol line from Hawaii to the Asiatic Coast?

4 Admiral Richardson: Yes, I did.

5 Senator Ferguson: Will you tell us whom you discussed
6 such a matter with?

7 Admiral Richardson: Mr. Chairman, may I read a memorandum
8 on that subject which I prepared several weeks ago, thinking
9 that I might be asked that question?

10 The Chairman: Yes. The committee will be very glad
11 to have it, Admiral.

12 May the chair ask what sort of a line that was you were
13 inquired about?

14 Admiral Richardson: A patrol line.

15 In presenting this, I would like to state that my war
16 plans officer accompanied me to Washington, and I discussed
17 with him most of the things that were talked about. He was
18 a man whose judgment I held in very high esteem, and when I
19 prepared this he went over it so that I discussed with him
20 what I might present here as part of my testimony, and I
21 did it in the interest of accuracy.

22 On 10 October, the day that I had reservations to return
23 to the West Coast by plane --

24 The Chairman: That is 1940?

25 Admiral Richardson: 1940; 10 October, 1940.

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Witness Richardson

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2 About 5 p. m. Colonel Knox, the Secretary of the Navy,
3 sent for me and Admiral Stark to come to his office. I
4 was accompanied by Commander Vincent R. Murphy. Admiral
5 Stark was accompanied by Admiral Ingersoll, and Captain
6 C. M. Cook, who is now, I think, perhaps a Vice Admiral.

7 The Secretary stated that he had important information
8 bearing on the employment of the Fleet. He stated that he
9 had just talked to the President, and that the President was
10 concerned as to the Japanese reaction to the British on the
11 reopening of the Burma Road scheduled for 17 October. In
12 the event the Japanese took drastic action, he, the President,
13 was considering shutting off all trade between Japan and
14 the Americas. and to this end was considering establishing
15 a patrol of light ships in two lines extending from Hawaii
16 westward to the Philippines, and from Samoa toward the
17 Dutch East Indies.

18 The question was raised -- I do not recall by whom --
19 as to whether this included stopping Japanese ships as
20 well as others, and the view was expressed that this would
21 be an act of war, and I asked whether the President was con-
22 sidering a declaration of war.

23 The Secretary stated that the President hadn't said,
24 and that all he, Knox, knew, was what he was told.

25 I was amazed at the proposal and stated that the Fleet

Witness Richardson

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2 was not prepared to put such a plan into effect, nor for
3 the war which would certainly result from such a course of
4 action, and that we would certainly lose many of the ships.

5 Parenthetically, I had seen that thing tried in the
6 war plans, and it didn't work.

7 There was some further discussion that a line of light
8 ships as proposed would entail such dispersal as to expose
9 the ships to destruction in detail, and that the best way
10 to accomplish the President's purpose was to control the
11 source of the trade by patrol of the relatively few ports
12 involved.

13 The Secretary appeared displeased at the general reaction
14 and mine in particular, and said, "I am not a strategist; if
15 you don't like the President's plan, draw up one of your own
16 to accomplish the purpose."

17 The conference closed with the understanding that Stark
18 and I, with our war plans officers, would draw up a statement
19 of assumptions, proposed decisions, and tentative plan of
20 operation in connection with the reopening of the Burma
21 Road.

22 An outline plan was drawn up. It envisaged the transfer
23 to the Pacific of additional patrol planes, an aircraft
24 carrier, some destroyers, and possibly a cruiser or two.

25 Admiral Stark was not prepared to approve these transfers,

Witness Richardson

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2 and stated that he would talk the matter over with the
3 President and let me know later what decisions were arrived
4 at.

5 When the plan was completed, the Secretary and the
6 President were away from Washington, and I returned to the
7 West Coast on the 11th.

8 Senator Ferguson: Are you through, Admiral, with that
9 answer?

10 Admiral Richardson: I am ready for another question, sir.

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson
Vice Chairman

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2 **Senator Ferguson:** Did you hear any more about the plan
3 after you left Washington? You say that the Secretary and
4 President -- you mean the Secretary of the Navy and the
5 President -- were not in Washington when the plans were com-
6 pleted, and you left Washington.

7 Now, did you hear anything further about the plan?

8 **Admiral Richardson:** I received, after my return to
9 the New Mexico at Long Beach a dispatch from Admiral Stark
10 directing me to send to the Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic
11 Fleet a copy of the assumptions and the tentative United
12 States Fleet disposition, and operations to meet the situa-
13 tion, which I did in a letter dated 16 October, 1940, and my
14 recollection is that I sent this to Admiral Hart, the Commander-
15 in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

16 **The Vice Chairman:** Asiatic?

17 **Commander Richardson:** Asiatic Fleet. By the Commanding
18 Officer of the Houston, which was bound out from Long Beach.

19 I sent this letter out by Captain Jesse B. Olendorf,
20 now either a rear admiral or vice admiral, and this (indicating)
21 is the paper.

22 **Senator Ferguson:** Counsel, do you know what paper the
23 Admiral is referring to? Have we a copy of it?

24 **Admiral Richardson:** What?

25 **Senator Ferguson:** I asked counsel if we had a copy, if

Witness Richardson

Questions: By Senator Ferguson

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2 they knew what memorandum you were referring to, and if we
3 had a copy of it.

4 Admiral Richardson: The date is 16 October, 1940, and
5 the subject is "International Situation Re Enforcement of
6 the Asiatic Fleet."

7 You had this duplicated.

8 Mr. Mitchell: Let me see it.

9 Admiral Richardson: The light paper doesn't belong
10 with it. I would like to have that.

11 Mr. Mitchell: All right, sir. I will tear the light
12 paper off.

13 (A document was handed to Senator Ferguson.)

14 Mr. Mitchell: The Admiral is right. We do have a
15 copy of it.

16 This is it, isn't it, Admiral? (Indicating)

17 Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

18 The Chairman: Are we ready to proceed?

19 Senator Ferguson: I haven't had time to read this,
20 but I will come back later to it.

21 Admiral Richardson: If I may add, this plan was
22 never carried out.

23 Senator Ferguson: Can you give a reason why it was not
24 carried out?

25 Admiral Richardson: Well, it served as a base, I mean

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Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 it influenced in some way the development of succeeding
3 plans, but I never heard any more about it.

4 Senator Ferguson: Well, at that time we did not have
5 an embargo on, did we, in October of 1940? That did not
6 come until July 25th, was it not, in 1941?

7 I notice the "B" item here is:

8 "Declaring a complete embargo on shipments to and from
9 Japan.

10 "C. Attempting to stop all trade between Japan and
11 America."

12 At that time we did not have an embargo on, did we?

13 Admiral Richardson: As far as I know, we did not.

14 Senator Ferguson: Do you know of any embargo prior
15 to sometime in July of 1941?

16 Admiral Richardson: I do not remember when the embargoes,
17 any embargoes were placed, but there was either a limitation
18 on the shipment of aviation gasoline under consideration or
19 in effect before I relinquished command of the Fleet.

20 Senator Ferguson: Now, did I understand you to say
21 that you said something to the Secretary of the Navy about
22 -- that this would mean war or would not mean war, if you
23 put this into effect that he had suggested?

24 Admiral Richardson: Well, I thought it would mean war,
25 and I so stated to the Secretary.

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: Will you tell us his reply to that?

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Admiral Richardson: Well, he said that he didn't know whether the President meant war or not. And I further stated that the Fleet was not ready for any such plan. Was not ready for war.

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Senator Ferguson: In other words, you told the Secretary of the Navy that you were not in position to put this plan that he was putting up to you into effect?

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Admiral Richardson: No, I never stated that I couldn't put it into effect. I could have tried it.

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Senator Ferguson: What was the substance of what you said to him?

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Admiral Richardson: That in my opinion it would mean war; in my opinion we would lose the ships; and in my opinion we couldn't stop trade between South America and Japan without being in trouble with both of them.

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Senator Ferguson: Do you know of anything else you can add to what you have said that took place at that time in relation to this embargo or patrol of the Navy?

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Admiral Richardson: No, except as I stated before that the Secretary stated, if you are unwilling, deem it inadvisable, highly inadvisable to establish this line of ships to shut off trade between Japan and America, draw up a plan by which you would shut off such trade, if ordered to do so.

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: That is, the plan?

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Admiral Richardson: That is the plan.

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Senator Ferguson: I will read this over and come

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back to it.

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Will you refer to your long-hand letter of January 26,
1940, please. It is the part where you are talking of
Admiral Leahy as "Bill Leahy." Do you have your letter,
Admiral?

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Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

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Senator Ferguson: Where you say:

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"I used to say to Bill Leahy 'be sure to impress on
the boss that we do not want to be drawn into this unless we
have allies so bound to us that they cannot leave us in the
lurch.'"

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"There is a possibility that this constant repetition
had something to do with the trip of Ingersoll."

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Now, do you remember that part? Who were you talking
about "the boss"?

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Admiral Richardson: The President of the United States,
who is known as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the
Navy by the Constitution.

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Senator Ferguson: Then there is a paragraph in that
same letter, on the first page:

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"When this understanding was reached it had some value,

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Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 but under present conditions it has little value as it af-
3 fords us the use of a base in exchange for an obligation to
4 protect about two and one-half continents."

5 What were you talking about there?

6 Admiral Richardson: Well, that might be some slight
7 exaggeration.

8 Senator Ferguson: What were you exaggerating about?

9 Admiral Richardson: About the two and a half conti-
10 nents. But my recollection of that is this, that Rear Admiral
11 Royal R. Ingersoll -- I think that is his initial -- Royal
12 Ingersoll anyway, then a rear admiral, had made a trip to
13 London to have some exploratory conferences with the British
14 Admiralty, because if there appears a possibility of nations
15 being associated, it is always customary, in my opinion for
16 the military or the naval staffs to discuss with each other
17 what might happen if such association becomes a reality, so
18 they would not be taken by surprise.

19 So I was expressing my understanding of the meaning of
20 exploratory discussions between the Navy Department and the
21 British Admiralty, as what might be considered by them as
22 reasonable steps to be taken if the United States and Great
23 Britain should become associated in an effort.

24 Senator Ferguson: At that time Admiral Ingersoll held
25 what position in the United States Navy?

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Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Admiral Richardson: I am not certain, but I believe, at least there is a possibility that he was Assistant Chief of Naval Operations.

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Senator Ferguson: Who was the Chief of Naval Operations at that time? It was Admiral Stark, was it not?

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Admiral Richardson: Admiral Stark, yes, sir.

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Senator Ferguson: Now, when you had been saying to Bill Leahy, as you describe him -- Admiral Leahy -- what position did he hold in the Navy when you were telling him to "impress the boss"?

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Admiral Richardson: Well, when the China incident started, Admiral Leahy was Chief of Naval Operations and I was Assistant Chief of Naval Operations.

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Senator Ferguson: Now, what base were you speaking about in that letter?

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Admiral Richardson: My recollection is that it was Singapore.

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Senator Ferguson: In other words, we were to have the use of the base at Singapore?

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Admiral Richardson: Yes.

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Senator Ferguson: And what were we to do for that use? You expressed it as "protect two and a half continents," which you now say was a slight exaggeration. But what were we to do?

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Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Admiral Richardson: What I meant was this, that when this understanding of what might take place in the event of closer association between the United States and Great Britain that we would have the use, in case we were drawn into the war, would have the use of Singapore, and we would have the assistance of the British in the Western Pacific.

Senator Ferguson: Assistance to do what?

Admiral Richardson: Well, this was all --

Senator Ferguson (interposing): I understand.

Admiral Richardson: -- drawn on the assumption.

Senator Ferguson: In your letter here you stated that we were to, in case the agreement went through, we were to have Singapore as a base for at least part of our Fleet; is that correct?

Admiral Richardson: Yes, sir.

Senator Ferguson: What was our part in that?

Admiral Richardson: Well, it was all based on the assumption that we would be drawn into the war as an associate of Great Britain, and she would be occupied, and we would have the rest of the bag to hold.

Senator Ferguson: Well, will you explain what you mean by "the rest of the bag"? What would we be holding?

Admiral Richardson: Well, we would be protecting North America, South America, and Australia.

Witness Richardson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: This was in January, 1940, was it not?

Admiral Richardson: 1940.

Senator Ferguson: 1940.

Admiral Richardson: Yes.

Senator Ferguson: You say that Admiral Ingersoll did go to London; is that correct?

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Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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Admiral Richardson: Oh, yes.

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Senator Ferguson: Do you know what month or what time he went to London?

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Admiral Richardson: I don't remember. I have forgotten.

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Senator Ferguson: Were you familiar with the war games of 1932 that was discussed in the Reader's Digest, I believe, in an article?

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Admiral Richardson: I was in it.

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Senator Ferguson: You were in it?

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Admiral Richardson: Yes.

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Senator Ferguson: Do you recall whether or not he put on a war game wherein we took airplane carriers north of the Hawaiian Islands and made an attack from those carriers?

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Admiral Richardson: Yes.

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Senator Ferguson: Do you know the opinion of the judges?

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Admiral Richardson: 1932? I was in command of the U.S.S. AUGUSTA at that time and I played such a minor part in that that my memory is not vivid and whatever I might try to say would be wholly memory and while I think I have a good memory it isn't that good.

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Senator Ferguson: Well, now, when you were Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet did you have any enemy's, - they were not an enemy at that time, - but any submarines that were near Pearl Harbor that did not belong to the United States?

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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Admiral Richardson: That is, in my opinion, largely a matter of opinion. I had several reports from destroyer patrols of the presence of foreign submarines in that area, their opinion being derived from under water or sound of super-sonic listening devices and at one time, particularly on the 16th of December, the presence of a submarine in the prohibited area right off the entrance to Pearl Harbor was reported to me. This report was believed by several officers, including the commander of the destroyer, the sound officer, the commander of destroyers, about three-fourths of my staff, but it was not believed by me and two other officers on my staff and we later proved to everybody else that all the manifestations of the existence of a submarine at that time could be attributed to something else.

Senator Ferguson: Well, was that reported to Washington, do you know, or after you decided that you thought it was a false alarm did you just forget the incident?

Admiral Richardson: I do not remember whether that was reported or not but at that time I issued an order for the destroyers to drop depth charges on any such contacts they made and then after further consideration, without being influenced by any superior authority, I rescinded that order; but in looking over this correspondence I do find in one letter somewhere that Admiral Stark said to me that he regretted

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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2 the destroyer had not followed the contact for a longer period
3 and I think that referred to another reported contact with a
4 submerged submarine, the contact having been lost after several
5 hours.

6 Senator Ferguson: I assume, then, that you never had oc-
7 casion to use the depth bombs on any subs and that you revoked
8 the order. Now, was a copy of that order sent to Washington?

9 Admiral Richardson: So far as I know, no, it was not.
10 Well, I am certain it was not.

11 Senator Ferguson: When you gave yesterday the conversa-
12 tion that you had at the White House with the President and
13 Admiral Leahy did you finish reading your entire statement?

14 Admiral Richardson: I did.

15 Senator Ferguson: Can you recall anything more that took
16 place at that conversation?

17 Admiral Richardson: No. In a conversation of the length
18 of two hours, some of it about Puerto Rico, some of it about
19 the Fleet, some of it about a selection system, some of it
20 about retiring officers, it is impossible to remember more
21 than what impressed one at the time as being of grave import.

22 Senator Ferguson: You had some very definite opinions
23 on the subject that you were discussing with the President,
24 did you not?

25 Admiral Richardson: I did.

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: And he had some very definite opinions on the subject that he was discussing with you?

Admiral Richardson: He did.

Senator Ferguson: Well, now, will you tell us -- or, first, you told us, as near as you can state it, what the President had said. Will you state, as near as you can, what you said to the President? Did you make a written memo based on that? I thought that you --

Admiral Richardson: I read that for you yesterday. Shall I read it again?

Senator Ferguson: What you said to the President?

Admiral Richardson: I did.

Senator Ferguson: Have you anything to add to that?

Admiral Richardson: No.

Senator Ferguson: Well, then, did you hear from the President on that subject again?

Admiral Richardson: I never heard from the President again and never saw him again.

Senator Ferguson: Now, when was that conversation at the White House in relation to your conversation with the Secretary of the Navy about the convoys, - or not convoys - patrols? Was the White House conversation prior to the one that you had with the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary Knox? This exhibit that you passed to me is dated October 16, 1940.

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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2 What was the date that you were at the White House?

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4 Admiral Richardson: I was at the White House on the 8th
5 of October. The conversation with the Secretary of the Navy
6 with respect to the opening of the Burma Road and the line of
7 patrol ships was on the 11th. I left Washington -- no, it was
8 on the 10th.

8

9 Senator Ferguson: Well, at the time you were at the White
10 House and talked with Admiral Leahy and the President you did
11 not know anything about this patrol that the Secretary of the
12 Navy discussed with you on the 10th or the 11th?

12

13 Admiral Richardson: Absolutely not.

13

14 Senator Ferguson: Yes.

14

15 Admiral Richardson: And I was amazed with the presenta-
16 tion of facts made by the Secretary but everything is influ-
17 enced by after knowledge. I assume now that the question of
18 fuel oil at Samoa might have had some relation to the inten-
19 tion to establish this patrol, or the prospective consider-
20 ation.

20

21 Senator Ferguson: Do you think now that some part of
22 your discussion with the President brought up this subject of
23 the patrol?

23

24 Admiral Richardson: I feel fairly certain that nothing
25 that I said or did had anything to do with creating the idea
that the establishment of this patrol should be undertaken.

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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2 Senator Ferguson: Did you discuss this patrol question
3 with anyone in the Secretary of the Navy -- or no, pardon me,
4 the Secretary of State's office?

5 Admiral Richardson: No.

6 Senator Ferguson: Did you discuss it with Dr. Hornbeck?

7 Admiral Richardson: No, although I saw him after that.

8 Senator Ferguson: But you did not discuss it with him?

9 Admiral Richardson: Well, in so far as I know I did not
10 discuss it with him, but at about that time, and I think --
11 well, I know, - on the 10th of October 1940 I had sent Dr.
12 Stanley Hornbeck a part of my memorandum of 12 September 1940
13 which I had given to the Secretary of the Navy and it is
14 possible and highly probable that I discussed with him some
15 of the contents of this memorandum.

16 Senator Ferguson: May I inquire now from counsel whether
17 or not we have any data or memorandums or any information of
18 Dr. Hornbeck upon this question, any memo that he may have
19 written after he talked with Admiral Richardson? As I under-
20 stand it, it is the custom of the State Department after they
21 have a conversation they record that conversation in a me-
22 morandum.

23 Mr. Mitchell: We have asked for all their material on
24 that and nothing of that kind has come forward as yet. We
25 have not received all that we have asked for.

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: Well, will you inquire specifically for that? I would like to defer that question for the time being.

Were you ready for a question, Admiral?

Admiral Richardson: Well, if I may, Mr. Chairman, I am humiliated to be compelled to request that I be permitted to change a statement which I have made here. I made it honestly but it is a mistake.

The Chairman: Go ahead, Admiral.

Admiral Richardson: After a further search of the records of the dispatches exchanged between me and Admiral Stark I find that I did receive a reply to my inquiry about the alert of the Hawaiian Department.

Senator Ferguson: Will you read that?

Admiral Richardson: And this is my dispatch.

Senator Ferguson: Would you give us the date?

Admiral Richardson: Yes. The dispatch from Admiral Richardson to the Chief of Naval Operations dated 22 June 1940 read as follows: (Reading)

"Commanding General Hawaiian Department received orders War Department placing forces on alert against hostile trans-Pacific raid and since no information received Navy Department have assumed this exercise. Navy patrol planes are participating."

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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2 In testimony that I gave somewhere I stated that I had
3 received no reply, but it appears that I did receive a reply
4 which reads: (Reading)

5 "War Department directive concerning alert issued as
6 precautionary measure after consultation with Navy and
7 State Department. Request you continue cooperation."

8 Senator Ferguson: That would indicate, Admiral, that it
9 was not a war game or practice alert, would it? What would
10 you say about that reply?

11 Admiral Richardson: Well, I will say that I was com-
12 pletely wrong, because this is the first time --

13 Senator Ferguson: I am asking now. I realize that and
14 we are glad to have you correct your testimony, but would this
15 order that you read indicate that it was not a war game that
16 was going on but it was something that was considered both
17 by the War Department and the Secretary of State's office?

18 Admiral Richardson: It indicates that to my mind.

19 Senator Ferguson: That being true how do you account for
20 the Army being alerted and the Navy not? What is the date
21 of that last instrument that you read?

22 Admiral Richardson: The dispatches that I have read ap-
23 parently are contained in a report of Admiral Hewitt's inves-
24 tigation.

25 Senator Ferguson: Do you know, Admiral, whether you were

Witness Richardson:

Questions by Sen. Ferguson

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a witness before Admiral Hewitt? His investigation took

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place after May of 1945.

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Admiral Richardson: I know that I was not a witness.

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Senator Ferguson: You were not a witness?

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Admiral Richardson: No, and this is the first that I have

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seen of any part of his report.

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Senator Ferguson: Well, would you just make the record

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clear now? What refreshed your memory? One of your officers

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gave you this information, did he?

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Admiral Richardson: He just handed it to me now.

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Senator Ferguson: He just handed it to you?

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Admiral Richardson: Yes.

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Senator Ferguson: Now, reading that can you account for

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the fact that the Navy was not alerted and the Army was

16

alerted?

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Admiral Richardson: That passes my comprehension.

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The Chairman: You were asked, Admiral, the date of those

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two communications.

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Admiral Richardson: They are both dated 22 June.

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Senator Ferguson: Mr. Chairman, I see that the hour of

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recess has come and I have considerably more. Do you want to

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adjourn at this time?

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The Chairman: Very well, we will stand in recess until

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ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

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(Whereupon, at 4:00 o'clock P.M., Tuesday, November 20, 1945, an adjournment was taken until 10:00 o'clock A.M., Wednesday, November 21, 1945.)

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WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D. C.