

D. D. 1500-E-1²

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson
7 May 1940.

(Copy of Mr. Edison's letter of 5/7 enclosed)

Confidential

Mailed 5/8/40 to catch clipper
of 5/14

7 MAY 1940.

Dear J. O.: Just hung up the telephone after talking with the President and by the time this reaches you you will have received word to remain in Hawaiian Waters for a couple of weeks.

When the Fleet returns to the Coast (and I trust the delay will not be over two weeks, but I cannot tell) the President has asked that the Fleet schedule be so arranged that on extremely short notice the Fleet be able to return concentrated to Hawaiian Waters. This will present somewhat of a problem in lugging around more oil with you perhaps than usual and keeping more provisions on board because if action is wanted it will be wanted quickly. As far as I can see, your proposed schedule meets this requirement and unless you hear to the contrary you may assume it okay.

I am glad you want to run East to have a talk in the Department. Had you not suggested it, I would have myself. We have been making some close examinations into the War Plans recently and I remarked at the time I wished you could have been present. I trust your arrival here will not be delayed over about two weeks, beyond what it normally would have been.

Of course you know the thought behind the above and that is that the Italian situation is extremely delicate, the two weeks ahead regarded as critical; then - - - ????? nobody can answer the riddle just now.

I am still hopeful that our Expansion Bill will go through. The Appropriation Bill has also to be acted on. Other than these two items nothing of particular interest that I can think of for the moment from the Fleet standpoint.

I hope to get money for elevation of the NEW YORK, TEXAS and ARKANSAS guns. My feeling is that these ships are of little use as is, and that even if they have to be out of the Fleet under overhaul at a critical time, we should go ahead with them. Do you concur?

Am also looking into the question of one or two more flag officers in Atron which I believe you desire.

Am delighted you are able to give War Plans your personal attention. Personally I think it is one of our most important jobs.

I don't know how you feel about it, but I have always felt that CincUS was loaded up with too much in the way of material matters and administration; and that in general material matters should not go beyond type commanders. at least as far as routine items are concerned. For example if Comatfor wants to find out something about his destroyers, he can send for Comdesbatfor tell him, or better still, let Comdesbatfor write him or see him frequently enough to keep him in general touch. It seems to me force commanders should not have to sign or even think about the thousand and one material details which must detract from their more important duties; let the type commanders do this.*

* This is just thinking out loud - but I would like to talk this over with you when you are here.

D. D. 1500-E-12

Letter from Admiral H. R. Stark to Admiral J. O. Richardson
7 May 1940.

I know you have a tough job in submitting the names of six rear admirals from among whom three may be ear marked for furlough. I have got to do the same myself. If you and Peck agree it will automatically make it easier. I just mentioned to the President the advisability of appointing the three of us to constitute a board to actually meet and make this recommendation. This would take away any political repercussions so far as the President is concerned. However, he didn't take to this idea and said all he wanted was to be told verbally the names.

With best wishes as always

Sincerely,

/s/ BETTY.

Admiral J. O. RICHARDSON, USN,
Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet,
USS "Pennsylvania," Pearl Harbor, T. H.

BZ -

辯護側書證一五〇〇E-2

昭和十五年五月七日附、ジェー。オー。リチャードスン海軍大將宛
エイチ。アール。スターク海軍大將の書翰

(五月七日附エディスン氏書翰寫同封)

極秘

五月十四日のクリツパー機に間に合ふ様

昭和十五年五月八日投函

昭和十五年五月七日

拜啓 今大統領と話をして電話を切つたところです。此の手紙が届く頃には貴君はもう二週間布哇水域に留まる様にとの知らせを受取つてゐるでせう。

大統領は艦隊が本國に歸還したら一週れても二週間は越えまいと思ふがそれは分らない。最短の豫告で以て布哇水域に歸航集結出来る様艦隊の行動豫定表を作る様にと要求されました。これは燃料を普通以上に持ち廻るといふ點と、行動が必要となる場合には迅速を要するので艦隊に一層多くの食糧を保有して置かなければならぬといふ點で貴君には聊か問題となるところでせう。が小生の見る限りでは貴君の行動豫定案は右の



要件にも合致して居り反對の命令に接せざる限り貴君の豫定表はオーケーと承知されてよいでせう。

海軍省で打合せをする爲め東行したいとの御希望は結構です。若し貴君から申出でなければ小生が提案するところでした。我々は最近戦争計畫に就て詳細な検討を加へました。其の際小生は貴君に加はつて貰ひたかつたと述べたのでした。貴君の當地着が順番に延びる豫定を越へて約二週間以上遅れることはないと思ひます。

勿論貴君には上記の言葉の陰の意味が分つてゐるでせう。即ち伊太利の情勢が極めて微妙であつて二週間後が危機と認められる、それから先は……？？？誰も此の謎に今直ぐ答へられないのです。

小生は今なほ我が擴張案通過の希望を捨てません。豫算案も亦實施しなければなりません。艦隊の立場からは目下のところ此の二項を除いては特に關心を持つ事は思ひあたりません。

小生はニューヨーク號、テキサス號、アルカンサス號の艦砲の仰角を高くする爲め金が欲しい。小生の考へでは之等諸艦は現在のまゝでは餘り役に立たないのでたとへ危急の際にこの三艦を點檢修理のため艦隊から

除外しなければならぬとしても、所信を斷行すべきであると思ふので
す。卑見に御同感なりや否や？

小生は又、貴君も御希望のことゝ思ふが大西洋小艦隊に艦隊司令官一、
二名増員の問題を考へて居ります。

何にしても貴君が戦争計畫に親しく考察を加へることが出来るのは喜ば
しい。これは我々にとり最も重大なる仕事の一つであると小生自身は考
へて居ります。

貴君は如何お考へになるか知らないか、小生の何時も考へて居るのは合
衆國艦隊司令長官が物資上の問題や軍行政に就て餘り荷が多過ぎるとい
ふことゝ一般物質上の条件に於ては少くとも平常事項に關する限り艦艇
隊司令以上に回付してはならないといふことです。例へば若し艦隊司令
官か其の麾下の驅逐艦に就て何か知りたいたと思つた時には司令官は驅逐
艦隊司令官を呼んで報告させることか出来るし或は又全般的連絡を保つ
様屢々面會又は文書による報告をさせるのも更によい方法でせう。艦隊
司令官に澤山の微細な軍務について一々署名したり考へたりさせてはな
らないと思ひます。それは司令官のもつと大切な任務を妨げるといふも

のです。それは艦艇隊司令にさせるべきものと思ひます。

これは今考へて居ることを一寸述べたのです。一此事に就ては貴下が當地に見へてから話すことゝ致しませう。

小生は貴君が海軍少將六人を指名しそのうち三人に賜暇の豫定をして報告しなければならぬ事は仲々面倒な仕事だと存じます。小生も亦同様の事をしなければなりません。貴下とベックとが御同意なら事は自然容易に運ぶと思ひます。小生は大統領に我々三人を委員に任命し實際に會合して右の推挙を掌る委員會を構成する方が宜しからうにと申しました。斯くすれば大統領に關する限り政治上の反響を取除くことが出来る譯です。然し大統領は此の意見を取上げず自分の望む所は名前を口頭で述べて欲しいのだと申しました。

敬具

ベッテイー（署名）

布哇、眞珠灣、合衆國軍艦ベンシルバニヤ號、
合衆國艦隊司令長官
海軍大將ジェー。オー。リチードスン閣下