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GOVERNOR GUAM

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24 NOVEMBER 1941

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1955/24

CINCPAC  
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DE LA MATYR

SLADE

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240610 CR 046H

AT 1217 LOCAL TIME TODAY UNIDENTIFIED TWO-ENGINE PLANE  
SIGHTED, CIRCLING SOUTHERN END OF ISLAND. ALTITUDE APPROXIMATELY  
15,000 FEET. AT 1226 LOCAL TIME PLANE PASSED OUT OF SIGHT  
TO SOUTHWEST.

381... ACTION  
10/11...12...13...16... OPDO.....OP-24.....FILE

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WARD & PAUL WASHINGTON D C

INTERROGATION OF CAPTAIN TAKAHASHI

on

20 October 1945

I. Positions held by Captain Takehashi

May 1941 - December 1942. On staff of Eleventh Air Fleet in Philippine Islands and Dutch East Indies. This was the duty period on which Captain Takahashi was questioned.

January 1943 - June 1945: Senior member of Navy Aeronautical Bureau, Tokyo.

July 1945 - August 1945: Senior Staff officer of Fifth Air Fleet and senior staff officer of Third Air Fleet.

20 October 1945 - : Chief of Sendai Naval Personnel Bureau.

II. Summary

. . . . . The primary mission of the Japanese Force in FORMOSA, composed of about 300 fighters and bombers, was the annihilation of the American Air Force in the PHILIPPINES. In this, it was successful partly because complete information relative to the American Air Force

1 was obtained by Aerial Reconnaissance prior to commencement  
2 of hostilities.

3 III. "Q" What gave the Japanese impression that there were  
4 900 planes in the area and how did you discover that there  
5 were 300 instead of 900?"

6 "A" The Navy received on 20 November 1941, a report  
7 from the Foreign Affairs Department that there were about  
8 900 planes in the LUZON area. A photographic reconnaissance  
9 plane conducted a search on the 24th or 25th of November  
10 over that area and discovered that there were only 300 planes.  
11 One reconnaissance plane made flights at that time."

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2 Mr. Morgan: We have here a letter from Commander Baecher,  
3 dated 7 March 1946, setting forth a request by Mrs. F. S.  
4 Wilkinson, the widow of Admiral Wilkinson, requesting certain  
5 information with respect to her husband and his testimony,  
6 and also a letter from Admiral Ingersoll to Admiral Wilkinson  
7 dated 26 December 1945. We will request that this letter  
8 from the Navy Department of March 7, together with the enclosures  
9 be spread on the record at this point.

10 The Vice Chairman: They will be spread on the record at  
11 this point.

12 (The letter and enclosures referred to are as follows:)

WARD & PAUL, WASHINGTON, D C

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

7 March 1946.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Seth W. Richardson

1. It will be recalled that during the course of his interrogation Vice Admiral T. S. Wilkinson testified concerning the duties of his office which, at least in part, was transcribed at pages 4576-4577 of the Record of Proceedings.

2. It further appears that at the request of Vice Admiral Wilkinson there were read into the Record of Proceedings, at pages 5100-5104, a memorandum of Vice Admiral A. G. Kirk, and two dispatches exchanged between Vice Admiral Wilkinson and Rear Admiral James, pertaining to matters referred to in the testimony of Vice Admiral Wilkinson at said pages 4576-4577 of the Record.

3. In connection with the same matter Vice Admiral

1 Wilkinson wrote a letter to Admiral R. E. Ingersoll on 20  
2 December 1945, in which he referred to his own and Admiral  
3 Turner's testimony, and forwarded as the first enclosure  
4 a copy of the memorandum of Vice Admiral Kirk referred to  
5 above and as the second enclosure a copy of his own  
6 testimony as transcribed at said pages 4576-4577 of the  
7 Record of Proceedings before the Joint Committee, and  
8 inquired as to Admiral Ingersoll's recollection of the  
9 matter. Admiral Ingersoll answered Vice Admiral Wilkinson's  
10 letter by letter of 26 December 1945.

11 4. Mrs. T. S. Wilkinson states that her lately  
12 deceased husband, Vice Admiral Wilkinson, refrained at the  
13 time from forwarding to the committee the exchange of  
14 correspondence with Admiral Ingersoll because he thought the  
15 subject matter would be covered when Admiral Ingersoll  
16 appeared as a witness. She feels that it now appears that  
17 the interrogation of Admiral Ingersoll did not cover the  
18 particular question, and has found the letters among Vice  
19 Admiral Wilkinson's effects. Accordingly Mrs. Wilkinson,  
20 having first obtained the permission of Admiral Ingersoll  
21 to such use of his letter, requests in behalf of her husband  
22 that the pertinent parts of the exchange of correspondence  
23 between Vice Admiral Wilkinson and Admiral Ingersoll be  
24 read into and made a part of the stenographic record of the

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2 December 1945, in which he referred to his own and Admiral  
3 Turner's testimony, and forwarded as the first enclosure  
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18 particular question, and has found the letters among Vice  
19 Admiral Wilkinson's effects. Accordingly Mrs. Wilkinson,  
20 having first obtained the permission of Admiral Ingersoll  
21 to such use of his letter, requests in behalf of her husband  
22 that the pertinent parts of the exchange of correspondence  
23 between Vice Admiral Wilkinson and Admiral Ingersoll be  
24 read into and made a part of the stenographic record of the

1 hereto, marked Enclosures A and B respectively, copies of the  
2 second enclosure to Vice Admiral Wilkinson's letter of 20  
3 December 1945 to Admiral Ingersoll and of Admiral Ingersoll's  
4 letter dated 26 December 1945.

5 /s/ John Ford Baecher

6 Lt. Comdr. USNR

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8 Admiral Wilkinson: I said that the text of the  
9 regulations which you introduced read "Evaluate the  
10 information collected and disseminate as advisable."

11 I understood our duties to be, and still understand,  
12 to disseminate and spread a broad all types of basic informa-  
13 tion, what General Miles has termed static information, such  
14 as the defenses of the country, its economics, the  
15 diplomatic relations, the characters and activities and  
16 previous careers of its military and naval men, the location  
17 of its fleets, the actual movements of its fleets and every-  
18 thing other than the enemy probable intentions, and such  
19 specific information as in itself might give rise or might  
20 require action by our fleet, or by our naval forces.

21 In the latter case before dissemination I would consult  
22 higher authority, either the Assistant Chief, the Chief of  
23 Naval Operations, or my Colleague, Chief of War Plans, in  
24 order that this information which I sent out would not be in  
25 conflict with his understanding of the naval situation,



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1 and the operations for which he was responsible.

2 Mr. Gesell: In other words, you had the responsibility  
3 to disseminate, but where you reached a situation which led  
4 you to feel that the information disseminated might approach  
5 the area of a directive, or an order to take some specific  
6 action to the recipient, then you felt you were required to  
7 consult War Plans, or the Chief of Naval Operations?

8 Admiral Wilkinson: Exactly.

9  
10 Staff Headquarters  
11 Western Sea Frontier  
12 Federal Office Building  
13 San Francisco, California

14 26 December 1945

15 My dear Wilkinson:

16 I have your letter of 20 December regarding your  
17 testimony before the Committee and also the two enclosures.

18 My understanding of the instructions given to Naval  
19 Intelligence in 1941 is exactly in accord with your testimony  
20 as you gave it in the hearings, and as embodied in the second  
21 enclosure of your letter.

22 I remember that discussions took place sometime in '41  
23 although I had forgotten that Kirk took part in the dis-  
24 cussions. I remember it more as a discussion with you. I  
25 remember distinctly, however, pointing out that our

1 organization was not like military intelligence and that the  
 2 Estimate of the Situation should be prepared by the War Plans  
 3 Division, although the data for the part "Enemy Intentions"  
 4 naturally would have to be based on data and information  
 5 gathered by Naval Intelligence.

6 With kindest regards and all best wishes for the New  
 7 Year, I am

8 Very sincerely yours,

9 /s/ Ingersoll

10 Vice Admiral T. S. Wilkinson, USN.,  
 11 3043 "N" Street, N. W.  
 12 Washington, D C

13 Certified a true copy, except as noted regarding underscoring.

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Mr. Morgan: I believe that is all, Mr. Chairman.

The Vice Chairman: There being nothing further, the committee will stand adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 5:40 p.m., the joint committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.)

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