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Naval General Staff Directive No. 50

Date: March 1, 1942.

From: Chief of Naval General Staff, Admiral NAGANO Osami.

To : Commander-in-Chief of Combined Fleet, Admiral YAMAMOTO.

The sea communication destruction warfare shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

1. Operational policy.

With the ultimate view to attain the destruction and disturbance of the hostile sea lanes as thoroughly as possible in the entire area of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the operations shall be executed in the following manner:

a. With an added duty of destroying the enemy's sea communication in the Pacific area Submarines of the Advanced body shall be made always active in the Hawaiian waters; while on the other hand a portion of the submarine forces shall be despatched from time to time to the waters of such areas as the eastern coast of Australia, the coast of New Zealand, the west coast of the United States, the southern Pacific islands of strategic importance, and the Panama Canal area, in order to disrupt the enemy lines of communications between Hawaii and the main land of the United States as well as between the west coast of the American continents and the east coast of Australia, and at the same time in order to destroy and disturb the enemy lines of communications in the waters along the

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west coast of the American continents and near Australia, with a view to confuse the enemy naval forces through arousing the public sentiment of the peoples of the enemy.

b. With an added duty of destroying the enemy's sea communications in the Indian Ocean area the submarines attached to the Southern Body shall be made active chiefly in the northern part of the Indian Ocean and the Australian west coast area, while a portion of the said submarine forces shall be despatched from time to time to the waters of the east coast area of South Africa in order to disrupt the line of communications between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

c. Some converted cruisers shall be used mainly for this traffic destruction warfare and be made active from time to time in the waters of those areas such as Panama, South Africa, South American west coast, etc., in cooperation with submarine forces in order to destroy and disturb the enemy's lines of communications.

d. In case cruisers, aircraft carriers, etc. are to be used for various maneuvering operations, they shall endeavor concurrently after the destruction and disturbance of enemy sea communications.

2. Standard Guides to the Treatment of Shipping.

a. In dealing with shipping the following countries shall be deemed as purely neutral:

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Spain,

Portugal, Argentina, Chile, Turkey, Sweden,

France (the domains under the De Gaul regime excepted),

b. Swiss.

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b. The shipping belonging to those countries other than above mentioned shall be dealt with similarly to that of the enemy countries.

c. In the conduct of operations with submarines or aircraft, vessels regardless of their nationality may be sunk without warning unless they are easily recognizable as the vessels of those neutral countries as stated in Paragraph 1 above, provided that such attack shall be made after confirming the nationality of the vessels as far as possible in the case of the waters near Japan, near the Russian territorial coast, near the west coast of South America to the south of and including Peru, etc.

d. In the operations by surface craft it shall be made a rule as far as possible that such attack be preceded by, duely processed visit and search, and every possible endeavor shall be made to rescue human lives if circumstances warrant the sinking of the vessels.

e. As a rule hostile vessels shall be captured and be brought to a port of Japan Proper whenever possible. When such is not feasible captured vessels shall be either made to sail to the nearest friendly port or be destroyed after having taken proper measures for the personnel and cargoes on board.

f. As a rule persons of armed forces, both armed men and civilians, higher graded mariners, technicians, important government officials, and the like who are belonging to enemy countries and the Chiang Kaishek regime shall be taken prisoners of war.

(Attached directive)

The Naval General Staff Directives Nos. 13, 28, and 31 are hereby abolished.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, DOHI, Kazuo, who occupy the post of the Chief the Historical Section of the Material Readjustment Branch of 2nd Demobilization Section of Demobilizations Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 4 pages and entitled "Naval General Staff directive No. 60" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (2nd Demobilization of Demobilization Bureau).

certified at Tokyo,

on this 10 day of July, 1947.

/s/ DOHI, Kazuo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place, on this same date

Witness: /s/ SOMIYA, Shiuji (seal)