

● PSF

Justice Dept. : Biddle, Francis

1941-1943

PSF - Justice

Francis Biddle

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON

File
personal

Folders
1-41

August 29, 1941.

PERSONAL

My dear Mr. President,

I am, of course, very much pleased and proud that you should have wanted me for your Attorney General; yet sobered, too. Working close to Bob for a year and a half has taught me what the difficulties and problems are, shot across with so many imponderables. That is, of course, what makes public work so much more stimulating than the simpler regularity of private practise, that, and the sense of satisfaction, particularly as one grows older, which comes from impersonal striving to a common end.

It will be hard to take Bob's place. His honesty and devotion were complete. But you must know, and I like to record it now, that you will have my absolute loyalty and all of my energy to carry out your wishes promptly and with intelligence. I hope

too, that I may be able to keep off your
shoulders some of the unnecessary worries and
burdens which should not be allowed to intrude
on your time.

With affection,

Sincerely yours,

M. A. Biddle

Francis Biddle Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*PSF
Justice*

September 26, 1941

Personal

MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL:

I want to talk to you about
this.

F.D.R.

Re: Tom Corcoran - Memo to FDR from J. Rowe

Francis Biddle Folder
1-41

copy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

The enclosed from the Judge Advocate General of the Navy Department refers to certain statutes which are not dependent on a state of national emergency but would seem to depend on circumstances even more grave. Actually, the situation seems to authorize certain types of action in time of "threatened war".

You might check these with previous briefs and let me know if you believe that additional powers are conferred through the actual threat of war.

F.D.R.

Re:
Confidential memorandum from Rear Admiral W. B. Woodson, Judge Advocate General of the Navy, 10/24/41 for the President, enclosing "Memorandum of Statutes Which Come Into Force in Time of War, When War is Imminent, And So Forth", dated 10/24/41

*See Raw File - "Powers of the President"
Folder for above opinions*

Map returned
to Biddle with
he enclosed, 2/25/42
with memo.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1942

file Biddle
Golden
PSF.
Justice

My dear Mr. President:

I am sending you mounted photostat copies of two maps which were recovered from the 50-foot Japanese submarine which was salvaged off the Island of Waimanalo subsequent to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Map Two is the interesting one and the enclosed memorandum will show translations of the Japanese characters, written apparently by the Commander of the submarine on the map after entering the harbor.

This map was secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Honolulu. I understand that copies have been sent to the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department and the Office of Naval Intelligence of the Navy Department.

Sincerely yours,

Frank B. Rowles

The President

The White House

PSF 7. Biddle folder
Justice

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

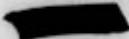
F.D.R.

Copy of Welles memo to the Pres. of March 6th
and copy of the Pres. memo of March 6th to
Sumner Welles.

RE: Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul in Honolulu
who was charged with transmitting information
to Japan regarding the vessels at Pearl Harbor

copy

March 6, 1942.


MEMORANDUM FOR

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

What do you think? I am inclined to think that Kita, on arrival in the continental United States, should be kept incommunicado and not placed with the other Diplomats. Plenty of food but no communications in or out.

F.D.R.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart - Date 2-25-72

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1942.

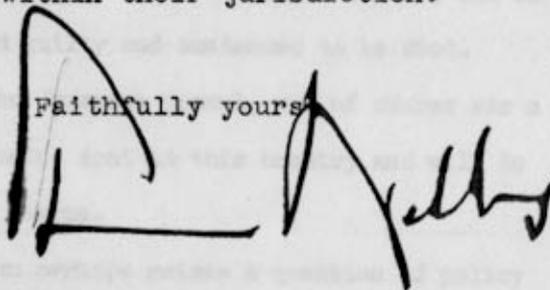
My dear Mr. President;

I am returning to you herewith the memorandum addressed to you by the Attorney General under date of March 4 which you sent me with your memorandum of March 6.

I think the steps which you yourself suggest are wisest under the circumstances. I am afraid that if we undertake criminal proceedings against Kita, the Japanese will immediately retaliate against a number of our own consuls now within their jurisdiction.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

To the President from the
Attorney General, March 4, 1942,
re Nagao Kita, Japanese Consul
in Honolulu.

The President,

The White House.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

March 4, 1942

CLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice

Dept letter 12-13-61

By JS Date 2-25-72

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn was responsible for the preparation of the signaling system used in connection with messages dispatched by Nagao Kita, the Japanese Consul in Honolulu, Hawaii, to the Foreign Minister in Tokyo, setting forth a system of signals to be employed in getting intelligence information to the Japanese fleet.

Kita was court-martialed, charged with transmitting information to Japan regarding our vessels at Pearl Harbor, and on February 21, 1942, was found guilty and sentenced to be shot.

I am advised that the Japanese Consul, who of course was a part of the conspiracy, is being sent to this country and will be presumably exchanged in due course.

The sentence of Kuehn perhaps raises a question of policy about which you may wish to consult the Secretary of State. I am today sending him a copy of this memorandum.

F.B.

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

file
J. Biddle

PSF
Justice
Biddle

April 23, 1942

Joe Kennedy's eldest daughter is private secretary
to Frank Waldrop who writes the column in the Times Herald

Inga Arvad writes profiles in the Times Herald and
is intimate with Cissy Patterson. It is alleged that
she is also intimate with Joe Kennedy's eldest son.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Biddle Folder
PSF
Justice

May 2, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Will you let me have the
latest information?

F. D. R.

Two letters from Morris Ernst,
with enclosures, re Senator Walsh.



PSF Justice
Biddle Folder
1-42
Show to Mac
Fthen file
Confidential

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

June 19, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

On June 13, 1942, at 1:30 A.M. an unarmed Coast Guard Patrolman near Amagansett, Montauk Point, Long Island, discovered two men placing material in a hole which they had just dug; one of them covered the Patrolman with a gun, gave him \$260 and told him to keep his mouth shut.

Subsequently members of the Coast Guard returned to the spot, one of them thought he saw the silhouette of a submarine off shore; upon digging a large amount of explosives and incendiary devices were discovered available for bombing vessels or factories. There was also discovered clothes similar to those worn by German submarine personnel with markings in German.

A plant has been established on the spot and fifteen men are being used on each shift of twelve hours. Every effort has been made to avoid publicity.

The Eastern and Gulf Coastal Commands have been cautioned by the Army and Navy of the danger of additional landings by German Agents; and the number and strength of the Coast Guard patrols has been substantially increased.

So far as I know, this is the first discovery of definite evidence of sabotage by German Agents. I shall, of course, keep you informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Biddle
Francis Biddle
Attorney General



*file
Personal*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Biddle Files
PSF
Justice*

July 7, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Attorney General called to say that he had sent over some alternate replies to Col. Royal and Mr. Dow. At the time he sent them over, he did not have the information that these counsel probably will take a writ of habeas corpus but he wanted you to have this information.

G.

PSF: Justice 7, Biddle Folder
1-42

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1942.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

I think it would be good politics if you could call on Joe Guffey just to pass the time of day and sweeten him up.

F.D.R.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

October 8, 1942

F. Biddle folder
2-42
PSF
Justice

THE WHITE HOUSE
OCT 12 8 53 AM '42
RECEIVED

*file
per mail*

Dear Mr. President:

I have received your memorandum of October 1, *rf*
1942, suggesting the indictment for treason of the
American citizens broadcasting from German radio stations.

The Department has had the cases involving
these individuals under active consideration and is
presently reviewing the transcripts of their broadcasts.
Indictments will be sought against them for treason and
sedition in the very near future.

Respectfully,

Francis B. Biddle
Attorney General.

The President,
The White House.