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In reply refer to Initials and No.

Jee

Op-12-VED
Serial 078712

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

July 9, 1941.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

1. In your Message to Congress of July 7th, concerning the reenforcement of the British Garrison in Iceland, you made the following pronouncement:

"As Commander in Chief I have consequently issued orders to the Navy that all necessary steps be taken to insure the safety of communications between Iceland and the United States, as well as on the seas between the United States and all other strategic outposts."

2. As you know, United States naval operating forces have prepared plans for an "all-out" war against the Axis Powers, in accordance with the agreements with the British made in ABC-1. The Atlantic Fleet is now operating in accordance with Western Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 2, which involves no shooting, except in self-defense or the defense of United State territory, bases and flag shipping. In order to carry out the policy which you have announced in the words quoted above, we might issue orders for any one of three plans intermediate between ABC-1 (Rainbow No. 5) and Western Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 2. These intermediate plans may be briefly described as follows:

(a) Western Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 2, with the addition of escorting United States and Iceland ships between the United States and Iceland. This would include attack on German submarines or raiders which might attempt to interfere with the passage of these convoys.

(b) Western Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 2, plus escorting United States and Iceland ships between the United States and Iceland, plus attacking all Axis raiders and submarines which might be encountered by our naval forces anywhere within the Western Hemisphere.

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(c) A new plan, entitled Western Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 3, which would involve an "all-out" defense of Western Atlantic waters, plus the defense of Iceland. Under this plan, we would protect all except Axis shipping west of longitude 26° West, and would attack Axis raiders and submarines wherever found in these waters. This would involve escorting of all convoys bound between North America and the United Kingdom, as well as patrolling and covering operations for the protection of shipping in the Western Atlantic, including the convoys between Freetown and the United Kingdom which now move approximately along the meridian of 30° West. This latter plan has been in preparation for the past ten days, and should be ready for issue to the Fleet the latter part of this week. We have discussed this plan with the British Joint Staff Mission here in Washington, and have telegraphed it to London so that the British Chiefs of Staff could advise us on it. The British have expressed full agreement with it, except in minor details, and, naturally, desire to see it placed in effect. It is the plan which Ambassador Winant referred to in his yesterday's dispatch. In sending this plan to Ghormley, I advised him as follows:

"You are to state categorically to the Chiefs of Staff that there is no present intention of the United States Government to execute this measure, but the Chief of Naval Operations has directed the preparation of the plan so that the Navy will be ready for effective action under all eventualities. The plan would be considered a preparatory measure for ABC-1 and would be in general accord with that agreement."

FRANK D. ROOSEVELT

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*1 Pst
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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF Date- 4-6-59
WASHINGTON

Signature- *Carl L. Spicer*

August 29, 1941

Admiral Harold R. Stark,
Chief of Naval Operations,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Betty:

I am of the opinion that the United States forces in Iceland should be under one commander, who should be given, to the extent legally possible, full authority and responsibility. The Commander's authority should not be restricted to that contemplated in "Joint Action of the Army and the Navy" for the exercise of "unity of command."

In order to give the Commander of United States Forces in Iceland the authority legally possible over the combined forces, I propose that Marine forces in Iceland be detached for service with the Army. There is attached hereto a joint letter transmitting to the President a draft of an Executive Order which will accomplish the proposed detachment.

Since the Army contingent will sail on or about September 5, it is very desirable that this matter be expedited.

Faithfully yours,

[Handwritten signature]

*OK -
Sec. has
signed
HRS*

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Date- 4-6-59

Signature- *Carl L. Spicer*

Washington, D. C.

August 29, 1941.

The President,

The White House.

My dear Mr. President:

Troops of the United States Marine Corps are now serving in Iceland. A small Army force is at present there and a larger body of Army troops is expected soon to sail for that island. The military situation requires that the personnel of the several branches be under a single command; and it is most undesirable that there be two separate United States military forces in that island, each operating under a different department and different laws. Congress has provided a remedy for such a situation by the following statutes:

a. " * * * The Marine Corps shall, at all times, be subject to the laws and regulations established for the government of the Navy, except when detached for service with the Army by order of the President; and when so detached they shall be subject to the rules and Articles of War prescribed for the government of the Army: * * *"
(Revised Statutes, sec. 1621; 34 U.S.C. 715)

b. "ART. 2. Persons Subject to Military Law. - The following persons are subject to these articles and shall be understood as included in the term 'any person subject to military law,' or 'persons subject to military law,' whenever used in these articles:

* * *

(c) Officers and soldiers of the Marine Corps when detached for service with the armies of the United States by order of the President: * * *" (Article of War 2, 41 Stat. 787, 10 U.S.C. 1473)

It is therefore recommended that, pursuant to the statutes quoted, you sign the inclosed draft of an order, which will have the effect of making the Army and Marine forces in Iceland a single

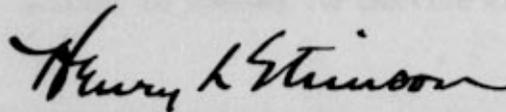
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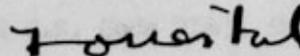
united force and will greatly increase their military efficiency. It is further recommended, for obvious reasons, that the order be kept secret until after the arrival of the Army troops mentioned in Iceland.

The action recommended follows the precedent set by President Wilson in issuing a similar order with respect to the marines serving in the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

Respectfully yours,



Secretary of War.



Secretary of Navy.

1 Incl.
Draft of order.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Detachment of Marines in Iceland for Service with the Army.

Pursuant to Revised Statutes, section 1621 (34 U.S. Code 715), Article of War 2 (10 U.S. Code 1473); and the act of August 29, 1916 (34 U.S. Code 716); it is hereby ordered, effective September 13, 1941, that all personnel of the United States Marine Corps then or later serving in Iceland and of the Medical Department of the Navy serving with them be detached for service with the Armies of the United States, and remain so detached until their departure from Iceland.

The White House

August , 1941.

Box

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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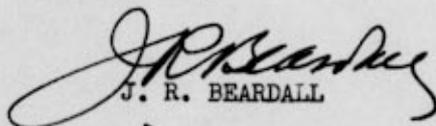
September 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The attached despatch gives General Marston's report of the rape case in Iceland which Elliot spoke of the other day.

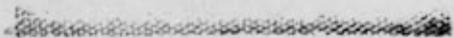
The full written report has not yet reached the Department.

Respectfully,


J. R. BEARDALL

Library

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

PHONE EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
FROM CG 1ST PROV MARBRIG	MARCORPS OPNAV	PPPPY
RELEASED BY		ROUTINE
DATE 8 SEPT. 1941	INFORMATION FOR ACTION	DEFERR
TOR CODEROOM 2342		PRIOR
DE/CODED BY BROOKE		ROUT
PARAPHRASED BY GLUNT		DEFERR

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INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

Ø81521CRØ941

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:

DATE	TIME	GCT
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TEXT

HAVE SIGNED VOLUNTARY CONFESSIONS OF 4 MARINES ACCUSED OF RAPE OF COUNTRY WOMAN AND MARINES ARE BEING TRIED BY GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL. 1 CONVENED TODAY. PUBLIC STATMENT BY THIS HEADQUARTERS DEPRECATING INCIDENT AND ASSURING ICELANDERS OF FULL MEASURE OF PUNISHMENT FOR ACCUSED MEN ~~WAS~~ APPARENTLY ALLAYED PUBLIC FEELING. MAILED REPORT SEPT. 5TH. THE ABOVE IS IN REFERENCE TO YOUR Ø622Ø5.

DISTRIBUTION:

MARCORPS.....ACTION

10/11.....13.....FILE - *NAVAIDE*

*PHONED ADM NOYES / GEN HOLCOMB / ØØØ5/9^B

*PHONED MARCORPS D.O. 1922

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MAKE ORIGINAL ONLY, DELIVER TO COMMUNICATION WATCH OFFICER IN PERSON
SEE ARTICLE 76 (4) NAV REGS.