Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

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Series: Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers
Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1935
January 21, 1935.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Oswald:-

There is one subject -- and only one -- about which I can claim to have known and to know more than you will ever possibly know -- i.e., just what Naval Defense of the United States means.

Get our your Atlas and then read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the following categorical statement -- not subject to contradiction by you -- because on Naval subjects you are an infant in arms!

The Naval Defense of the United States in the Pacific (leaving out any question of the Philippines) runs in a line beginning five hundred miles south of the Panama Canal, thence in a straight line to the Island of Guam, thence to Mid-Way Island, thence to the westerly end of the Aleutian Islands. Everything east of that line is the defensive area of the continental United States.

Be a good scout and put that in your pipe and smoke it!

I do hope to see you soon. My best regards,

As ever yours,

Oswald Garrison Villard, Esq.,
20 Vesey Street,
New York, N. Y.