

RG 38 Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Records of the Naval Security Group Central Depository,
Crane Indiana

CNSG LIBRARY

Box 150

NN3-38-93-001

Op-20-4-cs (5 Dec 45)
Serial 003P20
(SC)A17-24(1)

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 003003

5 DEC 1945

MEMORANDUM

From: Chief of Naval Communications.
To: Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Administration).
Subj: Congressional Investigation of Pearl Harbor Attack.
Encl: (A) AGNO(Admin) See memo for Capt. Dietrich, of 31 Oct 45.
(B) DCNO(Admin) memo for All Bureaus, Boards and Offices, Op21B/hbb, Ser 226P21, of 15 Nov 45.
(C) CNC memo for Adm. Colclough, Op-20-4-cs, Ser 15P20, of 23 Nov 45.
(D) Memo for CNC from Adm. Colclough, JAG:anh, of 26 Nov 45.
(E) Memo for CNC from Adm. Colclough, JAG:anh, of 4 Dec 45.

1. Prior to 4 December 1945 the Chief of Naval Communications supplied information, material and copies of dispatches, from Navy Department files under the cognizance of the Chief of Naval Communications, in response to requests of Admiral Stark, Admiral Kimmel and the Congressional Committee investigating the Pearl Harbor attack. The procedure prescribed in enclosure (A) has been consistently complied with in responding to such requests.

2. No access has been permitted to files of Presidential and White House traffic in the custody of the Chief of Naval Communications, nor have any information, material or copies of dispatches been supplied therefrom.

3. On 21 November 1945 the Congressional Committee, through Rear Admiral Colclough, requested a copy of a dispatch from the file of Presidential traffic. On 22 November 1945 a similar request was made orally in behalf of Admiral Stark. Both requests were declined by the Chief of Naval Communications on the ground that no directive had been issued with respect to the files of Presidential and White House traffic.

4. In enclosure (C) the Chief of Naval Communications referred the requests noted in paragraph 3 to Admiral Colclough, and requested specific instructions as to the procedure to be followed with respect to the Presidential and White House files: (a) in response to requests

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

003003

Op-20-4-08 (5 Dec 45)
Serial 003P20
(SC)A 17-24(1)

Subj: Congressional Investigation of Pearl Harbor Attack.

in behalf of the Committee, and (b) in response to requests in behalf of naval officer witnesses. In enclosure (D) Admiral Colelough advised that as to the specific request theretofore made by the Committee he had informed Counsel for the Committee that the requested dispatch should be obtained from the White House. He further advised that a request by Admiral Kimmel for access to the President, and that the President's action on that request was awaited as a precedent for dealing with similar requests.

5. On 4 December 1945 enclosure (E), containing the President's memorandum of 29 November 1945 to the Secretary of the Navy with respect to Admiral Kimmel's request, was delivered to the Chief of Naval Communications. It is noted that the President's memorandum speaks only of "files of the Navy Department". It is further noted that the President states it as his policy that "confidential files of the Department may not be available for examination by individuals".

6. It appears accordingly that the President's memorandum of 29 November 1945 contains no instructions relative to the files of Presidential and White House traffic in the custody of the Navy Department. The Chief of Naval Communications has, therefore, received no instructions responsive to enclosure (C). It further appears that the policy declared in the second paragraph of the President's memorandum is directly contrary to the procedure of supplying material from Navy Department files to naval officers interested in the investigation, such as Admiral Stark and Admiral Kimmel.

7. The Chief of Naval Communications accordingly proposes to adhere to the following procedure as to files and records under his cognizance, unless specifically directed to do otherwise:

a. No one who is not officially charged with the custody thereof will be granted access to files of Presidential and White House traffic, and no copies of material therein will be supplied to anyone, whether in behalf of the Congressional Committee or in behalf of any interested naval officer.

b. The procedure directed in enclosure (A) will be followed in supplying to the Congressional Committee information and material derived from Navy Department files (excluding Presidential and White House files).

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 003003

~~SECRET~~

Op-20-cc (5 Dec 45)
Serial 003P20
(SC)A17-24(1)

Subj: Congressional Investigation of Pearl Harbor Attack.

c. No information or material derived from Navy Department files (excluding Presidential and White House files) will henceforth be furnished Admiral Stark, Admiral Kimmel, or any other individual, and the procedure prescribed by enclosure (A) with respect to requests of such individuals will be discontinued.

8. It is requested that, if you find the procedure outlined in paragraph 7 to be in order, you indicate your approval thereof. If the procedure proposed in paragraph 7 is not in order it is requested that the Chief of Naval Communications be furnished specific instructions as to the desired course of action.

J. V. Murphy
Commodore, USN
Deputy Chief of Naval Communications

CC: Rear Admiral Oswald S. Colclough, USN.
Captain John F. Walsh, USN.