

Prime Minister,
Canberra,

15th April, 1942

My dear General,

The Directive of the Commander-in-Chief.

1. Now that I have received advice from the Minister for External Affairs that your directive has been approved by the President, I have asked the Government's advisers to submit with the utmost expedition a statement of the Australian Forces to be assigned to you and advice of the earliest date on which the new arrangement can become effective. The date is to be arranged in consultation with you.

2. This is a momentous occasion for the peoples of the United Nations. You have received a charter as Supreme Commander not from your own Government alone but also from the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands. You have come to Australia to lead a crusade, the result of which means everything to the future of the world and mankind. At the request of a sovereign State you are being placed in Supreme Command of its Navy, Army and Air Force, so that with those of your own great nation, they may be welded into a homogeneous force and given that unified direction which is so vital for the achievement of victory.

3. Your directive, amongst other things, instructs you to prepare to take the offensive. I would assure you of every possible support that can be given you by the Government and people of Australia in making Australia secure as a base for operations, in assisting you to marshal the strength required to wrest the initiative from the enemy and, in joining with you in the ultimate offensive, to bring about the total destruction of the common foe.

4. We hope and pray that your military efforts may be crowned with great success.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) John Curtin

Prime Minister.

General Douglas MacArthur,
Commander-in-Chief,
Allied Forces in the
South-west Pacific.

