

3 August 1944



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CS:ppr

CHIEF OF STAFF
WAR DEPARTMENT

ITEM WISH TO EXPRESS MY STRONGEST NONCONCURRENCE IN THE PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS CONTAINED IN JOINT STAFF PLANNERS MESSAGE WARX SEVEN ONE FOUR EIGHT THREE SIGNED BY ROBERTS PD FIRST THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN PHILIPPINES IS TO INSTALL AIR FORCES TO NEUTRALIZE ENEMY AIR IN LUZON WITH A VIEW TO ITS BYPASSING THROUGH AN ATTACK ON FORMOSA PD SECOND THAT SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCES ARE TO BE DRAINED AWAY TO AUGMENT FORMOSA FORCES LEAVING THE REMAINDER TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE CMA CONTINUE ATTRITION AND EXTEND HOLDINGS TO THE LIMIT OF SUCH RESOURCES AS MAY BE LEFT PARA THE INITIAL MAJOR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE IN THE FAR EAST IS THE PHILIPPINES AND LUZON IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT THEREOF PD THIS OBJECTIVE IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY STRATEGICALLY BUT FROM THE HIGHER VIEWPOINT OF NATIONAL POLICY PD (C/5689) STRATEGICALLY THE OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL DENY THE ENEMY ACCESS TO MALAYA CMA THE NAN EASY ITEM CMA BORNEO AND SOUTH CHINA PD FOR THIS PURPOSE THE CAPTURE OF FORMOSA IS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARY PD ON THE OTHER HAND THE OCCUPATION OF FORMOSA WITHOUT THE PHILIPPINES WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE PD THE OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BASES IS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO ANY CAMPAIGN IN THE FAR EAST THAT WILL EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS PD THE FORMOSA CAMPAIGN ITSELF CAN NOT RPT NOT BE SUPPORTED LOGISTICALLY WITHOUT ADEQUATE BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES PD ITEM CONSIDER THAT FROM THE STRATEGICAL STANDPOINT ALONE THE

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