

TO : CINC SWPA (MACARTHUR)  
FROM : WASHINGTON  
NR : 9129 THIRTEENTH OCT 43

The President has directed that publication of stories of Japanese atrocities will be withheld until he has authorized their release and has asked that the Joint Chiefs of Staff advise him as to the moment when he should advise the country of the mistreatment of our nationals.

In considering the President's request, (Reference G-8843 of 6 October and your G-6490 of 8 October) the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended to him that, for the time being, the release of this information be withheld and advised him that they would make recommendations later regarding the publication of such information when it is felt that the opportune time has arrived.

There is deep concern here regarding the atrocities committed by the Japanese against our nationals and also Japan's failure to supply necessary food, shelter, clothing and medical supplies. Studies are now being conducted to determine the most appropriate course to secure better treatment for American prisoners held by the Japanese. There is grave doubt as to whether this can be accomplished through the pressure of world public opinion brought about by the publication of the atrocity stories. The possibility of violent adverse reaction by the Japanese to such publication cannot be overlooked.

Your common interest with the Australian Government in this matter is recognized. The British and the Chinese likewise have an interest and it is my intention to propose that the Combined Chiefs of Staff reach an agreement as to the course to be followed. This proposal will include a recommendation that the British Chiefs of Staff ascertain the views of the British Commonwealth Governments and also seek their cooperation in controlling release of atrocity stories until a uniform policy has been worked out. Meanwhile, it is desired that you also use your best efforts to secure the cooperation of the Australian Government in preventing the circulation or publication of Japanese atrocity stories until there has been combined consideration of the problem and a decision as to a uniform policy to be followed.

MARSHALL



WD 569

Rec'd Group 4: Box 16, Fol 4 "War Dept. Sept-Dec. 1943"

TO : CINC SWPA  
FROM : WASHINGTON  
NR : 8843 7TH OCT 43

The President has directed that measures should be taken to prevent the publication and circulation of atrocity stories (for MacArthur, Harmon, Richardson, Emmons, Buckner and Stilwell) emanating from escaped prisoners until he has authorized the release. One reason for this decision was not to jeopardize the present and future mission of the exchange ship Gripsholm particularly the delivery of food and medical supplies carried on that exchange ship. It is desired that effective measures be taken to prevent the circulation or publication of such stories emanating from any source. COMINCH has requested that this information be passed to naval commanders in your areas.



WD 538

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

~~SECRET~~

CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

*C.W.*

File No.:

Subject:

From: PRS

To: G/S

Date: 30 Jan 44

1. Opportunity to evaluate reaction in treatment of our Prisoners of War to release of the enemy atrocity disclosures, is only possible through information obtainable from our intelligence contacts in the several areas concerned.

2. Suggest message be dispatched to appropriate contacts as follows:

"HAVE AGENTS OBSERVE AND REPORT ON ANY CHANGES IN TREATMENT OF INTERNEES OR PRISONERS OF WAR RESULTING FROM RECENT DISCLOSURE OF ENEMY ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON AMERICAN AND FILIPINO PRISONERS OF WAR IN POW CAMPS PD DETERMINE WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT RED CROSS SUPPLIES LANDED IN MANILA ON TEIA MARU ON SIXTH NOVEMBER WERE DISTRIBUTED AMONG INTERNEES AND POW."

*Approved  
30 Jan 44*

*C.W.*

*Check*

DC/S

To: Chief PRS  
Thru: G-2

30 Jan 44

Approved.

*RJM.*

G-2

PRS

30 Jan 44

Noted.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF  
20 AUG 75

*C.A.W.*

C.A.W.

*385*  
*400*

~~SECRET~~



Record Group 16 : Box 64, Fol. 2

PR 5 Admin, Jan 1944

~~SECRET~~

AIB Info.  
Report No. 1309

ALLIED INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.  
PHILIPPINE REGIONAL SECTION

Date: 6 Dec 43

Message Reference Sheet

No. 929

TO: Chief of Staff.

Coordination: <sup>W</sup>  
G-2

Message No. 45 from ABCEDS

Precis: In re enemy terror campaign in NEGROS.

Comment: ABCEDS's position is understandable but it all goes to the question of the United States' policy. If we will not serve sharp warning of future accountability for the mistreating of American prisoners of war, it is hardly possible that the administration would champion the cause of the Filipino civilian.

Of course the whole matter is a delicate one. With so many prisoners in the enemy's hands it is difficult for us to threaten "reprisals by United Nations." About all that we could do would be to reaffirm our determination to hold the leaders responsible for atrocities to post war trial and punishment as has already been done in a general way.

It occurs to me that the C-in-C might afford the people some little protection against the wanton killing of civilian non-combatants by addressing letters to the several commanders directing that the names of all enemy leaders responsible for atrocities against the civil populace be submitted to him with accompanying supporting evidence for the post war punishment of the offenders. Such a letter in the hands of commanders, if made public, would demonstrate to the people the C-in-C's concern for their protection and would serve as a warning to the enemy which he might or might not heed.

If this procedure should be viewed favorably, I will submit a tentative draft of such a letter for your further consideration.

Action taken:

None.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08  
20 AUG. 75



Action recommended:

None, subject to the above comment.

CW  
C. S.

*Propose tentative draft for  
my consideration  
M...*

~~SECRET~~