

Mr. Hoyer Milliar

*Far East: Cooperation with Chungking*

*2581/18A/40*

*M. Butler*

BRITISH EMBASSY

NO. 1024

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRET

November 27th, 1940

*copies in Registry*

My Lord,

Dr. T. V. Soong, Chaing Kai Shek's personal agent in this country, handed me the attached memorandum to-day with a request from the Generalissimo that it should be given to the Prime Minister as soon as possible. Dr. Soong is handing a copy to the President and Mr. Hull in the course of the next few days.

2 copies only

2. I think the idea which underlies this memorandum, namely that if war threatens or develops in the Far East, a small but resolute air force operating from aerodromes in China might have a decisive effect in checking Japanese plans for the invasion of the Dutch East Indies or of Singapore, and might produce far-reaching internal effects in Japan if it could consistently bomb Tokyo and other Japanese cities from the air. <sup>is a good</sup> <sup>one.</sup>

3. The problem of course is partly that of finding long distance bombers and partly of organising ground crews, supplies and aviation spirit at the key aerodromes in China. There are two alternative ways of finding the air force, one is to create an international force, as Chaing Kai Shek suggests, the other is to detach forces from the British and possibly American air forces based on Singapore which might be sent up to China via Rangoon in the event of war.

L:G

4. I/

The Right Honourable

Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

Etc. etc. etc.

*[Handwritten mark]*

4. I shall be glad if you will let me have a telegraphic answer which I could give to Dr. Soong and I will try and find out as soon as I can what the American response is likely to be.

I have the honour to be

with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN