

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

Seen [initials]
Tel. to [initials]
Dec 14/41

December 14, 1941

My dear Halifax:

Here is a ~~draft of a~~ message to General Chiang Kai-Shek and a ~~draft of a~~ similar message from me to Mr. Stalin. They are self-explanatory.

I hope you will ask London if they will go ahead with the holding of the Singapore conference and also instruct your people in Chungking and Moscow to take part in the proposed meetings as soon as they are held by Chiang Kai-Shek and Stalin. I assume, of course, that Australia and New Zealand will be represented in Singapore.

Always sincerely,

The Right Honorable the Viscount Halifax, K. G.,
The British Ambassador,
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable
Presi

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE GENERALISSIMO

Chiang Kai Shek

In my judgment it is of the highest importance that immediate steps be taken to prepare the way for our common action against our common enemy. To this end I respectfully suggest that you call a joint military conference to take place in Chungking not later than December seventeenth to exchange information and to consider the military and naval action particularly in Eastern Asia which may most effectively be employed to accomplish the defeat of Japan and her allies.

I suggest that the conferees consist of representatives of China, Great Britain, the Dutch, United States and the U.S.S.R., and I am prepared to designate at once Major General George H. Brett as representative of the United States assisted by Brigadier General John Magruder.

It is my thought that this conference arrive at a concrete preliminary plan and that this plan be communicated in the greatest confidence to me by Saturday, December twentieth.

It should also be communicated by the Russian, British and Dutch representatives in the utmost secrecy to their respective Governments.

While your preliminary conference is meeting in Chungking, I am asking the British to hold a military and naval conference in Singapore to include Chinese, American and Dutch officers and report operational plans as they see the situation in the Southern zone.

I am also asking Mr. Stalin to talk with Chinese, American and

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE GENERALISSIMO (cont)

British representatives in Moscow and let me have his views from the Northern viewpoint.

These estimates and recommendations will give all of us equally a good picture of our joint problem.

I venture to hope that these preliminary conferences especially that in Chungking may lead to the establishment of a permanent organization to plan and direct our joint efforts.

I am working hard on continuing our contribution to your supplies and am trying to increase it.

I send you my very warm personal regards.

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MR. STALIN:

In my judgment it is of the utmost importance that immediate steps be taken to prepare the way for common action not merely for the next few weeks but also for the permanent defeat of Hitlerism. I very much wish that you and I could meet to talk this over personally. But because that is impossible at the moment I am seeking to initiate three preliminary moves which I hope will be preparatory to a more permanent joint planning.

First, I am suggesting to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek that he call a conference immediately in Chungking consisting of Chinese, Soviet, British, Dutch and American representatives. This group would meet not later than December seventeenth and report to their respective Governments in the greatest confidence by Saturday, December twentieth. This would give us the preliminary picture of the joint problem from the angle of Chungking.

Second, I am asking the British to assemble a military-naval conference in Singapore, reporting by Saturday the twentieth principally from the operational angle in the Southern zone.

Third, I would be very happy if you personally would talk with American, British and Chinese representatives in Moscow and let me have your suggestions as to the whole picture by Saturday the twentieth.

Fourth, I am during this coming week covering the same ground with British Missions here and will send you the general picture from

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MR. STALIN (cont)

this end.

I have had a good talk with Litvinov and I fully appreciate all of your immediate problems.

Again I want to tell you of the real enthusiasm throughout the United States for the progress your armies are making in the defense of your great nation.

I venture to hope that the preliminary conferences I have outlined for this coming week may lead to the establishment of a more permanent organization to plan our efforts.

Hopkins and I send our warm personal regards.