

Memo
of
Naval
Aides

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

24 July, 1941

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MEMORANDUM FOR NAVAL AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Japanese Ship Movements.

Enclosure: (A) Chartlet of world, with ocean area subdivisions.

1. From highly reliable information it has been learned that on the evening of 23 July 1941, the Japanese Naval Ministry directed all Japanese merchant vessels to defer entering any port in areas B, C, D, A-8 to 12 and A-NO, shown in enclosure (A), until further orders. This directive was ordered to be handled with strictest secrecy and is not to be disclosed to any person other than ships' officers directly concerned.

2. Com 16 at 1020 today reported the following information derived from RI sources:

"Movement of large army forces definitely underway.

"Ashigara (CA) with Army Commander on board bearing decreased to 285 at 0300 GCT. Remains unchanged since then.

"Naval circuits jammed with Army traffic.

"Nagara (CL) off southern Hainan.

"CinC South China using call sign Commander Convoy Fleet.

"Most messages are of high or utmost priority."

/s/ A. D. Kramer
By direction

A. G. KIRK,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Director of Naval Intelligence.