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13 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Davis (P/P)

1. Following comments are submitted on the subject memorandum and Comments thereon by Colonel Sinclair, Mr. Reynolds, Captain Holtwick and Captain Wright:

a. I presume that the data to be incorporated in the reply to the subject memorandum are all contained in the Comments mentioned above. If that assumption is correct, I am not sure that you will be able to satisfy General Erskine as to the questions he asked in his paragraphs d, f, and g.

b. Let me call your attention to the content of the first four sentences of his paragraph 2 and let me add that in a very recent, lengthy private and unofficial session with Mr. Kaslow the questions asked in d and g are at the very heart of the matter which is troubling General Erskine and his associates; and let us remember that the General is being given ammunition on these questions by persons who either honestly or otherwise are shooting arrows at NSA, its present directorate, and its present policies.

c. I think that P/P should give very careful thought to the preparation of a response to question g which will carry weight and conviction, so that our reply can be considered to be adequate. Obviously the question raised in d is closely allied to that raised in g; both should perhaps be treated together. In this connection let me urge that you re-study the Brownell Committee's Report and re-read every word it has to say on this subject. Please do not merely read what NSCID No. 9 (Revised) has to say on it.

d. I think that what Captain Holtwick points out in the last three paragraphs of his paragraph g are significant in this regard and should be expanded. I urge that every good argument that we can think up be put down in our answer to g and let us remember that our arguments are going to be examined with critical if not jaundiced eyes to begin with.

e. I think that in answering General Erskine's question f you will find excellent ammunition in the Report of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor attack.

2. If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN
Special Assistant

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