Op-16 NAV. (SC) A8-5/EF37 Serial No. 0466716 IIIN 27 1941 ORD. SECRET ENG. S-E-C-R-E-T AERO. self bond and the fall entire mean and with home be become that a te C. & R. Y. & D. Successful from Wash 182 suskes in non-My dear Admiral Blakely: S. & A. I am writing you privately about the recent case of M. & S. Commander Tatibana, I.J.N., who was arrested in Los Angeles on charges of espionage. J. A. G. M. G. C. For your private information, the decision not to prosecute this case was taken on grounds of high policy, BUDGET and he has left the country. However. I wish to take this occasion to express to you my appreciation of the excellent work done by your District Op. 12. Intelligence organization in assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case; and also the excellent cooperation Op. 13. existing between your people and Admiral Kimmel's organization. Op. 14. It is my particular wish that the decision of the Government not to prosecute be accepted whole-heartedly, and Op. 15. of course I need not add that such action must not diminish the zeal of your Intelligence service in any way. You may, with discretion, indicate my attitude to the Op. 18. key men in your Intelligence organization. Op. 20. Sincerely yours, Op. 21. Transmission by Registered Mail Frank Knox posto of mount in the Op. 22. authorized. Op. 23. EENT DIVISION CORY RETURNED C.N.Walker, Lt., USNR. Op. 30. Rear Admiral Charles A. Blakely, 14764) -Op. 38. Naval Operating Base, 16-15724 San Diego, California. DECLASSIFIED Authority MND 803 073

(SC) AB-5/EF37

The following teletype received from San Diego at 1725 on May 21, 1941 is additional evidence in connection with the espionage case of TACHIBANA:

Tachibana left the following message with Kono to be delivered to informant:

Quote: That Tachibana had just returned from Wash DC where he conference with three big shots of the IJN. At the Conference it was decided that the material that informant has in his possession is not worth much from a military standpoint. However Tachibana is authorized to give informant \$1000 to give to the Yeoman in Honolulu. Further that Tachibana is authorized to purchase a round trip ticket on the Clipper and to advance informant \$300 for expenses of the trip to Honolulu for the purpose of getting more valuable information of a military nature. Tachibana feels that informant can make the trip to Honolulu and return via Clipper in one week. On this trip a captain of the IJN will either accompany him or meet him on his arrival in Honolulu to advise him as to what information to secure. The captain will evaluate the information. If informant produces they will pay him from \$5000 up according to the military value as evaluated by the captain. Unquote.

Tachibana has suggested to informant the following: Tachibana will supply enough money for informant to open a small business in Honolulu same to be used as a contact point and also as an information bureau for IJN officers.

Kono also requests informant to contact a friend connected with Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica for the purpose of securing information of military importance from this company.

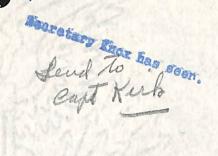
Advise is requested as how far this office should go in this matter. Informant meeting Tachibana again this evening.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Authority MUD803073

IN REPLY KINDLY ADDRESS
"COMMANDANT"
NOT THE SIGNER BY NAME

## COMMANDANT'S OFFICE ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT SAN DIEGO. CALIFORNIA



SECRET

July 1, 1941.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of June 27th is appreciated.

In reply I am glad to be able to say that there has not been the slightest inclination on the part of anyone in my organization to question the decision not to proceed with the case to which you refer. It is well understood that such decision was made by those in authority with full knowledge of all the facts in the case, and it is realized that such decision must have been made in the best interests of the United States.

Please accept my thanks for your comment on the work done by the District Intelligence Organization.

With best regards, I am

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	Sincerely yours,
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