

NAV. Op-16
(SC) A8-5/EF37
ORD. Serial No. 0466716
SECRET

JUN 27 1941

ENG.

AERO.

S-E-C-R-E-T

C. & R.

Y. & D.

S. & A.

My dear Admiral Blakely:

M. & S.

I am writing you privately about the recent case of 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, and he has left the country.

BUDGET

Op. 12.

However, I wish to take this occasion to express to you my appreciation of the excellent work done by your District Intelligence organization in assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case; and also the excellent cooperation existing between your people and Admiral Kimmel's organization.

Op. 13.

Op. 14.

Op. 15.

It is my particular wish that the decision of the Government not to prosecute be accepted whole-heartedly, and of course I need not add that such action must not diminish the zeal of your Intelligence service in any way.

Op. 16.

Op. 18.

You may, with discretion, indicate my attitude to the key men in your Intelligence organization.

Op. 20.

Sincerely yours,

Op. 21.

Transmission by Registered Mail
~~and Shipper Locked Box is~~
authorized.

Frank Knox

Op. 22.

Op. 23.

C.N. Walker
C.N. Walker, Lt., USNR.

Op. 30.

Rear Admiral Charles A. Blakely,
Commandant, 11th Naval District,
Naval Operating Base,
San Diego, California.

Op. 38.

GPO 16-15724

DECLASSIFIED

Authority MND803073

SENT - DIVISION COPY RETURNED
R. B.

(SC) A8-5/EF37

CONFIDENTIAL

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

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

*Secretary Knox has seen.
Send To
Capt Kurb*

S E C R E T

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

Sincerely yours,

*ONI Serials 0560616 6/30/41 confi.
Sec. 0466716 6/27/41
0498416 6/23/41 confi.
0508916 6/16/41 confi.
0498616 6/27/41 confi.*

C. A. BLAKELY

Room 2055

JUL 8 1941

ROUTE TO:- 16

The Honorable Frank Knox,
The Secretary of the Navy,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

Op File No. (SC) *AT-5/EF37*

Doc. No. *32702*

Copy No. *1* of *1*

180003 Pcl. No. *A110*