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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON

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(SC)A8-5/ND14
Op-16
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MEMORANDUM for the Secretary of the Navy.

SUBJECT: Fifth Column Activities at Pearl Harbor.

The following notes from the District Intelligence Officer at Honolulu with respect to fifth column activities are summarized as of interest. The local F.B.I. and Military Intelligence authorities concur:

1. There is no question but that the espionage work of our enemies was carried out in an extremely efficient, thorough and accurate manner. There is also no doubt but that this information was very successfully conveyed to our enemies.

2. As to moves to cause panic or block our own operations, there were numerous rumors of cars zigzagging along highways to slow up traffic, of cars being parked across roads to tie up or block traffic, of shots being fired from ambush or from automobiles, etc., etc., etc., None of these reports were substantiated.

3. There were no real cases of actual physical sabotage. This is somewhat hard to understand as the utilities such as the Hawaiian Electric Company, the Honolulu Gas Company, the Honolulu Rapid Transit Company, the plants and storage tanks of the privately owned oil companies all of which are concentrated in a limited area, the City and Navy Yard water supply systems, etc., etc., were not adequately protected. As a matter of fact, a comparatively small group of well trained saboteurs could easily have put them all out of operation in a very short time. This leads to the query as to whether there were no well organized plans to wreck these utilities and services, or whether such plans were and are so well organized that one might assume that instructions had been passed that no action was to be taken at the time as there were no plans to follow up the attack of December 7 with attempts to land and invade the island. This latter assumption may seem to be far fetched, but is being carefully considered and studied. The only real basis for considering it seriously is that there was not a single attempt made to sabotage any of these essential utilities on the morning of December 7.

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Secretary Knox has seen.

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6. As to assistance to enemy forces, there were many reports such as the one about swaths being cut in cane and pineapple fields pointing to important objectives; people signalling enemy planes; etc., etc. All such rumors and reports were checked as expeditiously as possible. None of the cases investigated proved to be authentic.

T. S. Wilkinson

T. S. Wilkinson,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

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