I am much distressed that you should have received radio reports giving you the impression that it was our intention to await the destruction of Hitler before we endeavored to defeat the aggression of Japan in the southwestern Pacific. On the contrary from the very day of the attack on Pearl Harbor and in full cooperation with the British government we have been marshaling our forces for an immediate aggressive attack upon Japan in that area. The difficulties and time required for the full effect of this effort must be manifest to you and these difficulties have been somewhat accentuated by the losses at Pearl Harbor. But our air and ground forces are already beginning to reach that area and we have every hope of making our effort effective before Japan has time to complete her conquest of the Philippines, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies let alone to consolidate any such conquest. The British have been most cooperative in this program and we are encouraged by our mutual progress. But our plans are comprehensive and must not be jeopardized by reckless or hasty steps which would imperil the whole ultimate result. You must rest assured that we shall proceed continuously and with all possible speed and that we shall not deviate from our purpose until the Japanese have been driven out of the Philippines and the independence of your people preserved.