

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

I have been informed that the Chinese Government has hired 100 pilots and 181 ground personnel to man and service 100 P-40's. In the next few months we are delivering to China 269 pursuit planes and 66 bombers. The Chinese pilot training program here will not begin to turn out well-trained pilots until next summer. In the interim, therefore, I think we should facilitate the hiring by the Chinese Government of further volunteer pilots here. I suggest, therefore, that beginning in January, you should accept the resignations of additional pilots and ground personnel as care to accept employment in China, up to a limit of 100 pilots and a proportional number of ground personnel. I am directing Mr. Lauchlin Currie to see that representatives of China carry out the hiring program with the minimum of inconvenience to the Army and also to see that no more are hired than are necessary.

(signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT