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AWW 334.8 Interdepartmental Committee

POLITICO-MILITARY

WDCSA 384.1 (X) Nov. 44

1 Dec 1944

Honorable E. R. Stettinius, Jr.
Acting Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have read with interest your letter of 16 November 1944 suggesting the formation of a committee of representatives of the State, War, and Navy Departments to deal with problems arising in the Pacific and Far East. I understand that the Assistant Secretary of War has discussed this matter with you and some of your associates and that proposals for some expansion of your suggestion are now under discussion. Accordingly, I assume that it will be premature for me to comment upon the specific suggestions made in your letter of 16 November until the present discussions have been concluded. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

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Authority: NND 7400062
By: 50C Date: 7/1/74

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1944

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with developments in the war in the Pacific, I wish to suggest to you the desirability of setting up, without undue delay, a committee composed of representatives of the State, War and Navy Departments to undertake such studies as may appear appropriate in preparation to meet, as regards the Far East, problems of a political and military character likely to require present formulation of and decision as to this Government's policy. It is our thought that among such problems as can be foreseen, the committee would occupy itself with the formulation of the surrender terms for Japan and important policy questions in the Far East. Efforts might be made to coordinate such studies with regard to these various problems as may already have been prepared by the interested departments.

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Apart from representatives of the State, War and Navy Departments, it is thought that representatives of other departments might from time to time be included in the committee on an ad hoc basis when questions of interest to those departments are to be discussed.

In view of the fact that much of the work of the proposed committee will have to do with political problems involving foreign policy and relations with foreign nations, it is assumed that a representative of the State Department should assume the chairmanship of the committee.

If you concur in the foregoing proposal, I shall be glad to learn from you whom you may wish to assign to such a committee. As soon as representatives of the War and Navy Departments have been thus assigned, a representative or representatives of the State Department will likewise be chosen and it is hoped that the committee can begin to function at an early date. It is our feeling that it would be desirable to keep the actual membership on the committee as restricted as practicable and that advisers or experts be invited to take part in the committee meetings whenever it may appear desirable.

I am making the foregoing suggestion also to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

Acting Secretary

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 1.4(a) and (b) (2)
Authority NND 740062
By ENC NARS, Date 7/17/79

16 Nov. 44

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