

# CAT- Manila

March 30, 1947

## MEMORANDUM

To: Colonel J. S. Thorpe  
Colonel H. F. Scariano

From: Whiting Willauer

This afternoon, Hal Scariano, knowing that the General and I were going to Nanking, advised me generally as to the contents of recent cables from Washington and suggested that I give my views on the subjects contained therein.

1. Washington has disapproved the cannibalization program so far as flyaway is concerned but has approved cannibalization in Manila. While I can hardly blame them for being "fraidy cats" I know that the flyaway is the most practical way of doing it. CAT feels so strongly about this that they will guarantee that the expense will not exceed \$80,000 and that the time will not exceed 60 days. This guarantee has already been expressed to Washington but apparently has made very little impression.

There are certain parts of airplanes which are required for our operation which cannot efficiently be cannibalized and then shipped. For instance, at some time some pilot may ground loop and damage a wing. Some time some mechanic may not handle the batteries correctly and we will get an overflow of acid which requires the replacement of a center section. You cannot economically, or in fact I repeat cannot ship wings and center sections from Manila to Canton. The whole philosophy of the flyaway was to avoid the necessity of horse-back planning in advance as to what we were going to need from the cannibalized airplanes. If UNRRA insists on that type of planning, well and good, and we will get along on that basis, but I cannot understand why people in Washington who admittedly know nothing about airplanes and less about China, make policy decisions of this type.

If the foregoing arguments are not convincing to you, I suggest a compromise be put to Washington as follows:

- a. CAT insists that some planes for cannibalization must be flown to China from Manila.
- b. They are agreeable to putting a limitation on the number of flyaway planes, and suggest 15.

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c. CAT will further agree that whatever this ceiling is, they will fly no airplanes away after 30 days from the time when funds for cannibalization are made available in Manila. In other words, we are offering to UNRRA a monetary and time stop loss.

2. Washington is questioning the creation of a fund in connection with the Leyte procurement. The sum involved in this estimate was not budgeted by us but by Dick Young and I think that he can stand behind it. Generally speaking, this is a reserve to provide for UNRRA personnel and CAT personnel pay and per diem to check and select equipment furnished by Leyte. I presume that it would not be sound UNRRA policy to pay against Leyte invoices without anybody representing UNRRA/CAT interest, watching over the actual selection and packing of the materiel and rejecting non-usable items.

3. Washington is questioning certain expenses in the cannibalization budget. I understand that some of these expenses are as follows:

a. The cannibalization budget provided for air lift for part of the tonnage or parts to be taken off the aircraft, and I understand that Washington has suggested that CAT make arrangements for this type of air lift on their own account. At this point I would like to reiterate that UNRRA has agreed with CNRRA to deliver aircraft and supplies required for this operation at Canton. Due to UNRRA's inability to fulfill its delivery obligations and due to CAT's desire to get the operation going as soon as possible, CAT has furnished certain personnel and facilities to UNRRA at cost. Probably this was a basic policy mistake on our part because apparently now Washington has drifted into the habit of thinking that CAT is supposed to do these things. As to the necessity of air lift, I should like to remind UNRRA that all the red tape which they have built around this project has caused certain delays and that it is now necessary to do some real expediting. Do not misunderstand me that I feel that all the delays are UNRRA responsibility. Some of them definitely are ours and some of them are attributable to the State Department, but the fact remains that an extraordinary degree of expediting is imperative at this point and I do not feel that refusal of air lift of supplies from Manila to Canton is reasonable under the circumstances.

b. Insurance. The insurance is liability insurance against injury to personnel and not insurance for loss of the parts. If UNRRA is exempt from suit for accidents to employees, no insurance will be needed, but this I doubt.

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4. I hear that the old question of the power generators is coming up again and that Washington still has the idea that they can save \$80,000. I think our recent conference on this subject plus the telegram which we drafted together ought to dispose of this and I presume that Washington has not received our telegram.

5. I am very familiar with George St. Louis' cable setting up the budget of flyaway cannibalization and local cannibalization. In fact, I helped St. Louis prepare the budget and he, Richardson, Dick Young and I worked on it pretty hard. I understand that Washington is questioning several items, one of which is transportation of personnel attached to the project. Perhaps Washington does not understand that Clark Field is 8-1/2 hours away from Manila by road and that on the field the only transportation available belongs to the Army. Perhaps also Washington does not understand that if we cannibalize at the field the parts must be trucked down to Manila. My notes of my conversation with Hal also show that there is a further question about an item as to supplies at Clark Field. I wonder whether Washington understands that Clark Field is an Army Base and that any time anyone draws some gasoline or a few gaskets, or damages any equipment, that person is held responsible by the Army. This item as I remember it, however, was included in the budget for flyaway cannibalization. Perhaps it is in both budgets, but in any event, we are not going to spend it without vouchering and it is a healthy reserve to set up in connection with any project at an Army base.

I hope the above views will assist you in your replies to Washington.

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