

Army Declass Instructions on File

MID 920

12 October 1945

Dear Dr. Bush:

During the recent period while Dr. L. Don Leet was assisting the Military Intelligence Division in the preparation of intelligence folders, he described a plan he had conceived of for the establishment of geophysical observatories throughout the Pacific. The intelligence possibilities in his idea are of considerable interest to MID. He therefore very kindly sent us a copy of his completed study. I understand that Dr. Kirtley Mather has forwarded the study to Senator Magnuson, with the request that he arrange to have it presented at one of the public hearings on the Magnuson Bill.

Regardless of whether Dr. Leet's plan would be presented during the current hearings, I believe that it may ultimately come to your attention, and that you may have occasion to comment on it. Therefore, I am inclosing a copy with a view to bringing the intelligence implications to your attention.

While I am in no position to express opinion on the scientific merits of the proposed geophysical institute, it appears to me that it may properly fit into the framework of the National Research Foundation. If you feel that Dr. Leet's idea will merit your support at the appropriate time, it may also be useful to you to know that MID considers it important for intelligence reasons. I refer particularly to the suggested five central observatories, each controlling such subsidiary observation points as may be required for various scientific purposes. While the intelligence which may be secured from such a network would ordinarily not be a secret matter, nevertheless I believe it would be highly valuable for U. S. military and naval planning.

Sincerely,

/s/ C B

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