

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NAV 3-26-83-11By RA NARA. Date 6/30/17

ICP-64

9 September, 1940.

CONFIDENTIAL - No. 33MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSE:

The following information is reported by the Commander, Honolulu District, U. S. Coast Guard, as having been obtained by Coast Guard personnel while on neutrality duty aboard the Greek SS MOUNT OLYMPUS, which called at Honolulu on 18 August, 1940, en route from Makatea, French Society Islands, to Japan, with a cargo of phosphates:

"Although Makatea is under jurisdiction of the Nazi-dictated Petain Government, the attitude of the French inhabitants is divided between loyalty to Reynaud and loyalty to Petain; however, many of the colonists state that they hope the United States will soon take over Makatea and neighboring islands.

"The harbormaster at Makatea is an Englishman and he is disliked by certain French, although this man has the good will and cooperation of the native population who have evidenced ill-feeling to the local French colonists.

"The large phosphate company on Makatea and the commerce connected thereto is the principal source of revenue to the inhabitants. Due to the British blockade and the geographical position of the Island, shipping is at a minimum.

"Among the employees of the phosphate company are eight Japanese technicians, all of whom are in responsible positions. This latter item is interesting inasmuch as the inhabitants have professed a decided fear of future Japanese invasion, and regard all Japanese with suspicion."

Distribution:  
Mr. Johnson, Customs  
State Department  
Naval Intelligence  
Military Intelligence

L. T. JONES,  
Lieutenant, U. S. Coast Guard,  
Intelligence Officer.

LTS/ljw