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Folder Title:
Coral Sea Commemorative Council 1/3/92 [OA 6095]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1991

91 DEC 24 P1:18

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
 TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL

What was the actual date of Coral Sea Battle

I. SUMMARY

On January 3, 1992, at 1:05 p.m., in Otway Room No. 1 of the World Congress Centre in Melbourne, you will speak from talking points to the 50-member Coral Sea Commemorative Council. The Council consists of business, government and community leaders throughout Australia. Council Chairman Sir Eric Neal will introduce you to the Council's members.

II. DISCUSSION

Your talking points praise the Council for its efforts in organizing and raising funds for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Additionally, you recognize the strong alliance between the United States and Australia -- one that has carried us through battle side by side five times.

✓ JOKE: Your visit coincides with the advent of the fly season in Australia. Since Aussies are constantly waving off the insects, the gesture has been called the "Australian wave."

Remarks may need change depending on date of battle

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 20, 1991 12 p.m.
CORAL Draft Three

**PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

✓
1/2
* Thank you, Sir Eric, and special greetings to Ambassador Mel Sembler. It's great to be in Australia -- I certainly feel at home in "Bush Country." Australians have a reputation for warm hospitality, so on the way over today I told Barbara how moved I was that all these people were waving to me. "Sorry, George," she said. "That's the Australian Wave. It's fly season."

* I'm pleased to have the chance to meet with you. You should be congratulated by both our nations on the work you're doing -- looking to the future while honoring the past. The fact that, 50 years after the crucial Battle of the Coral Sea, so many prominent Australians accepted Sir Eric's invitation to join this Council, shows that what young Americans and Australians achieved together in the defense of freedom has not been forgotten.

* I bring you special thanks on behalf of the over one million Americans who served in your great and beautiful country during WWII. I hope many will return here next year for this tremendous commemoration -- when I go home I'll tell them first-hand of the open, warmhearted Aussie welcome they'll receive.

* I know you've worked hard to raise funds so today's young Americans and Australians can understand what our countries have gone through together. We're inseparable allies because we share a real friendship; a special bond forged out of our shared roots of frontier spirit, rugged individualism, free enterprise. We

share something else: the willingness to put our lives on the line to protect freedom. In the trenches of France and the rice paddies of Vietnam; on the battlefields of Germany, the icy ridges of Korea, and the heat-seared desert of Saudi Arabia], Australians and Americans stood shoulder-to-shoulder throughout this century.

* Nowhere has this unique friendship been more important than in the Coral Sea in '42. I was 18, about to join the Navy -- an experience that eventually brought me to the South Pacific as a ~~fighter~~ *carrier based torpedo bomber* pilot. I remember hearing of that first momentous battle, when 2 time-tested friends joined forces to turn back Japan's advance. I remember hearing of the USS Yorktown and the HMAS Hobart in combat and of the "Lady Lex" going to her final rest deep off your coast. I remember the victory we forged -- and the sense of morale it strengthened within us. Above all, I remember the lives lost from both our homelands.

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by
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Bldg
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TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA \ FRI., JAN. 3, 1992 \ 11:20 A.M.

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- 2 -

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IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN.

* I BRING YOU SPECIAL THANKS ON BEHALF OF THE OVER ONE MILLION AMERICANS WHO SERVED IN YOUR GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY DURING WWII. I HOPE MANY WILL RETURN HERE NEXT YEAR FOR THIS TREMENDOUS COMMEMORATION -- WHEN I GO HOME I'LL TELL THEM FIRST-HAND OF THE OPEN, WARMHEARTED AUSSIE WELCOME THEY'LL RECEIVE.

* I KNOW YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO RAISE FUNDS SO TODAY'S YOUNG AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT OUR COUNTRIES HAVE GONE THROUGH TOGETHER. WE'RE INSEPARABLE ALLIES BECAUSE WE SHARE A REAL FRIENDSHIP; A SPECIAL BOND FORGED OUT OF OUR SHARED ROOTS OF FRONTIER SPIRIT, RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM, FREE ENTERPRISE. WE SHARE SOMETHING ELSE: THE WILLINGNESS TO PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE TO PROTECT FREEDOM.

IN THE TRENCHES OF FRANCE AND THE RICE PADDIES OF VIETNAM; ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF GERMANY, THE ICY RIDGES OF KOREA, AND THE DANGEROUS WATERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF, AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS STOOD SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY.

* NOWHERE HAS THIS UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP BEEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN IN THE CORAL SEA IN '42. I WAS ABOUT TO JOIN THE NAVY -- AN EXPERIENCE THAT EVENTUALLY BROUGHT ME TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC AS A CARRIER BASED TORPEDO BOMBER PILOT.

I REMEMBER HEARING OF THAT FIRST MOMENTOUS BATTLE, WHEN 2 TIME-TESTED FRIENDS JOINED FORCES TO TURN BACK JAPAN'S ADVANCE. I REMEMBER HEARING OF THE USS YORKTOWN AND THE HMAS HOBART IN COMBAT AND OF THE "LADY LEX" GOING TO HER FINAL REST DEEP OFF YOUR COAST. I REMEMBER THE VICTORY WE FORGED -- AND THE SENSE OF MORALE IT STRENGTHENED WITHIN US. ABOVE ALL, I REMEMBER THE LIVES LOST FROM BOTH OUR HOMELANDS.

- * WE OWE THEM A DEBT, THOSE FINE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR THE TRUTHS OUR COUNTRIES WERE FOUNDED UPON. YOU -- THE CORAL SEA COUNCIL -- ARE REPAYING THAT DEBT ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US. YOU REMIND THE WORLD OF THE FULL SWEEP OF AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN ACTION IN 1942, STARTING WITH THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA, WHICH WAS THE "END OF THE BEGINNING." AND YOU REMIND US THAT THE ALLIANCE -- THE FRIENDSHIP -- WE SHARE IS OUR FUTURE.
-

- * I, TOO, SHARE WITH YOU A VISION THAT THE SPIRIT OF YOUR COUNCIL WILL OUTLAST THOSE OF US WITH PERSONAL MEMORY OF THE CORAL SEA FIGHT. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO REMEMBER THE LESSONS OF PREPAREDNESS, ENGAGEMENT AND UNITY OF WILL.
- * MY BEST WISHES TO YOU THROUGHOUT THIS COMMEMORATIVE YEAR. MAY GOD BLESS OUR COUNTRIES -- AND THE BRAVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO DIED TO KEEP THEM FREE.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/26/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|--------|-----|-------------|--------|-----|
| VICE PRESIDENT | — | ✓ | HORNER | — | — |
| SKINNER | — | ✓ | MCCLURE | — | ✓ |
| SCOWCROFT | — | ✓ | PETERSMEYER | — | — |
| DARMAN | — | ✓ | PORTER | — | ✓ |
| BRADY | — | ✓ | ROGICH | — | ✓ |
| BROMLEY | — | — | SMITH | — | ✓ |
| CARD | — | ✓ | FINDLAY | — | ✓ |
| DEMAREST | — | ✓ | SNOW | — | ✓ |
| FITZWATER | — | ✓ | | — | — |
| GRAY | — | ✓ | | — | — |
| HOLIDAY | — | ✓ | | — | — |

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

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WASHINGTON

31 DEC 24 P 1:18

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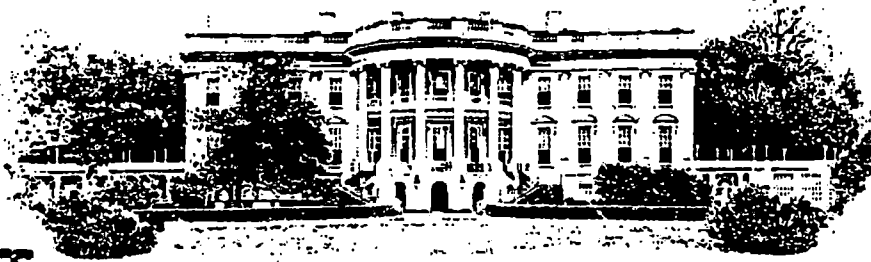
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URGENT

THE SITUATION ROOM

PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE
PRIORITY
ROUTINE

RELEASER: O'Leary

DTG: 311644Z DEC 91

MESSAGE NO. 49 CLASSIFICATION Unclass PAGES 11

FROM Carol Aarhus & Michele Nix x 7750 111 1/2
(Name) (Phone Number) (Room No.)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Please deliver immediately!
URGENT!!

| TO (Agency) | DELIVER TO: | DEPT/ROOM NO. | PHONE NUMBER |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sydney | Christina Martin or David Demarest | | |
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REMARKS Info you needed for speeches.

URGENT

December 31, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISTINA MARTIN

FROM: CAROL AARHUS *CBA*
MICHELE NIX *MN*

SUBJECT: INFO YOU REQUESTED

Enclosed is written documentation regarding the calls you made to us early this morning. The United States did participate in the Battle of Coral Sea -- see attached excerpt from USIS fact sheet. The battle started May 4 and ended May 8 -- 1942. Every May a high-level delegation attends the commemoration ceremony. This year's 50th anniversary ceremony expects to draw many U.S. Coral Sea veterans. The USS Lexington was lost and still sits at the bottom of the Coral Sea floor.

Regarding the question about Coral Sea and Midway: Australia was MacArthur's headquarters for the battle of Midway (June 1942). Logistical and strategic decisions were made there in conjunction with the Australian naval forces. If what you were asking me to verify is the sentence on the bottom of page one to the top of page two in the Maritime speech, the language is correct. This is documented by the enclosed excerpt from High Command, as well as verbal confirmation from both the Australian Embassy and the State Department. It is important to note that Australian ships did not go into battle in Midway. If you are more comfortable having the President say "battles of World War II", instead of specifying Coral Sea and Midway, that is fine.

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

May 4-8, 1942

PROLOGUE

*See pages 348 for specific
Reference among others thru
out*

The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first purely air action in the history of major naval engagements in which the issue was decided without surface ships exchanging a shot. More importantly, it was the first serious check to the amazingly rapid series of Japanese successes in the Pacific following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the simultaneous attack on U.S. military facilities in the Philippines.

The battle was also crucial to Australia's continued existence as a free, democratic sovereign nation.

The battle was fought at a time when Australia boasted a total population of just over 7 million people. That total included those young men and women of the three Armed Services who were then engaged in combat on land and sea, and in the air in almost all other theatres of war.

Today our population is fast approaching 15 million people, almost 9 million of whom had not yet been born when the battle was fought.

To realise fully the significance of the battle to Australia and its people, it is necessary for the events of 4-8 May 1942 to be viewed in perspective with the events which unfolded in Southeast Asia and the Pacific in the intervening 150 days from 7 December 1941.

On that day, 86 vessels of the U.S. Pacific Fleet came under heavy aerial attack at Pearl Harbor. The Fleet suffered severe losses. In the next 18 days the fury of battle advanced quickly towards Australia's shores. In that short period Hong Kong fell. Siam, Malaya and the Philippines were invaded. The British battleships 'Prince of Wales' and 'Repulse' were sunk off the Malayan coast. The war and all its horrors had arrived in the islands to the north and northwest of Australia, and by Christmas it was being fought less than 1000 miles to the northwest of Darwin.

During January 1942 the fury of the battles in Southeast Asia and the Pacific raged unabated. By the end of that month the Malayan Peninsula had fallen. The British Forces, including the Australian Eighth Division, were under siege on the island of Singapore. In the Philippines the U.S. Forces were contained in the Bataan Peninsula. The Netherlands East Indies, which we now know as Indonesia, had been invaded and, by the end of the month, enemy forces had landed on Ambonia Island less than 500 miles to the north of Darwin, and in Lae, New Guinea, some 600 miles northeast of Cairns.

February 1942 saw the fall of Singapore and the loss to Australia of the Eighth Division. The Dutch Forces in Sumatra and the Celebes came under increasing pressure and the island of Bali was captured. More landings occurred in New Guinea and the island of New Britain. Port Moresby came under air attack at the beginning of February and on the 19th of the month the war came to the Australian mainland. Darwin suffered the first of its bombing raids.

During March enemy forces built up at Lae and Salamua in New Guinea and Rabaul in New Britain. Java, northwest of Australia, had fallen. On March 14th military forces in Australia were reinforced by troops from the United States, and on the 17th of the month General Douglas MacArthur arrived and took up his appointment as Commander-in-Chief, Southwestern Pacific Area.

On 6 April, enemy forces landed at Bougainville in the Solomon islands and three days later Bataan, in the Philippines, was overrun. At this time Australia's lines of communication were cut to the northwest, the north and the northeast. However, for complete isolation to be effected the enemy needed to occupy New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa. To do this it was first necessary to capture Port Moresby in New Guinea and Tulagi in the Solomons.

THE COMBATANTS (see also Attachment 1)

By April 17, 1942, Allied intelligence knew the enemy were planning a major operation into the Coral Sea. It was later learned that the enemy directive read: "With the cooperation of the South Seas Army Detachment and the Navy, we will occupy Port Moresby and important positions on Tulagi and in Southeastern New Guinea. We will establish air bases and strengthen our air operations in the Australian area." The operation was designed to knock Australia out of the war. Had it succeeded, the entire Northeastern Australian coast would have been open to invasion.

The Japanese Task Force for the Coral Sea invasion under the command of Admiral Inouye comprised:

- . The Port Moresby Invasion Group of eleven transports carrying both Army troops and a Naval Landing Force, screened by a destroyer squadron.
- . A smaller Tulagi Invasion Group.
- . A support group of one seaplane carrier and five other ships.
- . A covering group consisting of light carrier "Shoho", four heavy cruisers and one destroyer.
- . The Striking Force of two big carriers "Shokaku" and "Zuikaku", two heavy cruisers and six destroyers - a total of 62 ships.

The plan called for Tulagi to be occupied on 3 May and for the Port Moresby invasion to commence on 7 May. The Japanese expected the U.S. Navy and Air Force to try to stop the Port Moresby invasion. But once an Allied Task Force entered the Coral Sea, Admiral Inouye expected to destroy it in a pincer movement, while the Invasion Group slipped through Jomard Passage into Port Moresby. Then the Japanese carriers would proceed to attack Allied planes and ships at the four Queensland bases - Thursday Island, Coen, Cooktown and Townsville - as they had done so successfully at Darwin.

Meanwhile the Allied Forces assembled to counter the Japanese plan. The force consisted of two Task Forces. One, Task Force Fox, based on the aircraft carrier 'Yorktown', consisted of three heavy cruisers and six destroyers. The other, Task Force Baker, based on the aircraft carrier 'Lexington', consisted of two heavy cruisers and five destroyers. This force was later joined by the HMAS Australia and HMAS Hobart from the Anzac Squadron. The Australian ships were commanded by Rear Admiral J.G. Crace, RN. The force, which in total comprised 26 ships, was commanded by Rear Admiral Frank Fletcher, USN.

THE BATTLE (see also Attachment 2)

Events of 3 May 1942

At about 0800 hours on 3 May the Tulagi Invasion Group made an unopposed landing on the beaches which the United States Marines were to win back at great cost some three months later. The Port Moresby Invasion Group was still anchored at Rabaul, scheduled to leave at 1800 hours on 4 May.

Events 4-6 May

Task Forces Baker and Fox, joined by HMAS Australia and HMAS Hobart from the Anzac Squadron, rendezvoused at daylight May 4. TF Fox then proceeded independently to a point about 100 miles southwest of Guadalcanal Island, where 'Lexington' launched aircraft at 0700 to strike the Tulagi Invasion Group. Two subsequent air strikes were made later in the day. One Japanese destroyer was sunk, and several gunboats and other smaller craft were also sunk, but the Japanese landing was not seriously disturbed. The 'Lexington' lost three aircraft, but only one pilot.

Task Forces Fox and Baker and the Anzac Squadron ships rejoined at 0846, May 5 and refueled from the 'Neosho' on the 5th and 6th. On May 6, Admiral Fletcher organized his command into an Attack Group, a Support Group and an Air Group. The 'Neosho' and 'Sims' were detached to the south to await a later fueling rendezvous. 'Tippecanoe' and 'Worden' had departed for Efate on May 4th.

By May 5 the Japanese Port Moresby Invasion and Support Groups were steaming along a southerly course for Jomard Passage. The Striking Force was proceeding down the outer coast of the Solomons. By dawn May 6 the Japanese carriers were well into the Coral Sea. Allied intelligence confirmed the presence of the Port Moresby Invasion and Covering Groups during the afternoon of May 6. At 1930 Admiral Fletcher resumed course to the northward to be within striking distance of these Japanese forces by daylight on May 7. By midnight on May 6 the Japanese transports were almost ready to slip through Jomard Passage, protected by the Covering Group on their left flank.

Neither Admiral Fletcher nor Admiral Inouye, with his Striking Force, were aware of the presence of the other's carriers on May 6, even though they were within 70 miles at one point. The Allied Fleet, operating in an east-west weather front, was screened from the Japanese by clouds and Admiral Fletcher's attention was focussed on the Port Moresby Invasion and Covering Groups. Thus, the battle between the two main carrier groups was delayed until May 8.

Loss of 'Neosho' and 'Sims'

Japanese scout planes, however, had found the 'Neosho' and the 'Sims' early on May 7. 'Sims' was attacked at 0929 from high altitude by a reconnaissance type aircraft, which missed with its lone bomb. Shortly thereafter 15 high-level bombers overflew, were fired upon by the 'Sims' without effect, and disappeared without attempting to attack. A few minutes later this performance was repeated by 'Sims' and seven more Japanese aircraft. At 1033 hours ten twin-engined bombers made a high-level run on 'Neosho', dropping bombs which fell to starboard. At 1201, 24 enemy dive bombers arrived and began a 15-minute attack which doomed both 'Sims' and 'Neosho'.

Four of the aircraft dived on the 'Sims', dropped their bombs from extremely low level, and disappeared in the ensuing explosions. 'Sims' took at least three direct hits from 500 pounders which completely wrecked both the forward and after engine rooms. 'Sims' buckled amidships and went down slowly, stern first. As she was sinking, two heavy internal explosions wracked the ship; only 13 of her crew survived.

The remaining 20 dive bombers worked over 'Neosho'. 'Neosho's' 20mm gunners shot down three aircraft and damaged several others, but she took seven direct hits and at least eight near misses. One of the shot down aircraft crashed into the No. 4 gun enclosure, causing intense fires. Despite extremely heavy damage 'Neosho' was kept afloat until May 11, when the U.S. destroyer 'Henley' arrived on the scene, removed the survivors and, at Commander Phillips' request, sank her with two torpedoes and 5-inch gunfire.

Crace's Chase

At 0625 hours, May 7, Admiral Fletcher ordered Admiral Crace's Support Group, reinforced by 'Farragut', to proceed to Jomard Passage at 25 knots to attack the Port Moresby Invasion Group. By 0840 Admiral Crace's command was being shadowed by three Japanese scout planes. A formation of 10 - 12 land-based single engine aircraft approached from astern at 1427, were fired upon and rapidly disappeared out of sight dead ahead without attacking. At 1505 a dozen land-based twin engine 'Sallys' armed with torpedoes attacked. Admiral Crace ordered radical maneuvers and all ships opened fire. Three aircraft were shot down and all eight torpedoes dropped missed. The remaining aircraft strafed the ships before retiring and two more were shot down.

As soon as this attack ended, 19 enemy 'Sallys' made a high-altitude bomb run at 15 - 20,000 feet, apparently selecting 'Australia' as their target. All bombs missed as Admiral Crace continued to maneuver his command (deployed in three columns of one, three and two vessels) at high speed. Several minutes later a "V" of three twin-engine bombers, later identified as U.S. Air Force B-26s, dropped bombs from a high altitude; all missed badly.

The Japanese attack was similar in type and strength to the one that sank HMS 'Repulse' and 'Prince of Wales'. Admiral Crace's skilful maneuvering and the well-aimed, intense anti-aircraft fire enabled the Support Group to survive the attacks without a single hit, the first time during the war that a major Japanese air attack on Allied naval vessels had been unsuccessful. More importantly, all land-based Japanese aircraft in the area were operating against the Support Group and were thus unavailable to search out and attack the Air Group which was beating up the Japanese Covering Group that day.

May 7 Attack on Japanese Covering Group

As Admiral Fletcher moved TG 17 northward on the morning of May 7, he conducted air searches to obtain information on the Japanese carriers he was certain were in the area. At 0845 the Japanese Covering Group was discovered. Admiral Inouye's Striking Force however, was then operating in a bad weather area, as the frontal system moved on, and was not spotted on the 7th. Japanese planes had located Admiral Fletcher's carriers, but the friendly frontal system covered them so well that the Japanese aircraft launched from 'Shokaku' and 'Zuikaku' never found them.

At 0925 'Lexington' launched ten fighters (F4F), 28 dive bombers (SBD) and twelve torpedo planes (TBD). At 1014 'Yorktown' launched eight fighters (F4F), 24 dive bombers (SBD) and ten torpedo planes (TBD). The 92 aircraft in two groups headed for the Japanese Covering Group. At about 1110 the 'Lexington' group found the Japanese forces twenty miles northeast of Misima

and attacked. Ten SBDs of Scouting Squadron 2, armed with one 500 and two 100 pound bombs each, made the first run, scoring two 500 pound hits on 'Shoho'. Seven minutes later a coordinated torpedo dive-bomb attack was made and at least two 1000 pound bombs scored direct hits. At this point the 'Yorktown' air group arrived and made several hits with 1000 pound bombs and torpedoes. Within three minutes of the last torpedo hit, the 'Shoho', ablaze from stem to stern, sank.

When the U.S. carriers had been sighted May 7, the Japanese Port Moresby Invasion Group had been ordered to reverse course. Thus 0900 May 7 marks the nearest that any Japanese naval force got to Port Moresby. In addition to the 'Shoho', the Japanese lost 13 fighters, three torpedo planes, two scout bombers and one 4-engine patrol plane in air engagements. Another thirty planes went down with the 'Shoho.' U.S. losses were three SBDs and three F4Fs. During the night of May 7 - 8, 'Monaghan' was detached from TG 17 to search for survivors from 'Neosho' and 'Sims'.

Carrier Battle of May 8

Japanese carrier aircraft had located the U.S. carriers at dusk on May 7, too late for Admiral Inouye to launch an attack. Both sides spent the night fueling and arming aircraft, TF 17 moving off to the southwest. At dawn on May 8, Admiral Fletcher, uncertain of the location of the Japanese carriers, launched a 360 degree air search. At 0820 the two Japanese carriers, four heavy cruisers (from the Covering Group which had joined during the night) and several destroyers were located 170 miles northeast of TG 17, moving south at high speed. At about the same time, Japanese scout aircraft sighted TG 17.

The Japanese fleet was now operating in the frontal area while TG 17 was steaming in bright sunshine. 'Yorktown' began launching aircraft at 0900 and 'Lexington' shortly thereafter. The 'Yorktown' attack group consisted of six F4Fs, 24 SBDs and nine TBDs. All dive bombers were armed with 1000 pound bombs. As 1045 the 'Yorktown' group began a coordinated dive-bomb torpedo attack, scoring two bomb hits on 'Shokaku'. Although several torpedo hits were claimed, no damage was done below the waterline. (At this early stage of the war U.S. torpedoes were plagued by erratic steering and faulty detonators.) Fires were burning fore and aft on 'Shokaku' when the 'Yorktown' air group retired.

The 'Lexington' attack group was originally composed of nine F4Fs, 22 SBDs and twelve TBDs. It was hampered by bad navigation and poor visibility and not all aircraft located the Japanese carrier force and attacked. The three F4Fs escorting the dive bombers became separated from their charges and returned to the 'Lexington'. Eighteen of the SBDs failed to locate the enemy and returned. One TBD returned with engine trouble. The remaining eleven TBDs and four SBDs found the Japanese carriers and attacked together at 1057. One additional 1000 pound bomb hit was scored on the 'Shokaku

As the U.S. aircraft were returning 90 planes from 'Shokaku' and 'Zuikaku' were attacking the U.S. carriers. At about 1115, with TG 17 in a circular disposition with the carriers in the center and maneuvering at thirty knots, the Japanese attack began. The two carriers gradually drew apart during the attack as a result of high speed maneuvering to avoid bombs and torpedoes. 'Yorktown' to the north, was accompanied by 'Astoria,' 'Portland,' 'Chester,' 'Russell,' 'Hammann' and 'Aylwin.' The 'Minneapolis,' 'New Orleans,' 'Morris,' 'Anderson,' 'Phelps' and 'Dewey' followed the 'Lexington'. Japanese torpedo planes attacked 'Lexington' from both sides and scored two hits forward on the port side. Three bombs scored top-side hits. Several near misses by large bombs ruptured plates below the waterline on the port side.

Six minutes later 'Yorktown' came under attack. Skillful maneuvering by Capt. Buckmaster avoided all torpedoes (at least 10 were dropped) but the subsequent attack by 18 dive bombers scored one direct hit on the flight deck with an 800 pounder which penetrated to the fourth deck before exploding. Several near misses did very little damage, and at no time were flight operations impaired. By 1140 the Japanese planes had departed and the world's first battle between carrier forces was over.

After the attack, 'Lexington' was still making 25 knots and most fires were under control; she was able to recover aircraft returning from the attack on the Japanese carriers. But at 1247 a massive internal explosion, caused by leaking gasoline, shook 'Lexington' from stem to stern. This was followed by severe fires and subsequent explosions below decks. At 1456 the fires were out of control and 'Lexington' signalled for help. She went dead in the water at 1630. 'Morris' passed two fire hoses over the side, hoping the fires could be controlled if water could be brought to bear on them, and began taking off 'Lexington's' crew. At 1707 Admiral Fitch directed Captain Sherman to abandon ship and 'Anderson,' 'Hammann,' 'Phelps' and 'Dewey,' along with small boats from the 'Minneapolis,' picked up survivors from the water. At 1853 'Phelps' was detailed to sink the 'Lexington', which went down at 1952 in 2,400 fathoms after four torpedo hits.

In the May 8 battle, 'Lexington' lost 26 officers and 190 men of a total complement of 2,951. 'Yorktown' had 40 men killed and 26 seriously injured. 'Shokaku' lost 108 men killed and had 40 wounded, but with skillful damage control and handling she limped back home where repairs took two months. 'Zuikaku' was not damaged but had heavy aircraft losses. The U.S. carriers lost 23 planes in combat on May 8 and another 35 went down with the 'Lexington'. The two Japanese carriers lost 50 aircraft in combat on May 8.

POSTLOG

→ The Battle of the Coral Sea was the end of the beginning. The Allies lost one oiler ('Neosho'), one destroyer ('Sims') and one attack carrier ('Lexington'), while 'Yorktown' was damaged but not badly enough to keep her from participating at Midway on June 4. Sixty-six carrier aircraft were also lost and personnel losses were 543. The Japanese lost one light carrier ('Shoho') and several small ships at Tulagi. In the Coral Sea they lost 96 carrier aircraft, five floatplanes and three four-engine patrol planes and suffered personnel losses exceeding 2000. 'Shokaku' was so badly damaged and 'zuikaku' lost so many aircraft that neither were available at Midway, which was the beginning of the end for the Japanese in the Pacific.

→ The Battle of the Coral Sea was a tactical victory for the Japanese in terms of surface unit losses. But it was a strategic victory for the U.S. and Australian forces. The capture of Port Moresby was thwarted. Australia was secured against Japanese attack. Two Japanese attack carriers which might have supplied the margin of victory at Midway were temporarily knocked out of service. The morale value of the Coral Sea action was unmeasurable to the Allies who never again lost the initiative in the Pacific.

Attachments:

1. The Combatants
2. The End of the Battle 8 May 1942

2

OTHER BOOKS BY D.M. HORNER
*Crisis of Command, Australian Generalship and the
 Japanese Threat, 1941-1943*
New Directions in Strategic Thinking
 (ed. with Robert O'Neill)
Australian Defence Policy for the 1980s
 (ed. with Robert O'Neill)

HIGH COMMAND

AUSTRALIA AND ALLIED STRATEGY
 1939-1945

D.M. HORNER

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA
 GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN SYDNEY LONDON BOSTON

did admit, however, that he was a little disappointed with the performance of the air force.⁴³

The receipt on 28 May of four important cables from Evatt provides further insight into the strategic decision-making process in Australia. Evatt told Curtin that he had previously suspected that the agreed strategy was 'beat Hitler first', and that now he had discovered to his surprise that there was a 'written agreement'. However, as part of the general strategy it had been decided that the security of Australia had to be maintained. Evatt pointed out that Australia had not been consulted and that a strong case could be made against the agreed strategy. Moreover, America and Britain had an obligation to provide MacArthur with the forces to execute that part of the grand strategy which was outlined in his directive. There was some good news. Evatt had persuaded Churchill to send three Spitfire squadrons to Australia. Curtin replied to Evatt the following day and expressed his surprise that neither Page nor Casey 'had been acquainted with the decision to treat Germany as the primary enemy'. He agreed with Evatt that they would have to 'strive most strenuously to help MacArthur get the forces'.⁴⁴

On Monday 1 June 1942, Curtin met MacArthur in Melbourne to discuss Evatt's cables, but the first item to be discussed was the previous night's Japanese submarine raid on Sydney Harbour. MacArthur advised the release of a communiqué. He then criticised Britain for promising aid only if Australia were heavily attacked. In his opinion, this promise 'was an extremely weak reed on which to rely, as it would be impossible to come to the assistance of Australia in sufficient strength and early enough if Japan had air and sea superiority to carry out such an attack'. He therefore urged Curtin to seek the return of the 9th Division and the allocation of aircraft carriers to the South-West Pacific Area.⁴⁵

The next morning Curtin and Shedden met with Blamey, Royle (the CNS) and Jones (the CAS) to discuss a report they had prepared the previous day.⁴⁶ Although the service chiefs agreed broadly with the grand strategy, they thought that Japan had become 'a much greater menace than the framers of the policy appear to consider'. They therefore recommended an offensive against Japan; after all, twelve allied divisions were contained in Australia, while the Japanese were almost completely free for operations elsewhere. [British and American naval forces needed to be concentrated in the Pacific. At the conference Curtin accepted these views, and Blamey urged the return of the 9th Division.]

At the Advisory War Council on 3 June Curtin read Evatt's cables, the notes of his discussion with MacArthur, and the report by the Australian service chiefs. The Council recommended that the conclusions should be embodied in a cable to Evatt, but that the draft should be submitted to MacArthur: 'The views of the Australian Advisers are to be expressed as those of the Government'. The Council accepted that a large-scale invasion of Australia was unlikely and urged an early offensive against Japan. Planning and preparation would take some months, but additional forces should be sent to Australia. The following day Curtin sent the draft cable to MacArthur for his comments.⁴⁷

The decisive defeat of the Japanese fleet at Midway in early June had an important impact on strategic planning in Australia. Indeed, when the results

became known MacArthur realised that his dreams of an offensive could now become reality. Thus on 8 June he urged Marshall to send him troops trained in amphibious operations for an immediate offensive, and Evatt, now in Washington, advised Curtin that the time was right for MacArthur to make personal representations to Marshall. MacArthur's optimism was confirmed when on the morning of 11 June he told Curtin that 'the security of Australia had been assured. It would now be merely interpreted as a timid cry for help if we were to persist in demands for assistance for the defense of Australia'. In view of the changed strategic situation he advised that the draft telegram should not be sent and he recommended that Evatt should return to Australia. Later in the day Curtin repeated these views to the Advisory War Council which agreed that they should review the position once they had received MacArthur's revised appreciation.⁴⁸

On 17 June MacArthur addressed the Advisory War Council and reaffirmed his views. In his opinion there had been a complete transformation of the war situation as it affected Australia. Internally there had been a tremendous accomplishment, not only in the services, but in the general war effort. After surveying the improvement in the navy, army, airforce and productivity, MacArthur then turned to the external situation. The minutes recorded that MacArthur claimed that the Battle of the Coral Sea had been

the most crucial incident of the war insofar as Australia was concerned ...

Australia was in grave danger up to the time of the Coral Sea action. The results of that action and successes gained at Midway Island have assured the defensive position of Australia.

From the strategical point of view, we should take the initiative and not await results in other theatres. Our aim should be to strike at Japanese bases in the islands to the north and throw the enemy bomber line back 700 miles [1127 kms].

The greatest weakness of the present set-up is that there is too much strategical control in London and Washington. General MacArthur said that if the decision were left to him he would attack now, even in the face of a tactical defeat, in order to destroy the Japanese psychology of initiative.

The remainder of MacArthur's speech was, in essence, a plea for support for his theory that the Second Front should be initiated in the South-West Pacific Area, and he stated that if given the necessary troops and arms he would undertake an offensive to retake Rabaul and New Guinea. It was probably after this meeting that Menzies told Sutherland, who had been present, that he would like to 'throttle MacA' because of his exaggerated praise of the government. He agreed that MacArthur had stiffened morale and had gained considerable equipment when people had turned a 'nasty colour', but he felt that the 'Germany first' decision was the right one.⁴⁹

While the government must have welcomed MacArthur's statement that Australia was secure, they could not afford to tell the public; they could not allow the tempo of the war effort to slacken. On 11 June Forde said that Australia was about to enter the worst period of the war. On 17 June, in a national broadcast, Curtin said that it was possible that Australia could be lost, and on 25 June he again spoke to the nation and said that Japan still had the initiative.

But what of the decision over the return of the 9th Division? Just as the situation in the Pacific seemed to improve, events elsewhere caused allied

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1991

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
 TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL

I. SUMMARY

On January 3, 1992, at 1:05 p.m., in Otway Room No. 1 of the World Congress Centre in Melbourne, you will speak from talking points to the 50-member Coral Sea Commemorative Council. The Council consists of business, government and community leaders throughout Australia. Council Chairman Sir Eric Neal will introduce you to the Council's members.

II. DISCUSSION

Your talking points praise the Council for its efforts in organizing and raising funds for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Additionally, you recognize the strong alliance between the United States and Australia -- one that has carried us through battle side by side five times.

JOKE: Your visit coincides with the advent of the fly season in Australia. Since Aussies are constantly waving off the insects, the gesture has been called the "Australian wave."

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 20, 1991 12 p.m.
CORAL Draft Three

**PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

* Thank you, Sir Eric, and special greetings to Ambassador Mel Sembler. It's great to be in Australia -- I certainly feel at home in "Bush Country." Australians have a reputation for warm hospitality, so on the way over today I told Barbara how moved I was that all these people were waving to me. "Sorry, George," she said. "That's the Australian Wave. It's fly season."

* I'm pleased to have the chance to meet with you. You should be congratulated by both our nations on the work you're doing -- looking to the future while honoring the past. The fact that, 50 years after the crucial Battle of the Coral Sea, so many prominent Australians accepted Sir Eric's invitation to join this Council, shows that what young Americans and Australians achieved together in the defense of freedom has not been forgotten.

* I bring you special thanks on behalf of the over one million Americans who served in your great and beautiful country during WWII. I hope many will return here next year for this tremendous commemoration -- when I go home I'll tell them first-hand of the open, warmhearted Aussie welcome they'll receive.

* I know you've worked hard to raise funds so today's young Americans and Australians can understand what our countries have gone through together. We're inseparable allies because we share a real friendship; a special bond forged out of our shared roots of frontier spirit, rugged individualism, free enterprise. We

share something else: the willingness to put our lives on the line to protect freedom. In the trenches of France and the rice paddies of Vietnam; on the battlefields of Germany, the icy ridges of Korea, and the heat-seared desert of Saudi Arabia, Australians and Americans stood shoulder-to-shoulder throughout this century.

* Nowhere has this unique friendship been more important than in the Coral Sea in '42. I was 18, about to join the Navy -- an experience that eventually brought me to the South Pacific as a fighter pilot. I remember hearing of that first momentous battle, when 2 time-tested friends joined forces to turn back Japan's advance. I remember hearing of the USS Yorktown and the HMAS Hobart in combat and of the "Lady Lex" going to her final rest deep off your coast. I remember the victory we forged -- and the sense of morale it strengthened within us. Above all, I remember the lives lost from both our homelands.

* We owe them a debt, those fine young people who died for the truths our countries were founded upon. You -- the Coral Sea Council -- are repaying that debt on behalf of all of us. You remind the world of the full sweep of American-Australian action in 1942, starting with the Battle of the Coral Sea, which was the "end of the beginning." And you remind us that the alliance -- the friendship -- we share is our future.

* I, too, share with you a vision that the spirit of your Council will outlast those of us with personal memory of the Coral Sea fight. We should encourage younger generations to remember

the lessons of preparedness, engagement and unity of will.

* My best wishes to you throughout this commemorative year.
May God bless our countries -- and the brave sons and daughters
who died to keep them free.

#

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

**PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
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#

9243

Handwritten initials and scribbles in blue ink.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 20 A 8:45

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00p

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT:

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
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| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

- MASTER -

MISSING!

DZ

D. Smith

RESPONSE:

NSC concurs with noted changes

BOOTLEG

Brent Scowcroft

cc: Phillip Brady

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

31 DEC 18 P1:38
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

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| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE <i>N/C</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH <i>N/C</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

91 DEC 18 P1:38
PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

* Thank you, Sir Eric, and special greetings to Ambassador Mel Sembler. It's great to be in Australia -- I certainly feel at home in "Bush Country." Australians have a reputation for warm hospitality, so on the way over today I told Barbara how moved I was that all these people were waving to me. "Sorry, George," she said. "That's the Australian Wave. It's fly season."

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* My best wishes to you throughout this commemorative year. May God bless our countries -- and the brave sons and daughters who died to keep them free.

#

9243

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SMITH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>FINDLAY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>SNOW</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

December 20, 1991

NSC concurs with noted changes

Brent Scowcroft
Brent Scowcroft

cc: Phillip Brady

DEC 20 1991 2:40 PM

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

91 DEC 18 P1:38
PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

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* My best wishes to you throughout this commemorative year. May God bless our countries -- and the brave sons and daughters who died to keep them free.

I, too, share with you a vision that the # spirit of your Council will outlast those of us with personal memory of the Coral Sea fight. We should encourage younger generations to remember the lessons of preparedness, engagement and unity of will.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 20 All : 33

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SMITH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FINDLAY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SNOW | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PH
DS

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 19 P5:10

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SMITH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>SNOW</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

*See comments. Thanks.
EL
Elizabeth Lutting
12/19/91*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

31 DEC 18 P 1:38
PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: RONALD E. VONLEMBKE ~~1~~
ASSISTANT COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Talking Points: Coral Sea
Commemorative Council, Melbourne, Australia --
Friday, January 3, 1992

Pursuant to Phillip Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no objection to the proposed presidential remarks.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1991

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Commemorative Council, Melbourne, Australia --
Friday, January 3, 1992

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cc: Phillip D. Brady

01 DEC 19 12:57

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SMITH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FINDLAY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SNOW | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK
[Handwritten initials] for *[Handwritten initials]*

91 DEC 19 2:58
 PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

91 DEC 18 P 1:38
PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Talking Points: Coral Sea
Commemorative Council

We have reviewed the attached draft and have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint. We approve of the draft remarks in their current form.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

STEVE

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SMITH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>FINDLAY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>SNOW</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

31 DEC 18 P 1:38
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DEC 20 8:00

DATE: 12/18/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY, 12/19/91 4:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992

SUBJECT: _____

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
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| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SKINNER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGICH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>FINDLAY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>SNOW</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 p.m. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No comment

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 1 p.m.
CORAL Draft Two

91 DEC 18 P 1:38
PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1992 11:20 a.m.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

* Thank you, Sir Eric, and special greetings to Ambassador Mel Sembler. It's great to be in Australia -- I certainly feel at home in "Bush Country." Australians have a reputation for warm hospitality, so on the way over today I told Barbara how moved I was that all these people were waving to me. "Sorry, George," she said. "That's the Australian Wave. It's fly season."

* I'm pleased to have the chance to meet with you. You should be congratulated by both our nations on the work you're doing -- looking to the future while honoring the past. The fact that, 50 years after the crucial Battle of the Coral Sea, so many prominent Australians accepted Sir Eric's invitation to join this Council, shows that what young Americans and Australians achieved together in the defense of freedom has not been forgotten.

* I bring you special thanks on behalf of the over one million Americans who served in your great and beautiful country during WWII. I hope many will return here next year for this tremendous commemoration -- when I go home I'll tell them first-hand of the open, warmhearted Aussie welcome they'll receive.

* I know you've worked hard to raise funds so today's young Americans and Australians can understand what our countries have gone through together. We're inseparable allies because we share a real friendship; a special bond forged out of our shared roots of frontier spirit, rugged individualism, free enterprise. We

share something else -- the willingness to put our lives on the line to protect freedom. In the trenches of France and the rice paddies of Vietnam; on the battlefields of Germany, the mountains of Korea, and the heat-seared desert of Saudi Arabia, Australians and Americans stood shoulder-to-shoulder throughout this century.

* Nowhere has this unique friendship been more important than in the Coral Sea in '42. I was 18, about to join the Navy -- an experience that eventually brought me to the South Pacific as a fighter pilot. I remember hearing of that first momentous battle, when 2 time-tested friends joined forces to turn back Japan's advance. I remember hearing of the USS York-town and the HMAS Hobart in combat and of the "Lady Lex" going to her final rest deep off your coast. I remember the victory we forged -- and the sense of morale it strengthened within us. Above all, I remember the lives lost from both our homelands.

* We owe them a debt, those fine young men who died for the truths our countries were founded upon. You -- the Coral Sea Council -- are repaying that debt on behalf of all of us. You remind the world of the full sweep of American-Australian action in 1942, starting with the Battle of the Coral Sea, which was the "end of the beginning." And you remind us that the alliance -- the friendship -- we share is our future.

* My best wishes to you throughout this commemorative year. May God bless our countries -- and the brave sons and daughters who died to keep them free.

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