COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF

BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN V.L.R. BOMBING OF JAPAN
Reference: C.C.S. 691/4

Memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff

1. The British Chiefs of Staff gladly accept in principle the proposal of the United States Chiefs of Staff to base a British force of the order of ten squadrons of some 220 aircraft in the Ryukyus. This force to come under United States command.

2. The British Chiefs of Staff understand that this proposal is based on the principle that the British will jointly occupy a base area with an American force and contribute their share of the logistical and engineer requirements.

3. They propose to despatch a planning team to Washington to discuss the logistical support of this force, the British contribution and shipping commitment involved.

4. The British Chiefs of Staff note that the United States Chiefs of Staff are unable at this stage to formulate firm plans for the entire twenty British squadrons, and that they will welcome the remaining 10 squadrons as soon as later developments warrant.