COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF

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

Memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff

1. Since tabling C.C.S. 691/5 Air Marshal Lloyd and the proposed planning team have arrived in Washington and discussions have been proceeding.

2. The British Chiefs of Staff have prepared two convoys as follows:

"SHIELD" FORCE

This convoy consists of 8 cargo ships containing some 15,000 tons of airfield constructional stores and equipment and 1,000 vehicles. It left the United Kingdom the last week in June and is now approaching Panama. The force will be completed with the sailing of 1 personnel ship containing 3,100 airfield construction personnel and administrative details on July 7th.

"VACUUM" FORCE

This convoy will consist of a further 8 cargo ships with more airfield constructional stores and equipment and will be followed by a personnel ship containing a further 3,100 airfield construction personnel and administrative details. The cargo ships in this convoy are scheduled to start loading on the 4th July and to sail between 14th and 18th July. The personnel ship is scheduled to sail not later than 1st August.

3. In the discussions which have taken place it is our understanding that the War and Navy Departments have agreed that the movement of SHIELD force should proceed as planned and that
it will be accepted in Okinawa when it arrives. Air Marshal Lloyd is leaving on 4th July to discuss the detailed arrangements for its reception with Admiral Nimitz's staff at Guam.

4. As regards VACUUM force we understand that there is a reluctance to guarantee its reception if it proceeds as at present planned by the British Chiefs of Staff. We must point out however that the British Chiefs of Staff are in a real difficulty in this matter. So tight is the shipping schedule that if they fail to take the opportunity of present availability it is extremely unlikely that they will get it again. We urge therefore that the United States Chiefs of Staff should give the earliest possible agreement to VACUUM force being sailed to the schedule proposed in paragraph 2 above.