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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

VLR BOMBERS IN THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN

References: a. J.C.S. 742 Series  
b. J.C.S. 155th Mtg., Item 6

Note by the Secretaries

1. In their 155th Meeting the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed that the J.C.S. 742 series be referred back to the Joint Staff Planners, as a matter of urgency, for the preparation of a single paper in the light of the discussion at that meeting and the memorandum to be circulated by General Arnold (J.C.S. 742/5).
2. The enclosed report by the Joint Staff Planners is presented for consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
3. An index is attached to this cover sheet.

A. J. McFARLAND,  
E. D. GRAVES, JR.,  
Joint Secretaries.

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DOD Directive 5200.9  
9/27/58

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7. From the beginning, discussion of plans to bomb Japan from China has been conducted on a high level. In view of correspondence and discussion with the Generalissimo, the MATTERHORN project, involving bombing from Chengtu initially by 4 groups is considered as first priority. The presently contemplated earlier acquisition of bases in the Marianas than formerly contemplated in C.C.S. 397/1 indicates the advisability of utilizing such bases to their maximum before additional groups are deployed in China. We feel that it should be emphasized, however, that the implementation of MATTERHORN first is not in consonance with conclusions reached from the detailed studies.

DISCUSSION

8. VLR Aircraft Program. Latest estimates of readiness of B-29 bomber units are as follows, by groups of 28 A/C each:

<u>Groups (cumulative)</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	April 1944
6	August 1944
8	September 1944
10	October 1944
12	November 1944
14	December 1944
16	January 1945

followed by 2 groups per month to a total of 24 groups by May 1945. Present plans contemplate that the above program will be followed by the conversion of 2 Heavy Bomber Groups (B-17 and B-24) per month to Very Heavy Bomber Groups (B-29 and B-32) beginning in June 1945 and continuing to an over-all total of 49 VLR groups.

9. Performance Characteristics of B-29 A/C. The latest available figures as to combat radius of the B-29 are as follows:

<u>Bomb Load</u>	<u>Radius (statute miles) over water</u>	<u>Radius (statute miles) over land</u>
10 tons	1391	1367
8 tons	1654	1484
5 tons	1900	1614
2 tons	2200	1778