MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Landing Craft for BOLERO Operations.

1. Pursuant to the directions of the President, given at a conference in the White House at 2:30 P.M. May 6 at which the procurement of landing craft was discussed, the following report is submitted in answer to the questions:

a. What can be done by September 1942?
   b. What can be done by April 1943?

2. What can be done by September 1942?

The following landing craft can and will be available in the United Kingdom by early September 1942:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>BY U.S.</th>
<th>BY U.K.</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATL's (328')</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTL's (105'-200')</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL's (50')</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR's (36')</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y's (36'-39')</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By that time the U.S. will have in the U.K. a total force of about 105,000 troops, including 3 Infantry Divisions, 1 Armored Division, 6 Pursuit Groups, 2 Medium Bomber Groups and 11 Heavy Bomber Groups.

The landing craft listed above can carry a force of about 21,000 men, 3,000 vehicles and 300 tanks.

3. What can be done by April 1943?

Present plans entail the launching of an assauling force of

- 76,500 men
- 18,380 vehicles
- 2,250 tanks

The British recommend the use of the following landing craft for this operation:

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1973
By RT, NARS Date APR 6 1973
20C ATL's (328') carrying 18,000 vehicles
570 YTL's (105'-200') " 2,250 tanks
300 Giant Y's (153') " 60,000 men
300 TL's (50') " 300 vehicles
500 Y's (36') " 18,000 men
80 YR's (36') " 80 vehicles

It will be seen that chief reliance is placed in the larger, more seaworthy types of vessels. The British Navy recommend against a shore to shore crossing in small boats and against a ship to shore operation from combat loaded transports. The U.S.Armey accepts the method and plan proposed by the British. It expects to have in the U.K. by April 1943 a total force of 832,000 men to sustain the movement.

To provide the landing craft listed, the construction of the following additional vessels in the U.S. to be available at seaboard by March 1, 1943 is required:

294 YTL's
172 ATL's (328')
300 Giant Y's (153')

This construction is considered to be physically possible only upon condition that this program be given priorities over all other items of the Defense Program as necessary to meet the date of March 1, 1943.

The construction of the ATL's and Giant Y boats would require a modification of existing combat and cargo shipbuilding programs which may affect joint operations. It is therefore recommended that this entire matter be referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for immediate consideration in collaboration with other affected agencies as necessary and report.

Brehon Somervell,
Lt. General, U.S. Army.

F.J. Horne
Vice Admiral, U.S.Navy.

May 14, 1942.