

Memorandum, General George C. Marshall to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, August 28, 1942. FDR's focus and decisiveness is clear in this memo in which General Marshall summarizes a recent meeting with the President. Marshall served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Eisenhower had recently been named leader of the Allied invasion of North Africa. The invasion, which Roosevelt had insisted upon over the objection of some of his military commanders, took place in November 1942.

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BY AUTHORITY OF A.C.O.F.S., OPD

WAR DEPARTMENT
War Department General Staff
Operations Division
Washington

8/28/42 *JCM*
Date Initials

August 28, 1942

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MEMORANDUM TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER:

Subject: Personal Message for Gen. Eisenhower

The Chief of Staff directs that the following secret message in code be transmitted to USFOR, London, by the most expeditious means possible consistent with secrecy: WDOFD:

FOR GENERAL EISENHOWERS EYES ONLY PERIOD THIS MESSAGE IS
FOR YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION AND IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO
ANYONE OTHER THAN SELECTED U S MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF UNTIL THE
PRESIDENT HAS COMMUNICATED HIS DECISION AS INDICATED HEREIN TO
THE PRIME MINISTER PERIOD PARA I HAVE JUST COMPLETED A CONFERENCE
WITH THE PRESIDENT PERIOD HE IS INFORMING THE PRIME MINISTER THAT
REPLY WILL BE MADE TO HIS TORCH MESSAGES IN A FEW DAYS COMMA
PROBABLY MONDAY PERIOD THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO HAVE DEFINITELY
REPEAT DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT THE INITIAL OPERATION MUST BE A
PURELY AMERICAN ONE EXCEPT FOR BRITISH NAVAL FORCES COMMA AIR
FORCES AND SHIPPING COMMA INCLUDING COMBAT LOADERS PERIOD PRESUMABLY
THE OPERATION WOULD NECESSARILY BE RESTRICTED TO ORAN AND CASABLANCA
PERIOD BRITISH TROOPS ARE NOT TO COME IN UNTIL AT LEAST A WEEK
AFTER OUR LANDINGS PERIOD THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT IF HE HAS
A WEEK AFTER WE LAND HE CAN ARRANGE MATTERS WITH THE FRENCH SO
THAT THERE WILL BE NO COMPLICATIONS TO LANDINGS OF BRITISH TROOPS

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LATER PERIOD HE FEELS THAT JOINT LANDINGS EVEN THOUGH LED BY AMERICAN TROOPS WILL NOT SUFFICE PERIOD THE PRESIDENT IS APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE HAZARDS OF A SINGLE LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH GIBRALTAR PERIOD HE DOES NOT ACCEPT THE BRITISH ARGUMENT THAT THE ACTION INDICATED WILL MEAN THE LOSS OF TUNISIA AND POSSIBLY ALGIERS TO THE GERMANS PERIOD HE ALSO IS IMPRESSED WITH THE NECESSITY FROM THE U.S. VIEWPOINT FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC PERIOD THIS CONSIDERATION SHOULD NOT AT ANY TIME BE COMMUNICATED TO THE BRITISH PERIOD THE PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THAT NAVAL RESOURCES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE SUPPORT OF MORE THAN TWO LANDINGS PERIOD THE PRESIDENT PICTURES THE LANDING OF SOME EIGHTY THOUSAND MEN IN THE TWO ASSAULT CONVOYS AND THINKS SUCH A NUMBER WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HIS POLITICAL PURPOSES PERIOD PARA I AM CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS FULLY MADE UP HIS MIND AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND THAT HE INTENDS TO DICTATE THAT PROCEDURE PERIOD PARA THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO FOREWARN AND TO ALLOW YOU TO DO SUCH ADVANCE PLANNING AS IS PRACTICABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERIOD I CAUTION YOU AGAIN THAT ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN MUST BE COMMUNICATED ONLY TO SELECTED U S MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF UNTIL THE PRESIDENT ACTUALLY TAKES THE DECISION AND COMMUNICATES

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IT TO THE PRIME MINISTER PERIOD PARA MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS
THAT THE ORAN FORCE WILL HAVE TO BE MADE UP IN THE MAIN FROM
AMERICAN TROOPS NOW IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND TRANSPORTED BY
BRITISH COMBAT LOADERS PERIOD THE PATTON FORCE AUGMENTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF COMBAT LOADERS AND OTHER
SHIPPING WILL FURNISH THE CASABLANCA FORCE PERIOD THE BRITISH AIR
AND NAVAL FORCES PROVIDED BY YOUR OUTLINE PLAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE
REQUIRED PERIOD PARA I AM PREPARING A DRAFT OF A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PRESIDENT
TOMORROW COMMA AUGUST TWENTY NINE THOUGH HE PROPOSED PREPARING
HIS OWN DRAFT AND DID NOT REQUEST ONE FROM ME PERIOD I WOULD
WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS IMMEDIATELY COMMA PARTICULARLY AS TO THE
EARLIEST DATE THE OPERATION AS INDICATED HEREIN CAN BE LAUNCHED
AND YOUR ROUGH ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE BRITISH MIGHT DO IN THE WAY
OF UTILIZING ALL THE COMBAT LOADERS AND THE NECESSARY ESCORTS TO
MAKE THE SECOND MOVE COMMA THAT TO THE EAST OF ORAN

MARSHALL

THOS. T. HANDY,
Major General,
Assistant Chief of Staff.

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