

MAGIC--FAR EAST SUMMARY

No. 254

29 Nov 44

3. Japanese Analysis of 20th Bomber Command Communications:

a. On 20 Nov the Eighth Area Army at Rabaul sent to Tokyo an analysis of B-29 communications in the Marianas (FES 25 Nov 44). Six days later a "special intelligence" unit at Rangoon forwarded to Tokyo its analysis of 20th Bomber Command communications in India and China. The report is prefaced with the statement that it may serve as "a reference for your intercept intelligence on the bomber command at Saipan and its plans for bombing the Tokyo area." The accuracy of the details of the report can be determined only in the field, and it has been forwarded to the 20th and the 21st Bomber Commands. (J3463)

b. The message discloses that, on the basis of a study of Allied communications, the Japanese have reached the following conclusions:

(1) "When the B-29's move from the Calcutta bases to the bases around Chengtu for an attack against Japan, incoming and outgoing traffic (using the call signs of the B-29 bases) increases sharply on the U. S. communications system, and the air-ground communications system also shows active use. The same is true on the return trip [to India]."

(2) The difference between B-29's and transport planes can be determined by "a study of the air-ground [messages] addressed to a number of planes every day," despite the fact that "no orders concerning B-29 movements are transmitted in plain text and plane types are almost never disclosed."

(3) The imminence of a B-29 attack is indicated by a period of "restriction" in communications to Chengtu. That "restriction" lasts for a period of about 9 to 20 hours. [Apparently the Japanese means that the length of the "restriction" has varied with the length of the mission.]

(4) The type of equipment used is "crystal [control] transmission" [which is the radio equipment actually used].

(5) The most commonly used frequency is 8000 Kcs. [The 20th Bomber Command has reported that 8280 Kcs has been found to be the most satisfactory frequency.]

(6) The B-29's use two codes--one when in the vicinity of Chengtu, and the other when on tactical missions.

~~TOP SECRET~~