

Uitgebreide bevoegdheden kreeg Wavell niet: op eigen gezag mocht hij niet landstrijdkrachten van het ene gebied naar het andere verplaatsen, niet 'nationale' bevelhebbers afzetten, niet ingrijpen in de tactische organisatie en de dispositie van de 'nationale' strijdkrachten en niet hun voorraden in beslag nemen – de zeestrijdkrachten mocht hij wèl op eigen gezag verplaatsen, d.w.z. zonder dat hij de *Combined Chiefs of Staff* telegrafisch om verlof vroeg.

Er waren aan Wavells directief enkele bijlagen toegevoegd. *Annexe II*¹ gaf (in de vorm waarin zij naar Londen getelegrafeerd werd) het volgende beeld van de gezagsverhoudingen tussen Wavell, de *Combined Chiefs of Staff* en Roosevelt / Churchill:

'1. *On all important military matters, not within the jurisdiction of Supreme Commander of Abda-area, US Chiefs of Staff and representatives in Washington of British Chiefs of Staff will constitute agency for developing and submitting recommendations for decisions by President of US and by British Prime Minister . . . Among chief matters on which decisions will be required are:*

- (a) *Provision of reinforcements.*
- (b) *Major change in policy.*
- (c) *Departures from Supreme Commander's Directive.*

2. *This agency will function as follows:*

(a) *Any proposals coming either from Supreme Commander or from any of the Abda-Governments will be transmitted to Chiefs of Staff Committee both in Washington and in London.*

(b) *The Chiefs of Staff Committee in London will immediately telegraph to their representatives in Washington to say whether or not they will be telegraphing any opinion.*

(c) *On receipt of these opinions the USA Chiefs of Staff and representatives in Washington of British Chiefs of Staff will develop and submit their recommendations to President and by telegraphing to Prime Minister . . . Prime Minister will then inform the President whether he is in agreement with these recommendations.*

3. *Since London has machinery for consulting Dominion Governments, and since Dutch Government is in London, the British Government will be responsible for obtaining their views and agreement and for including these in the final telegrams to Washington.*

4. *Agreement having been reached between President and Prime Minister . . . the orders to Supreme Commander will be despatched from Washington in the name of both of them.'*

Dit belangrijke stuk was aanvankelijk aan de Nederlandse regering niet bekend. Van Kleffens en gouverneur-generaal van Starckenborgh

¹ Tekst: Bijlage bij Ministerraad: Notulen, 6 januari 1942.