

ALEUTIAN SEIZURE TERMED SERIOUS THREAT TO COAST

Washington, June 24.—(I. N. S.)—Despite the tendency in official circles to minimize the importance of Japan's invasion of the Aleutians, the feeling persisted in some quarters Wednesday that the occupation is a serious threat to American naval and military installations and communication lines in the Pacific northwest.

Ever since the Japanese bombing of the Dutch Harbor naval base and the subsequent occupation of Attu and Kiska islands at the western tip of the Aleutian archipelago, there has been considerable speculation in Washington concerning the purpose and scope of the Nipponese thrust toward the American mainland.

Since the Dutch Harbor bombing preceded by only twenty-four hours Japan's abortive attack on Midway island, it was at first believed to be only a feint for the major move in the Hawaiian area. This theory was dispelled later when it was reported

that the enemy had taken islands at the tip and apparently intended to hold them.

Even after that, however, informed naval and army sources insisted that the Nipponese thrust in the north Pacific was little more than a "face saving" incident, and that the occupied islands were too isolated from important objectives to prove a serious threat.

Despite this apparently logical interpretation, some military and naval experts insisted that the Nipponese now may be laying the groundwork there for further thrusts at the United States.

One fairly logical explanation was
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that the Nipponese planned to establish a weather station on Attu and Kiska as well as small bases for the operation of patrol planes and marauding submarines.

THRUST AT DUTCH HARBOR IS POSSIBLE

Not discounted entirely is the belief that the Nipponese might use Kiska for another thrust at the Dutch Harbor naval base and possibly other vital points closer to Alaska and the northwest Pacific coast.

That Jap submarines may already be operating against American shores from the Attu-Kiska area was indicated by the recent shelling of the Oregon coast and Canada's Vancouver island.

A sea-borne Japanese attack in force against Alaska or the Pacific coast of the United States is not considered likely—for the time being, at least—because of the crippling blow dealt the Nipponese navy in the Coral sea and Midway island battles.