

SECRET.

Copy on
30/12/36

RECEIVED
17 DEC 1936
O. O. REGY

Mr. Wickson 103

WESTERN PACIFIC.
SECRET.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

16th November, 1936.

Sir,

(64)

With reference to the correspondence ended with your secret despatch of the 24th August, relative to the annexation by the United States of America of certain islands in the Pacific, I have the honour to invite attention to my despatch No. 315 of even date, reporting the action of the French Authorities in Tahiti in prohibiting the recruitment of French labour for non-French islands.

* No. 3 on 86282/36
to Sec.
(Labour)

2. The British Consul-General in Tahiti has expressed the view that -

"The measure taken by the Governor" (that is, in prohibiting recruiting) "is undoubtedly an aftermath of the 'Rougier affaire'. "The attempt to convict Rougier of murder "having failed, the local authorities are "doing their utmost to annoy him as much "as possible with a view to his being forced to leave the islands."

Commander Hall, of H.M.S. "Wellington," which recently visited Flint, Caroline, Vostock, and Christmas Islands, has expressed the view that

The Right Honourable
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.



-2.-

that the action of the French Authorities may be due to French designs on those islands - see paragraph 3 of the enclosure in my secret despatch of the 7th October.

(99)

3. The action of the French Authorities and the possible motives therefor should, I suggest, be borne in mind when considering the matters which formed the subject of the correspondence under reference and of that ended with my secret despatch of the 30th October.

(102)

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Lucy Raiter

Acting High Commissioner.