

The strategic importance of the Pacific Islands.

No. 1 appears as item 4 on the Agenda for the C.I.D. meeting to be held on Thursday 17th June at 11 am.

D.W. Brown

* Copy attached to 2 - Mr. Creary has prepared a note^x which was included in the brief for the S.G.S.

copy 19/6
Mr. Dept.
Mr. Bigg
Mr. Clouston
Mr. Vernon 25/6/37
Sir J. Shackleton
Sir J. Maffey } to see.

L. Smith 17/6/37

J. Howard 17/6

(I should explain that my note of the 16th June was prepared at my meeting and was only meant to be a brief summary of facts.)
I should like to see this again later today the Report more carefully.

G. Creary
18/6/37

I should like, if it
is possible, to have a
spare copy of this memo.

A note of its existence
should be made on the file
about the interdepartmental
Committee.

A. J. Rowe
186

In regard to Japanese
economic penetration, the
Econ. Dept. are making a
study of the similar problem
in Malaya & N.E.I. &
might be able to assist.

G. Eastwood
21.6.

Centra Is^d in the Phoenix Group appears
as part of the Gilbert & Ellice Island Colony
in the map (Annex I) attached to the
C.I.D. Memo (1327-B.) From the
description on p. 12 it appears that it

✓
86089/37 W. Lee
Secy.

is of considerable value for a replacement station if
certain blasting work is carried out. I saw in
the newspapers that an American expedition had
gone there to observe the recent solar eclipse.
I don't think they asked our leave, & I
suggest that the circumstances warrant examining.
It might be desirable to assist our title to
passent the U.S.A. making this visit the ground
for a claim.

< T.P.V. Vernon
23/6

R.J. 23/6/37

The position in regard to Carter Island
upheld to by the Vernon certainly
warrants examination.

J.P.
24/6/37

I have had a copy of the above
minutes made & regd. on 86242/37
W.Pac on which file action on
the lines of Mr Vernon's minutes is
already proceeding.

A suitable note has been made
on 86059/37 W.Pac Series regarding the
details of h.o.t. ? wait for CID minutes
D.W. Johnson 24/6 L.S. Smith 25/6 at once

3 — C.I.D (2D/8) Secret - 30.6.37

Find extract from minutes
of 29th meeting after no. 1.

Mr. Dept. Mr. Bigg Mr. Clayton Mr. Vernon Sir J. Shackburgh Sir C. Parkinson	G.L.M. 17/7	to see.
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Smith 6/7/37

I understand from Mr. Smith that it would be in order for us to take action on Conclusion (ii) in this extract, and that we need not wait for any further communication from the Committee of Imperial Defence. I therefore submit a draft letter to the D.O., which could appropriately ^{issue} ~~go~~ on 86059/1/37, a copy being attached to this file.

Gray
8.7.37

I think it is desirable to avoid giving Australia and New Zealand the impression that this Interdepartmental Committee is some vast engine of policy working upon the problems of the Pacific. The Committee is actually as unpretentious in the scope of its inquiries

as it is modest in personnel. The Committee is at present in a state of suspended animation pending the High Commissioner's reply to the despatch at (15) in 86059/1/37 W.Pac. I was hoping that as soon as we got the reply the Committee would be able to finish off its work quickly.

I think it would be desirable to explain orally to the Dominions Office the above position as soon as the official letter has gone off. They may be able to indicate informally to the Dominions the dimensions of the Committee and its work.

Recirculate the file to Mr. Creasy, immediately the letter has gone off, for this action.

H. J. Dawe
10.7

I imagine Australia & N.Z. would each nominate someone from the High Comm's office.

Mr. Easton (New Zealand) has excited interest in the Phoenix Group.

P. V. Verma 12/7

(The Inter-departmental Comm. in question includes representatives of the C.O., D.O., Air Ministry

Ministry, and Admiralty and Treasury.

(W. Dawe is Chairman)

W.S.

12/7/37

Perhaps we could have a
copy of the above minutes
for our E. D.O. file

W.S.

cc. v. 87

see

15.7.37

W.S.

4 To D.O. Secrer (w/86059/11/37) 17.7.37

copy given to
Mr. Lequich by
Mr. Cressy. 19/7/37.