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SECRET.

17 July, 1937.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Ormsby Gore to refer to the letter from the Committee of Imperial Defence No. ID/D/8 of the 30th of June, enclosing copies of an extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 17th of June regarding the strategic importance of the Pacific Islands, and to request that, if Mr. Secretary MacDonald agrees, communications may now be addressed to His Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia and in New Zealand, inviting them to nominate representatives to attend the meetings of the Inter-Departmental Committee which has been appointed to consider the position as regards unattached islands in the Southern Pacific area.

2. It will be recalled that the Committee's terms of reference are as follows:-

"To

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE.

"To consider the position as regards unattached Islands in the Southern Pacific area, with particular reference to the needs of defence and of civil aviation, and to recommend what action, if any, should be taken in regard to them by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom".

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Committee of Imperial Defence, Treasury, Foreign Office, Admiralty, and Air Ministry.

I am,

sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. J. DAWE