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PARAPHRASE telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

(Sent 5.0 p.m., 31st October, 1933).

No. 108 Secret.

By telegram No. 83.

My telegram No. 91.

Agreement has now been reached with His Majesty's Government in New Zealand for immediate survey of Route B before Route A and it is proposed that a party should be sent at early date to survey and demarcate marine alighting place and land aerodrome at Christmas Island. The H.M.S. Leander will embark party at Auckland and will pick up at Suva New Zealand officer at present there together with echo sounding apparatus and operator which are being sent to Australia by air and thence to Fiji by boat arriving 17th November. H.M.S. Leander will proceed from Suva direct to Christmas Island but party will undertake similar surveys at Mokonono and Hull Island when survey of Christmas Island is completed. Visit of party to the Island should be regarded as strictly confidential and <sup>in</sup> no circumstances should announcement in regard to it be made at this stage. You should impress on all concerned necessity for strict secrecy in regard to subsequent visits to Mokonono and Hull Islands. In view however of possible necessity for resumption of land in Christmas Island I propose to warn waltons about 17th November provided you see no objection of proposed visit to that island and of its objects adding that details will be communicated to them in due course of land which it will be necessary to resume.

Please make necessary detailed arrangements in direct consultation with authorities in New Zealand.