

Note of questions suggested for consideration at the proposed conference on matters concerning the Pacific Islands between His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.

1. The question of formulating an agreed policy regarding the attitude which should be taken up in the event of the United States Government adopting one or other of the undermentioned alternatives:-

- (a) a demand that the joint régime should be extended to other islands of the Phoenix Group besides Canton and Enderbury;
- (b) a renewal of their proposal of August 1937 for a general "clean-up" of islands of disputed sovereignty;
- (c) a rejection of the invitation to a four-party air conference which has been extended to them;
- (d) an acceptance of this invitation accompanied, however, by an intimation that the resulting discussions should also include a settlement of the status of other Pacific Islands, e.g. Hull and Christmas Islands, to which they consider that they have a title.

2. The question of concerting action to ensure that, in the event of any unforeseen move on the part of the United States, pressure can be brought to bear to induce the United States Government to consent to a four party conference.

3. The question of selecting the moment when, assuming no move by the United States Government in the interim, it would be most appropriate to press with renewed vigour for a four-party conference.

4. The possibilities of the establishment of an air service across the Pacific in co-operation with a United States company on the lines of the projected North Atlantic Service.

5. The advisability of a British application being made to the United States for landing rights in San Francisco and Honolulu.

6. The position in relation to Pan-American Airways if such an application can be refused.

7. If the United States Government agree to the four-party conference, what main proposals should be made to them. (NOTE. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have suggested "open" rights on all the islands likely to be situated on the route of a trans-Pacific service and have intimated to the United States Government that they do not exclude the possibility that in the course of the conference it might prove necessary to settle the status of hitherto neglected islands. In practice His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are of opinion that this category of island should only include the six southern islands of the Line Group).

8. If at the time of the conference between the United Kingdom, Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments no claims have been put forward by the United States Government to Hull and Christmas Islands, what further steps, if any, can be taken to strengthen the British Claim to these islands.

9. The means whereby information as to Japanese activities in the Pacific Islands can best be obtained, collated and disseminated.

10. Preliminary investigation of the general nature of defences which might be required for islands of importance in connection with civil and military trans-Pacific air operations.

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