

Sir G. Parkinson
(deputy) 38

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COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

OVERSEA DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

(Reference O.D.C. Paper No. 1635.) (34)

Minute by Director of Military Operations and Intelligence,
War Office.

No.79/Gen./3296 (M.O.2).

7th December, 1938.

I suggest the following items for the agenda:-

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

- (2) The defence of seaplane and other bases. The likely scale of seaborne or air attack does not justify the installation of coast or anti-aircraft artillery in the Pacific Islands. It is also highly improbable that any British troops can be made available for defence against a landing. In the absence of efficient local forces (the raising of which may be impracticable in many places) defence, if considered essential, might be undertaken by Australia and New Zealand.

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for Director of Military Operations
and Intelligence.