

Copy original reg on 86059/38 N Pac met with DO. F720/172 of 13/12/38

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F 720/172

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

To the Government of New Zealand.

Sent 7 p.m., 12th December, 1938.

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No. 179. Secret.

Reference paragraph 8 of your secret despatch of the 20th May. Suggestion that representatives of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand should meet at some suitable point to consider Pacific Islands questions has been considered by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. They agree that such a meeting would be desirable and they feel that it would afford a useful opportunity for an exchange of views, not only on any defence questions arising in connection with the Pacific Islands, but also on possible action in relation to activities of United States in the Pacific and the suggested conference between His Majesty's Governments concerned and the United States Government to discuss the question of reciprocal air facilities. They will in due course communicate in more detail matters which they would propose to raise at any such meeting.

In order that they may consider the question of their representation His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom would be glad to learn arrangements proposed by His Majesty's Government in New Zealand for the meeting. No indication is given of New Zealand Government's views as to best meeting place for proposed conference. For their part United Kingdom Government would be entirely agreeable to conference meeting in New Zealand if this commended itself to New Zealand and Commonwealth Governments.