-720/184

Subject:

Pacific Islands Conference

Secret

Reference to previous correspondence:

With the compliments of me Dison

A copy has also been sent to m. Balfour (F/a)

Capet Edelston (Adms) Medi Foster (A/M)

maj Frith (MO)

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

3 0 DEC 1938 193

(R5052) Wt 32345/3585 5,000 2/35 H & Sr Gp 640 (R6639) Wt 15568/3657 20,000(4) 7/36

Secret and Immediate

30 December, 1938.

Dear Jacob,

24th Dec.

I enclose copies of two telegrams which have been received from New Zealand with regard to the proposed Conference on Pacific Islands questions.

It seems clear that the questions raised by telegram No. 144 as to the scope of the Conference on the defence side and the United Kingdom representation at it will require to be further considered at a meeting between representatives of the Departments concerned. At any such meeting Batterbee would like to be present.

You will no doubt consider what form the meeting would most suitably take. Should it be a meeting of the Oversea Defence Committee or of some other body? In any case, we assume that, after discussion by the appropriate Committee, the matter will eventually come before the Chiefs of Staff who will probably wish to discuss it with Batterbee when they meet him before he goes out to New Zealand.

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MAJOR E.I.C. JACOB.

I am sending copies of this letter to Acheson, Balfour, Edelsten, Foster and Frith.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. W. Dixex.