

The Do. and other depts of W.M.F. have now examined far more fully than we could hope to do the 23 islands claimed by the U.S.G. With Sir R. Lindsay's help various solutions have been worked out and these were considered on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> by an interdepartmental meeting as a result of which the Australian and New Zealand Govts are now being consulted. There is therefore no point in our proceeding with the draft of our promised comments on the U.S.G.'s aide memoire of August 16<sup>th</sup> and I submit a draft to American Dept to explain the point & tidy thing up.

Pages 19-23 of the long memo. contain the various schemes considered at the meeting and p. 7 of the covering memo. for Mr. Butler shows the ones which the American Dept particularly favoured. The views of Mr. Berenson of the N.Z. Govt, (on pp 18-20 of the long memo.)

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memos.) are interesting and seem to explain why the F.O. now think that Hull J<sup>r</sup> might eventually be asked to, or shared with, the U.S.G. despite the "indisputable" title to it which we considered we had when the memo. in /117/ was written. From the table at the end of the enclosed pp. it will, incidentally, be seen that our title to Hull has, in fact, been reduced in rating from "indisputable" to "very strong."

The Amer. Dept's letter gives us no hint of the line which the meeting decided to submit to the Australian and N.Z. Govts: but Annex II of the long memo. consists of ~~an~~ Sir Riddington's draft of an aide-memoire to the S.D., offering to submit the whole question to arbitration when the war is over.

No other action than that already  
X. | proposed seems necessary until we  
receive

ie. that in the last week we sh<sup>d</sup> keep Christmas rather than Hull.

+ / receive the F.O.'s instructions.

Adm  
D/aii

Int. Officer  
A.A.

HE has been informed  
of position and affairs  
of X club

K.S. 13/xii.