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M. Herbertson
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A meeting was held in Sir Harry Batterbee's room in the Dominions Office on the 12th January.

Present:	Sir Harry Batterbee.	} Dominions Office.
	Mr. C. W. Dixon	
	Mr. J. Balfour	Foreign Office.
	Mr. Herbertson.	Air Ministry.
	Mr. Acheson.	} Colonial Office.
	Mr. Bevir.	

Mr. Balfour pointed out that the aim of H.M.G. was to get a civil aviation service working in the Western Pacific, and to achieve that we wanted to get the proposed four party conference between the Government of the United States and H.M.G. in the U.K., in Australia, and in New Zealand. The object of the proposed conference in New Zealand was to find out what measures we could take or what levers we possessed towards getting the United States Government to agree to a conference. It was pointed out that our chief bargaining point was the refusal of terminal facilities. It was open to the N. Z. Government to terminate the contract with Pan American Airways owing to the U. S. having failed to carry out the contract since the loss of the "Hawaiian Clipper" but this seemed hardly a desirable line to take. At the moment H.M.G. in the U.K. were not in a position to help as we had neither money nor craft available tho' the position might be different in 1941.

Mr. Herbertson said that in his view the only other bargaining asset of importance was Hull Island and that the Air Ministry were most anxious that we should not surrender any rights in regard to it. After further discussion it

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was agreed that the Foreign Office should find out whether it would be possible to ascertain from Washington what the basis of the United States claim to Hull Island was. It was thought that it would in any case be advisable, if the need arose to threaten to refer the conflicting claims to this island to arbitration. In the meantime, Mr. Balfour undertook to ascertain from the Foreign Office legal advisers whether the available evidence would justify the adoption of such a course and also to draft a memorandum which could be used as a brief for Sir Harry Batterbee as U.K. representative at the proposed conference in New Zealand.

Captain Herbertson said that a brief was being prepared for the Warren Fisher Committee, which could subsequently be used as a basis for instructions to the U.K. representatives on the civil aviation side. In the meantime, a further note in regard to Hull Island would be prepared in the Colonial Office.

The question of the date of the conference was then discussed. It was pointed out that it was desirable that the conference should be held as soon as possible as its object was to try to consider what steps should be taken in the event of the United States Government taking any active steps in regard to their claim to the Islands. Sir Harry Batterbee said that it would not be possible for the first part of the conference, which would deal with the political and civil aviation aspects of the matter, to be taken until the third or fourth week in March, while the defence aspects could not be taken until Air Marshal Longmore arrived in

New Zealand in April. It was clear that the Conference could not be held before the dates mentioned. If therefore the U.S. Government actually did take any action before the conference met, it would be necessary to decide what to do ad hoc.

It was pointed out that if there was a gap between the two conferences there might be practical difficulties if as a result the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific had to spend a long time in New Zealand.

It was agreed that the Dominions Office should circulate a draft telegram for concurrence in regard to the arrangements for the Conference.

The question of the Line Islands and the Pitcairn Group, Oeno Henderson and Ducie was also discussed, and it was agreed that the Colonial Office should prepare a brief for the U.K. representative in regard to them.