

F. 720/187.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

To the Government of New Zealand.

Sent 8.0 p.m.

16th January, 1939.

No.12 Secret.

Reference your telegrams Nos. 144 and 145 of 24th December. For their part His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree that discussions at the proposed conference on the defence side should take the form proposed by His Majesty's Government in New Zealand. After receipt and consideration of Report of New Zealand Chiefs of Staff they will be ready to put forward their observations on the various questions mentioned in your telegrams under reference.

As regards representation at the Conference, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom feel that, if subjects to be discussed on the defence side are to be of the wide nature suggested, it would be very difficult to decide on nature of representation until they have received the Report of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff. From your telegram of 4th January No.1 it is observed that this will not arrive until 3rd February and it is feared that if defence discussions at the Conference were to open before about middle of April there would not be time for adequate study of Report and for framing instructions for guidance of United Kingdom representatives.

It would be the hope of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and doubtless of His Majesty's Government in New Zealand also, that opening of conference should