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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—

F 720/197

Subject:

Survey of Pacific Islands

Copies held in
6214/10/39 and 6214/20A/39

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to the Dominions Office of the

tel no 9: 24/1/39

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

FO
Adm
AH
C12 (23/1)

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

24 JAN 1939 193

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

From the Governor-General of New Zealand

Dated 22nd January 1939. Received 9.30 a.m., 22nd Jan.

No.9. Secret.

6 Your secret telegram No.12 of January 16th. My Prime Minister desires me to inform you that so far as New Zealand Chiefs of Staff report is concerned it deals with a strategic survey of certain Pacific Islands only, and report is adequately summarised in my secret telegram of December 24th No.145. At this stage His Majesty's Government in New Zealand would like to set out more precisely the points which they suggest should be discussed at the Conference namely:-

(a) Possible lines of action by enemy powers against Empire interests in the south west Pacific in the period before the arrival of naval reinforcements, including (i) operations to capture bases in the Western Pacific. (ii) Nature and scale of possible operations against Empire trade. (iii) Nature and scale of possible operations against Australian and New Zealand territory.

(b) Measures necessary to defend - (i) Pacific Islands and Mandated territories, notably Fiji Tonga New Hebrides Solomon Islands. (ii) Ships trading with United Kingdom New Zealand and Australia. (iii) Australian and New Zealand territories.

(c) Most effective means of cooperation with the United Kingdom in the defence of British Commonwealth after providing for security in the South Western Pacific, including schemes for mutual reinforcement.

(d) Coordination of defence policy in peace and war.

(e) Sources of supplies of equipment after the outbreak of war.

(f) Scales of reserves of supplies, including fuel and equipment.

(g) Possible effect of German demand for the return of Mandated Territories.

(h)

(h) Economic aspects of war, including probable effect on trade and shipping.

(j) Policy in relation to Trans Pacific Air route and the United States activities in the Pacific.

This agenda is dependant only in a small degree on report of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff which affects point (b) above only. His Majesty's Government in New Zealand had hoped that it would be possible to hold the conference at latest by mid-March and they are somewhat disturbed at the proposal of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom not to hold it before the middle of April. His Majesty's Government in New Zealand still hope this will be possible and in view of relatively small importance of report of New Zealand Staff Chiefs already referred to, suggest that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may be able to decide on their representations forthwith and arrange for the arrival of their representatives by the middle of March.

The substance of this telegram is being repeated to the High Commissioner for Western Pacific and to His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia.