

Mr. Bevir 2/2/39.
Mr. Dixon 3/2/39.
(qua-aviation) Mr. Bigg 3/2.
Mr. Acheson 3/2.
X Sir J. Shuckburgh 6/2/39.
at once.

*Copy also sent on
31/4/39 to Mr. Pacific
by Sir J. Shuckburgh
W.S.* 18

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Fiji.

(Sent 8.0 p.m. 6th February, 1939.)

No. 17. Secret.

15. Your telegram No. 18. Secret. The following is the text of the reply of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs to the telegram dated 22nd of January from the Governor General of New Zealand. Begins:-

Reference your telegram No. 9 of the 22nd January. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree that Conference should meet by the middle of March if possible or as soon as may be practicable thereafter. They are endeavouring to arrange for United Kingdom Service representatives to be available at that time and further telegram will be sent as to this as soon as possible.

As regards agenda of Conference on the defence side, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom fully recognise importance of the various matters referred to in your telegram. It will be appreciated however that adequate consideration of some of the topics mentioned, such as those set out under (d), (g) and (h) in your telegram, would call for a meeting more in the nature of an Imperial Conference in which representatives of other Dominions and India might wish to participate. It is assumed that on such topics the task of the present Conference will be merely exploratory with a view to drawing up reports for further consideration by the Governments concerned. This would not apply to immediate practical problems such as those mentioned under (a), (b) and (c), which it is thought could be fully discussed at the Conference with a view to reaching definite conclusions

conclusions.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom
agree that (j) should be included in Agenda. Ends.

You will see from ^{the} above, the questions of Defence
which are going to be discussed at the Conference, and the
following documents will shortly be forwarded to you.

(1) Foreign Office memorandum on the general position
vis-a-vis the United States Government, relative to the
four party Conference which it is proposed to hold,
to consider the development of air communication in the
Western Pacific (2) a memorandum on development of Civil
aviation (3) Colonial Office memorandum on the position of
unattached islands in the area. These will be the briefs
for the United Kingdom representatives at the Conference.