Downing Street.

F.720/195

9 February, 1939.

Dear Shannon,

In connection with the proposed Conference on Pacific Islands matters, I enclose copies of a brief for United Kingdom representatives on the political questions which it is thought might be discussed, together with the connected documents. Copies of these were handed to Batterbee before he sailed.

I also enclose six copies of

- (i) a Foreign Office memorandum on sovereignty over Christmas Island;
- (ii) a minute by Fitzmaurice of the Foreign Office on the same subject;
- (iii) a Foreign Office memorandum on United States rights in the Tonga Islands.

The Colonish Office are preparing a memorandum on certain other Islands, which we hope to send in the course of the next week or two.

We are sending separately by ocean mail copies

of

G.E. BOYD SHANNON, ESQ.

of a document dealing with defence questions, of which Batterbee is bringing out a copy. As regards civil aviation questions these are at present being considered by a Sub-Committee, and we hope to be in a position to send out before long a document embodying the results of their deliberations.

Yours ever,