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:—

Subject: Pacific Islands.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to the Dominions Office of the 27.1.39
\[\text{c.0.}205\]

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

A copy has also been sent to the

Dominions Office, Downing Street,
1 MAR 1939
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PARAPHRASED TELEGRAM
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

From the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dated 28th February, 1939. Received 11.36 a.m., 28th February.

No. 21, Secret.

The following is text of telegram which has been sent to the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Telegram begins.

February 17th. Secret. Proposed Defence Conference. Advice has been received that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will be represented by Service Officers on defence matters. His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia is agreeable to participate on this basis. As was, however, pointed out in my telegram of February 15th discussion on several matters in the Agenda could only proceed between the Ministers of the Governments concerned. Commonwealth Government are therefore of opinion that Items (c) (d) and (h) are matters that cannot be dealt with by a conference of Service representatives and that discussion on these Items must necessarily be exploratory only with a view to drawing up a report for further consideration by the Governments concerned. Attendance of a Commonwealth Minister would be impracticable and so far as Australia is concerned discussion will be on purely defence matters. In so far as the Defence Conference is concerned therefore Australian representatives will be empowered to discuss only the technical aspect of the Service plans and it is noted that the United Kingdom Government's telegram of February 2nd also takes this view.

Owing to pressure of work to which my telegram of February 16th related and departure of the Chief of Air Force Staff for England the Australian representation will be the Chief of Naval Staff and Senior Officers of the Army and Air Force. We will notify full list later. Please advise date proposed and, in accordance with request of February 16th, forward, for examination in advance of the Delegation, 2 paper(s) on Items in the Agenda. Telegram ends.
From the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dated 26th February, 1939. Received 6.33 a.m., 28th February.

No. 33. Secret.

Your telegram No. 34 of the 25th February, Pacific Defence Conference. I have received oral information that the Cabinet decided yesterday in Sydney that they are prepared to release Codwin as representative of the United Kingdom as well as of the Commonwealth, but that they cannot release Squires, since the Government is at present considering his report.

Telegrams from the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to the United Kingdom and New Zealand Governments which, inter alia, convey this decision are awaiting final approval of the Cabinet at today's meeting.