

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

From the Governor-General of New Zealand

Dated 2nd March, 1939. Received 3.50 a.m., 2nd March.

No.27. Secret. (31)

With reference to your telegram No. 27 of 20th February. I am informed by my Ministers that His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia have now agreed to the holding at an early date of the proposed Defence Conference, subject to the reservation that consideration of Items (c) (d) and (h) of the Agenda should be only exploratory.

In reply His Majesty's Government in New Zealand have expressed concurrence with the suggestion. The date of the Conference is now entirely dependent upon the time within which the United Kingdom Representative(s) can arrive. My Ministers would be grateful if they could be advised at earliest possible convenience as to the date of arrival in order that the date of the Conference may be fixed and they may advise His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia and the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific accordingly.

My Ministers would appreciate being supplied as soon as possible with full list of names of the British Delegation who, they trust, will regard themselves while they are in the Dominion as guests of the Government.

My Ministers would also like to be advised of the itinerary of the British Delegation for the purpose of despatch by safe hands of the papers on the Agenda (which it is hoped will be completed next week) so as to reach them en route.

The British Delegation will, it is assumed, be in a position to discuss fully the subjects referred to in the first paragraph of my secret telegram No.144 of the 24th December.