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SECRET ✓ C.O.

copy encl. reqd. on 86059/39

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Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

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

F. 720/220

Subject:

Pacific Islands



Reference to previous correspondence.

Letter ^{to} from the Dominions Office of the

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

A copy has also been sent to the *40 AM ady C.12*

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

8 MAR 1939

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No. 33/1/12/25

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PARAPIHRASE TELEGRAM

To the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and
New Zealand.

(Sent 11.55 p.m., 7th March, 1939.)

Secret.

No. 17.
No. 33.

Reference my despatch of 12th December Commonwealth of Australia No. 395 New Zealand No. 359. While suggesting a few slight verbal alterations in terms of notes United States Government have now agreed with proposals in principle. They have at the same time communicated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington a memorandum intimating that on several occasions the United States Government has stated that it is desirous of entering into discussions with the United Kingdom Government concerning the status and use of those Pacific Islands which both Governments claim and is ready at any date agreeable to the United Kingdom Government to institute such discussions; in the meantime it cannot of course acquiesce in the proposed settlement of the islands which are claimed by the United States.

It is proposed to instruct His Majesty's Ambassador to reply on following lines:- Begins.

(1) It is believed by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that the fundamental aims of the two Governments are broadly similar and that the difference between them is mainly one of emphasis. United States Government have mainly stressed desire to arrive at a general settlement of conflicting claims to islands and wish question of air navigation rights to be treated separately. On the other hand United Kingdom Government have attached greater importance to question of air navigation rights and

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