

D.O.3a.

SECRET

A. Nevill Esq.

Y02572

No.

D. 255/15.

Subject:

Pacific Islands:  
Defence Questions

Reference to previous correspondence:

14/4/39  
With the compliments of Mr. Dixon.

A copy has also been sent to  
Maj. Jacob (CID)  
Mr. Collier (AO)  
Mr. Lymond (Adm)  
Maj. Neave (AO)  
Maj. Com. Foster (AO)

Dominions Office, Downing Street.

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14 MAR 1939

Dominions Office,

Downing Street,

14 March, 1952.

My dear Batterbee,

With reference to our telegram to the Governor-General No. 33 of the 5th of March, I enclose 6 copies of a Minute of the Overseas Defence Committee (subsequently approved by the Chiefs of Staff) on which the telegram was based. It is thought that the Minute will serve as a brief for you and the other United Kingdom representatives at the forthcoming Pacific Conference on the first three questions raised in the Governor-General's telegram No. 15 and the Report of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff on certain Pacific Islands.

You will notice that, in connection with the proposed expansion of the Fiji Defence Force (paragraph 9 of Minute) and the suggested construction of aerodromes in Fiji (paragraphs 10 and 11), it is suggested that the Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments might be invited to bear a share of the cost. We shall be glad if the United Kingdom delegation at the Conference will bring forward this suggestion.

The Governor of Fiji has furnished the following estimate of the additional cost to Fiji of the expansion of the Defence Force, excluding the cost of guns and lights and equipment which he considers to be a matter for New Zealand.

Extraordinary

SIR HARRY BATTERBEE, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.

49  
O.D.C. minute  
No. 334

	Extra- ordinary £	Recurrent £
(1) The addition of two Companies composed of Europeans to the Defence Force .....	7,000	3,000
(ii) Mobilization stores as advised by Major-General Duigan .....	14,000	
(iii) Non-Commissioned Officer Instructor and full-time Quarter-master for Defence Force .....		1,000
(iv) Buildings .....	5,500	
(v) Maintenance of landing grounds		1,500
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	£36,500	£7,500
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As regards the aerodromes, the estimated capital cost of two landing grounds was given in the Report of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff as £55,400, but you will see that the suggestion is made that one landing ground would perhaps suffice for the purpose contemplated.

Yours ever,

(Signed) J. E. STEPHENSON.