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SECRET

*Mr. Kewer
Co.*

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No.

Subject: *Trans Pacific
Air Route*

Reference to previous correspondence:

*2 telegrams to
HJC in Auckland
x Mr. Zeeburt 14.3.39.*

With the compliments of *Mr. C. D. Owen*

A copy has also been sent to

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

18 MAR 1939 193

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

To the United Kingdom High Commissioners in the
Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.

(Sent 8 p.m., 17th March, 1939.)

IMMEDIATE. Secret.

Your telegram No. 41 of the 10th March.

As we see it position is as follows:-

Whilst fully sharing wish to push on with establishment of a trans-Pacific air route as rapidly as possible, we consider that positive progress can best be achieved by inducing United States Government to co-operate for the purpose. As yet United States Government have, however, abstained from accepting repeated invitation to enter into a four-party conference to discuss settlement of the problem on practical basis of reciprocal air facilities. Instead they have hitherto sought to secure control for themselves over intermediary links in chain of trans-Pacific aviation by advancing claims to Pacific Islands hitherto regarded as British, and have recently renewed their proposal for a discussion designed to regulate the status and use of islands in dispute. As Commonwealth Government are aware from draft reply to this proposal, in which they have expressed concurrence, (see their telegram of 11th March No. 26) His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom, although not excluding possibility of a discussion of the status of individual islands as a secondary matter at the four-party conference when it materialises, are opposed to United States solution, which brings the difficult question of sovereignty into the foreground and assumes that ownership of such islands can be determined independently of their value as part of a general system of

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