

D 6/62.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

To the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the
Commonwealth of Australia.

Sent 4.0 p.m.

1st April, 1939.

No. 69 Secret.

My immediately following telegram contains text of brief on defence questions prepared for United Kingdom representatives at forthcoming Pacific Conference. Text has been telegraphed to United Kingdom High Commissioner in New Zealand with request that he will communicate it also to High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. Please communicate (or arrange with Batterbee to communicate) text to Colvin and Longmore and, by safe channel to Mackesy on arrival in Australia.

For your own information Admiralty telegraphed to Colvin 23rd March that it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to send a fleet to the Far East in the event of war with Japan but that strength of the fleet actually sent out in such circumstances must depend on numerous unpredictable circumstances including the situation in Europe. They added that there need be no anxiety that needs of Australia and New Zealand are not fully appreciated here.