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A. Bevin, Esq.

91.

No. FY20/311

Subject: Pacific Islands

Reference to previous correspondence:

Tel. 92.18.4.29
Tel. 88.17.4.39

With the compliments of Mr. Pitt-Moore

A copy has also been sent to
Mr. Balfour
Major Groves
Major James
Wing Cmdr. Foster
Capt. Hubertson.

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

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20 APR 1939

(R5952) Wt 32346/3586 5,000 2/36 H & Sp Gp 640
(R6639) Wt 15568/3657 20,000(4) 7/36

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

From the United Kingdom High Commissioner in New Zealand.

Dated 17th April, 1939. Received 2.14 p.m., 17th April.

No. 88. Secret.

88

My secret telegram No. 85 of 15th April. Imperial Defence.

Some hesitation on the part of New Zealand Ministers to accept a committal to send New Zealand troops overseas in peace time (apart from Fanning Island) was disclosed during preliminary discussions today of possible methods of co-operation by New Zealand in Empire Defence. It is proposed to consider the matter further in Committee on 18th April.

2. As foreshadowed in paragraph 2 of my telegram under reference Committees were constituted and committees of two and three have each held their first meeting.

3. With a view to selecting the best air route between New Zealand and Hawaii committee of three discussed interim report of recent Pacific Islands survey expedition. Copies of report are being sent by mail due at London 1st May.

Copy of this telegram sent to High Commissioner, Canberra, by mail.