

A. Bevin, Esq 24
✗

D.O.3a. SECRET

No. D 255/19

Subject: Pacific defence conference report.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Del. 6 P. 30.6.39.

With the compliments of Mr Dixon.

A copy has also been sent to Mr Balfour,
Major Jacob,
Major Groves
etc. etc.
Major Mans.

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

21 JUN 1939

193

CYPHER TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

From the Governor General of New Zealand.

Dated 20th June, 1939. Received 4.50 a.m. 20th June, 1939.

No. 68. Most Secret.

My Prime Minister wishes me to inform you as follows:- Report of the Pacific Defence Conference, Part 1.

(1) Paragraphs 31, 36 and 39 made certain recommendations regarding the provision of coast defences for Fiji, and of key personnel for both coast defences and land forces in Fiji. His Majesty's Government in New Zealand accept the recommendations that they should provide the key personnel and would now like to be informed of the views of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom regarding the installation of coast defences generally.

(2) Paragraph 45. His Majesty's Government in New Zealand accepts the recommendation to provide rifles and WEB equipment for Tongan Defence Force as and when required, and would be glad to know the views of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom regarding the other items of material.

(3) Paragraph 49. His Majesty's Government in New Zealand have been considering the question of stationing a platoon at Fanning Island in peace. They would point out that there is a certain amount of preliminary work such as the construction of section posts, improvement of water supply, which could usefully be performed by a platoon in peace, and for that reason they are considering the advisability of sending such a force to the island as a temporary measure regarding pending a decision/its permanent location there. They would

be

8.

be glad of the views of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on the question of both the temporary and the permanent stationing of platoon at Penning Island.

(4) The substance of this telegram is being repeated to His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia.