

70.25/2A

m Bester 52
PB
347

No.

Subject:

D68/55

Armed Merchant Cruisers

SECRET

Reference to previous correspondence:

Ref D720/342

7/6/39

Tel NZ
no 86 - 29/7/39

With the compliments of m Dixon

A copy has also been sent to
m Selmon aty.
m Balfour F.O
maj Jaesh Ctr

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

31 JUL 1939

D68/55.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

To the Government of New Zealand.

Sent 10 p.m., 29th July, 1939.

No. 86. Secret.

My telegram No. 69 Secret of the 6th June. Armed Merchant Cruisers. In addition to cost of conversion Admiralty state that cost of naval stores and outstanding quantities of ammunition required is estimated at about £16,000 for each ship. With regard to hire and maintenance estimated cost for each ship, which is necessarily very approximate, is £248,000 per annum. In addition there would be a charge for reconditioning the ship on completion of hire, but forecast of this would be mainly guesswork.

The last sentence of paragraph 4 of your Secret telegram No. 53 of 16th May is noted. In view, however, of the great importance attaching to the local provision of personnel for such vessels, it would be appreciated if an estimate could be furnished of the number of officers and men in each class whom it might be possible to make available locally for this purpose in an emergency.

orce