

Taken over from
85239/2/39 53
C.I.
DEFENCE.

Gov — Tel. 133 Secret. — 18.8.39

Requests approval of introduction of legislation to change title of Fiji Defence Force to Fiji Regiment.

54 Gov. — Tel. 146. — 31.8.39.

Is increasing maximum age for compulsory training unless instructions are received to the contrary.

These telegrams should have been registered on the General papers 7025/2A, which accounts for the delay in dealing with them.

Fortunately the delay is of no serious consequence. The recommendation in para.1 of No.1 is in full accord with the conclusions reached at the New Zealand Conference, which have been approved in No.33 on 7025/2A/39. The proposals in para.2 introduce no new principle.

I have discussed with Mr. Antrobus, and passed the telegram approving the Governor's proposals.

When action is complete, including the Lf. action, this correspondence should be transferred to 7025/2A/39.

A. P. Fenwick
6.9.39
alone

55 To Gov. Fiji — TEL. IMPORTANT N° 152 Secret — 2.9.39

- 56 To CW Secy (D.O.)
- 57 .. Wing Cdr. Rms Foster (army)
- 58 .. Maj. E.H.C. Frith (W.D.)
- 59 .. Capt S.A. Burden (army)

} W/C 53-55 Lf. 8/9/39

60 Extract from Fiji + W. Pac. High Commission Territories Intelligence Report N° 1 of 1939 re Fanning Island Defence

60. Put by.
(Squad) F.G. Lee 10/9 at on

NOS 60 - 85 transferred to

6214/20B/39

86

D.O. — W.G. 437/4 Sec — 18.10.39

Trs copy letter to M. J. Dean of 18.10.39 with enclosed copy of tel. from N.Z. N° 186 Sec of 17.10.39 on the question of construction of an aerodrome at Tongatabu.

Mr. Pritchard will keep in touch with us on this. For the present advise A/M reactions.

Three

19/10.

~~attached~~
20/10
atona

87

D.O. — W.G. 437/5 Sec — 20.10.39

Ref 86. Trs copy tel. from Rep. N.Z. N° 393 Sec. of 18th Oct. re landing grounds in Tonga.

88

Fiji — Tel 211 Sec — 24.10.39

Enquires whether H.M.G. in N.Z. have intimated their acceptance of recommendation N° 33 of N.Z. Defence Conference Report to dispatch a brigade of N.Z. Troops to Fiji in case of emergency. If not, enquires whether he may communicate direct with N.Z.

Mr. Pritchard.

1. I discussed No. 88 briefly with you yesterday.

2. The position is that in C.O.S. 16 (flag A on 6214/20A/39) the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff recommended that a "force of one Brigade Group should be ready in New Zealand to move at short notice to reinforce the local defence forces" (i.e. in Fiji). The New Zealand Defence Conference

80 has been transferred to 6214/20A/39.

Conference referred to this recommendation and stated that it was "of the opinion that New Zealand should consider assisting in the manner set out, and if the Government so decides a force could be despatched when the emergency arises". (Paragraph 33 of the report - flag B on 7025/2A/39).

3. There is a reference to this particular paragraph in paragraph 10 of Sir H. Batterbee's report (No.7 on 7025/2A/39), but so far as I can see from the correspondence sent to us, nothing has been received from the New Zealand Government in the matter.

4. I take it that what is in question is whether New Zealand will definitely accept a commitment that, in the event of war with Japan, they will send a brigade of troops to Fiji. (I assume that the "emergency" is the outbreak of war with Japan, not an apprehended raid on Fiji by the Japanese). You may think it difficult, in present circumstances, to pursue this matter with the New Zealand Government despite the fact that forces are being raised there: but we should appreciate your observations on the question, and your advice as to the reply to be returned to Fiji. It is conceivable, I suppose, that the Fiji authorities could be authorized to work out, in consultation with the New Zealand General Staff, plans for the reception and maintenance of the force, without there being any definite undertaking beforehand on the part of New Zealand to send the force.

Whee

25.10.1939.

Mr. Lee.

We discussed this, and I attach a draft telegram in reply to Fiji. I think it is rather for the Colonial Office to obtain War Office concurrence, but if you prefer it I will send a copy of the draft to Major Hope asking him if he agrees.

N. Ritchard

6.11.39.

You should see. I ~~will~~ ^{have added a} ~~see~~ ^{see} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~letter~~ ^{letter} to Major Hope.

Whee

6/11

A.B. Graham

CW Dixon

7/11/39

Whee

89 Major Hope. w/dt tel cons 13 NOV 1939

90 Lt Col Farock W/O 89 13 NOV 1939

W.O. 14.11.39
I've copy letter to CW Dixon (W.O.) of 14th Nov.

Transferred
66214/20B

{ 91

92 Major Hope (W.O.) - S.O. - 15.11.39

Ref 89. Concurs in draft telegram. If N.Z. replies that they feel unequal to additional commitment in Fiji, we be glad to be informed with view to approach to Australian Govt.

N. Ritchard

I am very sorry to see this

file gov union with a mass of
papers and Fiji agencies. ?/13
then was given to the village
to Fiji was despite the...
in the lines of the...
W.O. have... ?

Three

8/12

I see no objection to the tel. being
sent as drafted. [I see many objections
to any approach to Aus, but we
can leave that for the present].

Richard

9/12/89

Then in case tel. is in...
W.O.

Three

11/12

W.O.

93

— To Gov Fiji

See no 233 secret

— C/Ps

211.1239

✓

- 94 Do
- 95 Army
- 96 W.D
- 97 Air Min
- 98 War Cabinet

W/C 88793 12 DEC 1953



RE