

COPY FOR REGISTRATION



PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM from the Governor of Fiji to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 18th August, 1939. Received 4.45 a.m., 18th August, 1939.

IMPORTANT.

No. 133 Secret.

33 m 7025/2A/39 Part II

With reference to 112 New Zealand Defence Conference Report I should be glad to have your approval of introduction of legislation in Legislative Council in September to change the title of the Fiji Defence Force to the Fiji Regiment; to constitute the present Force at Suva to be the First Battalion; and to form on the north west coast of Viti Levu a Second Battalion which will be composed in the first instance of one European Company at Lautoka and at Ba respectively.

(2) The extension of the compulsory training provisions of Section 43 of Ordinance No. 3 of 1923 to Lautoka, Ba and Nausori Townships is proposed and also submission to the Legislative Council of question of an increase in the maximum age for compulsory training from 22 years to 25 years - see Section 38 of the Ordinance.

(3) The arrival of the necessary rifles and web equipment for expanding the Force from New Zealand is expected shortly and Major Free, P.S.C., Indian Army, has been seconded from New Zealand to act as Adjutant in place of the permanent Adjutant who has been medically boarded on leave. An early telegraphic reply would be appreciated.