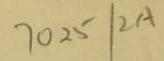CYPHER TELEGRAM

NEW ZEALAND

From the Government of New Zealand.

Dated 17th October, 1939. Received 1.45 a.m., 17th October.

No. 186 Secret.

In the report of the Defence Conference, Paragraph 46, it was recommended that two landing grounds should be established, one at Tongatabu and one in the Vavua group, and that the New Zealand Government should make the necessary preliminary survey. I am advised that survey has now been completed and a tentative estimate of the cost involved in the construction of the Aerodrome at Tongatabu is twenty five thousand five hundred pounds. Plant now engaged at Fiji where Aerodrome work is nearing completion will be returned to New Zealand, but could be utilised at Tongatabu. To avoid extra shipping and other expenses His Majesty's Government in New Zealand would be glad to know as soon as possible whether His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom consider that the work at Tongatabu should how be proceeded with, whether the cost of construction will be contributed to by His Majesty's Government of United Kingdom and if representations will be made for assistance from the authorities in Tonga.

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<u>EXTRACT FROM FIJI AND WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION</u>
<u>TERRITORIES.</u>
<u>INTELLIGENCE REPORT.</u>
(No. 1 of 1939).

x   x   x

<u>PART II</u>.

4. <u>FANNING ISLAND DEFENCE.</u>

During the visit of the m.v. "Moamoa" to Fanning
Island exhaustive discussions regarding the defence of
the island took place between the Administrative Officer,
the Manager of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and the
Acting Resident Commissioner.

The basis of discussion was memoranda furnished
by the Chief of the New Zealand General Staff outlining
defence measures for Fanning Island.

During the quarter under review the High Commissioner
appointed Mr. P.D. Macdonald, Administrative Officer,
Fanning Island, President of the Defence Force thus
enabling the formation of a Rifle Club, the institution of
Defence Force Drill, and the selection of observation
posts and an evacuation camp.

x   x   x