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Mr Pritchard

With the Compliments of the
~~Under-Secretary of State for Dominion~~
~~Affairs.~~

Dominions Office,

Downing Street, S.W.1.

18 OCT 1959

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18 October, 1939.

Dear Dean,

No. 186:17.10.39

I enclose a copy of a telegram from the Government of New Zealand in which they raise the question whether the construction of an aerodrome at Tongatabu should be proceeded with in present circumstances. As you will remember, it was decided at the Defence Conference in New Zealand last April (paragraph 46 of the Report) that the New Zealand Government should be responsible for making the necessary preliminary survey in connexion with the proposed establishment of landing grounds at Tongatabu and in the Vavau Group.

We should be glad to receive the views of the Air Ministry as to the reply to be sent to New Zealand. The matter appears to be of some urgency in view of the suggestion that the plant now engaged in Fiji might be transferred to Tongatabu.

I am sending copies of this letter to Lee at the Colonial Office, Balfour at the Foreign Office, Jacob, Herbertson and Stafford.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) N. PRITCHARD

H.J. DEAN, Esq.