

Mr. Bevir 8.3.39

Mr. Dixon 8.3.39

Sir J. Shuckburgh 8.5.39 at once

7025/2/39

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

Sent 7 p.m., 8th March, 1939

No. 37. Secret.

38) Your telegram No. 43. Defence Conference. It does not look at the present moment as though it would be possible for the Conference to open before Easter. That being so, you will not be back in Fiji until early in May if you leave on the 14th March. It will mean if your intention is to tour from May 24th until August 7th that you will be absent from Suva with only a short break for the better part of five months. I am not aware what precisely is urgency of questions that you wish to discuss in Australia, but in the circumstances you will perhaps consider whether it might not be advisable to postpone the visit and merely leave Fiji in order to attend the Conference in New Zealand. You may be able to get an early indication from the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in New Zealand who is due to arrive there March 9th as to the likely date of commencement of Conference.