

Pacific Islands (certain) 9/25/38

Copy sent to G.O. in P.H. No. 840, May 16, 1938. File 177/66/72/38.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
May 13, 1939

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My dear Mallet:

I refer to the Department's memorandum of October 25, 1938, and to the British Embassy's aide-mémoire of November 10, 1938, concerning a hydrographic survey to be carried out by the Navy Department of certain islands of the Pacific, including islands of the Phoenix Group.

In the Department's memorandum it was pointed out that the purpose of the survey is entirely scientific and is without reference to the question of title to islands to which both Governments have claims. In the Embassy's aide-mémoire it was stated that the Government of the United Kingdom, while reserving all questions of title, would be glad to take advantage of the offer to furnish it with such technical information as may be obtained as a result of this survey.

The Department has received information from the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Bushnell, which is conducting

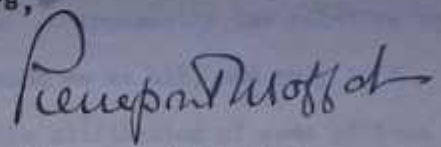
Mr. V. A. L. Mallet, C.M.G.,
Counselor of Embassy,
British Embassy,
Washington, D.C.

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conducting the survey, that a protest has been received from the British administrative official on Hull Island against operating planes over the island. It is thought that the British official was perhaps not informed regarding this survey, thought undoubtedly long before this appropriate information has been transmitted to him.

Sincerely yours,



Pierrepont Moffat

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