

F.720/260.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

CANADA

To the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada.

(Sent 10.0 p.m., 31st March, 1939).

No. 54.

Secret.

The following message from Harding with reference to
(abme) your telegram No. 63 of 16th March begins:- From print of
telegrams referred to you will have gathered that Conference has
been arranged on the initiative of New Zealand Government and it
seems to us that it is hardly for United Kingdom Government to
volunteer to the Canadian Government any statement as to its scope or
composition. The main desire of New Zealand Government in arranging
Conference, we gather, is to discuss defence questions (as set out
in No. 6 in the print) relating to South West Pacific, and we our-
selves hope that Conference will afford opportunity for making clear
to New Zealand Government (as well as Commonwealth Government)
measures of further co-operation in Imperial defence which from our
point of view would be of most value. (For your own information
we should assume that Canadian Government might prefer not to
participate in discussions of this nature and indeed we feel very
doubtful whether Canadian Prime Minister's answer quoted in your
telegram No. 67 was intended to suggest that an invitation would be
welcome).

We wish to take advantage of the Conference to discuss with
Commonwealth and New Zealand Governments in addition, questions as
to policy in relation to the United States activities in the Pacific
and

and the trans-Pacific air route, papers as to which were enclosed in Dixon's letter of 10th March with request that Canadian authorities might be informed informally of position. (We are sending you by mail, copies of briefs on this subject prepared for United Kingdom representatives, for your own information).

The Canadian authorities can be informed confidentially of position as described above if any enquiries are received from them, it being made clear that feeling here has been that since New Zealand Government originated and are conveners of the Conference, it was primarily for them to determine who should be invited to it. You could add that so far no public announcement has been made as to particular questions to be discussed and that any such announcement seems unlikely. Message ends.