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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT



SF 139/36.

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To **UNCLASSIFIED**
Authority *P.M. 86/14/1 Submissions* 24th June, 1954.
to King of E.P. dated 12/9/60
Date **7 MAY 1961**

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
SUVA, FIJI.

Sir,

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the arrangements for the Defence of Tonga. Under the Treaty of Friendship of 1900 between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Tonga the responsibility for the Defence of this Kingdom was assumed by the United Kingdom. The following is the relevant article in the Treaty:

"Her Majesty will at all times to the utmost of her power take whatever steps may be necessary to protect the Government and territory of Tonga from any external hostile attacks; and for this or similar purposes Her Majesty's officers shall at all times have free access to the waters and harbours of Tonga; and the King of Tonga hereby agrees to lease to Her Majesty a suitable site or sites in any harbour or harbours in Tonga for the purposes of establishing a station or stations for the coaling and repair of Her Majesty's ships, and for the erection of any military works or fortifications which may be necessary or desirable for the protection of such stations, and will at all times to the utmost of His power co-operate with and aid Her Majesty's naval or military forces in the defence of such station or stations if requested so to do by Her Majesty's officers."

2. Since the 1st April, 1952, and the transfer of the headquarters of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific from Suva to Honiara, the responsibilities of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the Treaty are now discharged through the Governor of Fiji in his personal capacity.

3. Her Majesty's Government in New Zealand will be aware of the extent of the heavy defence commitments elsewhere of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Gami




4. In view of this and following on informal discussions that have been taking place between the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff, the Government of Tonga and myself, I, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, now formally invite Her Majesty's Government in New Zealand to assist in the defence arrangements for the Kingdom of Tonga. I should add that this approach to the Government of New Zealand is made with the full approval of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Tonga.

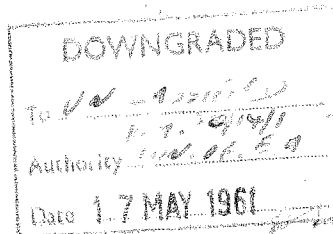
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Governor.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
WELLINGTON, N. Z.



14 June 1957

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Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24 June 1954 in which you suggest on behalf of the Government of Tonga and the Government of the United Kingdom that the New Zealand Government might assist with the defence arrangements of the Kingdom of Tonga.

2. In reply I wish to state that the New Zealand Government is willing to help in this respect and suggests that an arrangement on the basis set out below should be concluded between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Tonga. You will recall that there has been previous correspondence concerning the maintenance of certain air facilities in the Kingdom of Tonga. My present letter refers only to Army arrangements, and I suggest that the whole question of air facilities should be dealt with in a separate exchange of letters.

(1) The Government of New Zealand will:-

- (a) accept responsibility for the coordination of local defence measures in the Kingdom of Tonga;
- (b) regard the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff as advisers to the Government of Tonga on defence matters;
- (c) appoint the representative of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff in Fiji to act as the regular channel for the communication of advice on the implementation of defence policy, such advice to be communicated to the Governor of Fiji;
- (d) provide advice to the Government of Tonga in the organization, administration and training of the Tonga Defence Force and in the preparation of defence plans affecting the Kingdom of Tonga;
- (e) select an officer who, with the approval of the Government of Tonga, will be appointed Commanding Officer of the Defence Force and will be responsible:-
 - (i) to the Government of Tonga for all matters regarding the organization, training and administration of the Tonga Defence Force, and
 - (ii) to the New Zealand Army Board for the administration of New Zealand personnel attached to or serving with the Tonga Defence Force;
- (f) provide f.o.b. New Zealand and on long-term loan those items of initial equipment required for the

The Governor of Fiji,
 SUVA, FIJI

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TREATY ARCHIVES
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for the Tonga Defence Force which can be released from existing stocks held in New Zealand; and

- (g) provide such facilities as may be agreed upon from time to time for the training of the Tonga Defence Force personnel at training establishments maintained in New Zealand.
- (2) The Government of Tonga will -
- (a) recognize the status of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff as advisers to the Government of Tonga on defence matters;
 - (b) maintain the Tonga Defence Force at strengths determined by the Government of Tonga on the advice of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff;
 - (c) be responsible for the payment, in accordance with scales approved from time to time by the New Zealand Government, of salaries, allowances, fares and removal expenses of New Zealand Service personnel seconded or attached to Tonga Defence Force;
 - (d) provide such facilities as the Government of Tonga may, on the advice of the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff, consider necessary to meet defence requirements in Tonga;
 - (e) meet the cost of -
 - (i) any items of equipment (additional to those supplied in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (f) of paragraph (1) above), which the New Zealand Army Board undertake to procure for the Tonga Defence Force;
 - (ii) expendable stores, including ammunition, required in connection with the training of the Tonga Defence Force.
- (3) The Government of Tonga will provide an annual sum, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the Government of Tonga on the advice of the Government of New Zealand, to defray the expenses incurred in complying with its obligations under sub-paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 above.
- (4) This arrangement will not affect the responsibilities of the Government of Tonga for all matters concerning the welfare of the Kingdom of Tonga.
- (5) In the event of an emergency or the outbreak of hostilities in which either New Zealand or the Kingdom of Tonga become involved this arrangement will be reviewed.

3. I should be glad to learn whether you agree that the assistance provided by the Government of New Zealand in the

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3.

defence arrangements of the Kingdom of Tonga should be in accordance with the provisions set out above.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Minister of External Affairs

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