

4.

For His Excellency's Decision.

Chartering of Vessels to complete the Scheme.

- (a) The main difficulty in completing the Settlement Scheme is Transport. Two classes of vessels are required -
- (1) A small schooner to centre the settlers on Beru,
  - (2) A larger vessel to take the emigrants from Beru to the Phoenix Islands.
- (b) Up to the present the first service has been performed by the R.C.S. "Nimanoa", which is ideally suited to the work, but it is understood that from August to January it will be undergoing extensive repairs in Suva and will consequently not be available.
- The R.C.S. "Kiakia" would be entirely suitable, if it can be spared.
- (c) Failing either government vessel I would suggest a charter of the a.v. "Santa Theresa" or, as a last resource, the cutter "Minoris". The latter is unreliable as she has no auxiliary power.
- (d) For the second class/<sup>of</sup>vessel I can only suggest the m.v. "Desikoko" or the m.v. "Moamoa". The later is likely to prove inordinately expensive owing to the large percentage of profit required by the Company.
- (e) From a government point of view the most satisfactory method of chartering a ship is on a "per head" basis, and I would urge that no charter should be accepted, however based, in which