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For His Excellency's Decision.

Communication between Ship and Shore in the Phoenix Islands.

- (a) As was anticipated, communication between ship and shore has proved to be exceptionally difficult and even dangerous in the Phoenix Group. Three Ellice Islands canoes were taken by the first occupation expedition, and have given excellent service in transporting both passengers and cargo without a single fatality. In spite of the great care exercised, however, two out of the three canoes are now beyond repair while the third will not last much longer.
- (b) In order to expedite the discharging of passengers and cargo from visiting ships, as well as the loading of copra, it is considered that two Ellice Islands canoes should be stationed at each of the three settled islands, together with a sturdily built surf boat which should be kept at Gardner Island to be picked up by visiting vessels for use throughout the Group and return.
- (c) This would entail an expenditure of approximately £200, allocated as under, and would complete the transport requirements of the Group. -

6 large Ellice Islands canoes at £7 each =	£42
1 Surf Boat, to be built in Suva	= £150
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	£192
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