

16.

For His Excellency's Decision.

Employment of Phoenix Islanders.

- (a) Could British Pacific Airways be encouraged to employ as much local labour as possible on their construction and maintenance work. It is understood that it is not, at present, their intention to do so but that Maori labour is to be employed. It is urged that Gilbertese labour would be cheaper and more suited to the climate and conditions.
- (b) Should any large number of Gilbertese labourers be required, I should be grateful if I might be informed in time to select them carefully for the type of work required. Half-caste or native overseers and semi-skilled labour could also be obtained from the Gilbert Islands.
- (c) I should be glad to know whether Phoenix Islanders may accept employment on Canton or Enderbury Islands under Pan-American Airways?