



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 August 1979

Dear Mike,

NEW HEBRIDES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

Min 2/3 file 2
In my letter to you of 15 August about Mr Blaker's visit to the New Hebrides, and subsequent tour of certain ASEAN countries, I undertook to write again about the composition of the official party for the New Hebrides Constitutional Conference. The dates for the Conference (17 to 19 September) have already been agreed with the French Government. Lord Carrington and the Prime Minister have agreed that Mr Blaker should attend. He will be joined in Vila by his French colleague, M Dijoud.

We have agreed with the French that officials from London and Paris should meet in Vila for one week immediately before the Conference to prepare the ground for Ministers. There is a considerable amount of preliminary work to be done if the Conference is to set the seal on an Independence Constitution.

Lord Carrington proposes that three officials should travel to Vila to support Mr Blaker: Mr Ridgway (New Hebrides Desk Officer) and Mr Hendry (Legal Adviser) would leave London on 6 September, arriving in Vila on 9 September in time for the preparatory officials' meeting; Mr Snodgrass (head of South Pacific Department) would leave London on 13 September, arriving in Vila on 16 September.

A provisional booking has also been made for Mr Cortazzi, Deputy Under Secretary of State, to travel to Vila with Mr Blaker should serious difficulties arise between now and the Conference.

Yas ever,
Stephen
(J S Wall)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

31 AUG 1979

