

To Mr Gaze.

Sent 11/4/47.

From Mr Maynard.

Agreement signed 10th April approximately 294  
acres at £200 equals £58,200 approximately 380  
acres at £65 equals £24,700 Total 674 acres  
£82,900 Royalty 1/3. All Australian currency.  
Payment of £82,900 to be made on 17th April  
and Landowners ask if Commissioners will hold  
as one sum in Suspense Account at 3% interest  
until individual areas surveyed when they hope  
to arrange with Government to place in Savings  
Bank in names of individual owners who could  
draw interest currently. Royalty 1/3 payable  
from 17th April. Unable yet to advise total  
of boundary marking party and date of readiness  
but hope to do so shortly. Maynard.

To Mr Gaze.

Sent 12/4/47.

From Mr Maynard.

Banabans send sincerest good wishes to  
Commissioners and to Mr Gaze. Maynard.

From Mr Gaze to Mr Maynard.

Received 16/4/47.

Agree hold £82,900 carrying interest 3% from  
17th April. Good wishes Banabans cordially  
reciprocated by Commissioners and myself. Gaze.

COPY

1726

Extract from letter from Mr. Nicoll to  
Mr. Sidebottom, dated 17th April, 1947.

\* \* \* \* \*

5. The Banabans at Rabi are now settling down so well that the prospects of their permanent settlement are bright. Maynard of the Phosphates Commission is at Rabi at the moment and has telegraphed to say that he has reached an agreement with the Banabans about the land in Ocean Island. Maude and Macdonald are due to go to Rabi early next month with the object of getting the Banabans to agree to remain at Rabi. While the prospects are bright my experience of these matters is that it is very often the last fence which causes disaster, so I have my fingers crossed. But if we are successful, then it will be the first completely successful migration of its kind that I have known or heard of in any part of the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

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2579 a

B. P. C. BOARD MINUTE NO. 483

APRIL 1947

Ocean Island Land

Rabi

Reported that following Minute 478, arrangements were made for Mr. H. B. Maynard to visit Rabi, where he arrived on 2nd April. On 9th April 1947 an agreement with the Banaban landowners was signed by him on behalf of the Commissioners for the purchase of 291 acres above the 170 ft. contour and 380 acres below that level on the following terms:

Price per acre above 170 ft. contour (including coconut and all other trees)	£ 200
Price per acre below 170 ft. contour	£ 65
Royalty per ton - as from 17th April 1947	1/3d.

Agreed to hold the purchase price of £82,900 at credit of the Banabans from 17th April 1947 @ 3% interest pending marking of boundaries and allocation of the money to individual landowners.

The boundary marking party of Banabans when selected to be taken to and returned from Ocean Island, and maintained whilst there, at the expense of the Commissioners.

It was assumed by the Commissioners that the agreement of the Banabans to sell all remaining phosphate land at Ocean Island implied their decision to adopt Rabi as their future home and this was confirmed on the visit of Mr. H. E. Maude, Resident Commissioner for the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, when they voted by a majority of 270 to 48 on 13th May 1947 in favour of Rabi.

2510

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

Ref "Tadona" (17)

P.C. LETTER No. 51

9th May, 1947.

The Ocean Island Manager,

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter No. 23.

1. VERRIER, W.L. - M. & E. Engineer:

I advised you by telegram on 30th April that Mr. Verrier is unable to return by this opportunity on account of an adverse report on his skin infection; attached is a copy of Dr. W. Summons' report of 29th April.

A period of 6 months in Australia is prescribed, and I will keep you advised of developments.

Telegrams exchanged regarding temporary arrangements in M. & E. Department, Ocean Island are quoted in our General Letter No. 32.

2. BANABAN LAND TERMS:

I quote for your information the following telegram received from Mr. Maynard on 14th April:

- " Agreement signed 10th April
- " Approximately 291 acres at £200 = £58,200
- " Approximately 290 " at £ 65 = £18,850
- " Total 571 acres 77,050
- " Royalty of 1/3d. All Australian currency.
- " Payment of £77,050 to be made on 17th April
- " and landowners ask if Commissioners will hold
- " as one sum in Suspense Account at 3 percent
- " interest until individual areas surveyed when
- " they hope to arrange with Government to place
- " in Savings Bank in the names of individual
- " owners who can draw interest currently.
- " Royalty 1/3d. payable from 17th April. "

As requested by the landowners the Commissioners have agreed to hold the sum of £77,050 in a suspense account until the individual areas have been surveyed.

On 15th April the General Manager telegraphed you from Auckland:

- " Agreement signed Banabans 10th April purchase all Phosphate
- " Mining land as at 17th April from which date amended royalty
- " 1/3d. per ton will commence. "

9th May, 1947.

3. BANABAN BOUNDARY MARKING PARTY:

The number of Banabans who will proceed to Ocean Island and the date of their departure from Rambi is still undecided. The Banabans have proposed a party of 453 which we consider is excessive and Mr. Maynard is now discussing the matter with Mr. Maude with a view to arranging a more reasonable number.

The best method of transporting the Banabans appears to be for one of our ships to call at Rambi en route Auckland to Ocean Island, but this would not be for some time as "Trienza" and "Triona" will not be discharging in the Dominion in the early future.

As soon as there is definite information as to the number and date of readiness I shall cable you; in the meantime I have your advice that vaccination of the party will be unnecessary.

4. LEASEHOLD LAND  
BANABAN SCHOOL ETC.:

On 4th May the following telegram was sent from Auckland by the General Manager to Mr. Maynard at Rambi:

- " Expect require additional leased land Coma village site also
- " wish to purchase Banaban store Banaban school and teacher's
- " house Please agree with Maude when these matters should be
- " dealt with. "

5. LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
LAND LEASES:

I shall arrange for amounts due on the leases listed in your letter No.23 to be brought into line with our other lease payments through Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Suva.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(Sgd.) Fred. F. Christian,

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER.

Enclosures:

C/Dr. W. Summons' report dated 29th April re Mr. W.L. Verrier.

(2521)

AD

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 154.

15th May 1947.

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The New Zealand Commissioner,

Dear Sir Albert,

I advised you by cable yesterday of my return to Melbourne on the 10th and that Mr. Amery was due here today.

1. OCEAN ISLAND LAND  
PABI

You will remember that I telegraphed to Mr. Maynard on 4th May that the number of the boundary marking party proposed (453) appeared to be excessive and suggested that he should confer with Mr. Maude regarding it; also enquiring when it was proposed the party should go and for how long. Late on the 10th I received a telegram from him reading,

" Maude's views are that we have no option but to take all landowners wishing to go also their children and that it is not polite to exclude the twentyseven wives and thirty husbands.

I suggest not later than July if possible difficult estimate length of stay but think three months required to peg boundaries. Banstens understand detailed survey made after their return and leaving agreed representative watch their interests. "

Yesterday, after looking into the question of communications, I replied,

" Present indication is best opportunity for taking boundary marking party will be "TRISHZA" expected to sail from Melbourne middle of July dependent upon practicability collecting necessary survey party meantime. "

I am making enquiries from Mr. Bridges as to the equipment required for housing the party, and it is proposed to send what is necessary by the "NORWAY" from Melbourne middle June. Mr. Maynard is returning to Suva tomorrow and proceeds to Auckland on the 10th. We are asking Mr. Bissett to book his air passage to Sydney for the 21st. I was very pleased to receive today a further message from him advising that the

13/5/47

P.P.

1. Ocean Island Land  
Rabi - continued

Bansbans have agreed to adopt Rabi as their home. His message, which I repeated to you, reads,

" Banaban community have elected to stay on Rabi.  
Total votes cast 318. For staying on Rabi 270  
against 48 majority for staying on Rabi 222.  
95% of Bansbans over 18 voted. "

2. CHRISTMAS ISLAND  
NAURU TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT

Please note the advices in the attached copy of my letter to Mr. Webster of this date.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. A. HAROLD GAZE.

ENCLOSURES

- C/ Letter to Australian Commissioner No.24  
w/C/Cable from Prime Minister N.Z. No.100  
" Extracts from U.N. Charter  
C/ General Letters to London Nos.119-122  
C/ " " from " Nos.490-492

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THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, OCEAN ISLAND.

FOR R.V. "Telonza" (74) P.C. LETTER No. 25 20th May, 1947.

The General Manager,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

1. BANABANS AND MINING LAND, OCEAN ISLAND

On the 13th instant I received your telegram of 12th instant with reference to the number of Banabans who will comprise the boundary marking party to visit Ocean Island.

The numbers are in excess of what I anticipated, particularly with regard to those who are not landowners. I note that Mr. Maude considers we have no option but to take all landowners wishing to go also their children and it is not politic to exclude the 27 wives and 50 husbands who are not landowners.

Erection of housing for such a large number will take some time and it is not possible to have this work completed in time for occupation by end of July.

In the event of suitable tents not being procurable in Australia it is our idea to erect temporary buildings. For married couples I propose

9 buildings each of 10 cubicles	=	90
1 building of 13 cubicles	=	13
		103
	Total	103

These buildings are to be erected at Tapiwa on the site of the old village. Suitable sites for each building are available generally in close proximity to an existing concrete freshwater cistern. Where these cisterns are not available batteries of tanks can be provided. Cubicles will be approximately 12' x 10'.

For the 31 women and 15 young people it is proposed to erect at Tapiwa one similar building as for married couples, with suitably arranged partitions.

For the 52 men it is proposed to erect barracks on the existing concrete floor of the demolished quarantine station. Again this building will be of similar construction as the others. The Quarantine Station site is chosen as a cliff latrine can be made available, also the occupants will have access to the sea for bathing.

Details of construction of the buildings have not been yet worked out, but it is proposed to use 20 lb railway rails, of which plenty are available, for the framework, new galvanized corrugated iron or corrugated fibre cement for the roof and



secondhand galvanized corrugated iron for sides and partitions where necessary. Community kitchens, saltwater showers, and pit latrines will be provided for each barracks. If guttering can be forwarded the roofs will be connected to the concrete cisterns.

Mr. Bott has suggested that it may be possible for you to obtain some Arzco hats similar to those supplied to Nauru. We would accept the framework only if sheeting was not available.

Every effort will be made to complete the erection of the buildings as quickly as possible, but it is not anticipated that they will be ready for occupation before end of August.

Our estimate of time for marking out boundaries by the Banabans is much in excess of that given by Mr. Hayward. Mr. Allen, who has used the 150 acres marking out as a basis and has taken into consideration the fact of most landmarks being obliterated, considers 4 years as the minimum. This view is shared by Mr. Keegan, District Officer, and Mr. Cowell who has lately done land work in the Group. If the Banabans readily agree as to their boundaries and few arguments occur it may, in my opinion, be possible to complete the work of marking out in 12 months.

The rationing of the Banabans during their stay is being considered. It is suggested that dry rations be issued weekly similar to our married native labourers.

It appears as though we will have to issue a ration to each adult and not one ration to a married couple as is the case with our labourers. I would like your views on this.

I forward herewith Statements "A" and "B". Statement "A", method 1, gives total food requirements for 6 months based on a married man receiving one ration only - no allowance being made for wife or family. Statement "A", method 2, gives total food requirements for six months based on a single man's ration being issued for every person over 12 years of age.

Statement "B" gives our average monthly consumption of foodstuffs as issued to our labourers, the estimated monthly consumption of our labourers after May 1947 and the estimated monthly issues to Banabans under methods 1 and 2.

## 2. BANABANS' DECISION TO REMAIN AT RAMBI

On 13th instant I received your telegram advising that by a majority of 222 the Banaban community had elected to remain permanently at Rambai, and that 95% of Banabans over 13 years of age voted. I was pleased to hear this information. It is to be hoped that, with the large numbers visiting Ocean Island with the boundary marking party, there will not be any tendency or desire to remain here permanently.

## 3. MARRIED NATIVE LABOURERS' QUARTERS

In view of the poor response of single boys during the May (Supplementary) recruit, it is recommended that 50

additional double houses be erected as speedily as possible in order that we may be in a position to recruit more married labourers at the September/October 1947 recruit.

All land reserved for extension of these quarters has been occupied and further land will be required, preferably as an extension West and adjoining our present married lines.

This matter has been discussed with the Islands Superintendent who will progress the matter further on his arrival in Melbourne.

4. W.T.A. ALLEN - RESIDENT CIVIL ENGINEER

proceeds on mid-term vacation by this opportunity. He is due for an increase in salary of £25 per annum bringing his total emolument to £725 for the second half of his agreement commencing on 3rd May, 1947. He has been notified of this.

5. NATIVE APPRENTICES

I forward for your information copy of relevant portion of the new Fiji ordinance for apprentices on which the ordinance, about to be introduced in this Colony, will probably be modelled.

This was received from Mr. Maude on 7th May and a copy of his letter is attached.

Apart from clause 77, wherein the age of 16 years or upwards is specified for apprenticeship, whereas we specify 14 years, there is nothing which is not in accordance with our suggested arrangements for appointment of apprentices.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(signed) Geo. J. Bridges

OCEAN ISLAND MANAGER.

Enclosures:

Statements "A" and "B" referred to in para 1.

C/Letter No. 32 from District Officer.

C/Letters Nos. 43 to 48 incl. to District Officer.

C/Telegrams exchanged.

C/Letter from Mr. M.E. Maude dated 29th April, 1947, together with enclosure thereto.

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2523  
1947

NO. 994.

22nd May 1947

Dear Mr. Gaze,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letters Nos. 154/156 with enclosures as listed.

1. OCEAN ISLAND LAND:  
RABI:

Your advices are noted and I have been very glad to discuss the whole position with Mr. Maynard. The notes on the meeting and the agreement have been copied here and it will be unnecessary to forward more of this data. I consider Mr. Maynard has handled the negotiations extremely well and that Major Holland had fittingly prepared the natives so that the atmosphere was good when Mr. Maynard arrived there. The further negotiations and the ballot regarding remaining at Rabi as their permanent home was also handled well by Mr. Maude, and I look forward to having a copy of his report in due course. He is due here on 26th instant.

Judging from the messages you have received from Mr. Bott and Mr. Bridges there may be some delay in pegging the boundaries and obviously the surveying will take a longer time than was anticipated. So far as the pegging is concerned I judge that if the natives find that they wish to return to Rabi at the end of the three months it will expedite their work as regards the boundaries. I look forward to hearing later as to the date 'TRIENZA' will call at Rabi.

2. PHOSPHATE & SULPHUR DISCHARGE IN U.Z. PORTS:

Your remarks are noted and I enclose herewith copy of my letter of 16th instant to Mr. Tennent also of his reply of the 20th. Conditions on the waterfront are very difficult just now as regards the attitude of the watersiders.

3. C.F.P.O. ACCOUNTS:

I look forward to seeing these in due course and note meanwhile the rate of dividend for the years 1940 to 45 was increase from 32½% to 65%.

4. WEIR FLEET:

Your advice that Weirs are buying 10 more Liberty ships, making 20 in all, is very promising as being an indication of their confidence in the future shipping position.

5. GILBERTUSE RECRUIT:

The result of the short voyage to three Islands in the Gilberts is noted. In my opinion we are now working the Gilberts for practically as many men as we can expect to obtain year by year.

6. NAURU LAND NEGOTIATIONS:

I am very glad to see by copies of messages from Nauru that a degree of finality has been reached. Further particulars are awaited with interest.

7. AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE:

Thank you for message of 21st in reply to our cable conveying greetings to the members of the Conference. I hope to hear shortly that you had a good meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Signed - ALBERT F. ELLIS

Encl.

C/letters Exchanged with R.B. Tennent, Esq. 16/5/47, 20/5/47  
Monthly Phosphate Report No.93

COPY

OCEAN ISLAND

*By C. P. Young* *21/2/47*  
*Dec 123*

ADDITIONAL PHOSPHATE LAND.

*A* *199*

ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF TAKING UP THE 291 AND 380 ACRES RECENTLY ACQUIRED.

Following recent discussions the following notes are submitted for consideration:

It is agreed that if a satisfactory method of taking up the land from the Banabans on a communal basis could be drawn up and agreed with them it would overcome many difficulties and it is considered that the B.P.C. could with advantage pay up to £10,000 additional to make such a scheme possible.

Under the present method of taking up phosphate land each individual block has to be located and then surveyed. The area is computed from the closure and the added total area of the blocks has to agree with the total area acquired. This necessitates extensive accurate survey work on say 1,400 blocks in the two areas to be dealt with. Additional staff as outlined in my notes dated 13th May 1947 would be required to get this work completed in reasonable time.

The land already acquired in the Central and 150 Acre areas would represent an equitable basis for what can be expected in the new areas to be taken over.

As the land has been acquired in two defined areas of 291 and 380 acres at varying price I consider any communal scheme should apply separately to each of the areas as it would be confusing to the Banabans to try and consolidate the areas at this stage.

If this is agreed, it is considered essential that the Banabans point out their blocks to confirm the holdings in each section. The main corners of each block would be approximately located by compass to allow of it being roughly plotted on a plan for record purposes.

(a) In the 150 acres acquired under the Lease Agreement dated 12th January 1931 there are 321 blocks.

$$\text{Average area of blocks} = \frac{150}{321} = \underline{.467 \text{ acres}}$$

(b) In the Central Area the acreage held under A and C Deeds is 93.56 acres and the number of blocks is 166.

$$\text{Average area of blocks} = \frac{93.56}{166} = \underline{.564 \text{ acres}}$$

This confirms that the average area of the blocks is fairly regular.

The combined average of (a) and (b) is

$$\frac{243.56}{487} = \underline{\frac{1}{2} \text{ acre exactly}}$$

Using  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acre as the average area of the new blocks to be taken up, the approximate number of blocks in each section would be:

				<u>Blocks</u>
(a)	291 Acres - Above 170' contour line	291 x 2		582
(b)	380 Acres - Below " " "	380 x 2		760
			Total	<u>1,342</u> =====

The agreed total payments are:

		<u>£</u>
(a)	291 Acres @ £200	58,200
(b)	380 Acres @ <u>65</u>	<u>24,700</u>
		Total <u>£82,900</u> =====

On the basis of  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre average area and the number of blocks estimated when using that area, the payment to each owner for each block would be:

(a)	$\frac{58,200}{582}$	=	£100 per block
(b)	$\frac{24,700}{700}$	=	£ 32/10/- per block

Of the 487 blocks in the combined central area land (150+ 93.56) used as a basis, 181 blocks or about 37% are above the combined general average of  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre. It is considered that about  $\frac{1}{3}$  could be used for estimating in the new areas.

This indicates that a majority of the Banabans would receive higher payment per block under a communal arrangement but it would be at the expense of a limited number owning blocks of larger area and this section would require some compensation before they could be expected to agree to the scheme.

It is suggested that any additional amount made available by the B.P.C. should be divided equally amongst owners holding areas above  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

Assuming £8,000 is made available it should be apportioned in proportion to the value of the land i.e.

			<u>£</u>	
To	(a)	£58,200	say	5,600
To	(b)	24,700	"	<u>2,400</u>
				£8,000 =====

The estimated number of blocks on which this cash bonus would be paid is:

(a)  $\frac{582}{3} = 194$

and the additional amount received by each owner holding more than

$\frac{1}{2}$  acre would be:

$$\frac{5600}{194} = \text{say } £29 \text{ per block}$$

$$(b) \frac{760}{3} = 253$$

$$\frac{2400}{253} = \text{say } £10 \text{ per block.}$$

This means that the total payment to each owner if blocks averaged  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acre would be:

(a)	291 ac. Area	Below $\frac{1}{2}$ Acre	£100
		Above "	£100 + \$29 Cash Bonus

(b)	380 ac. Area	Below $\frac{1}{2}$ Acre	£32/10/-
		Above "	£32/10/- + \$10 Cash Bonus

If an owner holds a block of an area of above  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres he will be entered twice on the list, if above  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres three times and above 3 acres 4 times and so on.

Suggested procedure would be:

On arrival at Ocean Island the Banabans would indicate whether their holdings were in (a) 291 Ac. area or (b) 380 Ac. area. The information would be listed and work organised to suit.

The work of confirming the information given by the Banabans would then proceed by them pointing out their blocks and as this was done the main corners would be fixed by rough compass shots and plotted on the plan. After plotting the blocks it will mostly be evident from sight whether a block is above or below  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre but where doubt exists the area would be scaled or measured by planimeter. As the work proceeds lists would be prepared concurrently and on completion a record of the blocks taken over and the basis for payment would be available.

It has been suggested that great difficulty will be experienced by the Banabans in finding their original corners following the Japanese occupation, but if this scheme is adopted the least possible time will be necessary in this respect as only approximate locations are required.

Where the line near the 170' contour divides a block it will be necessary to put the owner in each section at the respective agreed rates.

On the lower boundary of the 380 ac. area where the line cuts a block only the portion inside the area will be included.

Where an owner holds more than one block each holding would be included in the list for payment.

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I consider that with one additional surveyor the work could be satisfactorily handled.

The new surveyor would continue with the surround of the 360 Ac. area while the present surveyor dealt with block location. The present C. G. draftsmen should easily handle the drafting work of the two surveyors.

As an example of how payments would be dealt with take the following assumed case:

(a)	291 Ac. Area -	Blocks below $\frac{1}{2}$ Ac.		360
		" above $\frac{1}{2}$ Ac.		<u>180</u>
			Total	540

Payment for blocks below  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ac.

$$\frac{58,200}{540} = \text{£}108$$

For blocks over  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ac.

$$\frac{58,200}{540} + \frac{560}{180} = 108 + 31 = \text{£}139$$

(b)	380 Ac. Area -	Blocks below $\frac{1}{2}$ Ac.		520
		above $\frac{1}{2}$ Ac.		<u>260</u>
			Total	780

Payment for blocks below  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ac.

$$\frac{24,700}{780} = \text{£}32$$

Payment for blocks above  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ac.

$$\frac{24,700}{780} + \frac{2,400}{260} = 32 + 9 = \text{£}41$$

26/5/47

Sgd. C.P.Y.



Estimated saving to B.P.C. if scheme adopted and the permanent survey was not necessary is roughly :

(a)	Two additional surveyors and two draftsmen	
	£2,500 x say 2 years	£5,000
(b)	Ocean Island office expenses	
	Say £100 x 2 years	200
(c)	Estimated that Banabans would be on Islands 3 months less if scheme adopted. Cost of their maintenance	
	400 x say \$4 x 3 months	4,800
(d)	Other costs i.e. time spent on work by other B.P.C. staff in supervision work etc. saving say	1,000
		<hr/>
		£11,000
	Say £11,000	=====

25th May 1947.

1856 2525 204

Enclosure.

The following is a statement of the intentions of Government with regard to the future of the Banaban Community on Rabi Island, with special reference to their lands and funds and other matters incidental thereto, and is drawn up on the understanding, which a majority of the Banabans hereinafter affirm, that they desire to reside on Rabi and regard it as their headquarters and home.

(A). As regards lands on Ocean Island -

(1). Such decision to reside on Rabi Island shall in no way affect any rights to lands possessed by the Banabans on Ocean Island;

(2). The title to all worked out phosphate lands, which have, or may in future, come into possession of the Crown shall revert to the Banabans.

(B). As regards lands on Rabi Island -

(3). The ownership of Rabi Island, with the exception of a Fiji Government reserve of 50 acres at Katherine Bay, shall be vested in the Rabi Island Council on behalf of the Banaban Community resident in Rabi Island, subject to the creation at Nukia of a Government Station of an area to be agreed upon by the Island Council in consultation with the Banaban Advisor;

(4). The division of lands on Rabi Island, and the system of land tenure and inheritance shall be in accordance with legislation to be enacted by the Rabi Island Council;

(5). The ownership of all the assets of the former estate, including stock, tools, houses, etc. shall be vested in the Rabi Island Council on behalf of the Banaban Community resident here and no such assets shall be disposed of except in such manner as may be jointly decided by the Banaban Advisor and the Council.

(5). As regards Banaban Funds -

(6). The Banaban Royalty Trust and Provident Funds shall be amalgamated into one fund to be called the Banaban Fund which, save for the payment of annuities as at present, shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the Banaban Community on Rabi Island;

(7). The management of the Fund shall be vested in a Banaban Fund Trust Board consisting of the Banaban Advisor as Chairman and of not more than five members of the Rabi Island Council elected by the Council as members; such Board shall be empowered to deal with problems connected with annuities and like matters. Decisions of the Board in such matters shall be subject to the approval of the Governor or of such Officer as he may appoint for the purpose;

(8). Residence on Rabi Island for more than six months in each financial year shall be an essential qualification for all members of the Banaban Fund Trust Board;

(9). The Banaban Fund Trust Board shall draw up annual Accounts and Estimates showing, inter alia, the revenues accruing from royalties and interest from the Banaban Fund, and the expenditure on different services. Such Accounts and Estimates shall be submitted to the Council for its consideration and when passed by it, shall be forwarded by the Banaban Advisor to the Governor of Fiji for his approval. The Accounts and Estimates shall be published and shall be made available to the Banaban Community;

(10). The Board shall also deal with all problems arising from the Landholders' Fund. The capital sum invested in the Landholders' Fund shall be handed to the Banaban Fund Trust Board for investment as Trustees on

behalf of each landholder, who shall have the same rights, in accordance with Banaban customary law, over his invested capital funds as he would have had over the lands which such capital funds represent. The Board shall also deal with all problems arising from the Landholders' Fund. Decisions of the Board in such matters shall be subject to the approval of the Governor or of such Officer as he may appoint for the purpose.

(11). At a public meeting of the Banaban Community held at Rabi Island on the 9th May, 1947, it was agreed, at the unanimous request of those present, that His Excellency the Governor of Fiji should be petitioned to permit the withdrawal by individual landholders of part or the whole of their capital invested in the Landholders' Fund for the purpose of effecting permanent improvements to their landholdings on Rabi Island, the prior consent of the Governor of Fiji being required in each instance. The meeting was informed that an amendment to the present legislation in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony would probably be necessary, in the event of this proposal receiving the approval of the Governor.

(D). As regards Annuities -

(12). The payment of Annuities, in accordance with the terms of the 1937 Annuities Settlement, shall continue unless varied by the Governor of Fiji consequent upon recommendations made by the Banaban Fund Trust Board;

(13). Such annuities shall be payable in Fiji currency to those resident in Fiji and in Australian currency to those resident elsewhere.

(E). As regards visits to Ocean Island -

(14). The Banabans shall be permitted, subject to the provisions of the laws of Fiji and further subject to shipping being available, to travel freely between Rabi

Island and Ocean Island and, subject to the rights of the British Phosphate Commissioners over any lands purchased or leased to them, to reside on Ocean Island.

(F). As regards Taxation on Rabi Island -

(15). The Banabans on Rabi Island shall be subject to the laws of Fiji, including the laws relating to Taxation, in the same manner as other residents of Fiji. The Banabans will consequently be eligible to receive all normal services provided by the Government of Fiji on the same terms and conditions as such services are provided for other residents of Fiji.

(G). As regards the Banaban Adviser -

(16). The Banaban Adviser hereinbefore mentioned shall be an Officer of the Government of Fiji, appointed by the Governor to advise the Banaban Community resident on Rabi Island on all matters connected with its social and economic advancement. He shall be paid from the Banaban Fund at such salary as may be fixed from time to time by the Governor, after consultation with the Island Council and the Governor shall have power to vary the terms of, or terminate, his appointment.

---

The above

The above statement of the intentions of Government have been read out and explained fully to the Banaban Community a majority of which has, by voting in a secret ballot, the results of which are recorded in the Appendix hereto, signified its acceptance of the same.

*J. E. Maude*

Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony,  
for the High Commissioner for the  
Western Pacific.

*R. Macdonald*

Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary,  
for the Governor of Fiji.

*J. M. Holland*

Administrative Officer,  
Rabi Island.

*Ban O'Hara*

Assistant Administrative Officer,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.  
(Interpreter in Gilbertese language).

*Sete Eri*

*Rosen*

*Kabanti*

*R. Kakaussiki*

*Akeriba*

*Telube*

*Kaitu*

*Beongitso*

*Tanaka Kamanis*

*K. a. Kama*

*Mataiso*

*Tellie Dickie*

*Churiasa*

*Ahean*

*Tepano Vakavakau*

*D. L. Kemmerton*

*Naikara Kaka*

*...*

*Mamaon*

*...*

Representatives of the  
Banaban Community.

*[Signature]*

The following are the results of a vote taken by secret ballot, held in Rabi Island on the 10th and 11th May, 1947, at which 318 (94.6%) out of 336 of the population over the age of 18 voted; the voting was supervised by the undersigned:

For making Rabi their headquarters and home -	270 (84.9%)
Against making Rabi their headquarters and home -	48 (15.2%)
Majority in favour -	222.

*J.L. Maude.*

Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony,  
for the High Commissioner for the  
Western Pacific.

*B. Macdonald.*

Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary,  
for the Governor of Fiji.

*H. H. H. H.*

Administrative Officer,  
Rabi Island.

*B. Harris.*

Assistant Administrative Officer,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony,  
(Interpreter in Gilbertese language).

*Tete Ipiri*

*Rofan*

*K'abanti*

*Ikeriva*

Gilbertese translation.

Aikai taekaa ana iango te Tautacka i bukin  
aroaroria kaini Banaba n tai aika a na roko i aon Rambi,  
i bukin abaia, aia mane, ao bai riki ake a na rotaki iai  
baikanne, ao aika a karaoaki i nanon atekin nanaia angini  
kaini Banaba aika a na kakaoua iai i nwin aci, ba a kon  
tiku ni manaeka i aon Rambi ma ni kataua ba atun abaia ao  
mwengala ni kooua.

(A). Aron aba i aoni Banaba -

(1). E na bon aki uruski aroia kaini Banaba n ababa  
i aoni Banaba ngkana a motiki nanaia ba a na manaeka i aon  
Rambi.

(2). A na kackaki nakoia kaini Banaba aba ni kabane  
ake a tia ni kenaki, ke aika a na kenaki rinwi, i aoni  
Banaba iron te Kambane n Tono, ike e baibai iai te King.

(B). Aron aba i aon Rambi -

(3). E na katukaki aron abanakin Rambi i nanoni bain  
te Kauntira n Rambi i bukia kaini Banaba ake a manaeka i aon  
Rambi. Ma e na kawakinaki aban te Tautacka ni Biti n  
abakina ao nimanwi te eka i Manokuni Katarina ao e na  
kateaki naba kavan te Tautacka n te tabo ae Huka, n abakina  
ao e na baireaki iron te Kauntira ma aia Tia Kairiri  
I-Banaba.

(4). Aron tibatibakin te aba i aon Rambi ao aron te  
katei n ababa, a na motikaki i nanon te Tua are e na  
kateaki iron te Kauntira n Rambi.

(5). Bai ni kabane ake bain te Kambane rinoa i aon  
Rambi, ao manin aona, bai ni makuri, auti ke bata, ao  
nibirani bai ni kabane, a na katukaki i nanoni bain te  
Kauntira n Rambi, i bukia kaini Banaba ake a manaeka i  
aon Rambi. Akoa te bai tonana nai bukon akaane ao e  
konaki ni kaboaki nako ke ni kabuaki n te aro riki tonana



ba ti ngkana e karacoki n te aro are e na uala ni  
kariaki iroun aia Tia Kairiri I-Banaba ao te Kauntira.

(I). Aroni Maneni Banaba -

(6). Maneni Banaba are "Manen te Tan" ao maneni  
Banaba are "Oniani Mwini Banaba", a na uala ni botaki i  
nanon te botanimane teuana ae e na aranaki ba "Botanimane  
ni Banaba" ao e na kamanenaki te botanimane anne ti i bukia  
kaini Banaba ako a manaeka i aon Rambi. Ma e na boni  
kababakaki naba roia n ai arona ngkai.

(7). E na katukaki aroni kuvakiman te botanimane  
anne ma aroni kabonganakina i nanoni bain te Botaki ae  
"Tani Kawakina te Botanimane ni Banaba", ao aikai kainae:

Te Tia Babaire - Aia Tia Kairiri I-Banaba.

Tan Iri - A na aki kaiti riki nakon niman  
nai bukioie kain te Kauntira n  
Rambi ako a rineaki iroun te  
Kauntira anne.

E na anganaki te Botaki anne te maka ni babairei bai nake  
n ai aroa te Ro ae bai riki n ai aroa akame. Ma a riai  
noti ni kabane i bukini baikanne ako a karacoki n te Botaki  
anne ni kariaki me a iroun te Kowana ni Biti ke tomana  
are e rineaki irouna i bukini te aro aei.

(8) E na riai ni koro tabua te tai n tekateka i aon  
Rambi ae onoua te natakaina i nanon te ririki ni mane ae  
koraki irouna nake a konaki n rineaki ba kain te Botaki ae  
Tani Kawakina te Botanimane ni Banaba.

(9). Aia beku Tani Kawakina te Botanimane ni Banaba  
ni kakatauraoi Beba ni Mane na Beba ni Mane ni Katautau  
n te ririki ae koraki ao ni kaota iai, i rarikini bai riki  
taboua, taakan te mane are e rereke man te tan na te raka  
man te Botanimane ni Banaba ao te mane ae naxako i bukini  
nakuri nake ni kakaakoroi. A na kamanakoki Beba ni Mane  
na Beba ni Mane ni Katautau akanne nakon te Kauntira ba e  
na iangoi. Ngkana a kariaki ao ana nakuri aia Tia Kairiri

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I-Banaba ngkama ni kanakoi nakon te Kowana ni Biti ba e na kariala. Beba ni Mana ao Beba ni Mana ni Katautu akama a na kakaotaki nakoia kaini Banaba ba a songa n atai kancaia.

(10). E na tiku i nanoni baia Tani Kawakina te Botanimane ni Banaba taeken te banin ni mane are e karinaki ma ni kawoneaki ba aia Mane Tan Ababa ni Banaba. E na karinaki te mane amne ba e na reka ao a nr riki Tani Kawakina te Botanimane ni Banaba ba tani kawakina te mane i bukia tan ababa n tataboman nako. E na reke iromu te tia ababa te inamata ni baibai i aoni baninin ana mane are e karinaki n ai aren naba inamataa ni baibai i aon ababa are e rabatanaki n ana mane amne, ao n ai aren tuon aia katei I-Banaba. Hakean naba te Botaki amne ni babairei are nako aia a riki i bukia aia Botanimane Tan Ababa. Ma a riai moti ni kabane i bukini baikama ako a karacaki n te Botaki amne ni kariaki moa iromu te Kowana ni Biti ke tomama are e rineaki iromu i bukia te are aoi.

(11). N te tai ni botaki ao baurua iromu kaini Banaba are e karacaki n te abanaka are Rambi n 9 ni Mei, 1947, e a tia ni moti te iango, i manai beracin aia bubuti nako a ira te botaki amne, ba e na tangitang te aba nakon te Kowana ni Biti ba e na kariala te tia ababa n tataboman nako ba e na kona:-

(i) Ni buta tautana man ana rabata ni mane are e karinaki ni kararakaki n aia Botanimane Tan Ababa ni Banaba; ke

(ii) Ni buta rabatan ana mane arei ni kabane, i bukini koirakean aon ababa i aon Rambi n te are ao e teimatao ao tiaki i bukia te bai ao e kai mauna. Ma e na riai moa ni karacaki ana kariaki te Kowana ni Biti i bukia te bubuti n toana toana. A tuangaki kain te botaki n te tai amne ba tao e na riai ni botaki moa taeken te Tua i

bukia te aro ane are e tauaki ni bong aikai n te Korone ni Kiribati na Ereti ngkana aroa ba e karieaki te iango aei iroun te Kowana ni Biti.

(O). Aron te Ro -

(12). E na boni kababakaki naba te Ro n ai aron taskana are e motikaki n te ririki 1937 ni karokoa bitakin aroa ane iroun te Kowana ni Biti, i mwin aia katautan Tani Kawakina te Botanisane ni Banaba.

(13). E na kababakaki te Ro ane ni maneni Biti nakoia ake a manaaka i soni Biti, ae ni nanen Aotiteria nakoia ake a manaaka n tabo riki taboua.

(U). Aron te Beberou nako Banaba -

(14). Ngkana iai kaibuke ae e na imasmata kaini Banaba ni beberou i maronau Rambi na Banaba na a na iviri nanen Tuani Biti. A kona naba n tekateka i soni Banaba ngkana nakoia, na e na bon tautaka te Kambane n Tano are i Banaba i son aba ni kabane ake a tia ni kabeaki ke n tangaki irouna.

(H). Aron te Angabai i son Rambi -

(15). Kaini Banaba aia a manaaka i son Rambi, a na iviri nanen Tuan Tautaka ni Biti ae Tuan naba te Angabai n ai aroia nako a manaaka i son abanakero ni Biti. A na rereke ngkano iroua bai nako ake a tataoia ni karokokeaki nairoua te Tautaka ni Biti n aroia na kawaia ake a katauaki naba i bukia nako a manaaka i son abanakero ni Biti.

(N). Aron aia Tia Kairiri I-Banaba -

(16). Aia Tia Kairiri I-Banaba are e a tia n tachineki i main aei, bon te Aobitia tomama man te Tautaka ni Biti, are e rineaki iroun te Kowana ba te tia bukia kaini Banaba ake a manaaka i son Rambi, ni bai ni kabane i bukini kairakouia n te aro ni mako na ni kaubai. E na kabeaki nan te Botanisane ni Banaba n te maiti are e na babaireaki iroun te Kowana ni Biti, i mwin ana katauabakau

na to Kauntira, ao iai maka to Kowana n onga arcaron  
nakoana ke ni kabanea mai.

A tia ni warakaki kancan taaka akana a makoro i eta i  
bukin ana iango to Tautaka na ni kabaraki rsoi nanaia  
nakoia kaini Banaba, ao a tia ni kariala angin aia koraki  
n ai aron ae e kaotaki n te beba ae i aan aei, are e  
karacaki n te aro ni kaotizano n te beba n te kawai ae e  
karabaki.

*J.H. Maude*

Te Unizane,  
Korona Abanakoro aika Kiribati  
na Ereti, i bukin te Komitina ae  
Rietata n te Beteboke Kasas.

*B. MacDonald*

Komutina ni Komitina,  
i bukin te Korona ni Biti.

*J.H. Holland*

Komitina n Tautaka,  
Rambi.

*Samuel Phillips*

Komitina n Tautaka n i-buobuoki,  
Korona Abanakoro aika Kiribati na  
Ereti.  
(Te Tia Kaoti-Taaka ni Kiribati).

- Jete Epi*
- Rosan.*
- Kabante*
- P. K. Kauriki*
- Akerika*
- Tebub.*
- Kaitu*
- Keangabe*
- Jaraka Kamanis*
- Kaparako*
- Kotaro*
- Tekai P. P. P.*
- Cherika*
- A. K. K. K.*
- Tebano te kamanis*
- W. K. K. K.*
- Kaipara Kaka*
- Terenita*
- Kamawos*
- Te tin*

Tan toi i bukin i-Banaba.

Aikai taian reke san te Kaotinanano n te beba  
 are e karabaki, are e karaoaki n te abamakore ae Rambi  
 n 10 ao 11 ni Mei, 1947, ike a kaoti nanaia iai 318  
 (94.6%) nai buakoia 336 aika naitia kain te aba i aon  
 te roro ae 18 te ririki. E tararauki te Kaotinanano eci  
 irouia naka a korei arala i san eci:-

Make a kaoti nanaia i bukin Rambi	
ba a na karikia ba atun abala ae	
kwengala:	270 (84.9%)
Make a rawa ni karika Rambi ba	
atun abala ae kwengala:	48 (15.1%)
Angin te koraki are e kariala Rambi:	222

*J.L. Maude*

Te Uakione,  
 Koronou Abamakoro aika Kiribati na Ereti,  
 i bukin te Komitina ae Rietata n te  
 Botobota Maeso.

*Jete Kiri*

*B. McDonald*

Kaunou ni Komitina,  
 i bukin te Kowana ni Biti.

*Rohan*

*H.M. Holland*

Komitina n Tautaka,  
 Rambi.

*Kabanti*

*Sam P. Harris*

Komitina n Tautaka n i-buobuoki,  
 Koronou Abamakoro aika Kiribati na Ereti.  
 (Te Tia Kaoti-Taka ni Kiribati).

*Akeriba*

(copy)

2526 200  
3rd June, 1947

Foss Shanahan, Esq.,  
Prime Minister's Department,  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr. Shanahan,

PHOSPHATE LAND - OCEAN ISLAND

In 1940 negotiations with the Banabans at Ocean Island for the further land required above the 170' contour resulted in their acceptance of the following terms:

Price per acre, including coconut and other trees	£175
Royalty per ton	1/-

These rates represented an increase of £25 per acre and 1½d. per ton upon the rates fixed by arbitration in respect of 150 acres purchased in 1931. The agreement of the Banabans was conditional upon receipt by them from the Government of more money currently from the payments made by the Commissioners to the government for their account. Nothing was done in the matter before the Island was occupied by the Japanese.

Late 1945 the Banabans were collected from Kusaie and Tarawa where they had been removed by the Japanese, and taken to Rambi in the Fiji Group, a fertile island which had been purchased for them by the Western Pacific High Commission from their accumulated funds. They were given two years in which to decide whether they wished to adopt Rambi as their future home or return to Ocean Island where all their villages had been destroyed. When visited by our representative, Mr. H. D. Maynard, early 1946 the Banabans raised the matter of selling the phosphate land above the 170' contour and asked that in the altered circumstances they should be paid £225 per acre and 1/6d per ton royalty. In a report dated 2nd September 1946 regarding the future of the Banabans the Resident Commissioner for the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony, Mr. H. E. Maude, advised that the Commissioners should be asked to consider the purchase of all the phosphate land remaining at Ocean Island both above and below the 170' contour, and also that a majority vote of the Banabans at Rambi should be taken on the question of remaining there or returning to Ocean Island. The Commissioners agreed that if practicable it would be wise to purchase the whole of the land as proposed and in March, 1947, Mr. Maynard went to Rambi to negotiate with the Banabans. On 9th April an agreement was signed for the purchase of the land, comprising 291 acres above the 170' contour and 380 acres below that level on the following terms:

Price per acre above 170' contour	£200
(including coconut and all other trees)	
Price per acre below 170' contour	£65
Royalty per ton	1s/3d.

The purchase price of £32,900 is being held by us at 3% interest pending marking of boundaries and survey which will take some considerable time. The land purchased is estimated to contain about 7,750,000 tons of phosphate.

In May Mr. Maude visited Rarotonga and a secret ballot held resulted in 270 in favour and 48 against remaining at Rarotonga.

A party of about 450 Banabans will be taken from Rarotonga to Ocean Island on one of our vessels as soon as practicable for the marking of land boundaries which is expected to occupy some months.

Mr. Maynard will be in charge of the expedition and it has been arranged that after spending a few days at Rarotonga I join the vessel there accompanied by Mr. Bissett our New Zealand Manager and my Secretary Miss Morris. We then proceed to Ocean Island and Nauru on the ordinary visit of inspection.

It should be noted that payments per acre and royalties on phosphate shipped have always been higher at Ocean Island than at Nauru for several reasons. At Ocean Island the land rises from sea level, most of the Island is phosphate and the native villages and all their coconut trees were mostly on phosphate land. At Nauru there is a wide fringe of flat land round the Island where the coconut trees grow and the natives live, the phosphate being on high land in the middle of the island, not used by the natives. The deposits remaining are estimated at 12 million tons at Ocean Island and 75 million tons at Nauru.

Yours faithfully,

signed ALBERT F. ELLIS

N. Z. COMMISSIONER.

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DRAFT LETTER TO COLONIAL OFFICE

I have the honour to state for the information of Mr. Secretary Creech-Jones that I have just returned to the United Kingdom from a visit of inspection of Ocean Island, in the course of which I had an opportunity of meeting Mr. H. E. Maude, the Chief Lands Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. This occasion was taken to discuss the memorandum on the future of the Banaban population of Ocean Island presented by Mr. Maude on 2 September 1946 the substance of which, so far as it affects the sale of Ocean Island then owned by the Banabans had, I understand, been approved by the Secretary of State in January last.

In these circumstances a representative of The British Phosphate Commissioners viz: Mr. H. B. Maynard, was sent in April 1947 to Rabi Island, where the Banabans are now located, in order to discuss the purchase of Ocean Island Land from the Banabans. He was able, after telegraphic communication with the Phosphate Commissioners, to sign an Agreement on the 9th April for the purchase of 291 acres on Ocean Island above the 170' contour and 380 acres below that level, on the following terms:

Price per acre above 170' contour including coconut and	
all other trees	£200
Price per acre below 170' contour	£65

The total purchase price, £82,900, is being held by the Commissioners for the credit of the Banabans at 3% interest from 17th April 1947, pending marking of the boundaries and allocation of the money to individual landowners. A boundary marking party of 450 Banabans will be taken to and returned from Ocean Island and maintained whilst there at the expense of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners have also agreed to pay a royalty of 1s/3d per ton on all Ocean Island phosphate as from 17th April 1947, in substitution for the royalty of 10½d per ton previously payable.

During the course of Mr. Maude's visit to Rabi in May last a secret ballot amongst the Banabans resulted in a majority of 270 to 43 in favour of remaining at Rabi Island.

The Board of Commissioners desire me on their behalf to express their thanks to the officers of the Western Pacific High Commission, both in Suva and Rabi, for the unfailing assistance given to Mr. Maynard in the course of the negotiations referred to above.



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June 31

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, OCEAN ISLAND.

ROYAL MAIL "Telegraph" (17)

P.O. LETTER No. 26

6th June, 1947.

The General Manager,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

I have for acknowledgement your letter No. 51 dated 9th May 1947.

1. VERRIER, H.L. - M. & E. ENGINEER

I thank you for your advice and copy of Dr. Summons' report on Mr. Verrier, a copy of which has been forwarded to Dr. Ingram. We hope that Mr. Verrier will be well enough to return to Ocean Island in the near future.

2. INDENTURED NATIVE LABOURERS WHO DIED OR WERE KILLED DURING JAPANESE OCCUPATION

I refer you to our letter No. 51 and the Administrative Officer's reply No. 34 dated 27th May. I also draw your attention to his letter No. 37 of 30th May. Our Native Register as at 30th July 1941 includes the name of TEWAE of Nonouti under register No. 917.

3. BANABAN BOUNDARY MARKING PARTY

On 2nd instant I received a letter from Mr. Keegan enclosing copy of a telegram from Major Holland. The telegram advises that the Island Council has informed Major Holland that additional natives, not at present on Rambi, are required to join the boundary marking party at Ocean Island. There are 3 from Abaiang, 7 from Tarawa, 3 from Tabiteuea, 2 from Beru, 2 from Nonouti and 11 from Kauru - total 28. I assume these are additional to those from Rambi.

I passed this information to you by telegram on 5th instant.

4. BANABAN BUILDINGS PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN OVER BY COMMISSIONERS

On 11th April the District Officer wrote informing me that the Banabans were enquiring if the Commissioners were prepared to make an offer for the following buildings at Ocean Island

- 1. Banaban Store
- 2. Banaban School House and Cistern
- 3. Banaban Technical School
- 4. Banaban Headmasters House and Cistern
- 5. Banaban Village Cisterns.

No mention is made of the Banaban Hospital but Mr. Keegan informed me that if we cared to make an offer for the buildings he would submit.

All buildings have been inspected and values estimated. The attached statement shows the present value of each building, less cost of work carried out by the Commissioners since re-occupation.

On 30th May I telegraphed you this information and thank you for your reply of 2nd June advising that Mr. Maynard, who is returning to Banbi in a few weeks, will deal with this matter. I have informed the District Officer accordingly.

5. BANABAN BOUNDARY MARKING PARTY (again)

On 6th instant I received your telegram advising that you were forwarding on "Moraybank" 130 tents, each 14' x 12', for the accommodation of this party. We will have these erected in due course. We assume cookhouses, latrines and bath houses will be required and the erection of these will have our attention.

In accordance with your telegram of 6th instant we will arrange with the Government for passages to Ocean Island for those natives living in the Group who are required in connection with the marking out of boundaries.

In view of the acute shortage of hospital accommodation we are telegraphing you as follows:-

"Hospital accommodation very limited  
 "none available for Banabans suggest  
 "marquee or tents be forwarded for  
 "erection hospital grounds.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(signed) Geo. J. Bridges

OCEAN ISLAND MANAGER.

Enclosures:

List showing values placed on Banaban buildings.  
 C/Letters from District Officer Nos. 33 to 37 incl.  
 and F.1/5.

C/Cables exchanged.  
 C/Letters to District Officer Nos. 49 to 60 incl.

VALUES PLACED ON BANABAN BUILDINGS, CORAL ISLAND

Enc 3A

Building	Estimated Present Value	Expenditure to date by B.P.C.	Value prior to repairs by B.P.C.
Banaban Store	400	10	390
Banaban School, Cistern and Kaustine Latrines )	1400	327	1073
Banaban Technical School	150	nil	150
Banaban Schoolteachers Qrs	1750	nil	1750
Banaban Hospital Buildings, Cisterns, Latrines and Bathroom )	1395	208	1087
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£5095</b>	<b>£545</b>	<b>£4550</b>

CORAL ISLAND,

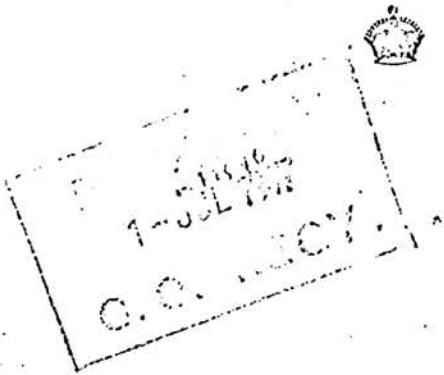
26th May, 1947.

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1729 E

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

19th June, 1947.



My dear Sidebotham,

My High Commission Despatch No. 22 about the Banabans goes by this mail. As you will see real progress has been made and we can now say that the Banabans will make Rambi their home. It is a little unfortunate that about 400 must return to Ocean in order to point out boundaries and so on but they have all undertaken to return by the first opportunity offered by the Company. Doubtless some of them when they get back there will feel inclined to stay but those who know them tell me that it is unlikely that any of them will break their promise to come back when the time comes. I understand however, that some have already made enquiries as to the possibility of their obtaining employment with the Company at Ocean, and while employment will not be offered to any of them on the occasion of this visit, clearly it would be unfair to deny the Banabans the right of employment there in the future.

Maynard who was Manager on Ocean for some years, is well satisfied with the position both from the point of view of the Company and that of the Banabans in whom he takes a sympathetic and kindly interest.

The credit for the settlement belongs partly to Holland for creating the right atmosphere out of the lamentable situation which Kennedy left but the greater part belongs to Maude and Macdonald. The fundamental aim has been to give the Banabans as big a share as possible not only in the running of their own Local Government /

J. B. Sidebotham, Esq., C.M.G.

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Government but also in the handling of their funds. This has pleased them a great deal and I am sure that the type of trust that it is proposed to set up will provide an adequate safeguard. Now that the Bapabans have got an adequate amount of first class land the need for conserving their funds in order to safeguard the future of the community is no longer of first importance. My present view is that the money should be used in due course for capital improvements at Rambi particularly to the land.

In a few days I am going on tour in the Northern District, primarily to open the Meeting of the Council of Chiefs at Taveuni and I will spend a day at Rambi.

I have been engaged in the past few weeks in negotiating with the C.S.R. Company and the Sugar Unions on the implementation of the Shephard Report. Things are going quite well but I fear that it will not be possible to draft the legislation to set up a Sugar Board and so on, in time for the July Session of Legislative Council as I had hoped to do. The Bill will have to go to you in the first place.

Yours sincerely,



85562/1/19

Econ.

3. Land Terms - continued

In regard to the last paragraph, although there was unofficial cooperation with Mr. Maynard, in particular on the part of Major Holland, it was made very clear that officially none of the Western Pacific High Commission people took any part in the land negotiations, in fact Major Holland received an official letter from Mr. Vaskess directing him on those lines. Mr. Maynard thinks that in these circumstances it would not be desirable for official thanks to be given, and I agree.

Advice to the Colonial Office regarding Nauru land terms could be in the same form as the letter from Sir Albert Ellis to Mr. Shanahan of 3rd June. I attach a copy of a table of rates which was sent with the letter to Mr. Shanahan.

Yours sincerely,

*A. H. ...*

ENCLOSURES

- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.997 ✓  
w/C/Letter from Prime Minister's Department, 12/6/47 ✓
- C/ Table re Nauru Phosphate Royalties ✓
- C/ Draft letter re Limit of Nauru & Ocean Island Output ✓

2549  
103 366

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 281.

3rd July 1947.

The United Kingdom Commissioner,  
-----

Dear Mr. Amery,

I thank you for your letter No. 197 of 26th June received today.

1. CHRISTMAS ISLAND

I am glad to have your advice regarding the conference at the Colonial Office to discuss the recent messages from the Australian and New Zealand Governments. A copy of your letter has been sent forward to the Australian and New Zealand Commissioners today. I expect that Mr. Ward will approach the British Government regarding the acquisition of Christmas Island soon after he returns from Geneva.

2. LIMIT OF NAURU & OCEAN ISLAND OUTPUT

You will have noticed a reference to this made in the memorandum which I prepared for Mr. Ward regarding Christmas Island. I have drafted a letter of official advice to Canberra and Wellington in accordance with Minute 485. This will be submitted to Mr. Webster when he is in Melbourne next week, and I will let you know in due course whether it is forwarded by him to Canberra and by Sir Albert Ellis to Wellington.

3. LAND TERMS

I agree that the Colonial Office should be informed regarding the terms agreed for the acquisition of land at Nauru and Ocean Island. With my letter No. 279 you received a copy of a letter dated 3rd June from Sir Albert Ellis to Mr. Shanahan regarding Ocean Island land. This, except for the penultimate paragraph, is in identical terms with the advice to Canberra, and I suggest that you might use the same form. If you prefer the terms of your draft, I suggest the following alterations:

Line 4. "Resident Commissioner " instead of "Chief Lands Commissioner"

Line 7. "sale of land at Ocean Island" instead of "sale of Ocean Island"

Omit last paragraph.

11th July, 1947.

~~Confidential.~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a copy of the final "Statement of the Intentions of the Government" regarding the future of the Banaban community on Rabi Island, as agreed to between the Banaban representatives on the one hand and those of the Fiji and Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony administrations on the other at a series of meetings held at Rabi from the 8th to the 11th May, 1947.

2. Mr. Macdonald, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Fiji, representing that Government and myself, representing the administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, arrived at Rabi on the evening of the 7th May and left at approximately midnight on the 13th. Six days in all were therefore spent on the island: of these the 8th to the 10th were occupied in discussions with the Banaban community, part of the 10th and all the 11th in balloting on whether they wished to remain on Rabi or return to Ocean Island and the final two days in further conferences with the Banabans in explanation of the consequences of their final decision and in discussions with Major F.G.L. Holland, O.B.E., G.M., the Administrative Officer on Rabi Island (now to be known as the Banaban Adviser) on Banaban accounts and other allied matters.

3. The "Statement of Intentions" is based on the draft "Memorandum of Agreement" prepared by me at Tarawa in accordance with the instructions contained in the correspondence ending with the High Commissioner's telegram No. 171 of the 5th March. This draft, which incorporated the various recommendations set out in my memorandum of the 2nd September, 1946, on "The Future of the Banaban Population", was discussed by Mr. Macdonald with the Attorney-General and various changes incorporated in conformity with his advice. The Attorney-General, furthermore, doubted whether the document would, in any case, have any legal validity and felt that it would be best cast in the form of a statement of proposed Government policy vis-a-vis the Banabans, assuming that they elected to make Rabi their future homeland.

4. I had anticipated, when drafting my main memorandum referred to above, that any proposals made to the Banabans along the lines there advocated would meet with a favourable response; and the event did not disappoint my hopes. It is true that nostalgia for their old homeland was evident on all sides, and particularly among the older Banabans, operating as a powerful drag away from the consideration of Rabi as a future home. Indeed, so potent was the very understandable call of their ancestral home that several leaders of the community were deaf to all argument based on more material considerations, and I feared more than once that their persuasive appeals might carry the rest with them on a wave of idealistic sentimentality. The superior advantages of remaining on Rabi under the terms now proposed were, however, obvious to all except the incurably homesick, and the younger generation in particular were able to appreciate the better economic, social and educational opportunities to which they, and their children, would fall heir.

5. Few native races are more able than the Banabans to appreciate on which side of their bread the butter lies and I was not surprised to find that, after the small but vocal minority of sentimentalists had tried, and failed, to gain their point, the community settled down to their time-honoured technique of using the Government's latest proposals (as set out in the "Statement of Intentions") as a lever to gain further concessions and a yet larger measure of control over their funds. The relative

generosity

His Excellency  
The Acting High Commissioner  
for the Western Pacific,

106 89



generosity of the new policy clearly surprised them; but it was not long before more than one speaker had made it plain that, while acceptable as a step forward, the proposals did not as yet meet fully the demands of at least a section of the community.

6. These ultimate demands, as detailed by individual speakers, may be summarized as follows:-

- (1) the capital, as well as the interest, standing to the credit of each owner in the Landholders Fund should be handed over to the owner for investment or disposal at his or her absolute discretion;
- (2) all future royalties payable to the Royalties Trust Fund should be divided among the owners of the surface rights, if possible in proportion to the volume of phosphate taken off each land, again for investment or disposal at his or her discretion; and
- (3) any balance lying in the Royalty Trust Fund after the erection of the necessary communal and other buildings on Rabi and the completion of the related public works programme should be divided among the existing members of the community. The Provident Fund would be, of course, used primarily for the above purpose but it was recognized that it will probably prove insufficient without assistance from the Royalty Trust Fund.

7. These demands were admitted by the Banabans themselves to be based on self-interest and framed regardless of the welfare of succeeding generations. The proposal as to the division of the capital in the Landholders Fund is, furthermore, contrary to Banaban customary law while those relating to the Royalty Trust and Provident Funds are in opposition to the policy hitherto adopted by the Government of regarding royalties from under-surface rights as being the property of the community as a whole rather than the individual owners of surface rights (vide, in this connexion, paragraphs 20-23 of my main memorandum).

8. With the settlement of Rabi, however, the Banaban arguments for exclusive and unfettered control over his own funds, as summarized below, will be greatly strengthened. As regards the Landholders Fund the Banaban recognizes that each capital deposit represents, in monetary form, the land formerly possessed by him and that, while he was living on Ocean Island itself, he could not logically expect to be able to spend it contrary to Banaban customary law regulating the inheritance of land. He points out, however, that the object of this restriction was to ensure that his descendants would, even if they no longer possessed any land, still enjoy an income from the interest on the capital representing their former holdings. Now, however, that he will possess his own landholdings on Rabi (bigger and better than any he had on Ocean Island), which he can and must pass on to his children in accordance with Banaban custom, he considers that the whole object of the Landholders Fund has ceased and that he should be allowed to have the free use of both the capital and interest in it.

9. Regarding royalties (whether new or already invested in the Royalty Trust) the Banaban argues, as he has always done, that all undersurface rights belong absolutely to the owners of the surface rights and that the Government has no right to withhold his royalty payments, which should be paid to each individual landowner and not diverted to communal use. A majority of the Banabans would except the payment of 2d per ton made to the Provident Fund for the purchase and development of Rabi as their community home, since this was originally agreed to by the people, but an increasing minority of the younger men would have this sum also divided up and all development and other

other community expenses met from taxation.

10. The attitude taken by Mr. Macdonald and myself to the Banaban demands was to the effect that we were not empowered to discuss such a drastic amendment of policy and that, in any case, we were of the strong opinion that the time for their discussion was not now, when so much effort and expenditure was required for the setting up and development of their new home and it was quite impossible to forecast what percentage of the Provident and Royalty Trust Funds would be needed before the work was complete. Once their public buildings, schools, churches, roads and other community requirements had been met it would be possible for the Banaban Fund Trust Board (who are elected by themselves) to recommend such division of Trust Funds as they thought best.

11. In the case of the Landholders Fund we agreed to recommend to Your Excellency that individual landholders should be permitted, with your prior sanction in each instance, to withdraw part or the whole of their capital investment for the purpose of effecting permanent improvements to their new landholdings on Rabi. Further than this very reasonable concession we were not prepared to go, since it was obvious that the majority at any rate of the younger Banabans wanted to be given their capital to waste on a few months of riotous and extravagant living, quite regardless (as they admitted themselves) of the rights or welfare of succeeding generations. Past experience confirms the powers of the Banabans to get rid of large capital sums in a few months, for in 1912 they were handed £7,000 and within a short period had nothing left to show for it.

12. Once everybody had had their say and every conceivable argument had been repeated, the Banabans were quite prepared to agree to:-

- (1) the holding of a secret ballot to establish whether the majority of the community desired to make Rabi their future home or return to Ocean Island; and
- (2) if the verdict was in favour of staying on Rabi, to agree to the terms governing the control of their lands and funds, and other incidental matters, as set out in the Government "Statement of Intentions".

The secret ballot was accordingly held on the 10th and 11th May with the following result, no less than 318 (94.6%) out of the 336 of the population over the age of 18 voting. -

- (1) For making Rabi the Banaban homeland - 270 (84.9%)
- (2) Against making Rabi the Banaban homeland - 48 (15.1%)
- (3) Majority in favour - 222

The "Statement of Intentions" was thereupon unanimously approved and signed by all parties on the 12th May.

13. In this satisfactory solving of a series of complex problems concerning Banaban lands and funds, which have been a thorn in the flesh of the administration for some 30 years, much credit is due to the present Administrative Officer in charge of their affairs, Major Holland, who for many months had been engaged in patient explanation and tactful propaganda with this end in view. So marked was the change in the spirit of the community (and no less in its material state) since my last

- 4 -

last visit a year previously that I have little doubt that Major Holland, who obviously had the confidence of the community and their welfare at heart, could have brought the negotiations to a successful termination without our presence. The fact, however, that official representatives of the two Governments concerned were present at the final proceedings may serve to prevent future misunderstanding.

14. With the decision to make Rabi their future homeland, the Banabans become, as a community, subjects of the Colony of Fiji. After discussion with Mr. Macdonald I recommend that the official date of handing over their funds and records to the Fiji Government should be the 31st December, 1947 since the majority of the people will be away engaged in boundarymarking on Ocean Island until the end of this year and as a consequence, it will not be possible for the Banaban Adviser to organise elections to, and the functioning of, the Island Council and Trust Fund Board pending their return. The interval will, furthermore, give the High Commission time to straighten out the position as regards the Banaban Funds and hand them over with all receipts and payments complete to the end of the year.

15. The following details of the final action required before the management of Banaban affairs can be handed to the Fiji Government may be of assistance to the Western Pacific High Commission staff. -

- (1) A complete tabular summary of all revenue and expenditure from Banaban Funds year by year from the beginning (either by calendar or financial years, whichever is the easier) should be prepared and forwarded to the Banaban Adviser, for the information of the Island Council, as promised to the community. This statement need not give detail of each item of expenditure but only the service on which it was incurred, e.g. drought relief, upkeep of hospital, annuities, etc., and the revenue need only show each fund separately, not each payment.
- (2) A complete statement, which would presumably be based on (1), showing the position of each Banaban Fund as at the 31st December, 1947.
- (3) Any necessary action to amend the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony legislation in the event of Your Excellency approving the recommendation contained in paragraph 11. Speaking without the records, it appears to me that no action is, in fact, required, since the Ocean Island lands code has never been gazetted in accordance with the provisions of the Native Land Codes Ordinance, 1940.

Once the above action is completed, it only remains to hand over the actual funds, files and records to a representative of the Fiji Government, presumably during the first week in January. It is necessary to emphasize, however, that the summary required at (1) cannot be prepared by the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, whose records have all been destroyed by enemy action, but that the information is available in the High Commission office. It is suggested that it is usual for Governments to furnish details of the expenditure they incur from the funds entrusted to their care and that the fact that the Banabans have never been given any such statements in the past should not be allowed to prevent one being prepared for them now, even though it may mean the temporary employment of an extra officer to extract the necessary facts and figures.

16. With this letter I must perforce, and with feelings of genuine regret, close nearly 20 years of association with the Banaban community, during which period I have developed a great admiration for their many sterling qualities. My recent visit to Rabi Island has convinced me that now they have decided to settle down in a locality where their industry, perseverance and rugged individualism can be given full scope, they are destined to progress rapidly in every sphere of activity. They will, however, require much sympathetic advice and assistance for some time to come, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that they may find as many firm friends in the future among officers of the Fiji Government as they have among the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony staff in the past.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H.E. Maude,  
Resident Commissioner,

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

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DRAFT LETTER TO COLONIAL OFFICE

I have the honour to state for the information of Mr. Secretary Creech-Jones that I have just returned to the United Kingdom from a visit of inspection of Ocean Island, in the course of which I had an opportunity of meeting Mr. H. E. Maude, the Chief Lands Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. This occasion was taken to discuss the memorandum on the future of the Banaban population of Ocean Island presented by Mr. Maude on 2 September 1946 the substance of which, so far as it affects the sale of Ocean Island then owned by the Banabans had, I understand, been approved by the Secretary of State in January last.

In these circumstances a representative of The British Phosphate Commissioners viz: Mr. H. B. Maynard, was sent in April 1947 to Rabi Island, where the Banabans are now located, in order to discuss the purchase of Ocean Island land from the Banabans. He was able, after telegraphic communication with the Phosphate Commissioners, to sign an Agreement on the 9th April for the purchase of 291 acres on Ocean Island above the 170' contour and 380 acres below that level, on the following terms:

Price per acre above 170' contour including coconut and	
all other trees	£200
Price per acre below 170' contour	£65

The total purchase price, £82,900, is being held by the Commissioners for the credit of the Banabans at 3% interest from 17th April 1947, pending marking of the boundaries and allocation of the money to individual landowners. A boundary marking party of 450 Banabans will be taken to and returned from Ocean Island and maintained whilst there at the expense of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners have also agreed to pay a royalty of 1s/3d per ton on all Ocean Island phosphate as from 17th April 1947, in substitution for the royalty of 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per ton previously payable.

During the course of Mr. Maude's visit to Rabi in May last a secret ballot amongst the Banabans resulted in a majority of 270 to 43 in favour of remaining at Rabi Island.

The Board of Commissioners desire me on their behalf to express their thanks to the officers of the Western Pacific High Commission, both in Suva and Rabi, for the unfailing assistance given to Mr. Maynard in the course of the negotiations referred to above.

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THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, LONDON.

No. 198

23rd July, 1947.

The General Manager,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Mr. Gaze,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your official letters of 27th June, 3rd and 11th July, Nos. 230/232.

1. CHRISTMAS ISLAND:

Mr. Ward, Australian Minister for External Territories was, I understand, in London on 14th and 15th July, but so far as I can ascertain, he has not yet discussed any outstanding phosphate matters with Ministers here. He is now in Ireland; but is, I understand to have an interview with the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations on 24th July. He is to sail for the U.S. on 25th July. I am therefore unable to say whether any progress has been made with the Christmas Island question.

The Australian and New Zealand official telegrams on the subject are being considered by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but I cannot yet ascertain with what result.

2. BOARD MINUTES:

I note the correction which has to be made to Minute No. 500.

3. REPORTS BY MR. W. V. BOTT:  
and MR. H. B. MAYNARD:

I am glad to have the copies of Mr. Bott's report No. 6 and Mr. Maynard's report on his visit to Rabi.

4. MR. HALLIGAN:

arrived in London on the 14th July, the day after Mr. Ward's arrival, and has I understand been detailed to discuss with Government authorities any outstanding phosphate matters with which Mr. Ward is unable to deal personally. He tells me that he is not accompanying Mr. Ward to U.S. but will be returning to Australia early in August by seaplane.

5. MAURU TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT:

I understand that various departmental authorities in the U.K.

are examining a provisional draft agreement submitted to them by the Commonwealth authorities, but so far as I can ascertain the U.K. Government have not received any views from the New Zealand Government on this draft. In view of the importance and urgency of this question it is desirable that if New Zealand have any views on the matter they should be expressed at a very early date. The draft provides for the sole administration of the Trust by the Commonwealth of Australia, whereas the U.K., Australia and New Zealand are jointly responsible for the existing Mandate though in practice the administrator has always been appointed by the Australian Government.

#### 6. LAND TERMS:

##### i. Ocean Island:

I attach a copy of a letter which I have sent to the Colonial Office about the new terms for the acquisition of land at Ocean Island. I notice that Sir Albert Ellis's letter to Mr. Shanahan of 3rd June gives a good deal of information about earlier negotiations which is already recorded in Mr. Maude's memorandum of 2nd September, 1946. In the type of official letter usually adopted here I think it desirable that I should not do more than give a summary of what has happened since the date of Mr. Maude's memorandum, and that is why I have not sent a letter in identical terms with those sent to Canberra and Wellington.

##### ii. Nauru:

Unless you see any special reason to the contrary I do not propose to write to the Commonwealth Relations Office (formerly Dominions Office) or to the Colonial Office about the corresponding land terms for Nauru, since in my judgment it is unnecessary to keep the Government Departments regularly informed of administrative details applicable to Nauru.

#### 7. ANKAUR:

With reference to recent press discussions I was recently asked by the Commonwealth Relations Office whether the British Phosphate Commissioners had been asked for any advice about the working of this deposit. I replied that under the I.E.F.C. arrangements for the year ended 30th June 1947 the estimated production of the island had been fully allocated for the use of Japan under U.S. auspices, and that the Phosphate Commissioners had no permanent interest in the Island which was likely to be worked out in 4 or 5 years. I said that the question whether the island was worked by Japanese or American labour was a political matter which would not normally be considered by the Commissioners or any of their officers, but that I would enquire whether we had been consulted about it. Will you please let me know.

#### 8. SIR ALBERT ELLIS:

I am much disturbed and disappointed that Sir Albert Ellis will not

be able, for health reasons, to carry out his projected visit to Rabi, Nauru and Ocean Islands. Such a visit would have had great value and I am very sorry on official as well as personal grounds that it cannot now be made.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W. BANKES ALERY

Enclosure:



# THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS

1731

MELBOURNE (Central Office),  
LONDON, AUCKLAND, PORT ADELAIDE,  
NAURU AND OCEAN ISLANDS.

2, Grosvenor Gardens,

LONDON,

S.W.1.

Tele Address: "PHOSCOM." Code: BENTLEY.

23rd July, 1947.

RECEIVED  
24 JUL 1947  
C. O. REGY

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

MS  
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Sir,

I have the honour to report for the information of Mr. Secretary Creech-Jones that I have recently returned to the United Kingdom from a visit of inspection of Ocean Island, in the course of which I had an opportunity of meeting Mr. H. E. Maude, the Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. This occasion was taken to discuss the memorandum on the future of the Banaban population of Ocean Island presented by Mr. Maude on 2nd September 1946, the substance of which, so far as it affected the prospective sale of land at Ocean Island owned by the Banabans had, I understand, been approved by the Secretary of State in January 1947

2. The British Phosphate Commissioners agreed that if practicable it would be wise to purchase the whole of the land they require on the general line proposed by Mr. Maude; and in these circumstances a representative of the Commissioners, viz: Mr. H.B. Maynard, was sent in March 1947 to Rabi Island, where the Banabans are now located, in order to discuss the question with the Banabans. He was able, after telegraphic communication with the Phosphate Commissioners, to sign an Agreement on the 10th April for the purchase of 291 acres on Ocean Island above the 170' contour and 380 acres below that level on the following terms:

Price per acre above 170' contour including coconut and all other trees £200

Price below 170' contour £65.

The land purchased is estimated to contain about 7½ million tons of phosphate.

3. The total purchase price, £32,900, is being held by the Commissioners for the credit of the Banabans at 5% interest from 17th April 1947, because the marking of the boundaries and allocation of the money to individual landowners will take some considerable time. A boundary marking party of about 450 Banabans will be taken to and returned from Ocean Island and maintained whilst there at the expense of the Commissioners.

2

4. The Commissioners have also agreed to pay a royalty of 1s/3d per ton on Ocean Island phosphate as from 17th April 1947, in substitution for the royalty of 10½d per ton previously payable.

5. During the course of Mr. Maude's subsequent visit to Rabi in May last a secret ballot amongst the Banabans resulted in a majority of 270 to 48 in favour of remaining at Rabi.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

UNITED KINGDOM PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONER.

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THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

per "Trienza" (18)

P.C. LETTER No. 59

29th July, 1947.

The Ocean Island Manager,  
-----

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letters Nos. 28 and 29.

1. BANABAN BOUNDARY MARKING PARTY:

"Trienza" is expected to call at Rambi about 8th/9th August to embark the Banaban boundary marking party to proceed to Ocean Island. Apparently the number will be slightly over 400. "Trienza" should reach Ocean Island about 12th/13th August. Mr. A. B. Maynard will be in charge and I shall be glad if you will give him all possible co-operation and assistance so that the boundary marking work may be carried out as expeditiously as possible. Whilst at Rambi Mr. Maynard will endeavour to arrange for the areas belonging to individual holders to be determined approximately instead of surveyed in detail and keyed up on a plan as on previous occasions. A substantial sum will be saved if the detailed survey can be avoided and Mr. Maynard is empowered to offer a lump sum to the Banabans representing a considerable proportion of the survey costs avoided.

2. NATIVE SCHOOL:

With reference to the offer by the Commissioners to provide desks for boys at the Government School, I cabled on the 13th that we could obtain 50 rebuilt single school desks. You replied that desks were already in construction at the Island, but asked that we keep the offer open whilst the District Officer made enquiries from Tarawa as to whether he could purchase on Government account.

X

This morning I received your cablegram that the desks are not required.

X

3. NATIVE LABOUR:

On the 23rd I telegraphed agreement to your cable of the previous day:

Rec'd 23/7/47:

- " If those who have promised re-engage we will be repatriating
- " 133 married labourers 570 single labourers and propose total
- " number of recruits 240 married 620 single. Strength after
- " recruit 250 903 respectively 1839 total filling accommoda-
- " available Additional labour to be used for capital
- " ture Do you agree. "

29th July, 1947.

4. REPORT ON VISIT TO FIJI:

I attach a copy of Mr. Maynard's report on his visit to Fiji from 22nd March to 17th May, 1947.

Drawing No.776 H.O. referred to in the report has already been forwarded to you under cover of Engineering letter No.25.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(Sgd.) A. Harold Gaze,

GENERAL MANAGER.

Enclosures:

C/Cables

C/Mr. Maynard's report on "Visit to Fiji - 1947"  
dated Melbourne 5th July, 1947.

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE. 207

No. 165

8th August 1947.

The New Zealand Commissioner,

Dear Sir Albert,

OCEAN ISLAND LAND

Referring to my letter No. 153/2, prior to Mr. Maynard's departure on the 29th a scheme was worked out in detail for submission to the Banabans to avoid a detailed survey of the phosphate land which we have purchased. This survey might have occupied some years as survey staff is extremely difficult to obtain, and would have cost, according to Mr. Young's calculations, \$11,000 or more. Our scheme provides for approximating the areas of each holder to the nearest quarter acre and for a simple method of dividing the purchase price amongst the holders on this basis. To illustrate how it would work Mr. Maynard applied it to the 150 acres previously purchased, which was surveyed in detail. Mr. Nicoll, Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Chamberlain, Chief Secretary, Mr. Macdonald and Major Holland all approved the scheme when explained to them by Mr. Maynard on his arrival.

This afternoon I have a telegram from Mr. Maynard advising the acceptance of the scheme yesterday evening by the Banabans. The telegram reads,

" New phosphate lands scheme adopted by landowners Thursday evening cash payment \$7,500 Australian currency payable at Rambi on my return on the understanding work being carried out as fast as possible by Banaban boundary marking party "

I am advising you of this by cable today.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. A. HAROLD GAZE.

ENCLOSURES

- C/ Letter to U.K. Commissioner No. 225
- C/ General Letter to London No. 134

2515

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THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 283

8th August 1947.

The United Kingdom Commissioner,  
-----

Dear Mr. Amery,

*W. R. G. H. D.*  
*Recd 12 Aug*  
*and 14 Aug*

I thank you for your letter No. 198 of 23rd July received on the 31st.

1. LAND TERMS - NAURU

I do not consider it essential to keep Government Departments in the United Kingdom currently informed of land terms or administrative details concerning Nauru. The information is on file and available should enquiries be made.

2. ANGAUR

We were not consulted regarding arrangements for working the Angaur deposit.

3. OCEAN ISLAND LAND

I attach for your information a copy of my letter No. 165 of today's date to the New Zealand Commissioner regarding the acceptance by the Banabans of our scheme for avoiding a detailed survey of the phosphate lands which we have purchased. I am very glad that this scheme has gone through. Under it the Banabans get an additional payment of £7,500, but we avoid expenses of £11,000 or more on a detailed survey. Had they insisted on this detailed survey we should have been in a real difficulty. As you know the Banaban boundary marking party will be our guests while at Ocean Island and I have been anxious to limit their stay as much as possible. I asked Mr. Maynard to make it clear that we would not pay beyond 6 months in any case, but I am now hopeful that their visit will occupy less than that time.

Yours sincerely,

*A. H. Roberts*

ENCLOSURES

C/ Letter to N.Z. Commissioner No. 165

(2534)

1. Meetings were held with the Banaban Landowners of Ocean Island on the 5th, 6th and 7th of August, 1947, when the proposal of The British Phosphate Commissioners that areas belonging to individual landowners within the 291 and 380 acre areas be located approximately instead of being surveyed in detail and recorded on a plan as previously was accepted unanimously at the meeting held on the 7th August, 1947.

2. The landowners were told that a cash payment of £A7,500 would be made by the Commissioners in recognition of this co-operation and that the cash payment would be made on the return of the Boundary Marking Party to Rambl, on the understanding that the work at Ocean Island would be carried out as fast as possible by the Boundary Marking Party.

3. The Representatives of the landowners will sign a receipt reading:-

"The Banaban Landowners of Ocean Island having accepted the proposal of The British Phosphate Commissioners that areas belonging to individual landowners within the 291 and 380 acre areas be located approximately instead of being surveyed in detail and recorded on a plan as previously hereby acknowledge the receipt of the cash payment of £A7,500 given in recognition of this co-operation."

Note. The allocation of the sum of £A7,500 amongst the landowners holding blocks within the 291 and 380 acre area is a matter for the landowners to decide and arrange.

4. On Friday, 3th August a telegram was sent to CONPHOS MELBOURNE:-

"New Phosphate Lands Scheme adopted by landowners Thursday evening. Cash Payment £A7,500 Australian currency payable at Rambl on our return on the understanding that work being carried out as fast as possible by Banaban Boundary Marking Party.

The above telegram was agreed with Major F.G.L. Holland and Rotan.

5. Meetings were held on the 8th and 9th of August, 1947 with Members of the Island Council and Banaban Committee to discuss:-

(a) LEASEHOLD RENTS FOR NEW LEASES:  
Rates for land to be leased on Ocean Island during the visit of the Boundary Marking Party

- (1) approximately 4 acres, to provide additional accommodation for married labourers in houses sites on north western extension of the married quarters, the extension not to interfere with the Tabiang canoe site or access to beach;
- (11) a further area of approximately 4 acres to provide accommodation additional to (1);
- (111) land for Chinese gardens;
- (1V) land in the Ooma Village site area.

6. Rentals for leasehold lands leased prior to 8th August 1947 are:-

- (1) at the rate of £A1/5/- for each separate area under one rood;
- (11) at the rate of £A1/10/- for each separate area one rood and up to and including two roods;
- (111) at the rate of £A3 per acre for each separate area exceeding two roods.

7. It was agreed that rentals for leaseholds entered into after 8th August, 1947 be:-

- (1) at the rate of £A1/10/- for each separate area under one rood;
- (11) at the rate of £A1/16/- for each separate area one rood and up to and including two roods;
- (111) at the rate of £A3/12/- per acre for each separate area exceeding two roods - with the exception that any FREEHOLD LANDS to be converted to Leaseholds be dealt with in accordance with the note taken at the MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BANABANS held on End May, 1947. This note reads:-

"FREEHOLD LANDS:

Any Freehold Lands now within the 291 and 300 acre areas will be taken up as mining lands and paid for under the terms of the Agreement signed on the 10th April,

Other Freehold Lands not required by us will be cancelled as from 17th April, 1947.

8. Rentals for Freehold Lands required by The British Phosphate Commissioners and converted to Leaseholds will be: -

- (1) at the rate of £A1/5/- for each separate area under one road;
- (11) at the rate of £A1/10/- for each separate area of one road and up to and including two roads;
- (111) at the rate of £A3 per acre for each separate area exceeding two roads.

9. The meeting was told that the transfer from leasehold to mining land of approximately 4.52 acres shown hatched blue on Drawing No. 776 M.O. would be arranged when we were on Ocean Island.

10. BUILDINGS ON OCEAN ISLAND OWNED BY THE BANABAN COMMUNITY:

On 11th April 1947 Mr. R.G. Keegan, District Officer, Ocean Island wrote to our Ocean Island Manager "that the Banabans have telegraphed to enquire if the Commission is prepared to make an offer for ..... buildings owned by them."

The Banabans said that they would like to hear our offer and would like to know if some payment could be made for Banaban village cisterns. They were told that the Commissioners were prepared to make an offer for the buildings, and the offer was: -

(1)	for the Banaban Store	£A	350
(11)	" " Banaban school and cistern	£A	1,020
(111)	" " Banaban Technical School	£A	142
(IV)	" " Banaban Headmaster's House and Cistern	£A	1,750
(V)	" " Banaban Hospital	£A	1,130
		£A	4,392

The consensus of opinion was that the matter of the buildings and the village cisterns should stand over until we arrived at Ocean Island.



11. A meeting was held on the 11th August 1947 with Members of the Island Council and Banaban Committee to discuss the removal of sand to be used for concrete and other work on Ocean Island.

The Banabans raised no objection to the removal of sand and will agree sites from which sand may be removed when the Boundary Marking Party is at Ocean Island. The Banabans accepted the offer of the Commissioners to pay an annual sum of £A15 in recognition of their cooperation in this matter. The allocation of this sum of £15 rests with the Banaban Community.

Sgd. F.G.L. Holland

Sgd. H.B. Maynard

Representative, The British Phosphate  
Commissioners

The above is a correct record of the decisions reached at meetings held at Rambi, Fiji, on the 5th to 9th and 11th August, 1947.

Sgd. F.G.L. Holland

Administrative Officer, Rambi.

15th August 1947.

Rambi,

11th August 1947.

NO. 999.

12th August, 1947

2538

14 AUG 1947

Dear Mr. Gaze,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letters Nos. 164 and 165.

1. MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND:

The copy of memorandum regarding this new arrangement is duly noted and I judge the Scheme will be much appreciated by the members of the staff from time to time.

2. OCEAN ISLAND LAND:

Thank you for cable of 8th advising -

"Maynard advises - Banabans accept our proposals and £7,500 payable on his return Rambi on understanding work carried out quickly."

This news was very welcome and the arrangement thus approved by the natives will very much simplify the boundary marking. It is satisfactory that Mr. Nichol, the High Commissioner and the other officials at Suva also Major Holland at Rambi all approved of the scheme as explained to them by Mr. Maynard on his arrival.

3. KAPABEA CHARTERING:

Please note enclosed copies of cables exchanged with the High Commissioner, London, and the Minister of External Affairs, Wellington, regarding the allocation of tonnage.

Yours sincerely,

Signed - ALBERT F. ELLIS

Enclosures:

C/Letters from R.E. Tennant, Esq. 23/7/47 & 28/7/47 together with C/Cables exchanged.

18th August 1947.

Dear Mr. Caze,

Holland received a telegram from BECOM late yesterday afternoon, advising that "TRINZA" will arrive tomorrow, 13th August.

The big launch was sent to distant villages on Sunday to collect people who are going to Ocean Island. The members of the marking party are now collected in Nuka and have their gear ready. The small launch has been repaired and the engine overhauled. We shall have two Banaban launches for the work.

The list of members of the marking party has been reviewed and the number is about 400. All doubtful cases have been investigated by the Island Council and the Banaban Committee. The final list is typed and will be used when checking the people leaving for the ship. A telegram will be sent from "TRINZA" to you, and to Holland and Ocean Island stating the number of the marking party on board. Holland will correct his list - if necessary - and send the authorities a list of the people who have left for Ocean Island. It will not be necessary for us to advise the High Commissioner as Holland's report will cover the matter.

I attach "MATTERS DISCUSSED AND AGREED AT RAMBI", covering meetings held -

- (a) with the Banaban Landowners of Ocean Island on the 5th, 6th and 7th August 1947;
- (b) with the Island Council and Banaban Committee on the 8th and 9th August 1947;
- (c) with the Island Council and Banaban Committee on the 11th August 1947.

The members of the Island Council and Banaban Committee were, of course, present at the meetings with the Banaban Landowners held on the 5th, 6th and 7th August. The Banaban Landowners were asked to be present at these three meetings so that Landowners who are not members of the Island Council and/or Banaban Committee could be present, take part in the discussion and vote.

The members of the Island Council and Banaban Committee are, as you know, Representatives of the Banaban Community.

The Banabans say that the reason why they wish to agree sites for the removal of sand is that they wish us to refrain from using the strips of beach where canoes are handled when leaving for and returning from fishing. There should be no difficulty in agreeing sites at Ooma - and elsewhere - if required.

The Banabans were interested to hear our offer for the Community buildings on Ocean Island, but the general feeling was that the matter could await the arrival of the party at Ocean Island. I did not press for a decision, but simply gave them the figures in response to their request to Keegan asking if we were prepared to make them an offer.

Excitement on the island is mounting hourly. Boxes are packed and unpacked for another check of the contents. Requests of all sorts flow in.

Interpreter: This very old man has a "babuti".

H.B.H. I am ready to hear his "babuti".

Interpreter: His "bubuti" is that you will allow him to take his canoe.

H.B.M. I am sorry, but I can't hear his "bubuti".

Interpreter: This very old man thanks you, and knows that you would help him if you could.

The "very old man" departs with a present of cigarettes, all smiles because he had tried to put something over, even if he failed!

At the conclusion of the meeting held on the 11th August:

An Old Man Now that we have finished all our talk we have a "bubuti" -- we hope you will hear it.

H.B.M. What is it?

An old man: May we take our fishing rods?

(Several men wave an imaginary bamboo cane)

H.B.M. Yes, if you promise that you will not allow fishing to interfere with your work. My rod is on the "TRINZA" but my hope is that the work will go so fast that I shall not have much time to fish.

All We promise to work fast. We shall fish when we have marked our lands.

H.B.M. May you catch many fish -- that is my hope.

The old men We shall try to finish our work so that we may return in six months.

H.B.M. We shall help you so that we may, if possible, return in less than six months. There is much to be done in Rambi and few men are left to assist Major Holland.

-----

At my first meeting with the Banabans, I said how sorry Sir Albert Ellis was that he could not be present at this time. Sir Albert had hoped to be with you for about a week on Rambi, to visit you in your houses and inspect your copra plantations, and all the activities in which you are engaged. He had planned to travel with you in the "TRINZA" to Ocean Island, when he would have had plenty of time to talk to you during the voyage of three to four days. Sir Albert could not come this time because he had not been well, and because he could not come he is very sorry.

The spokesman said that they had talked about Sir Albert's visit since I had mentioned during my first visit to Rambi that Sir Albert might come and visit them some day. "We hope Mr. Ellis (Sir Albert was 'Mr. Ellis' to the Banabans when he landed at Ocean Island in May 1900 and he is still 'Mr. Ellis' to most of the people) will soon be quite well again and come to see us at Rambi." I said that if "Mr. Ellis" could arrange it he would come.

-----

I looked around for the men who would take the "notes of the meeting" at my first meeting. They had left this matter to me, so I promised them a copy of the notes I would send to you, for their records.

Holland had a copy of "MATTERS DISCUSSED AND AGREED AT RAMBI" and the Banabans have a copy. I am sending Macdonald and

15th August

Yesterday was an ideal day; bright sunshine and a pleasant breeze; smooth sea.

Weather is not so good today. We have had several heavy showers. From Holland's verandah the sea looks fairly smooth. The weather is improving and I think we shall have a fine day.

10 a.m. No sign of "TRINEZA". We have no idea what time she will arrive off Nuka. Our only information is that she is due today. The people are ready and all their boxes and gear stacked at the shore end of the wharf.

( When I arrived in Suva I was told that conditions for landing a Catalina in Mboutha Bay were not too good. The flight for Saturday was cancelled. On Sunday morning conditions were too bad to promise a flight. I asked Trench if he could arrange a passage in a ketch. He said they would not like to do that as it was too risky and ketches were sheltering and not at sea. I asked him to see the R.A.A.F. people on Sunday, as I was getting worried about a possible delay. I was anxious to get away on Monday if the conditions were at all possible. Trench came to my bedroom late on Sunday night and asked me to report about 7 a.m. at the Catalina base. He sent the office car for me at 6.30 a.m. on Monday. When I arrived I was told it was doubtful if the flight could be made. It was very windy, with a rough sea. The Pilot brought his maps and we had a chat. I said, "Why not have a look at Catherine Bay if you can't descend in Mboutha Bay?" He then said, "I will take you on the condition that I may have to bring you back without landing you. If I can come down I shall have to get away in a few minutes. " I thanked him. In a few minutes we were off. We circled Mboutha Bay but the Pilot did not like the look of the sea. We then went on to Rambi and had two or three looks at Catherine Bay. The bay is sheltered and it was all right to descend on the water, but the wind was in the wrong quarter, and the Pilot would have had to take off facing the hills. So back we went to Mboutha Bay. After circling for a little time the Pilot sent word to me that he was going to descend and would give me a chance to get away. He saw a launch and a small flat boat near the beach and - I suppose - thought it was the Banaban launch. I had my own ideas on that matter, as the Banaban launch would not be there until noon; and it was not likely to start away from Rambi until about 8 a.m; with rough seas they would wait as long as possible hoping for a change of wind.

We came down on the water and started getting a floating canvas anchor out to control the drift. One man was shot overboard - the Catalina was very jumpy and it was impossible to stand up without holding on to something. Life belts were cast into the water and he was finally hauled in again, just about all in!

The launch approached but was not allowed to come alongside. I asked them to send their small boat; they did so and I got ashore after a rather rough trip.

The Banaban launch arrived about noon and I arrived at Nuka about 5.30 p.m.

10.30

"TRINEZA" is coming in, so I will close this letter.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. H.B. Maynard.

C. O.

Mr. Gaminara 22/8

Mr. Sidebotham 23/8

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

M. \_\_\_\_\_

(said 10)

attn (see 14)

Permt. U.S. of S.  
Parly. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

A 17/33

Checked + Set.  
11.30L  
24/8/47  
JP

DRAFT CODE TELEGRAM

No...172

HIGH COMMISSIONER,  
WESTERN PACIFIC.

(6)

Your despatch No. 22.

Settlement of Banabans.

Your paragraph 6. I have now received

(7)

Letter from British Phosphate Commissioners stating that following visit of Maynard to Rabi Island in March agreement was signed on April 10th for purchase of 291 acres on Ocean Island on following terms:

- (a) Price per acre (including all trees)
  - above 170' <sup>hill</sup> contour £200
  - Below 170' contour £65

2. ~~(a)~~ Total purchase price of £82,900 is held by Commissioners for credit of Banabans at 3 per cent interest from 17th April.

3. ~~(a)~~ <sup>Commissioners have agreed that</sup> Royalty on all Ocean Island phosphate <sup>should</sup> to be increased from 10½ to 1/3d per ton with effect from 17th April.

4. ~~(a)~~ Boundary marking party of approximately 450 Banabans will be taken to and from Ocean Island and maintained there at expense of Commissioners,

(5)

5. ~~(a)~~ In view of paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 2 which asked that I should be consulted before any final settlement was reached I shall be glad to know

FURTHER ACTION.

1946 file

III

FB

if settlement has in fact been reached  
on above basis,

present position and whether you consider that  
terms of settlement reached are satisfactory.

SECEP.

173

~~1612A~~

112

FLA

2559

C. 117

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

P.C. LETTER No. 62

28th August, 1947.

The Ocean Island Manager,  
-----

Dear Sir,

Your letter No. 51 was received on the 18th August.

1. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR WESTERN PACIFIC:

On the 14th you telegraphed:

- " District Officer advises -
- " Sir Brian Freeston has been appointed High Commissioner for
- " the Western Pacific will probably take over end of this year."

I attach extract from "Who's Who" giving particulars of Sir Brian Freeston's career.

2. BANABANS:

(a) Boundary marking

Regarding our proposal, referred to in my letter No. 5 to determine approximately the areas belonging to individual holders instead of making detailed surveys, Mr. Maynard obtained the concurrence of the authorities in Suva, and cabled from Rabai on 8th August:

- " New phosphate lands scheme adopted by landowners Thursday
- " evening cash payments £7,500 Australian currency payable
- " at Rabai on my return on the understanding that work being
- " carried out as fast as possible by Banaban Boundary Marking
- " Party. "

I feel sure that in view of this very satisfactory arrangement the boundary marking will be done in the minimum time practicable.

I was pleased to receive Mr. Maynard's telegram of the 23rd advising that arrangements for the boundary marking party of 207, which left Rabai in "Friendship" (76) on 18th August and arrived Ocean Island on the 17th, are very satisfactory. Boundary marking commenced on the 22nd and when Mr. Maynard's telegram was sent next day 23 blocks had been marked in the 231 acre area.



28th August, 1947.

(b) Beach Sand for constructional purposes

Mr. Maynard cabled from Rambi on the 12th that the Banabans will agree sites for obtaining sand and that a charge of A.£15 annually has been agreed.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(Sgd.) A. Harold Gaze,  
GENERAL MANAGER.

Enclosure

Extract from "Who's Who" re Sir Brian Freeston (1948 edition)

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

40  
1734

En Clair

1007 : 3. : 1947

FROM WESTERN EASTAFC (High Commissioner)

B. 28th August, 1947.  
R. 28th " " 09.45 hrs.



No. 220

(8)

Your telegram No. 172.

Settlement Bonobans.

I confirm that agreement has been reached between B.P.C. and Bonoban landowners for transfer to former of 291 acres on Ocean Island at £(A)200 per acre and 300 acres at £(A)63 per acre. Arrangements as paragraph 2, 3 and 4 of your telegram also agreed. Matter was discussed between Grantham and Haze in February, when proposed terms regarded reasonable. Necessity for consulting you before final settlement was overlooked. Agreement was reached on 10th April and I regard terms as very satisfactory for Bonobans. On 7th August a subsidiary agreement was made, whereby the landowners agreed the area belonging to individuals within the above mentioned 291 and 300 acres should be located approximately instead of being surveyed in detail. In recognition of this co-operation, B.P.C. will make a further cash payment of £(A)7,500 to be divided among the landowners concerned.

452  
30 AUG 1947

Copy sent to Ag. R. ...  
and: ...  
921C.

WESTERN PACIFIC.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,  
SUVA, FIJI,

E.C.  
29.8.47.

51A

29th August, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 220 of the 28th August on the subject of the settlement of the Banabans and to enclose, for your information, copies of a memorandum of agreement made on the 10th April between the Banaban Landowners of Ocean Island and the British Phosphate Commissioners, and of a memorandum of matters discussed and agreed at Rabi on the 5th to 7th August, 1947.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

G. CHAMBERLAIN

Assistant High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

53

42a

51a

330 Acres of Maize Land

2540

Payment at the rate of 5% per acre Annualized Overment.

Block No.	Landowner	Name of Land	Area Acres	Payment \$.	¢.	¢.
1	MAFURE	TEBANA	.450	32.	7.	5
2	NYI TERUBA	TEBANA	1.405	57.	6.	0
3	RIKA	TEBANA	.550	35.	15.	0
4A	KARATAHUNA	TEBANA KIBI	.225	14.	12.	0
4B	TEBUNAI	TEBANA KIBI	.225	14.	12.	0
4C	KAGIA	TEBANA KIBI	.225	14.	12.	0
5A	NYI TERUBA	BARIBI	.184	11.	19.	2
5B	TONTEKA	BARIBI	.184	11.	19.	2
5C	RAHTEKUA	BARIBI	.184	11.	19.	2
5D	YITHOKUANI	BARIBI	.184	11.	19.	2
5E	TAUAKARANA	BARIBI	.184	11.	19.	2
5F	NYI KARAHUNDA	BARIBI	.460	29.	18.	0
5G	NYI KARALUKIA	BARIBI	.460	29.	18.	0
6A	TANARUKI	AN ADA	.023	1.	9.	11
6B	NYI RAHTEKUA	AN ADA	.023	1.	9.	11
7	YITHAKOPIA	BARIBI	.964	62.	13.	2
8A	NYI NOME TAMARA	TEARA	.314	20.	8.	3
8B	NYI TINDOATA	TEARA	.314	20.	8.	3
8C	NYI KAUAN	TEARA	.314	20.	8.	3
9	TEARABANO	TEARA	.298	19.	7.	5
10	?	TEARA	.205	13.	6.	6
11A	BUI	TEARA	.488	31.	14.	5
11B	BUI	TEARA	.488	31.	14.	5
12	TEKA	TEARAKIBI	.063	4.	1.	11
13	?	TEARA	.375	24.	7.	6
14	DOGANI	TEARAKIBI	.557	36.	8.	1
15A	UADRA NYI	TEARAKIBI	.134	8.	14.	2
15B	KARANA NYI	TEARAKIBI	.134	8.	14.	2
16	TEKASA	TEARAKIBI	.305	20.	1.	10
17	?	TEARA Y PALO	.450	29.	15.	5
18	?	TEARA	.204	13.	3.	2

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS

12

ack'd 6/9

MELBOURNE (Central Office).  
LONDON, AUCKLAND, PORT ADELAIDE,  
NAURU AND OCEAN ISLANDS.  
Cable Address: "PHOSCOM," Code: BENTLEYS.  
Telegraphic Address:  
"PHOSPHACOM. SOWEST, LONDON."  
Telephone: SLOANE 9269 (TWO LINES).

2, Grosvenor Gardens,

LONDON,

S.W.1.

2nd September, 1947.

RECEIVED  
5-SEP-1947  
C. O. REGY

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S. W. 1.

Sir,

9

With reference to your letter of 26th August (8662/47), I have now the honour to state for the information of Mr. Secretary Graham Jones, that the boundary marking party of 397 Banabans, accompanied by Mr. M.D. Maynard, a member of the Commissioners' staff, arrived in Ocean Island on the s.v. 'Trienza' on the 17th August. They began to mark the boundaries on 22nd August and already over 23 blocks have been delineated.

A detailed survey of the land, as marked by the Banabans, might have occupied 5 years and would have entailed considerable expenditure. In these circumstances the Banabans have agreed to accept a cash payment of £27,500 in substitution for a detailed survey. By this means the individual Banaban landowners will not only be credited with the approximate purchase price of each separate holding but will in addition receive in cash a substantial proportion of the sum which would otherwise have had to be spent on survey fees.

The Commissioners have now arranged to pay the Banabans a rental of £5.12. 0 per acre for any further land leased. The rate under existing leases is £5. per acre, as mentioned in para. 71 of Mr. Maude's memorandum dated 2nd September 1946.

at (1)

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office.

I have the honour to be  
Sir  
Your obedient servant,

*W. Danes Alery*  
(W. DANES ALERY)

UNITED KINGDOM PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONER.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Office of the High Commissioner  
for the Western Pacific,  
Suva, Fiji.

WESTERN PACIFIC

No. 11.

12th September, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 22 of the 17th of June, regarding the negotiations for a final settlement with the Banaban community in Rabi Island, and to forward, as promised in paragraph 12 of that despatch, a copy of a report by Mr. H.E. Maude, F.R.S., on the negotiations in question. A copy of the "Statement of Intentions" of Government mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 12 of the report was forwarded to you under cover of my despatch under reference.

2. The "Statement of Intentions" was prepared on Sir Alexander Grantham's instructions and I have the following comments to make thereon:-

Paragraph (A) (1) - The Banabans were insistent on this clause. Despite the fact that they have now disposed of all the mineable land on Ocean Island to the British Phosphate Commissioners (see your telegram No. 172 of the 24th August and my telegram No. 220 of the 28th of August), they were anxious to ensure that they retained their rights to non-mining lands and mining lands when worked out. This is probably due in part to the nostalgia and sentimentality referred to in paragraph 4 of Mr. Maude's report and in part to the fear that, in their absence on Rabi Island, they may lose certain rights, which were vague and undefined, in Ocean Island;

Paragraph (A) (2) - the reason for the insertion of this clause is set out in the final sub-paragraph of paragraph 52 of Mr. Maude's memorandum, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of Sir Alexander Grantham's despatch No. 23 of the 20th of September, 1946;

Paragraph (B) (3) - the title to the island is vested in "His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific" but the continuance of such an arrangement would never have proved acceptable to the Banabans. The Fiji Government will take the necessary steps for the transfer of ownership and you will observe that the title is to be vested in the Rabi Island Council on behalf of the Banaban community "resident in Rabi Island". By the inclusion of these words, it was hoped to dissuade some of the Banabans from returning to Ocean Island to settle there;

Paragraph (C) (4) - Fortunately the Banaban customs of land tenure and inheritance have already been codified. It may be necessary, however, for legislation to be enacted prohibiting the sale or lease of land to a non-Banaban without the prior permission of the Island Council and/or the Governor;

Paragraph (D) (5) - in this clause too, emphasis has been laid on the vesting of the assets in the Island Council on behalf of the community resident in Rabi Island. A further safeguard has been inserted so that the Banabans, who are

imprudent

The Right Honorable  
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

improvident - see paragraph 11 of the attached report - cannot dispose of the assets without the concurrence of the Banaban Adviser. Further, at present, for example, the Co-operative Society utilizes without charge the copra driers and it may be desirable that it should purchase them, if only at a nominal figure;

Paragraph (c) (6) - emphasis is again laid on the fact that it is the Banaban community in Rabi which will derive the benefits. Legislation may be necessary to define who are Banabans and, as such, eligible to receive such benefits. Prior consultations with the Island Council will be necessary on this point, but this will not be possible for some months to come as over 450 Banabans are at present absent in Ocean Island demarcating the boundaries of their lands purchased by the British Phosphate Commissioners. It is not anticipated that they will return to Rabi Island for some months;

Paragraph (c) (7) - legislation establishing a Banaban Fund Trust Board will probably be necessary and I propose to consult my Legal Advisers on this point;

Paragraph (c) (8) - the object of this clause is to ensure that members who are absent more often than not in Ocean Island shall not have any control over the expenditure of funds;

Paragraph (c) (9) - the procedure is that followed in connexion with the Estimates of the Fijian Administration. The provision that accounts and estimates shall be published will fulfill a long-felt demand of the Banabans;

Paragraph (c) (10) - hitherto, the money in the Landholders' Fund has been invested by Government but, in view of the safeguards provided, and to meet the wishes of the Banabans, I support the proposal to transfer control to the Trust Board;

Paragraph (c) (11) and paragraphs 6 (2) and 7 of the attached report - the proposal that the capital, as well as the interest, standing to the credit of each owner in the Landholders' Fund should be handed over to the owner for investment or disposal at his or her absolute discretion is absolutely contrary to Banaban custom and I would oppose it, in general, on that ground alone because I doubt whether it is the wish of the Banaban community as a whole. The fact that additional lands have been acquired in Rabi, in my view, in no way alters the fact that the original lands on Ocean Island (and the moneys derived from the sale of these surface rights) belong to the heirs of the present landholders no less than to the landholders themselves. Finally, Mr. Waide, in paragraph 11 of his report shows that not only does the request come from a limited number of Banabans, but that to accede to the request will mean that a sum of £22,500 (Australian currency) will quickly be squandered. Indeed, not only would the Banabans demand the Landholders' fund of £22,500 created as a result of the 1931 settlement but they would also demand the sum of £22,900 (Australian currency) being the price paid for surface rights at the recent settlement - see your telegram No. 172 of the

24th

24th August.

I am satisfied that the proposal put forward in Clause (C) (11) of the "Statement of Intentions" represents a very fair compromise and I propose, subject to your concurrence, to agree to it. Approval will, however, be given sparingly and only in exceptional cases.

Paragraph (D) (12) and (13) - the reasons for the insertion of these clauses are set out in paragraphs 60 and 61 of the memorandum forwarded under cover of Sir Alexander Grantham's despatch No. 23 of the 20th September, 1946. Annuities are payable not only to all Banabana but also to all half-Banabans - see paragraph 13 of the above-mentioned memorandum. In 1939, the sum of 24,340 was thus expended. It is not unlikely however, that the Banaban community may in time lose its identity by intermarriage, etc. and consequently that the amount required for annuities may increase and account for an undue proportion of the expenditure of their income. This trend may be checked by a definition of the word "Banaban" - see comments on paragraph (C) (6) above - but it is reasonable to hope that as the sum required for annuities increases, it will eventually reach a point where the Rabi Island Council may decide to discontinue them and utilize the money to better advantage in Rabi.

Paragraph (E) (15) - the future form of administration on Rabi will be a matter for consideration by the Fiji Government but I incline to the view that it should be on the present lines of the Fiji Administration. Should the Banabans desire services superior to those normally provided, the extra cost will have to be met from their funds.

3. I am opposed to the requests of the Banabans as recorded in paragraph 6 (2) and (3) of the attached report. Such moneys, if handed over to the individual members of the community would only be squandered and I am satisfied that they should be properly used for capital and recurrent expenditure in developing the new homeland.

4. Mr. Maule suggests that the Fiji Government should assume complete control of Banaban affairs with effect from the 31st of December, 1947, but it is almost certain that from Rabi until late this year and, until they return, and discussions and elections can be held, little progress in a number of directions will be possible. Further, it is likely that legislation will be required but its early enactment is not practicable. Finally, the preparation of the financial statements referred to in paragraph 15 of the report will involve a good deal of research and will take a considerable time as will also the co-ordination and handing over of the various funds. It is expected at present that it will prove possible to prepare the above-mentioned financial statements using only the existing staff of the High Commission Office. Some extra clerical assistance may, however, later be found to be required in the light of experience.

5. I shall address you further in due course when it has been practicable to consider more closely the administrative, legislative and financial points involved in the final settlement.



6. I visited Rabi in July and found the Banabans cheerful and settling down satisfactorily. The general atmosphere has improved greatly since Major Holland took over. The one disturbing feature is that the Banabans are not as yet convinced that their traditional type of house will not stand up to the weather at Rabi. Steps are being taken to encourage them to build a stronger type of house.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) J.F. Nicoll  
Acting High Commissioner.

Disposal of Pre-war Government Leases  
and  
present position in relation to Mining areas.

A... Held as Government Leasehold.

	<u>NOW.</u>		<u>PREVIOUSLY.</u>
1. DISTRICT OFFICES		Lease 429	: <u>Treasury Offices, Tabiang.</u>
2. COURT HOUSE		" 447	: <u>Public Works Office.</u>
3. GOVERNMENT STORE		" 448	: <u>Government Store, Tabiang.</u>
4. Proposed POLICE STATION		" 430	: <u>Site for European School.</u>
5. (No Change)		" 476	: <u>P.W.D. Cistern (East).</u>
6. "		" 432	: <u>Chinese Interpreter's Quarters.</u>
7. "		" 443	: <u>Rifle Range Pavilion.</u>
8. "		" 445	: <u>Quarantine Station.</u>
9. "		" 466	: <u>European Cemetery.</u>
10. "		" 381	: <u>Old Native Cemetery.</u>
11. "		" 422	: <u>Cemetery Extension.</u>

These leases still remain Government leases.

12. TRANSIT QUARTERS.		Lease 475	: <u>Quarters of Assistant Treasurer. This building is owned by the Government and occupies Blocks H, I, J, K, L, M of Government lease No. 475. The total area is .9444 acres.</u>
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B... Held by B.P.C. as leasehold (non-mining).

	<u>NOW.</u>		<u>PREVIOUSLY.</u>
1. UMA Sub-Post Office and Handicraft Store		Lease 453	: <u>Customs Shed, Uma. This land on which the building stands has now been included</u>
2. Proposed D.O.'s new Quarters		" -	: <u>L.M.S. lease taken over by B.P.C., now to be transferred to Government.</u>

C... Taken up as Mining Land.

	<u>NOW.</u>		<u>PREVIOUSLY.</u>
1. D.O.'s QUARTERS		Lease 444	: <u>Treasurer's Quarters, Tabiang. The lease on which this building stands has been taken up in new mining land from 17/4/1947.</u>
2. POLICE LINES		" 476	: <u>Police Lines etc. This land is taken up in the new mining area as from 17/4/1947.</u>
3. POLICE OFFICER'S QRS FEMALE GAOL		" 428 " 431	: <u>Police Officer's Quarters. } Both areas have been included in new mining land as from 17/4/1947.</u>
4. POLICE SUPDT'S QRS		" 475	: <u>Quarters of Banaban Schoolmaster. This building was purchased from the Banabans. Sale was finalised on 20th October, 1947. Blocks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, totalling 1.6635 acres, of lease No. 475 was taken over by the Commissioners as mining land.</u>
5. (1 B.P.C. leased house)		" 434	: <u>Treasurer's Quarters (New Station) .933 acre. Government leases 434 and 434A. Late Government Quarters No.15. An offer was made to purchase this building which has been repaired and used by the Commissioners since 20/3/1947. The land is being leased by the Commissioners and lease rental will date from time of occupation of building.</u>

/ 6. (1 B.P.C. leased house)

## C. Taken up as Mining Land. (cont'd)

	NOW.		PREVIOUSLY.
6.	(B.P.C leased house)	Lease 453	: <u>Quarters No.16 (Supdt. of Public Works)</u> : Just prior to evacuation this building : was occupied by the late C.G.Cartwright. : An offer was made to purchase this : building, which has been repaired and : used by the Commissioners since : 20/3/1947. This land is being leased : by the Commissioners and lease rental : will date from time of occupation of : building.
7.	(2 B.P.C. leased houses)	" 466	: <u>Government Wireless Station (New Site).</u> : Blocks Nos. 2, 3 and 5 were to be taken : up by the Commissioners as leases, but : are now included with Blocks 1, 4, 6 : and 7 in new mining land.
8.	(B.P.C. European School)	" 458	: <u>Banaban School Site.</u> This land is : taken up by the Commissioners as mining : land, for use as a European school from : 1st November, 1946.
9.	-	" -	: <u>Residency Sports Ground (Portion out-</u> : <u>side Mining Area).</u> This refers to the : old Residency sports ground, and is : taken up as mining land as from 17th : April, 1947.
10.	-	" -	: <u>Resident Commissioner's Temporary Of-</u> : <u>fice.</u> This is demolished. It was : situated on the old sports ground refer- : red to above. The land is taken into : mining land as from 17/4/1947.
11.	-	" 454	: <u>Resident Commissioner's Office (2.196</u> : <u>roods).</u> This is the partly demolished : office situated on the Residency area : (Bukinterike). It is taken up as : mining land as from 17/4/1947.
12.	-	" -	: <u>Old Government Office (Unregistered</u> : <u>Lease).</u> This is the old building (now : demolished) which was used as a Trea- : sury prior to the erection of the : offices now in use by you. The land is : taken up as mining land as from : 17/4/1947.
13.	-	" 451	: <u>Quarters No.17 (Cadet Officer's).</u> This : was a native built house demolished : during Japanese occupation. The land is : taken up as mining land as from : 17/4/1947.
14.	-	" -	: <u>Cadet Officer's Quarters No.12 (1.79</u> : <u>roods).</u> This was a native built house : demolished during Japanese occupation. : The land is taken up as mining land as : from 17/4/1947.
15.	-	" 433	: <u>New Residency, Puakonikai.</u> This bui- : ding was destroyed by Japanese bombing. : The land, is being included in the : mining land.
16.	-	" 426	: <u>Customs Officer's Quarters No.14.</u> This : was a native built house demolished : during Japanese occupation. The land : is taken up as mining land as from : 17/4/1947.
17.	-	" 457	: <u>Public Works Area.</u> This is an area : adjoining the Police Lines and is in- : cluded in the new mining land as tak- : up on 17/4/1947.

C .. Taken up as Mining Land. (cont'd):

	<u>NOW.</u>	
18.	-	Lease 425
		" 427

PREVIOUSLY.

Quarters of Foreman of Works (No. 11).  
 Chinese Carpenter's Quarters (Cheng Pak)  
 Carpenter's Quarters (Jack Pedro).  
 The land on which these quarters were  
 erected is now included in the new  
 mining land as taken up on 17/4/1947.

D1.. GOVERNMENT SCHOOL. No lease ever drawn. Erected by B.P.C. for Govern-  
 -ment on mining land after 1947 Surface Rights agreement  
 was completed.

## OCEAN ISLAND.

Lease No.	GOVERNMENT LEASES as at 30/6/41.	Area Acres.	Notes: Visit of Banaban Boundary Marking Party 18/8/47 - 6/12/47.
	Old Government Office	.15175	Leases cancelled. Area taken over as Mining Land as from 17/4/47.
531	Police Lines	10.565	" " " "
432	Female Gaol	.29775	" " " "
428	Quarters, Chinese Mechanics	.11875	" " " "
428	Married Quarters No. 5, Police Officer	.6285	" " " "
453	Cricket Ground	.860	" " " "
453A	Residency	5.235	" " " "
	Office for Resident Commissioner and Secretary .549		
466	Wireless Station, Married Quarters No. 20 and land for proposed Quarters No. 21 <u>1.07775</u>	1.55875	" " " "
464	Married Quarters No. 4	.46425	" " " "
428	" " No. 11	.450	" " " "
	" " No. 12	.4475	" " " "
425	" " No. 14	.44425	" " " "
434	" " No. 15	.933	" " " "
452	" " No. 16	.98425	" " " "
451	" " No. 17	.48325	" " " "
458	Banaban School, including Native Teachers Quarters	4.919	" " " "
475	Married Quarters No. 19 Head Master Banaban School	1.6079	" " " "
			<u>Area of leases taken over as Mining Land = 30.1489 acres.</u>
			<u>Leases not cancelled.</u>
432	Married Quarters No. 8 Chinese Interpreter	.2335	Vacant at present
447	Office, Superintendent of Public Works	.0665	Now the Court House
429	Treasurer's Office, Tabiang	.511	Now Post Office and Administrative Officer's office.
443	Rifle Range	.184	Rifle Range.
430	European School	.16525	Now Wireless Station.
446	Main Store, Tabiang	.250	Government Cargo Store.
453	Customs Shed, Coma	.6025	Now Sub Post Office and Handicraft Store.
475	Married Quarters, No. 18	1.000	Government Transit Quarters.
443	Quarantine Station	1.27625	Proposed new Police Lines Area.
466	European Cemetery	.46025	Cemetery.
381 & 422	Native and Chinese Cemetery	1.1505	Cemetery.
			<u>Area of leases not taken over as Mining Land = 5.3575 acres.</u>
<u>AREA OF GOVERNMENT LEASES as at 30/6/41</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>35.5064 acres.</u>
		35.5064 Acres.	

Rotan welcomed Sir Albert and said how happy the Council was to see him there. As there were young men now on the Council who know nothing of the past history of Ranaba and the early arrangements with the B.P.C. and the B.P.C. they would like Sir Albert to tell them something about it.

SIR ALBERT HARRIS

"I am very glad indeed to be here to-day on Rambai and to meet the Council in this way. Last year I could not come and visit Rambai as I was very sick. Although I could not come, all these years I have had letters telling me about the Ranabans. You want to know about my first visit to Ranaba in 1900 and I will tell you. The Company thought there might be phosphate there and they sent me to see because that was my work to look out for islands with phosphate on them. When I got to Ranaba I seen saw there was plenty of phosphate there. I looked at the people, 450 very anxiously and I will tell you why. There was a great deal of sickness among them, and they did not get much food and they had nothing to trade with, no copra, nothing like that, only some shark fins. When I got back to Sydney I told the Company we could help the Ranaban people a great deal.

I told the Ranabans we would work the phosphate and they would like to work for the Company; we would take plenty of medicines there and they would be happy again; and they would be earning money to buy food and anything they wanted. That was the early history of Ranaba.

The Company was a small company then. We had to spend money making wharves and tramlines and staff houses and doing a great deal of work. At that time the Company did not have much money and could not pay much for the phosphate. Afterwards when we were shipping plenty of phosphate we were able to pay more money to the Ranaban people.

Well, I lived on Ranaba for many years and Ranaba became quite different. The natives worked well for the Company. They earned money and the Government took care of the money that was paid for the phosphate and so the Ranaban people who before were very poor became very rich. I was very glad that when the people had the medicines and the Doctor looking after them they soon became strong and healthy. All the years I spent on Ranaba were happy years because I saw the people were healthy and happy. I was very glad that we were able to help the people like that. When I first went to Ranaba I did not know much about the people and I thought perhaps they were savages like the Solomon Islanders. In my bag when I went ashore I had a rifle and revolver because I did not know what the people were like. After I had been one day on Ranaba I was very ashamed that I had brought the rifle and revolver. Next day after I landed a small ship came along and Captain Walkup came ashore. He told me a lot about the Ranaban people and I soon felt I knew them very well. After some years the Commissioner from Tarawa came to visit the Island and he talked to the Ranaban people about having a Kanbaro and the laws. That was an arrangement between the Government and the Ranaban people. The Company did not have anything to do with it.

The first time I went to Ranaba I stopped at Tapiwa but I did not go ashore there. Plenty of fine canoes came off and the steamer and all the canoes went round the cove. I went ashore at Oom first. Walking up to Luakonikai I saw there was plenty of phosphate. Then I went back to the beach and told the Ranaban

people there was plenty of phosphate and if they liked we would go there and work the phosphate, they could earn money and we would take medicines there and we white people would live on their Island and they were all glad. I met the missionary at Coma - Taromon. I wanted to stay at his house but the Tapiwa people said "No." The steamer went back to Tapiwa and we went ashore there. I had one white man with me whose name was Mr. Naylor and one native from Nui, Temori and one native from Niue (Samoa). He was the cook, Toopi. Afterwards Toopi married a Banaban woman and many years afterwards he died on Banaba. He looked after me for many years. Temori talked the language and he interpreted for me. I think three Banaban people could talk English - Tokana, Tauntien and Timson. They asked me many questions about working the phosphate and people coming to their Island and what we were going to do. I told them all about it. We two white men were living in a tent and one time an old Banaban woman came to our camp and that was Nei Tenemakin. We always called her the "old queen".

Major Holland asked who told Sir Albert there was a King on Banaba.

SIR ALBERT ELLIS

"Before I went ashore I asked the Captain of the steamer who were the big people on Banaba. The steamer was the 'ARCHER'. The Captain told me there was a King on Banaba named Temati so I thought Temati was King. Afterwards I saw that he was not a King. Temati's work was to go aboard the ships and talk to the Captains and see what they wanted. There were big chiefs at each Village.

Tapiwa - Tebaruru	Buakonikai - Kameaia
Ooma - Eri	Tabiang - Pulalang

I had plenty of meetings with the Chiefs. I told them all about what we were going to do. When the Commissioner came from Tarawa he set up the Kaubure. Eri was the leader of the Kaubure and also Magistrate. Eri was Head Chief for the Banabans for many years and we white people all liked him very much and respected him - a good man. His picture is in one of my books also Nei Tenemakin."

MAJOR HOLLAND

"Where did you live after the tent?"

SIR ALBERT ELLIS

"When we started work on Banaba we all came ashore at Ooma because there was a good beach and a good reef there. The Tapiwa people wanted some of the Company to be over there, so we put up a wharf and loaded steamers at Tapiwa too. I was Manager at Ooma and my brother, George, was Manager at Tapiwa. George has one one arm - do you remember him? George is alive now but not very strong and is older than I am. He lives at Auckland. I will tell him all about Rambi when I get back.

MAJOR HOLLAND

"How did you get water?"

SIR ALBERT ELLIS

"The first time I went to Banaba one of the Chiefs asked me what the people were going to drink because there were no wells or streams on Banaba. I told him that if there was no rain we would use machines to make fresh water out of sea water and they thought that was very wonderful, but they saw it afterwards. We took a steam engine to Banaba but the first time the Gilbert people saw the steam engine they dropped their tools and ran into the bush. They were frightened. Soon they liked to ride on the steam engine and the Banaban people too. There are plenty of motor cars on Banaba now."

MR. JAVIERD

"There will be plenty on Rambi by and by!"

SIR ALBERT ELLIS

motor cars. "If they make roads on Rambi it will be very good for  
When the war with Japan started we were very

anxious for all the people on Banaba and Nauru. When the war was over the New Zealand Government asked me to go up to the Solomons because a man-of-war and two other big ships were going to Nauru and Banaba. I flew up to the Solomons and then went to Nauru with the man-of-war and the two big steamers full of soldiers. At Nauru I saw too many Japanese; there were not many Nauruan people but a good number of Banabans. All the Japs were put on board the two steamers and taken to the Solomons and put in the calaboose. The officers and the soldiers were very kind to the Nauruans and Banaban people on Nauru and plenty of food was taken ashore. I saw Pastor Ruia there. I went with an officer right round Nauru by car and saw how the Japs had pumpkins growing everywhere - "too much stink!" I heard about some of the natives having their heads cut off and I nearly cried. Afterwards we went to Banaba. At Banaba there were only Japs and not one native, but one was hiding in a cave at the time - Habunare. Afterwards I went to Fiji. I told the Governor all about what I saw on Banaba and Nauru. I told him there were some Banaban people on Nauru and a lot at Carolines, Rusaia and Truk - the Ellice people on Truk and Rusaia, plenty of Nauruans on Truk and Banabans at Rusaia and Nauru. The Governor and I talked a lot about it; we were very sorry for those people as they had been taken away from their homes and we wanted to get them back. I sent letters to the B. P. C. Melbourne and our two steamers went up and got all these people; the Nauru people were taken back to Nauru, the Gilbert people to the Gilberts and Ellice people to their Islands. All the Banabans came down here to Rambi. The B.P.C.'s two steamers did all that work and the Government did not pay one penny because the B.P.C. wanted to help the people that way.

On Nauru there is plenty of phosphate being shipped now. On Banaba there was very little phosphate shipped during May June July August and September - only one vessel loaded in the five months. That was because we had trouble with the Gilbertese people. They would not listen to Mr. Bridges; they would not listen to Mr. Laudo who is a Government man. They would not work on Banaba so we sent them home and now there are only 5 Gilbertese on Banaba. Our steamer went round the Ellice Islands and there are plenty of Ellice Islanders on Banaba now - nearly 290. We are bringing Chinese to work there and in three weeks there will be plenty of Chinese on Banaba. I think that during October November December plenty of phosphate will be shipped from Banaba, and next year it will be very good on Nauru and very good on Banaba.

Now I would like to tell the Council a little about the phosphate. The white man goes to Nauru and Banaba and takes away plenty of phosphate. What does he do with it? He puts it in a machine and then puts a very strong acid on it and that makes it good to put on the ground. When that is done everything grows very well, the sugar cane and the wheat and the grass for the cattle - every kind of food. That is good for the white man but it is also good for all the other people too. The rice, sugar, tinned beef and flour and other kinds of food which have been grown with the phosphate come back, come to Rambi. To work the phosphate is good for the white man and good for the Banabans. I am an old man but I am very glad to be doing useful work with the phosphate because it is good work for the white man and good for the native too.

Now this time I am very glad about two things - one, to come back and see the Banaban people on this beautiful Island and to see them strong and well with plenty of picannies. That makes me very glad. The other thing is I am very glad to be with my friends, Major Holland and Mrs. Holland. They have been my friends for many years. I know Major Holland is a very wise man and a good Commissioner for the Banaban people. I know about the trouble you had before with your Commissioner. When Major Holland told me in Auckland that the Government had asked him to come up here to Rambi I was very glad. I know very well that Major Holland



was wise and kind and would be a good Commissioner for the Banaban people. I am very glad to see the Banabans are happy here and also to see Rambi. I have been to plenty of small islands in the Pacific - plenty - and Rambi is the best one I have seen. I hope God will bless the Banaban people on Rambi and that they will always be happy and prosperous here. That is all I have to say."

ROFAN

"Thank you very much for your speech. In listening to you we realize that you were the one man appointed to help us during the long years. We feel pleasure that the hand of God was in your going to Banaba and finding the phosphate and your long association with the Banaban people. Thank you very much; we have enjoyed listening to the story which began with our ancestors as told by you right up to the present day. There is a request from the Council on the other hand that you should act in the role of a teacher towards them for a short time. We particularly wish to know all the particulars about the money that you handed to the Government. The first thing is about the first £50 shown on the blackboard. We would like to take these items one by one. It is not clear about the money you paid to the Government. We regret asking you but can you make it clear to us about the first £50 and about the other money and the 6d. a ton royalty?"

SIR ALBERT ELLIS

"I am very glad to hear what you say especially that you think God blessed the Banaban people about their phosphate. I think that is quite right - quite true. I think it was God's work. I think that in Church when you thank God for blessing you, you should always thank Him for bringing you here to this wonderful island. I am very glad to hear you think that God used me to help, but you must not forget that the Government has taken care of you and that it was through the Government you bought this island. You asked questions in a letter Major Holland sent me some time ago. I sent the letter across to Melbourne and Mr. Gaze asked Mr. Maynard to deal with the matter at Rambi. Mr. Maynard speaks for the B.P.C. Mr. Maynard was Manager at Banaba for many years and he knows all about these things. Now here is my word to the Council. What Mr. Maynard tells you about monies payable to you is quite true. Mr. Maynard speaks for the Commissioners - myself, the Australian Commissioner and the United Kingdom Commissioner. You can be sure that what Mr. Maynard tells you about these figures is quite true. Mr. Maynard knows as much about the phosphate and the monies as any of us.

Rotan put the following figures on the blackboard :

<u>ROYALTIES</u>		
<u>P. P. C.</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>B. P. C.</u>
<u>Payments to</u>		<u>Payments to</u>
<u>Government</u>		<u>Banabans</u>
1947 - 1999	6d.	1/3d.
1931 - 1947	6d.	10 1/2d.
1912 - 1930	6d.	6d.
1906 - 1912	6d.	-
1900 - 1905	£50	£50

Rotan said, when you (Sir Albert Ellis) arrived at Ocean Island you paid a sum of £50 to the Banabans.

Sir Albert said "Yes, that is true. Mr. Maynard will answer any questions you would like to put."

Mr. Maynard said the Agreement was made on the 3rd May 1900, and we obtained the sole right to work the phosphate for a yearly payment of 250. That is the 250 written on the right hand side of the blackboard. The 6d. written on the right hand side is the royalty of 6d. a ton on the delivered weight of all phosphate shipped after 1st July 1912. The 10d. is the royalty - 2d. plus 8d. - paid when we acquired the 450 acre area. The 1/3d. is the royalty as the result of our Agreement in 1947.

Rotan then thanked Major Holland and Mr. Maynard and said that they had explained the Government and B.P.C. payments "many times". The Banabans were sorry that while for 1906-1912 there is a payment of 6d. to the Government, for 1906-1912 there is no payment to the Banabans.

Rotan said that everything on the blackboard is correct. "The landowners from 1900 to 1912 seem to be so poor and so the Council will request Major Holland on behalf of the Government to ask the B.P.C. to pay 6d. from 1906 which they will distribute to the landowners."

Major Holland asked if it was clear to the Council that this was the only official meeting between Sir Albert Ellis and the Council. The rest of the meetings would be in the way of social functions.

Rotan asked the Council if anyone had anything to say as it was the last official meeting.

Rotan said he had remembered something: the medicines you (Sir Albert) so kindly gave to the Banabans when you first arrived, is that still going on for the Banabans?

Sir Albert answered 'No'.

Rotan then talked about the boat harbours, wharves and other equipment on the reef. The matter, he added, was discussed in 1940 with Mr. Gaze and Mr. Bridges. Rotan said they wished leases to be taken out for everything on the reef.

Mr. Maynard reminded Rotan that this matter had been fully discussed before and that the B.P.C. had leases wherever leases were required by law to be taken out. You have asked me for a copy of the Agreement made in 1900. We will look into this matter. I will discuss it with Mr. Gaze.

Rotan then thanked Sir Albert for his kindness in meeting the Rambi Island Council.

(Copy put up at page 211 in F.48/5/10.)

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B6624/46  
WESTERN PACIFIC  
NO. 53

Colonial Office,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
S. W. I.

22 September, 1947.

Sir,

C1824 }  
see C.125 in }  
F.48/5/10 }

(53)

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 22 of 17th June and to your telegram No. 220 of 28th August, on the subject of the settlement of the Banaban communities on Rabi Island.

2. I am very gratified to learn that the Banaban community has voted in favour of remaining on Rabi Island, and that a satisfactory agreement has been reached between the Banaban land owners and the British Phosphate Commission over the purchase of land on Ocean Island.

/s.

THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER,  
WESTERN PACIFIC.

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3. I should like to record my sincere appreciation of the work of Mr. Mande and Mr. Macdonald which has so largely contributed to the successful outcome of the negotiations with the Banaban community.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*For Thomas*

(For the Secretary of State)

1688 (f)

# TELEGRAM.

57

[CODE En clair.]

317 X88 46-8 rms.

From: H.E. Maynard, Esquire, F.P.Crs., Ocean Island.

To: Chief Secretary.

No.....

(Date) 29th September, 1947.

E.C.  
30.9.47.



Following is for Holland, begins. Thanks for your telegram. 291 acre area completed 27th September difficult to estimate date completion of work but will keep you advised of our progress. Our slogan is Christmas at Rabi. Maynard. Ends. Please communicate foregoing to Macdonald.

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RAMBI, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1948

NOTES OF MEETING

RAMBI ISLAND COUNCIL

Present:

MAJOR F.G.L. HOLLAND, Administrative Officer,  
Rambi Island.

MR. H.B. MAYNARD, Representative, The British  
Phosphate Commissioners.

MEMBERS of the RAMBI ISLAND COUNCIL who signed  
receipts for Banaban Landowners  
and the Banabans -

ROYAN TITO, Chairman, RAMBI ISLAND COUNCIL.

AMERIBA,	Member,	"	"	"
ALION,	"	"	"	"
AARON,	"	"	"	"
TEBUKE,	"	"	"	"
K. KITIOM,	"	"	"	"
TITO AIRU,	"	"	"	"
N. TEKORURU,	"	"	"	"
TOKINTEBITI,	"	"	"	"
TIKAUA,	"	"	"	"

The following receipts were presented for  
signatures :

Receipts:

(1) "The BANABAN LANDOWNERS of OCEAN ISLAND having  
accepted the proposal of THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE  
COMMISSIONERS that mining areas belonging to  
individual landowners be located approximately during  
the visit of the Boundary Marking Party to Ocean  
Island instead of being surveyed in detail and  
recorded on a plan as previously hereby acknowledge  
the receipt of the cash payment of £27,500 (£26,637.3/-)  
given in recognition of this co-operation. "

(2)

"The BANABANS have accepted the offer of THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS to pay the BANABANS the sum of £A15 per annum as from the 11th January, 1946, such annual payment to be continued until the mining operations on Ocean Island cease, and in return for this annual payment the Banabans make no objection to the removal of sand and shingle from the beach at Ocean Island for making concrete and for other work. The Banabans agree that sand and shingle may be taken from Ooma Boat Harbour to beyond Noi Mokal (a prominent outcrop of coral) - the sites in use and shown to the Banaban Boundary Marking Party during their visit to Ocean Island 18th August, 1947 to 6th December, 1947.

The receipt of the sum of £A45 (£F39.16.6) covering the period 11/1/46 - 10/1/49 is at the same time acknowledged. "

(3)

"The BANABANS hereby acknowledge the receipt of the gift payment of £A122 (£F107.19.4) from THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, with regard to cisterns in the villeges of BUAKONIKAI, TABUENA and TABIANG at OCEAN ISLAND. "

The request that :

- the cash payment of £A7,500,
- the annual payment of £A15, and
- the gift payment of £A122

be altered to read :

- the cash payment of £F7,500,
- the annual payment of £F15, and
- the gift payment of £F122

was refused by Mr. Maynard.

The three receipts were signed by :

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Rotan Tito | K. Kition   |
| Akeriba    | Tito Airu   |
| Amon       | N. Tokoruru |
| Aaron      | Tokinteiti  |
| Tebuke     | Tikaua.     |

Mr. Maynard reminded the Council that the cash payment of £A7,500 was made at Rambi on the return of the Banaban Boundary Marking Party from Ocean Island, and that the money was still in the safe in the building. The allocation of this sum amongst the landowners was a matter for the landowners to decide and arrange.

The sum of £A45 (£F39.16.6) for the period 11/1/46 to 10/1/49, and the gift payment of £A122 (£F107.19.4), lay on the table. The allocation of the money amongst the Banabans is a matter for the Banabans to decide and arrange.

COPY.

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Ocean Island,

7/10/47.

No.4.

67.6 39

Dear Mr. Gaze,

291 ACRE AREA:

I telegraphed on the 23th September that we had completed this area. "730 blocks" should have read "759 blocks".

$291 \div 759 =$  average of 0.383 acre per block.

The work was finished at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday, 27th September.

Anderson joined the two surveyors on Wednesday afternoon and remained on the work for the rest of the week. Allen and Womersley were good enough to suggest that they might help on the Saturday and they completed 7 blocks in the afternoon.

You will be interested in the daily figures for the week 22nd/27th September. -

22 Sept.	-	38 blocks	25 Sept.	-	43 blocks
23 "	-	46 "	26 "	-	15 "
24 "	-	39 "	27 "	-	44 "
Total			-	<u>225</u>	

I had told the Banabans a week earlier that if we completed the 291 acre area by 5 p.m. on Saturday, 27th September they could have a holiday on Monday 29th September. The work was completed in time, and a number of blocks marked in the 380 acre area ready for the two surveyors on Tuesday, 30th September.

I think Giddins and Bouchier were glad to spend the Monday in the C.E. Office as a change from the field work.

HIGHAM

arrived from Nauru yesterday and I took him up to the 380 acre area in the afternoon to have a look round and meet the Banabans. He commenced work this morning.

380 ACRE AREA

In my telegram of 23th September I advised the -  
"..... possibility of completion of 380 acres

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"first/second week in November with occasional  
"assistance third surveyor. Above estimate  
"assumes that Banabans arrive at satisfactory  
"arrangements regarding division of lands in areas  
"where I fear that all boundary marks have been  
"removed. "

After a week spent in the 330 acre area I think I shall need the full time assistance of Higham instead of "occasional assistance". The country is very rough in parts and we are all rather tired at the end of the day. Higham's assistance is very welcome. The Banabans are ahead of us by about 50 blocks. On one day only did we catch up to them in the 291 acre area, and I held a special meeting with them to discuss the "hold-up". They accepted a plan I placed before them and made a start at daybreak the next morning so that by the time we arrived on the area, shortly after 7.30 a.m., blocks were ready with landowners waiting.

I am glad Sir Albert has written about the grass burrs because it will back up what Holland and I told the Banabans at Rambi. I have passed on Sir Albert's warning and the Banabans say that they are and will continue to take great care.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) H. B. MAYNARD

BANABANS ON OCEAN ISLAND:

There are more Banabans on Ocean Island than on Rambi Island. Almost the whole of the Native Government Officials, Members of the Island Council, and the Banaban Committee are here. The following is the list:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
IETE ERI	Magistrate
KABANTI	Chief Kaubure
TARAKAI KAMARIE	Scribe
TEANGO	Policeman
TIKAUA	Policeman
KIRATA	Policeman
KAIMATA	Policeman

Island Council: First four noted above, KAITU, NEI OREBA, REWI.

Banaban Committee: AKERIBA, TEKENIMATANG, KEENGIBO, KATARAKE, MATAIO, TABUARIKI, TITO and AURIARIA.

Holland said that he thought it would be an advantage if, during the stay of the boundary-marking party at Ocean Island, the former local Government could resume its form and functions. I agreed. Holland wrote to Keegan about the matter. On our arrival at Ocean Island I discussed the matter with Keegan and he was agreeable. I took the people to Keegan's office and introduced them. From that time the former local Government has functioned. This arrangement has been a great help to Keegan and to me. The Policeman in charge of the Banaban Police Force arranges for guards in the Camp. Iete Eri, Magistrate, communicates with Keegan through me and the system works very smoothly.

In addition to the above people we have a Banaban Dresser and two Banaban Nurses who work in the Camp. All these people are landowners and arrange things so that their official duties as part of the Native Government do not interfere with the marking of their lands.

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④  
2847

BANABAN FUNDS.

A meeting was held by the Chief Secretary on November 17th with Mr. Holland, Banaban Adviser, Mr. Ramsey Main, Chartered Accountant, and the Financial Secretary, to discuss the implementation of the following proposal made by Mr. Maude in his letter of 11th July, 1947, written whilst en route to the United Kingdom, on the subject of the agreement reached with the Banaban community in the meetings held at Habi in May, 1947.

- "(1) A complete tabular summary of all revenue and expenditure from Banaban Funds year by year from the beginning (either by calendar or financial years, whichever is the easier) should be prepared and forwarded to the Banaban Adviser, for the information of the Island Council, as promised to the community. This statement need not give details of each item of expenditure but only the service on which it was incurred, e.g., drought relief, upkeep of hospital, annuities, etc., and the revenue need only show each fund separately, not each payment."

2. The meeting noted

- (a) that exhaustive search of High Commission records by Mr. Holland, assisted by Mr. Main, have revealed that the preparation of a complete statement as described by Mr. Maude would not be possible, and that the preparation of an incomplete statement would involve very great labour;
- (b) that the undertaking to provide such a statement is not recorded in the "statement of intention" which was drawn up at the main meeting in July and signed by the Banabans and Government representatives;
- (c) that Mr. Holland recalled that the actual oral undertaking given to the Banabans in this connection was expressed in very simple language and amounted to an undertaking that Government would render an account showing how the Banaban Funds had progressed from the beginning to the present time;
- (d) that Mr. Main had prepared and certified such a statement, a copy of which is attached.  
(Note: This statement is in respect of investments, and it correctly represents the position of the Funds as at the 31st January, 1947, subject only to the addition of such amount, probably not greater than about \$5,000, which at that time had not been invested and remained on deposit in the Treasury.)
- (e) that in a conversation with the Financial Secretary Mr. Macdonald had agreed that the rendering of an account of these Funds of the Banabans should be in the simplest form possible, and that particular care should be taken to avoid reference to accounts which were involved and complex, and which would be difficult for them to understand, and likely to lead to vexatious disputes.

3. The meeting passed

- (a) that the Banabans Adviser should provide to the Banabans the original signed copy of Mr. Main's Statement, explaining that it had been prepared by a Chartered Accountant from Government records, and that in due course it will be extended to the 31st March, 1948;
- (b) that the Banabans Adviser should, in his capacity as friend and counsellor to the Banabans, give to the Banabans such oral explanation of this Statement as they may ask for and as he may be able to provide;
- (c) that the Banabans Adviser should not provide the Banabans with any other written statement or account of their Funds; and that insofar as the Banabans may not be satisfied by the attached Statement and the Banabans Adviser's oral explanation of it, the latter should refer the points raised by the Banabans to the Chief Secretary;
- (d) that thereafter the Banabans Adviser should secure from the Banabans an acknowledgment that they are satisfied with the correction of Mr. Main's financial statement.

4. The meeting also discussed the date of the hand-over of the custody of the Banabans Funds from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Government to the Fiji Government, and passed

- (a) that arrangements should be made with the Fiji Government, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Government and the British Phosphate Commission so that with effect from 31st March 1948, all expenditure chargeable to Banabans should be debited to the Fiji Government, and that all moneys accruing to the Banabans Funds should be paid to the Fiji Government;
- (b) that for this purpose the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Government should on or before the 31st March, 1948, advance an appropriate sum of money to the Fiji Government, such advance to be recoverable from Banabans Funds when they are handed over to the Fiji Government;
- (c) that on completion of the audit of the annual accounts of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony for the financial year 1946/47 the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony should hand over to the Fiji Government the certified balances of the Banabans Funds as at the 31st March, 1948.

APPENDIX:

ADDENDUM:

5. The above was later discussed with Mr. Macdonald by the Financial Secretary. Mr. Macdonald agrees paragraph 3, but asks that the following further points be emphasised :-

- (a) that it be impressed upon the Banabans that there remains to be deducted from the Provident Fund the considerable Banaban share of the Colony's Suspense Account for the settlement of Rabi - Tarawa will be asked to telegraph approximate total of this share as soon as it is known;
- (b) that while the Banabans should not be encouraged to worry themselves with long past details of the Funds they should be consulted in allocating the Suspense Account as between the Colony and their own Funds; the Banaban Adviser does/~~does not~~ confirm that this has already been done.

6. Mr. Macdonald had no comment on paragraph 4 except to stress that this should be subject of agreement with the Financial Secretary of the Fiji Government; and to suggest that when the Banabans return from Ocean Island the task of preparing Estimates of Rabi expenditure for 9 months 1st April, 1948, to 31st December, 1948, should be pressed by the Banaban Adviser; such estimates would of course be subject to approval of Fiji Government.

*1/18/48*

*Nds. Copy of statement on*

*F. 48/5/36 new activities*

*proceeding. 1/18/48.*

*Note: pages 245-247 appear to negate proposals at page 237.*

*Mr. ...*

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B.I. 19 18 17 16 15  
14 13 12 11 10  
9 8 7 6 5  
4 3 2 1

B.I. 19 18  
17 16 15 14 13 12 11

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2193

26th November, 1947.

Dear Major Holland,

By a recent letter from your good self to my wife you made mention of the probability of a visit from me during this current month. It did not come off as there were various developments regarding Nauru in particular, which made it advisable for me to be in New Zealand. I refer to the big conference at New York. From all accounts things have gone fairly well and I hope there may be no complications.

Mr. Gaze was over here last week on a brief visit and among the matters we discussed was my anticipated visit to our Islands returning via Rambi. It was decided that all being well I should leave for Nauru/Ocean during March, and when returning probably early in May the vessel would drop me at Rambi. It is proposed that Mr. Bissett accompanies me and I expect Mr. Maynard would come across from Australia. Apparently Miss Morris would not do the Island trip as I am sorry to say she is on the sick list, and the tropical climate would be against her.

So I have good hopes of seeing you before long and am looking forward to the visit very much. We plan to spend about a week with you and I trust you will not hesitate to let me know if our visit at that time should not be convenient. Naturally we consider it most important for it to take place while you are at Rambi.

Mr. Maynard advises that the boundary marking has gone very well indeed and apparently they are through with it. During the greater part of their stay the Banabans have had experience of drought conditions and no doubt these have brought it home to them, together with other circumstances, that on Rambi they are very well situated. I believe the hardness of the ground at Ocean tried their feet, as one can well imagine. Evidently the Island had been very dry and burnt up but the rains have since come away and the position will improve.

You will doubtless have heard that "Trienza" is to bring the natives home. She is up at the Islands now and weather permitting they will be home by the middle of December.

We had a successful recruiting voyage in the Gilbert & Ellice recently and in my opinion have drawn heavily on the available man-power there. Bridges speaks well of the behaviour of the natives and things generally are going satisfactorily at the Islands. Needless to say we require all the phosphate they can turn out. With the serious shortage of food

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26/11/77

in the United Kingdom New Zealand production is more important than ever, and as the subsidy on the price of super has been lifted by the Government it means that the larger our proportion of Nauru/Ocean phosphate, the better for all concerned.

Mr. Gaze, Mr. Bissett and I were at Wellington recently, calling at Rotorua on our way back, travelling by car during the latter part of the journey. I have never seen the country looking so green and the stock in such condition as was the case. Some of the hill country which in the old days we considered very poor has come away splendidly and only requires plenty of phosphate to keep it so.

Will you kindly give my KAM NA MAURI to the Banabans and tell them that I am much looking forward to visiting them in March.

I trust that Mrs. Holland, yourself and Barbara are all in the best of health, and with kindest regards in which I know my wife would desire to join,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Albert F. Ellis

Major F.C.L. Holland, G.M., O.B.E.,  
RAMBI ISLAND,  
VIA SUVA,  
F I J I.

70a

39a

722

Translation

I have the honour to request you to inform Mr Maynard that I am not satisfied with the price of £150 per acre for my lands taken in 1931. These lands are the same as those I agreed to sell in 1947 for £200 per acre, and should carry the same price as the latter.

Thank you very much.

Rotan.

Rotan given a reply on 17.12.47, by Mr H. B. Maynard.

H.B.M.

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Par 3 OCEAN ISLAND LAND

I confirm my cable to you today reading:

"Referring to my telegram No. 327 received from Vassess today letter dated 13th December stating High Commissioner considers proposed action should be postponed pending receipt Secretary of State's decisions on recommendations Laude's memorandum and until Banabans informed of those rulings and made their own decision whether they will settle permanently Rabi."  
I hope that Colonial Office will not delay consideration of Mr. Laude's memorandum. The idea that the Banabans must decide whether or not they will settle at Rabi before any further Ocean Island negotiations take place appears to me impracticable. If terms for phosphate land were agreed with them it would have a considerable bearing on their willingness to remain at Rabi. I doubt very much whether an affirmative vote for settlement at Rabi can be obtained without the prior settlement of Ocean Island land terms, and Mr. Maynard shares this view.