

G.P.O. Box 1404,
Suva, Fiji.

21st January, 1976.

Ken Hunt

I have just had a call from one Millar, who is at present acting as UK HC here, and he told me that he had just had a telegram from the FCO about our passages, and other financial arrangements. The telegram was slightly garbled, I gathered, but, as far as I could make out, the FCO approve:-

- (a) through route open ended 1st class tickets and stopovers approved; (he could not explain what "through" meant);
- (b) stopover expenses, and expenses for excess baggage owing to carriage of documentation approved;
- (c) London a/c for bed and breakfast approved, and £5 for lunch and dinner agreed;
- (d) £5 daily allowance for incidental expenses Canberra to Canberra approved;
- (e) £100 warm clothing allowance approved (presumably £200 in your case);
- (f) £20 daily allowance for loss of income approved, also personal accident insurance requested;
- (g) also agreed (for Macdonald) wages of servant and watchman;
- (h) Sands will effect air passage bookings, except for my Suva/Nadi/Suva passage which the UK HC here will make.

2. I have the following hurried comments to make:-

- (1) (a) though not wholly clear, is, I think, clear enough;
- (2) (b) is alright but clashes perhaps with (d). I think this is possibly because the last two lines of (1) of your letter to Sands of 3rd January, clash somewhat with your (5) in the same letter. The sum of £5 would not really cover the items in (1) of your letter, and I think should be separate to (5). I suggest you might iron this out with Sands;
- (3) this is not what you asked for in (3) of your letter to Sands. The sum of £5 for lunch and dinner (presumably for 1 person) is by no means generous in view of present day costs in London, and if we intend to lunch and dine at the RCS (where the food is quite good), it would be simple for the FCO to pay the whole bill; on the other hand, if we receive an allowance, it does enable us to lunch or dine outside the RCS. But I imagine that we shall want to lunch and dine at the RCS so that we can constantly discuss what is happening. How about if the FCO meet the total bill at the RCS provided lunch and dinner combined do not exceed £5 per diem? Discuss with Sands?
- (4) with regard to (d) see my comment at (2) above;
- (5) no comment on (e), (f), (g) and (h) above. Don't forget that air bag.

3. One point which seems to have been completely overlooked in the telegram, however, concerns witness fees - see the third paragraph of your letter to Sands. I suggest you should definitely take this up with him.

4. I still await news about my income tax position.

5. Must try and get this away by today's mail though I am not hopeful. No need to reply to this. I am absolutely content to accept any decision you make on these points.

In terrific haste,

Ken Hunt