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Professor H E Maude  
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AUSTRALIA

Please quote  
T&M 71/948/NDI/NJS  
Your reference

Date  
28th January 1976

Dear Professor Maude

OCEAN ISLAND PHOSPHATES - ROYALTY ACTION

Thank you for your letter of 21st January to Mr Ing. Mr Ing is away from the office at the moment, but I believe he has already informed you that I may be communicating with you from time to time.

You will now, no doubt, appreciate that your letter crossed one of the same date from Mr Ing and there is very little I can add to that. Although the pace is much faster than in the Replanting Action the Plaintiffs are still taking a long time to open their case and we cannot at the moment predict exactly when we would like you to arrive in this country. However, as you will also know by now, the financial arrangements have been agreed and as soon as we can determine the most suitable date for your arrival we will cable Sands who can make the appropriate arrangements at your end.

Thank you for your observations on the planting of coconut trees. This is something you will no doubt discuss with Mr Vinelott when you see him.

I am aware of what has passed between you and Mr Ing concerning transcripts of the current proceedings for yourself and Mr Macdonald. We have, however, now reached the period in which you and Macdonald figure in the documents being read to the Court. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of sending you two recent transcripts with certain passages that you might care to read (and on which you may care to comment) outlined in red. I have also enclosed a note which Mr Vinelott has prepared on the ownership of minerals which was prompted by evidence from documents recently read to the Court. Mr Vinelott has particularly asked that you should be consulted to see whether you agree or have any further observations. Perhaps you would let us hear from you about this when you have had an opportunity of considering the matter.

I have already met Mr Macdonald and I look forward to meeting you and your wife at the end of next month.

Yours sincerely

*Nigel Seed*  
(N J SEED)