

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,  
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,  
21st January, 1976.

Mr N.D. Ing,  
The Treasury Solicitor,  
Matthew Parker Street,  
LONDON SW1H 9NN, England.

Dear Mr Ing,

Ocean Island Phosphates: Royalty Action

Your letter T&M 71/948/NDI of the 14th duly arrived on the 19th and in it you referred to one dated the 9th which has not yet appeared on the horizon, and I doubt if it will now. However it is no matter for Richard Sands was able to produce a copy.

Macdonald has made photocopies of my data on the Ocean Island lands settlement *and sent it along* (with a bill for \$F6.44), so I have all the material I require to refresh my memory on land ownership without your having to worry the counsel for the plaintiffs (who have copies of some of it, but not all) unless you want to.

Thank you for enrolling my wife and me as temporary members of the Royal Commonwealth Society: this sounds much the best arrangement.

Many thanks also for kindly booking us all in at Northumberland Avenue for the 16th. As we shall need at least a week, and if possible 10 days, in London for recovery, briefing and familiarization with Court proceedings (see para.2 of my letter of the 6th January and para.4 of Macdonald's letter of the 7th) I take it that we shall not be expected to give any evidence until approximately the 26th. If it is appreciably earlier than that please adjust our bookings accordingly and send Sands a cable.

On the assumption that on or about the 26th is the date, we will leave here on the 8th and arrive in London a.m. on the 15th. We would rather arrive on a Sunday, if possible, so as to rest up during the day. So we are hoping that in any case you will be able to move our bookings forward one day.

At present Sands has no authority to book us anywhere or to incur any expenditure on our behalf, and if this is not received it will inevitably hold up our departure. My own experience is that such things take months to finalize, so I am not making any but minimum purchases pending his receipt of official approval of the financial arrangements as itemized in my letter of the 3rd to Sands (which I understand he forwarded the same day to the FCO).

But enough of such mundane affairs. I have been interested to read from time to time evidence indicating that the Banabans desire to plant coconut trees on the Karrenfeld area (the pinnacle area on the central plateau). Coconut tree counts have been cited, but in point of fact these mean little (except when claiming payment for expropriation of surface rights) since the coconut trees on the Karrenfeld do not bear well, for good reason, whereas Calophyllum and Pisonia trees do. Furthermore these are excellent shade trees, whereas coconut trees are not.

I prepared notes on this question for a paper and will adapt and forward this when I locate it. If you think they would be helpful to Mr Vinelott you could show them to him: if not just tear them up and no harm done.

Yours sincerely,

*John*