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

Date
8th September 1975

Dear Professor Maude

OCEAN ISLAND PHOSPHATES - ROYALTY ACTION

I have received the news from Canberra, via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, that you are after all willing, subject to certain conditions, to travel to London in the mid-November to mid-April period. Both Mr Price and Mr Ing are at present away on leave and Mr Ing has asked me to write to you to express his gratitude and satisfaction at your decision, and to say that as far as it is within our powers, the conditions to which your visit is subject will be met.

As you know, Mr Justice Megarry is visiting Ocean Island in the first half of October (the party will actually be on the Island from the 9th to the 11th), although the Crown has managed to ensure that the party will also visit Rabi. Mr John Vinelott QC and Mr Roy Price the Legal Under-Secretary in this office with carriage of this case, who are together the Crown's representatives on the "view", have decided to travel to Fiji (which is the rendezvous) via Canberra in the hope of having a preliminary discussion with you. I understand that a representative of the British High Commission has already made a provisional arrangement that they should call upon you at your home on Wednesday 1st October at 3.00 p.m.

I am sure that Mr Vinelott and Mr Price will look forward to meeting you and your wife in the knowledge that it will give them a valuable insight into the history of Ocean Island and the Banaban people. They can also take advantage of this opportunity to discuss with you the details of your visit to this country in the light of your latest letter of 26th August to Mr Hewitt.

Yours sincerely

(R J PHILLIPS)
for the Treasury Solicitor