



THE TREASURY SOLICITOR  
Matthew Parker Street London SW1H 9NN

Telegrams Proctorex London SW1

Telephones 01-930 7363/1124 ext 87

BY AIR MAIL

Professor H E Maude  
77 Arthur Circle  
Forrest  
A.C.T. 2603  
AUSTRALIA

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

Date  
9th July 1975

Dear Professor Maude

OCEAN ISLAND PHOSPHATES

Thank you for your letter of 3rd July, which I received yesterday.

I had been shown copies of the telegram from Mr Hewitt to which you refer and of your letter to Mr Hewitt of 23rd June.

I had therefore realised your position and would greatly regret it if my false assumption about the improvement in your health - which underlay my communications of 20th June - caused you any distress or anxiety. I hope that you will accept that there was a genuine misunderstanding on my part.

Certainly I now appreciate how important due notice to you of such a request would have been; I am afraid that the unexpected course which the replanting action had taken (in view particularly of the allegations in Mr Rotan's evidence), together with the misunderstanding which I have mentioned, led me to overlook this in making my actual request. Nor had I realised the condition of your wife's health. May I say that, having myself suffered from a form of asthma for most of my life, I can a little appreciate how you and she must feel? I am very pleased to learn that some considerable improvement appears to be taking place.

Your interest in giving to the Crown what help might be practicable in this case has never been in question and I am much encouraged to learn from the final paragraph of your letter that it may still prove possible, under proper conditions, for you to travel to this country (with your wife) for the purpose of giving evidence. While our Leading Counsel fully recognise that you could not now be expected to give evidence in the replanting action, it did occur to them that there might still be a possibility that, if you were prepared to travel by sea, you might be able to come to this country in order to give evidence for the Crown in the royalty action, which is due to commence at the beginning of October. They thought it appropriate that, as you had written to Mr Hewitt, their views should, in the first instance, be communicated to Mr Hewitt and I understand that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have written in detail to him. It may well be that, by the time you receive this present letter, Mr Hewitt will have been in touch with you. In any event, I hope that you will give the suggestion raised there serious consideration - and it is of course understood that, if you decide to come to this country, arrangements would be made for your wife to accompany you.

I hope, therefore, that we shall still have the opportunity of meeting early in the autumn.

Yours sincerely

*N. D. Ing*  
(N D ING)  
Assistant Treasury Solicitor