

Rabi Island Council Office,
G.P.O. Box 1222,
SUVA, F i j i.
April 19th, 1971.

Mr. H. E. Maude,
77 Arthur Circle,
Forest,
C A N B E R R A, A.C.T.,
Australia.

Dear Mr. Maude,

The Rev. Tebuke Rotan is proposing to make another visit to Canberra in the very near future to discuss with you further a matter on which you had preliminary talks recently.

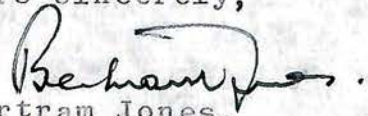
I expect to accompany him ; and we hope to be in Canberra for one or possibly two days around April 26th or shortly thereafter. At this stage we have no precise date because our airline bookings have yet to be made.

We do hope, however, that your many business activities will leave you an opportunity to see us about that time. We should also very much like to meet the gentleman with whom you have it in mind to collaborate in the preparation of the document that you were kind enough to suggest to Tebuke.

May we please leave it with you to make the necessary arrangements with him ?

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Bertram Jones.
Secretary, Rabi Island Council.

Department of Pacific History,
24th December, 1969.

The Rev. Tebuke Rotan,
Buckingham Court,
Buckingham Gate,
LONDON, S.W.1, England.

Dear Tebuke,

The Departmental Secretary has now sent me two photocopies of the draft of my notes on 'The Relationship between the Banabans and Gilbertese' which I had forwarded to Professor Davidson, and I am accordingly posting them to you immediately.

You will understand that they are only notes, as requested by the Professor, and I cannot say whether they will appear in the report which he is preparing for you or, if so, whether or not they will be changed in any way.

I hope that you will be able to read them, with all their pencilled amendments, but if not any competent typist will be able to type out a fair copy for you. I would have it done here but this would only delay its receipt by you, as the University has closed down for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.

Department of Pacific History,
21st December, 1969.

The Rev. Tebuke Rotan,
Buckingham Court,
Buckingham Gate,
LONDON, S.W.1, England.

Dear Tebuke,

Thank you for your letter, which arrived yesterday. I see that my report on 'The Relationship between the Banabans and the Gilbertese' was duly forwarded to Professor Davidson on the 27th October and that in a covering note I asked for two copies of it to be made for me (one of which I had intended to send to you by airmail).

Unfortunately these copies were not made, or if made were not sent to me, so I have written a reminder to the Departmental Secretary asking for them and as soon as they arrive I shall airmail one to you.

Mrs Nancy Viviani has also shown me an excellent report on the economics of 'The Banaban Problem', which she sent to the Professor about the same time. I also understand that Dr Deryck Scarr has written a report on the historical aspects of the case.

So I hope and expect that you will soon be receiving the whole report, as assembled by Professor Davidson. Meanwhile you will have seen the fine Editorial on the Banaban case by Mr Stuart Inder in the December issue of the Pacific Islands Monthly, and the helpful, if inaccurate, report on the same subject in a recent issue of the New York Times, based on material evidently obtained from your father.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas, and complete success in your search for justice for the Banabans during 1970.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.

Buckingham Court,
Buckingham Gate,
London, S.W.1.

December 9, 1969.

H. E. Maude, Esq.,
Department of Pacific History,
The Australian National University,
P. O. Box 4,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601,
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mr. Maude,

I have been in London now for nearly six months, engaged in presenting a case to H.M. Government for more generous treatment of the Banaban people in the matter of phosphate payments. I feel that I am achieving something, but there is still a hard road ahead.

One of the points that I wish to present very strongly in talks to be held at an early date is our denial that we are Gilbertese. I need not go into our contention that we, as Banabans, are a separate people from those in the Gilbert and Ellice group. You are very familiar with what we have to say on that and you understand what a vital bearing it might have on our negotiations with the Commonwealth Office.

I expect that you will also recall that when I was in Canberra we talked about your researches into the origin and history of the Banabans and of the likelihood that they would establish beyond reasonable doubt that we had evolved as a small, separate and distinct race having, to all intents and purposes, no association or tie with any other Pacific people.

If those researches are now at such a stage that your findings would be useful to us I should be deeply grateful if you could let me know them as soon as possible. I give you my earnest assurance that I should use them with discretion and - if such were your wish - not disclose their source.

(cont.)

(2)

Any guidance that you might offer on the most effective way of presenting such information would also be gratefully received. I know your interest in our plight and in our concern for our future and I value it greatly.

The Commonwealth Office has advised me that it is arranging talks at a fairly early date in the New Year, hence my plea to you.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. In the meantime please accept warmest greetings from the Rabi Island Council and from me for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Tebuke Rotan

(Rev.) Tebuke Rotan.

Anvida,

In my minute to Professor Davidson dated 27.10.69 on 'The Relationship between the Banabans and Gilbertese' I asked if I might have two copies for my own use.

May I please have them, or alternatively have the original back on loan so that I may type the copies myself?

Sorry to be a nuisance so near to Christmas.

John M.
21.12.69.

Jim,

I am submitting herewith the promised note on the relationship between the Banabans and the Gilbertese - if it is not what you want send it back and I'll try again. In any case please feel free to amend it in any way you wish.

I also attach a note re my qualifications for making any statement on such a question, which you may consider desirable to include somewhere in the composite work. This I have done not for self-glorification but simply because on a previous occasion the British Government, who are quite unprincipled on an issue such as this, questioned my training, knowledge and general qualifications to make any statement concerning the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

I think I told you that when I was first sent out to the Colony, Mr Jones, the Colonial Office official in charge of W.P.H.C. affairs, told me that it was situated to the north of Tahiti and he saw no reason why I should not be able to spend an occasional long week-end there. He added that he himself had once been on a long week-end as far afield as Ostend and found it most enjoyable. Peter France tells me that the general standard of expertise on Pacific affairs in London has deteriorated since then.

When you have got it shaped to your liking would you please ask Anvida to kindly type it and let me have two copies?

slm
27.10.69.