

39

ROTAN TITO and OTHERS

Plaintiffs

- and -

WADDELL and OTHERS

Defendants

1971 R.No. 3670

ROTAN TITO and THE COUNCIL of LEADERS

Plaintiffs

- and -

HER MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

Defendant

THIRTYNINTH BUNDLE OF DOCUMENTS:

2501

186 351

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, LONDON.

No. 194.

8th January, 1947.

Dear Mr. Gaze,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 268 to 272, for which please accept my warm thanks.

1. REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL:

I attach copy of the draft report which the Comptroller and Auditor-General has prepared to accompany our accounts for 1944/45 which will form the basis of this year's meeting of the P.A.C.

I was asked by the Dominions Office whether I had any observations on this draft and replied that, while I had no major suggestions, I thought the report would be improved if minor modifications were made in accordance with the attached schedule. It is strange that for the third year in succession the Comptroller and Auditor-General should find it worth while to comment on local phosphate since this has now become a very minor matter. I am sending you a separate letter making a number of enquiries on the accounts in the course of which I have asked to what extent the debit of £30985 on local phosphate has since been reduced. I cannot quite gather this from the draft Confidential Accounts just received.

2. WASHINGTON FERTILISER COMMITTEE: -Your 269/1)

The delay in giving us information regarding the decisions of this Committee seems, judging by Mr. Fraser's letter, primarily due to delays in the preparation of formal minutes. Surely, however, it should be possible for a summary of the conclusions of the Committee, in so far as they affect the Commission, to be telegraphed to Australia immediately after the relative meeting without waiting for the formal minutes. This practice must clearly be followed by other national delegates, in view of the advance information which we received, for instance, from Messrs. Charerat.

Fortunately I have now, as the result of persistent pressure, and the support of the Dominions Office, succeeded in dragooning the Fertiliser Department of the Ministry of Food to send me as from 1st January copies of all information which they circulate to Government Departments here regarding world phosphate questions. Owing, however, to the probable abandonment of allocation in the future, these arrangements may be too late to be of service.

3. WAR DAMAGE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: Your 268(1a), 269(3), 270(1) and 272(1)

Thank you for the information which you have now supplied and which, together with Minutes 466(c and d) of the recent Board meetings in

Melbourne, go far to supply the gaps in my information. I fear that I have troubled you unduly in the matter, but I have now made such a close study of the accounts of the Commission that I want to supplement my knowledge of the accounts by a very clear idea of the whole system of reserves and of the allocation of capital expenditure between the various reserve funds, particularly expenditure connected with reconstruction and rehabilitation.

4. NAURU REHABILITATION: Your 263/5(a), 269(4) and 271(3)

I note the decision of the Commonwealth Government to apply to the other partner Governments for a contribution of capital towards the Nauru rehabilitation, to be liquidated with interest at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ by means of a Sinking Fund on a tonnage basis. I understand that the Commonwealth proposals in this matter have arrived here and I will endeavour to facilitate matters with the United Kingdom Government Departments before I leave.

5. MINUTES OF RECENT MEETINGS IN MELBOURNE:

I have now initialled the Minutes and have sent them, as requested, to Sir Albert Ellis having first made the amendment agreed in your telegram 351 of 29th December.

I am sure that you will appreciate my reasons for deprecating, at this stage, any special reference to the possibility of action "with or without the British Government". You will have seen from my telegram No. 2/4 that in all other respects I concur in the minutes. I was particularly glad to have seen the information recorded therein regarding rehabilitation.

6. PROVIDENT FUND Your 263/1(c)

I note that it is proposed in the accounts for 1945/46 to transfer £12,500 to the Staff Provident Fund as compared with £10,000 in the previous year and £7,500 in the year before that. I gather from the detailed accounts that all payments made by the Commissioners to individual staff accounts come out of the Reserve Provident Fund and I have gained the impression that the amount allocated from Trading A/c to the Fund every year is calculated upon such a basis as will maintain the Fund at approximately the same level year by year. I should be grateful to know if this impression is correct and whether the increased contribution to the Reserve Provident Fund this year is the increased sum required to give effect to the new decision (Minute 468) to transfer £4,000 at an all round rate of 5% to the 'C' accounts of members, as well as to maintain the prescribed payments to 'B' accounts.

7. COMMISSIONERS' NOTE BOOK: Your 263(3)

I am glad to see that a new edition is in preparation. I have myself made a number of additional entries in my book and the office here may be making some enquiries while I am en route to Australia regarding further statistics which I desire to be incorporated in my own book for possible use at the P.A.C. In particular, I suggest that the Index in the present book is capable of considerable improvement. There are several items, for instance, wages, staff, etc., which might with advantage be cross indexed under various headings.

8. OCEAN ISLAND LAND: Your 268/1 (a)

I have this week seen Mr. Webber of the Colonial Office regarding that part of Mr. Maude's report which refers to the purchase of Ocean Island land. I let him know of the decisions reached by the Commissioners in Limato 473, although I did not tell him that we were prepared to go to £200 per acre and 1s/3 per ton royalty. I simply stated that we are prepared to recognise in principle that the value of the Australian pound has been reduced since the original negotiations in which we fixed £175 per acre and 1s/- royalty, and were prepared to make a reasonable adjustment.

I went on to state that we were concerned at the High Commissioner's letter to you of the 13th December suggesting that it might be necessary to postpone a decision regarding the sale of the land until the Banabans had decided whether they would settle permanently on Rabi. I explained that in our opinion this was putting the cart before the horse and was mixing up a problem requiring early settlement with a problem which could wait if need be for some time. I mentioned that time was required for a settlement regarding Rabi, so that the older men could gradually be reconciled, and that a settlement of the land question at Ocean Island would facilitate this.

I pressed the Colonial Office to write unofficially to the High Commissioner to suggest:-

1. That the 2 questions should not be mixed up and should be settled independently of one another
2. That further effort should be made to reach a settlement on the land question in time to be ratified during the forthcoming Board meetings associated possibly with some Ceremony with such Banabans as are at Ocean Island during the Commissioners' visit there.
3. That if the High Commissioner could see his way to meet the Commissioners in New Zealand when the 'Trienza' arrives there it might be helpful to discuss any questions then outstanding.

I think that a letter somewhat on these lines will be sent, but as all matters such as this have to pass through several hands at the Colonial Office before action is taken it is never possible to be certain what will be done.

9. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC CONFERENCE Your 268(2)

We should certainly have a full report of this in due course and I hope that you will be able to attend.

10. MID PACIFIC OUTPOSTS:

I regret to say that Messrs. Harrop & Co. have now firmly declined to proceed further as they consider that the terms proposed for

printing in New Zealand are prohibitive. I am considering what more can be done to have 200 copies placed on sale here through some firm of book distributors. I have wired to Sir Albert.

11. ACCOUNTS 26th YEAR Year 272(2)

I have received the draft Confidential and Printed Accounts and Reports and am cabling about a few minor points which occur to me, but I have nothing but admiration for the speed and care with which these documents have been prepared in a year during which both Mr. Fisher and Mr. Figgis have paid a lengthy visit to the Islands. I note that the detailed accounts will reach me in Wellington, and that the audit has now been completed (your telegram 335 of 7th January). I attach copy of my cable.

12. MY MOVEMENTS:

The sailing of the 'Rimutaka' has now been postponed until the 23rd January.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W. BANKES ALERY

Enclosures:

C/Cable 335

C/Cable 248 and 249

C/Draft-Auditor-General's Report

P.S. Since preparing this letter we have received your telegram No. 336 stating that Sir Alexander Grantham will be attending the S.W. Pacific Conference in Canberra referred to at 9 above. This makes it all the more important that you should attend the Conference and you might then have an opportunity of discussing the topics mentioned at 8. It is probably desirable that Mr. Maynard's visit should await such a discussion.

P.P.S. Since the foregoing was written I have had an enquiry from Washington for certain information regarding our Makatea contract and enclose copy of the relative telegram together with the confirmation copy of the telegram I am sending to you on the subject.

There is clearly more in this than meets the eye and I am somewhat surprised that Mr. Garside should have telegraphed to me on the subject instead of taking it up with his own Government, particularly in view of the previous protracted correspondence over the price of Makatea phosphate.

The enquiry may be prompted by a desire to know whether our contract

2502

OCEAN ISLAND LAND

EXTRACT FROM LETTER No. 273 from GENERAL MANAGER

9th January, 1947.

Par 3. OCEAN ISLAND LAND:

I thank you for your telegram of the 4th reading.

"Colonial Office has telegraphed High Commissioner regarding Ocean Island land. "In the light of their telegram feel certain way open for Mr. H.B. Maynard visit Suva and suggest that you telegraph High Commissioner again."

In my telegram No. 334 of 6th January I passed on to you the text of a cable I sent the same day to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

"We have not replied to Banaban letter of 22nd March attached to Minutes of Meeting at Rabi pending discussions with you. We are ready to negotiate with them and believe decision to settle at Rabi will not be obtainable until land terms agreed. In any case consider early discussion with you would be useful and would like Maynard proceed Suva by air 29th January. Is it convenient?"

As advised on the 8th, I understand that Sir Alexander Grantham is probably attending the South West Pacific Conference at Canberra on 28th January.

2503
357
188

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 275

9th January 1947

The United Kingdom Commissioner,

Dear Mr. Amery,

1. ACCOUNTS 26th YEAR, ENDED 30th JUNE 1946

I have advised you by cable that the audit has been completed and that Mr. Webster has approved the draft Printed and Confidential Reports and Accounts. I am now awaiting word from Sir Albert Ellis and yourself.

2. MINUTES (my 273)

Yesterday I cabled,

" Referring to my telegram No. 331 Australian and New Zealand Commissioners concur amended wording."

3. OCEAN ISLAND LAND

I thank you for your telegram of the 4th reading,

" Colonial Office has telegraphed High Commissioner regarding Ocean Island land. In the light of their telegram feel certain way open for Mr. H.B. Maynard visit Suva and suggest that you telegraph High Commissioner again. "

In my telegram No. 334 of 6th January I passed on to you the text of a cable I sent the same day to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

" We have not replied to Banaban letter of 22nd March attached to Minutes of Meeting at Rabi pending discussions with you. We are ready to negotiate with them and believe decision to settle at Rabi will not be obtainable until land terms agreed. In any case consider early discussion with you would be useful and would like Maynard proceed Suva by air 29th January. Is it convenient ?"

As advised on the 8th, I understand that Sir Alexander Grantham is probably attending the South West Pacific Conference at Canberra on 28th January.

To U.K. Commissioner No. 275 9/1/47 P.2.

4. CHRISTMAS ISLAND

On the 7th I received your telegram,

"Robb and I seeing Vinen 16th January will be glad advance information main important points discussions."

I had already completed a letter to Mr. Vinen and it goes forward to Mr. Robb today for delivery to him. A copy is attached for your information. I telegraphed a summary to you yesterday in my cable No. 337.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. ...

ENCLOSURES

- C/ Letter to Mr. G.H. Vinen 8/1/47 / Christmas Is. file
- C/ Letter to N.Z. Commissioner No. 138
- C/ Letter to Australian Commissioner No. 16
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No. 983

W
NO. 984.

14th January 1947

2504

189

Dear Mr. Gaze,

I am in receipt of letters Nos. 137/139 the last named received this morning. Enclosure List No. 179 is also to hand, for all of these I thank you.

1. BOARD MINUTES:

I have received from Mr. Amery initialled copy of the Minutes as agreed and send them on to you herewith for completion by Mr. Webster.

2. OCEAN ISLAND LAND:

Your cable of 20th ultimo to Mr. Amery states the position concisely and correctly in my opinion. I consider it would not be advisable for the Banabans to be compelled to give an answer at the present time as to whether they will or will not look on Rabi as their future home. Information from the Island will be the most important guide as to this. I judge however that the sooner Mr. Maynard pays another visit to Rabi or goes up to Ocean Island to get in touch with the advance party of Banabans there, the better, both as regards the Rabi question and also as regards the acquiring of further phosphate lands. In my opinion settling the terms for the next block of lands will have a definite bearing on the Banabans adopting an easier attitude regarding Rabi. Meanwhile, I consider Major Holland's policy of endeavouring to stimulate their interest in their new home is very important. Mr. Maynard would be able to judge as to what progress is being made in this objective. I consider that underlying the whole position is the inherent love of the natives for travel and an ideal arrangement from their point of view would be to journey backwards and forwards between the two Islands.

3. CHRISTMAS ISLAND:

Mr. Christian's report is to hand and a preliminary reading of it shows that it contains a great deal of valuable information.

4. ACCOUNTS 26TH YEAR 30.6.46:

I am obliged for copy of the audited Trading Account and Balance Sheet with schedules also copy of the Outside Phosphate Accounts with schedules. I assume that the printed

accounts will be to hand shortly and a date agreed for handing them to the Governments.

5. WEATHER AT ISLANDS:

From your cables I note that westerlies continue but the latter part of this month should show some easing off. Meanwhile I assume nothing can be done as regards the Nauru moorings. From preliminary information it would appear that the up-and-down has parted. I hope it will be possible to clear up the question as to whether the old trouble of a shackle coming adrift has been the cause of this unfortunate setback.

Yours sincerely,

Signed - ALBERT F. ELLIS

Encl.

Original Minutes Nos. 466/480.
C/Letter to E.J. Fawcett, Es. 7/1/47
Phosphate Report No. 87.

COPY

W. G. & Co. Ltd. 15000753

TELEGRAM

DECODE.

[CODE En clair.]

From: Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.

To: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne.

(Date) 18th January, 1947

No.

Your telegram sixth Ocean Island land, Secretary State has approved recommendations Kaudes Memorandum but some weeks must elapse before negotiations can commence with Banabans. Undesirable reopen land negotiations before main questions of terms of settlement Rabi are being put Banabans or have been put and agreed. Best course Maynard accompany Officer proceeding Rabi for negotiations. No useful purpose served by Maynard coming Fiji twentyninth as proposed. Will inform you when ready open negotiations and glad if Maynard could then come Suva.

Secretary, Western Pacific High
Commission.

10

12

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 141.

18th January 1947.

The New Zealand Commissioner,

Dear Sir Albert,

OCEAN ISLAND LAND

I have received the following telegram from Suva this morning.

" Your telegram 6th Ocean Island land. Secretary State has approved recommendations Maude's memorandum but some weeks must elapse before negotiations can commence with Banabans. Undesirable reopen land negotiations before main questions of terms of settlement Rabi are being put Banabans or have been put and agreed. Best course Maynard accompany officer proceeding Rabi for negotiation. No useful purpose served by Maynard coming Fiji twentieth as proposed. Will inform you when ready open negotiations and glad if Maynard could then come Suva. "

I regard the arrangements proposed as very satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. A. Harold Gaze.

1897

1845

2506

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC.
SUVA, FIJI.

Confidential.

No. C.F.48/5.

du
29.1.47.

29th January, 1947.

ANSWERED
See 190

Sir,

188

I have the honour to refer to your memorandum No. 35.A/R.43-44 of the 21st of January on the subject of the clearing of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony suspense Account to which expenditures in connexion with the Rabi Island Settlement has been charged.

2. I now enclose copy of a printed Memorandum prepared by Mr. Maude dealing with the future of the Banaban population, with special relation to their lands and funds. Your attention is invited to paragraph 35 (b) of the Memorandum, where it is stated that the cost of transportation of the Banabans to Rabi Island, and of establishing there a temporary camp, and of rationing the Banabans for one month after arrival at Rabi, would be a charge against the Colony and not against Banaban funds.

3. The proposals contained in the enclosed Memorandum have received the approval of the Secretary of State but it remains for them to be accepted by the Banaban community. When this has been done I will communicate you again, but in the meantime you will appreciate that no action can be taken to clear the Suspense Account under reference, and that the enclosed Memorandum should be regarded as confidential.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. de S. STAFFORD

For Secretary,
Western Pacific High Commission.

12

E.C.
29.1.47.

1847 HCB

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,
SUVA, FIJI.

CONFIDENTIAL.

NO. O.F. 48/5/40.

29th January, 1947.

ANSWERED
See p. 112

2507

My dear Holland,

I enclose, for your (for the present) confidential use, a print of Maude's Memorandum on the Banabans - the prints of which have recently been received from New Zealand.

(Page 107)
(See p. 102)

2. Again for your strictly confidential information, the Secretary of State telegraphed on the 2nd January agreeing to an endeavour to effect a final settlement with the Banabans on the basis of Maude's recommendations, subject to a few minor comments which do not affect the issue.

(Page 102)
(See p. 105)

3. We repeated the telegram to Maude on the 6th January, and are still awaiting his reply. It is proposed that, when Maude's reply is received, a suitable Officer (or Officers) should proceed to Rabi to conduct the negotiations with the Banabans in collaboration with yourself. For the present, however, you should take no action of any sort in the way of breaching the matter to the Banabans.

4. It is proposed, at the same time, to negotiate with the Banabans for the acquisition of further mining land in Ceceba Island - really an integral part of the settlement with them - and for this purpose it is proposed that Hayward should come here and accompany the negotiating Officer to Rabi.

5.

Major F.G.L. Holland, O.B.E., G.M.,
Rabi Island.

- 2. -

5. You will be duly informed of developments.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

13

TELEGRAM

Ans. at 19.
473

To : Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Suva.
From : Holland, Rambi Island.

19

4th February, 1947.

23

Confidential. 3rd February. Your letter C.F. 45/5/10 of 29th January, I urge that no officer may visit Rambi for purpose intended. There is a danger that such visit may revive former issues and that considerable ground gained in recent months may be lost. Please compare in this connection present attitude of Banabans as expressed in my letter of 2nd December and that revealed in earlier statements made to visiting officers and the officer in charge. I had thought that unanimous decision of Banabans as conveyed in that letter together with its detail would be considered as rendering unnecessary the despatch of a special officer to negotiate with the community. I feel strongly that subject to instructions I should be allowed to continue discussions with the Banabans on the lines that have already brought satisfactory results until all remaining questions have been settled.

I suggest that Maynard when he comes should come alone. Banabans have agreed and most reasonably in my opinion that agreement with the British Phosphate Commissioners is a matter independent of Settlement Scheme. If Maynard arrives with the officer you mention the two matters will again become intermingled to the prejudice of both.

Holland.

-----oCo-----

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C
O
P
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WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,
SUVA. FIJI.

2508

/ 191

No. C.F. 48/5/10.

7th February 1947.

Dear Sir Albert,

I enclose, for your personal information and use, the attached print of Maude's Memorandum on Banaban Lands and Funds. A copy of the Memorandum in typescript was sent to Gaze in Melbourne in September last, and I understand that he passed a copy on to you. Six prints of the Memorandum are now being sent to Gaze.

2.9.46

2. You will be interested to learn that the Secretary of State has authorized us to endeavour to effect a settlement with the Banabans on the lines recommended in the Memorandum, and we are now considering ways and means of opening negotiations with them. Pending the outcome of such negotiations and until a definite settlement is reached I should be glad if you would treat this and the Memorandum as strictly confidential.

3. I take this opportunity of acknowledging with very many thanks the receipt of a copy of your book on the re-occupation of Mauru and Ocean Island, which I have read with very great interest. Pressure of official work has prevented an earlier acknowledgment - for which I offer my apologies.

With kindest regards to Lady Ellis and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Signed - H. VASKESS.

Sir A.F. Ellis,
C.P.O. Box 2,
AUCKLAND. NEW ZEALAND.

TELEGRAM.

1688(c)

DECODE.

[CODE..... Govt.]

319 X38 46-2 1015

From: Assistant High Commissioner.

To: Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony.

(Date) 7th February, 1947

No. 08

ANSWERED
See 26

S.C.
7.2.47.

(21)

Following telegram has been received from Sir Alexander Grantham in Canberra, begins.

Please telegraph approximate date (for example end of March, middle of April) when Heude or Macdonald will be going to Tahi so that Gase may make arrangements regarding Maynard.

(2). British Phosphate Commission propose to offer Fancobans royalty of 1s. 7d. per ton and £200 per acre (less good land proportionately less). This seems reasonable. Have you any comments. If the Fancobans refuse Commissioners will go to arbitration. Ends.

(See (24))

2. I have replied, begins.

I am as yet unable to give even approximate date for visit of Officer to Tahi that would be of any value for purpose for which required. Holland has submitted certain representations regarding conduct of negotiations and visit of Maynard which may seriously affect our plans for opening negotiations with Fancobans. I have asked Heude for his views on receipt of which position may be clearer.

(See n. 112 in C.F. 13/5/40 and (22) herein.)

(2). Your paragraph 2. I regard proposed offer as reasonable basis of negotiation with Fancobans but not unduly liberal as it represents increases of only 25 and 15 per cent respectively on 1940 terms whereas currency depreciation in the interval has been much greater.

(See n. 115 in C.F. 13/5/40 and (23) herein.)

3. See my telegram No. 94 regarding Holland's representations. Telegraph any comments you may wish to offer.

High Commissioner.

16
102

2509 192

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, NAURU.

per m.v. "FERNAGOR" (2)

P.C. LETTER NO. 20

10th FEBRUARY 1947

The General Manager,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your P.C. Letters Nos. 33 and 34.

1. MEMORIALS. 33.

I conferred with the Administrator regarding the memorial tablets, and he is in full agreement with the details forwarded by you, commenting very favourably on the text.

2. REPORT ON VISIT TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND BY MR. F. P. CHRISTIAN
34/23.

I read with interest the above report.

3. CAPT. N. C. ANDERSON - HARBOUR MASTER.

Provisional arrangements have been made that Capt. Anderson will take his vacation at the end of March if all mooring work has been completed. Please confirm by telegram.

4. EUROPEAN CEMETERY.

I refer you to Memorandum C.70/1 dated 21st January from the Administrator, included in the enclosed correspondence file, for details available here regarding B.P.C. and Administration personnel and relatives whose graves were desecrated by the Japanese occupation forces.

Omitted from the list attached to the Memorandum was the grave of Dr. Matsuoka, details of whom, we cannot supply.

We have located the headstone of the grave of William Bertram Baker, whilst the grave and headstone of Henry Richard Downie has been left undisturbed.

I refer you to my Memorandum No.10/1947 to the Administrator regarding my acceding to the request of His Honour re the inclusion of the late Mr. L.W. Neck in your arrangements for the suitable replacement of headstones.

5. CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR.

Copies of correspondence exchanged with the Administrator are enclosed herewith.

2....

6. GOVERNMENT GAZETTES.

Government Gazettes Nos. 4, 5, and 6 are enclosed
herewith.

Yours faithfully,

per pro THE BRITISH PROSPERATE COMMISSIONERS,

(SOD) R. B. KIRK.

NAURU MANAGER.

ENCLOSURES :

Copies of Correspondence exchanged with the Administrator.
Government Gazettes Nos. 4, 5, and 6.

2810

4

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 145.

11th February 1947.

The New Zealand Commissioner,

Dear Sir Albert,

I have no letters from you for reply.

1. MOVEMENTS

Mr. Webster arrived here today and will leave again for Sydney on the 13th.

I returned by plane from Canberra a.m. the 7th after attending the South Pacific Conference.

2. SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The recent conference in Canberra resulted in the conclusion of an agreement between the representatives of the six countries concerned. I will send you a copy of the agreement next week together with some notes. The agreement is subject to confirmation by the Governments.

3. ISLAND VISIT

As waterside workers in Australia are at present working only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with resultant congestion of shipping, and there is a dispute with members of the Amalgamated Engineers Union which prevents ship repairs from being done, it is extraordinarily difficult to make any reliable programme for the movements of our ships. The "TRIONA" has been delayed a week at Fort Momba before she could begin discharge and is now unlikely to leave Melbourne on her next trip to the Islands before end February or early March. Regarding the "TRIONA's" movements, to which reference was made in letter No. 144/6, as soon as we found that discharge in Melbourne would be practicable though slow, we directed the master by radio to proceed here. As far as we can judge at present, she should be ready to leave about 10th/15th March if the overhaul has to be deferred, or about 24th/29th March if the dispute with the engineers is settled by the end of February.

4. OCEAN ISLAND LAND RASI

Whilst in Canberra I had the opportunity of talking with Sir Alexander Grantham on several occasions. I told him the

4. Ocean Island Land - continued
Rabi

terms which the Commissioners agreed to offer for Ocean Island land and asked if he considered them satisfactory. He enquired if they represented the limit to which we were prepared to go voluntarily and I said that they did, explaining that they were half way between our 1940 offer and the figures asked by the Banabans from Mr. Maynard in March last. He then said that he considered them reasonable. He told me that he thought his representative would go to Rabi early in April. Mr. Maude would go if practicable, otherwise Mr. Macdonald. He cabled to Mr. Vaskess asking him to let me know definite dates as soon as possible. Evidently he also mentioned the proposed terms for the land, as I have received from him the following note dated Sydney, 8th February.

" I enclose a copy of a telegram from Vaskosa regarding the Rabi business. It looks as though there will be some delay before Maynard will be required. "

The telegram, which is dated Suva, 7th February, and addressed to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom at Canberra, reads,

" Your telegram No. 27 of 4th February. Following for Sir Alexander Grantham. Begins.

I am as yet unable to give even approximate date for visit of officer to Rabi that would be of any value for the purpose for which required. Holland has submitted certain representations regarding conduct of negotiations and visit of Maynard which may seriously affect our plans for opening negotiations with Banabans. I have asked Maude for his view on receipt of which position may be clearer.

2. Your paragraph 2. I regard proposed offer as reasonable basis for negotiations with Banabans but not unduly liberal as it represents increases of only 25% and 15% respectively on 1940 terms whereas currency depreciation in interval has been much greater.

Vaskess

Ends. "

5.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP -- "TRILENA" , "TPIONA"

As you will have noticed from Mr. Amery's letters Nos. 199/3 and 191/6, it has been found necessary to complete a further set of papers in connection with the transfer of part ownership in our two vessels from Sir Arthur Gage to Mr. Amery and from Sir Clive McPherson to Mr. Webster. Only one set of forms is required to complete both transfers, and these are enclosed for completion by you and return to me in due course. In each case the declaration on Form 6 should be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or other person stipulated in the footnote to the form. Such

5. Transfer of Ownership - "TRIONIA", "TRIONIA" - continued

person should add his qualification and place of attestation. The person witnessing your signature on Form No. 10 should add his occupation and address.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. A. HAROLD GAZE.

ENCLOSURES

Forms re Transfer of Ownership "TRIONIA", "TRIONIA"

C/ Letter to Australian Commissioner No. 70

C/ General Letter to London No. 110

C/ General Letter from London No. 482

w/C/Letter from Christmas Island Phosphate Co.
20/1/47

" Extract from "Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter"
2/12/46

" I. E. F. C. Committee on Fertilisers, Summary of
Decisions, Meeting 19/12/46

1721

12th February, 1947.



The Administrative Officer,
RABI ISLAND,
via Suva. Fiji.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of 12th November, 1946, and "payment received" statement for rentals under Section 'A' - all leaseholds other than those acquired under Lease dated 12/1/31 - for the annual rental 11/1/46 to 10/1/47 plus the period from 1/11/45 to 10/1/46.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter, there was a question whether the rental for 25.391 acres of non-mining land would be paid to the Resident Commissioner or to Suva in future. No other arrangements had been proposed by the High Commissioner so we authorised our Ocean Island Manager to pay the rental for 25.391 acres at Ocean Island. The rentals for 150 acres of mining land, 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of non-mining land, and 25.391 acres of non-mining land for the period 1st November, 1945, to 10th January, 1946 were paid at the same time for the same period, to the Resident Commissioner on 9th September, 1946.

3. LAND NAMES:

(i) Section 'A'

All leaseholds other than those acquired under Lease dated 12/1/31.

All the leases have in the body of the lease a description of the land and a plan of the block is drawn on the back of the lease. In some cases the land name has been added. There are 198 leases in Section 'A' and the land name is entered on 80 leases. Statement 1 shows the Block No. and, if the information is entered on the lease, the land name. We have given particulars of the locality of all blocks. The 198 Leasehold Rent Books forwarded with our letter of 27th August, 1946, were for these 198 blocks in Section 'A' and we regret that we are unable to supply a complete list of the land names identified with each block.

(See 244 in F.70/100)

3. LAND NAMES:(cont.)

(ii) Section 'B'

Lease of land on Ocean Island made on 12th January, 1931, under the provisions of the Mining Ordinance, 1928.

There are 76 blocks in the 25.391 acres of non-mining land and we have a list of the land names identified with each block. The land names and particulars of the locality of the blocks are shown in Statement 2.

(iii) Blocks taken up under Lease Agreement, 12/1/31. 150 acres of Mining Land - Central Area, as at 30th June, 1938

We enclose 3 sheets showing the land names identified with each block within the 150 acres of mining land.

4. LEASE OF LAND ON OCEAN ISLAND MADE ON 12th JANUARY, 1931, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE MINING ORDINANCE, 1928.

(See (11/10) F70/100) The sum of £A142-5-7 due in respect of 150 acres of mining land, 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of non-mining land, and 25.391 acres of non-mining land, as detailed in our letter of 27th August, 1946, was paid to the Government on Ocean Island on the 11th January, 1947, for 12 months in advance.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission, for information.

Yours faithfully

per pro THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS,

(Signed) A. Harold Gaze.

General Manager.

Enclosures:

1. Statement 1: Section 'A': All Leaseholds other than those acquired under Lease dated 12/1/31.
2. Statement 2: Section 'B': Lease of Land on Ocean Island made on 12th January, 1931, under the Provisions of the Mining Ordinance, 1928.
3. Ocean Island - Central Area - as at 30th June, 1938. Blocks of 150 acres taken up under Lease Agreement 12th January, 1931. (3 sheets)

23

file

(2511)

377
194

THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 277

24th February 1947.

The United Kingdom Commissioner, (at Wellington)

Dear Mr. Amery,

I thank you for your letters Nos. 194, 195 and 196.

- 1. BOARD MINUTES - your 194/5

The original minutes have now been initialled by Sir Albert Ellis and returned here. Mr. Webster initialled them when in Melbourne recently.

- 2. CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of correspondence with the Australian and New Zealand Commissioners since your departure from London are enclosed.

- 3. ENCLOSURE LISTS
LONDON GENERAL LETTERS
CABLES

As arranged with you before you left London, I have forwarded your copies of Enclosure Lists, commencing with No. 20, to the London Manager. I suggest that while you are in Auckland you might peruse the New Zealand Commissioner's copies. Should you desire to peruse General Letters exchanged with London Office since your departure, the New Zealand Commissioner also receives copies of these. Copies of all cables are available in Auckland.

- 4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 25th YEAR, ENDED 30th JUNE 1945

I advised you by cable on 22nd January that the Commonwealth Treasury had approved the Confidential Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1945.

- 5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 26th YEAR, ENDED 30th JUNE 1946

I was pleased to receive your cable of 15th January advising that you had received your copy of the detailed accounts, posted on 11th January. Your copies of the Confidential and Printed Reports and Accounts are forwarded herewith, also a copy of Accounts Letter to London, No. 689, covering the despatch of copies of these for London Office and the United Kingdom Government. London Office advised us by cable on 4th February that these had been received,

5. Annual Accounts 26th Year, Ended 30th June 1946 - continued
and the accounts were presented to the three Governments on the 5th.
6. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - your 195/2

I am glad to note from your 195/2 that it is not considered any difficulty will arise in arranging for your evidence to be given early in June next. I suggest that it would be advisable to arrange if possible for the 1945/46 accounts to be taken then as well as those for 1944/45. As the accounts will then have been in the hands of the Government for four months there should be no difficulty about this. At present the P.A.C. examinations are always twelve months behind.

7. OCEAN ISLAND LAND - your 194/8

On 20th January I passed on to you a cable received from Sir Alexander Grantham agreeing that Mr. Maynard should accompany the Government officer who proceeds to Rabi for negotiations with the Banabans. This arrangement is satisfactory as the questions of settlement at Rabi and the acquisition of further land at Ocean Island can be dealt with in the order and manner found by the Government officer and Mr. Maynard to be expedient. I refer you to my letter to Sir Albert Ellis, No.145/4 regarding my discussions with Sir Alexander Grantham at Canberra recently. Sir Alexander then expected that the date of the visit to Rabi would be early April, but the cable received subsequently from Mr. Vaskess shows that Major Holland has made suggestions which may affect the proposed arrangements and date.

Referring to your letter No.194/8 it is not practicable to press for a settlement of the land question by a given date, and I do not think much further progress will be made whilst you are on this side. I doubt if we could justify asking the High Commissioner to go to New Zealand for further discussions with the Commissioners on the land question. As Suva is almost on the direct route from our Islands to Auckland, we could call there in the "TRIENZA" for a day, if at the time there appears to be any advantage in so doing. At present it seems doubtful if the call would be justified.

The High Commissioner now knows the terms we are prepared to offer and considers them reasonable. Mr. Vaskess, as one would expect, expresses more qualified approval in his message to Sir Alexander Grantham. I think it is possible that some difficulty may arise as to the price per acre of the land below the 170 foot contour and also as to the currency in which payment should be made, and I propose to discuss both these matters with the Commissioners.

On the 20th February I received your telegram reading,

" Vaskess's successor Chamberlain is travelling with me and it might be useful if you could supply Ellis with memo on Banaban land question in light of

7. Ocean Island Land - continued

" Canberra Conference which Ellis and I could discuss with Chamberlain on arrival about 6th March. "

to which I replied,

" Conference does not affect Banaban question. Had useful discussion Grantham. Consider detailed discussion Chamberlain probably inadvisable. Writing you Wellington. "

8. PROVIDENT FUND

Page 7 of Balance Sheet Schedule 5 in the Commissioners' detailed accounts shows that the amount at the credit of Provident Fund Reserve at 30th June 1946 was £62,088, compared with £56,159 at 30th June 1945, an increase of nearly £6,000. Out of this the "C" Account vote has to be found. This works out at £5,426 as against the estimate of £4,000. The basis of the charge in the Trading Account each year for Provident Fund is to provide such an amount as will meet all commitments and add a little to the reserve, which needs building up to meet such items as retiring allowances.

9. NAURUAN REHABILITATION - your 194/4

The New Zealand Government concurred with the Commonwealth Government's proposals. Up to date I have not heard of a reply from the British Treasury to Canberra.

10. MAKATEA

There have been no further developments yet regarding the supply of 50,000 tons from Makatea to Japan. The loading programme is fully booked to the end of March for New Zealand and Australia.

11. CHRISTMAS ISLAND - your 195/7

Mr. Robb sent me a draft of a memorandum recording the discussion which you and he had with Mr. Vinen. It appeared to me to be in order and I asked him to obtain Mr. Vinen's concurrence. He is exchanging letters confirming our agreement to purchase 1947/48 and 1948/49 output, with an option on output for 1949/50. I have received this morning a letter from Mr. Vinen dated 18th March in reply to mine of 8th January. This is being copied and I will refer to it in a later letter. Mr. Vinen's disposition to consider alternatives 1 and 2 is interesting, and there are several points regarding these alternatives which I shall be glad to have the opportunity of discussing with you and the other Commissioners in the early future. Christmas Island is having very bad weather at present.

To U.K. Commissioner No.277 24/2/47

P.4.

12. MOVEMENTS

Your arrival date by the "RIMUTAKA" at Wellington was first given as 4th March and has now been altered to 6th March, I telegraphed you on 20th February,

" TRIENZA leaves Melbourne 5th calls Brisbane.
Arranging air travel Sydney 8th Brisbane 10th. "

As far as we can judge at present the "TRIONA" will sail from Newcastle on 5th March and the "TRIENZA" from Melbourne the same day. We are putting the "TRIENZA" into Brisbane so that you can get across in time to join her. Accommodation is being booked for you at the Wentworth Hotel for the 8th and 9th and a plane booking to Brisbane from Sydney will be made for the 10th. Mr. Webster will go up from Sydney by train. I attach a copy of the latest programme of our ships, from which you will see that we expect to be about 16 days at the Islands, and to arrive in New Zealand middle April. Allowing three weeks there, we should get back to Australia about 6/7th May, if travelling by air. This would allow you to remain two or three weeks in Australia and be back in England about end May.

Regarding the last part of paragraph 8 of your letter No.195, it would not have been possible to arrange for the conference with the New Zealand manufacturers early in March. Even by the middle of April it is going to be extremely difficult to have ready adequate data regarding this year's results and forecasts for next year to form the basis of the conference with the manufacturers.

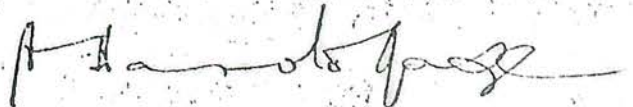
13. SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

I enclose a copy of my notes on the recent South Pacific Conference in Canberra, together with a copy of the agreement between the Governments concerned and some other relevant papers.

14. INTEREST AND SINKING FUND

Referring to my letter No.267/9 I understand that cables have now been sent from Canberra and Wellington in reply to the message from the British Treasury. I have not yet received a copy of the cable as despatched, but I understand it is in accordance with the attached copy of the draft. As Wellington agreed with Canberra's views regarding a reply, the New Zealand message no doubt will be to the same effect though in different terms.

Yours sincerely,



ENCLOSURES - see page 5

To U.K. Commissioner No.277 24/2/47 P.5.

ENCLOSURES

- C/ Confidential Report and Accounts, 26th Year ✓
- C/ Printed Report and Accounts, 26th Year ✓
- C/ Accounts Letter to London No.689 ✓
- C/ Notes South Pacific Commission, 18/2/47 ✓
- C/ Programme No.10 "TRIENZA", "TRIONA" ✓
- C/ Draft Cable from Commonwealth Govt. to Dominions Office,
date of despatch indicated as 21/2/47 ✓
- C/ Letters to Australian Commissioner Nos.17 to 21
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.984
w/C/Letter to Director General Agriculture 7/1/47
- C/ Letters to N.Z. Commissioner Nos. 140, 141, 142
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.985
w/C/Letter to Director-General Agriculture 20/1/47
- C/ Letter to N.Z. Commissioner No.143
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.986
- C/ Letters to N.Z. Commissioner Nos. 144, 145
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.987
- C/ Letter to N.Z. Commissioner No.146
- C/ Letter from N.Z. Commissioner No.988
w/C/Letter from Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission,
7/2/47
- C/ Letter to N.Z. Commissioner No.147

TELEGRAM.

DECODE.

[CODE Govt.]

319 X35 46-2 rms.

From: High Commissioner.

1847

To: Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony.

No. 150.

(Date) 26th February, 1947.

E.C.
26.2.47.

RECEIVED
NO 160
F. 4/12

2512

(Page 153)

IMPORTANT. Your telegram No. 98, settlement with Banabans. I propose that Holland should inform Banabans in general way of proposed terms of settlement leaving details and any specific points which they may raise for discussion with them at the final negotiations.

2. I consider it important that you and Macdonald should be there to negotiate final settlement. I am investigating possibility of sending plane to Tarawa immediately after Easter to take Financial Secretary and bring you to Suva with the idea that you and Macdonald should go to Rabi about 14th April and that you should proceed to New Zealand by air early in May.

3. Because of congestion in air transport between here and New Zealand it would be preferable for your wife and son to proceed to New Zealand by ship as planned. Is this agreeable to you? There would not be time for you to come here from Auckland and get back to New Zealand by early May.

4. British Phosphate Commissioners are being asked to send Maynard here at end of March to negotiate with Banabans on terms of acquisition of land in Ocean Island. Those negotiations should then be completed by 14th April and Maynard will be available if any questions about the land terms are raised by Banabans with you and Macdonald.

5. To avoid any loophole for alleged misunderstanding of the terms on the part of the Banabans it will be necessary to have a clear and unequivocal statement of the terms of the proposed agreement drawn up in English and properly translated into Gilbertese. As such translation would present some difficulty here you should have it done at Tarawa to your satisfaction and bring it with you.

6. Telegraph urgent reply to paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

High Commissioner.

29

(see 27 in F. 48) 30.

sent to Mayo Holland
p. 168
heron

COPY BU 3.3.47

160.

TELEGRAM.

DECODE.

[CODE GOVT.]

319 X93 46-2 rms.

From: Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony.

To: High Commissioner.

No. 156.

1850

(Date) 28th February, 1917.

E.C.
13.47.

ANSWERED
See Page 164.

RECEIVED
1-28-17
W.P.H.C.

2513

(Page 158)

IMPORTANT. Your telegram No. 150, Banaban settlement, paragraphs 2 and 3, will make necessary arrangements accordingly.

2. While I fully agree with paragraph 4, I would urge this should be drawn up by legal expert. Were I to attempt it here without guidance or assistance amendments would surely be necessary as a result of subsequent discussions with Your Excellency, Legal Adviser, High Commission staff, and later with Holland and Banabans. Furthermore unless verbal translation at meeting is unimpeachable Banabans may well allege later that they were misinformed regarding meaning and effect of settlement.

3. I recommend for consideration therefore that Legal Authorities should draw up suitable statement of terms of proposed agreement for approval by Your Excellency and that Bauro Ratieta should fly down with me to translate documents and any subsequent amendments and interpret at meeting. Importance of avoiding misunderstanding would appear to justify comparatively small expenditure involved which should not exceed £100.

Acting Resident Commissioner.

Majin Kollamo
1850

TELEGRAM.

DECODE.

[CODE.....Govt.]

319 N38 46-2 int.

From: High Commissioner.

To: Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony.

No. 171.

(Date) 5th March, 1947.

2514

1251

E.C.
6.3.47.

ANSWERED
See 9.167

(Page 160)

Your telegram No. 156, settlement with Banabans. What we require in the first instance is not a legal document but a clear and concise statement to be handed to the Banabans for their information and consideration. It seems important that the statement should be prepared by someone with an intimate knowledge of the subject and all are agreed that you are best fitted to supervise the preparation of the statement. If and when agreement has been reached with the Banabans it will then be time to have a legally binding document drawn up if this is considered to be necessary or take such other steps as may be considered to be desirable to give effect to the agreement.

2. I should be glad if you would proceed accordingly and have statement translated by Bauro who should as you propose accompany you to Suva.

3. See paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 77. It is important that full details of expenditure and its allocation in connexion with Rabi Island should be available at final negotiations with Banabans.

High Commissioner.

Page 141)

See p. 34.

Original Copy sent to Major ...
with 168 hereon.

TRANSLATION

Nuka, Rambi Island.

7th March, 1947.

Sir,

We, the Banaban people on Rambi Island, have the honour to submit a request to you. The request is that we may be told that Rambi Island is our own land, like Banaba.

Major Holland has written to you of our decision to make Rambi our permanent headquarters and home, and of our requests joined with the decision. We are willing to wait for the answer to these requests, and for the reply to other matters submitted at the same time.

We have had many meetings about the division of lands and about the sites for our permanent homes. It would help us with these to know that Rambi is truly our own. So we ask please that you will inform us that Rambi is now our true land, like Banaba. We shall then know, that under the British flag, we have our new headquarters and home.

We are,

Your servants,

The Banaban Community.

His Excellency,
The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific,
S U V A, F I J I.

Sir,

We have the honour to request that you will forward the above letter to His Excellency, The High Commissioner, together with your covering remarks. Thank you very much.

We are,

Your servants.

The Banaban Community.

The Administrative Officer,

R A M B I.

COLONY OF FIJI,
Rambi Island.
14th March, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, attached hereto, a copy of a letter received from the Banaban settlers on Rambi. A translation of the letter is also attached. The ownership of Rambi Island is the subject.

2. The Banabans, owing to progress made in discussion, now believe that sufficient agreement exists among themselves, for the division of lands to be successfully attempted. I myself earnestly wish for a start to be made. The general importance of the measure is very clear. And there are special reasons for it, the principal of which is that it will provide an antidote to inertia. Certain sections of the community have been decidedly idle, though more as if awaiting an inducement to effort. Such inducement will done, I feel, when the lands have been divided, and are again held in accordance with custom.

3. A formula covering the transfer of Rambi to Banaban ownership has been stated by Mr. H.B. Maude, M.B.E., at paragraph 53 of his memorandum on Banaban affairs. The formula was to apply, as stated later in the same paragraph, "in the event of the Banabans deciding to make Rambi their new homeland". Such decision has been made. It is true that there are conditions, but none of these appears as a stumbling-block to approval of the Banabans' present request. Please see in this connection my letter of 2nd December, paragraph 2 and 3. Condition 2 (b) is compatible with paragraphs 52 and 58 of the memorandum; 2 (c), with paragraph 52; 3 (d), with paragraph 73 - the difference here is one of degree only; 3 (e), with paragraph 50; 3 (f) though not expressly anticipated is surely a matter destined to be granted. I hope therefore for approval to the request contained in the attached letter, and would be grateful if such approval could be given at an early date.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F.G.L. Holland,

Administrative Officer,
Rambi.

The Secretary to the
Western Pacific High Commission,
S U V A, F I J I.

Distribution - The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary,
The District Commissioner, Northern.
The Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and
Ellice Islands Colony.

COPY:

(707)

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

Code....Govt.....

From: Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony

To : High Commissioner.

No : 214.

(Date) 20th March, 1947.

E.C.
21.3.47.

Your telegram No. 171, paragraph 3, Rabi expenditure. My understanding was that, except for Item mentioned in paragraph 36 (B) of my memorandum, all expenditure on Rabi was to be charge on Banaban Funds in consideration of which Banabans were to be exempt from direct taxation until final settlement when arrangements in paragraph 65 would come into force.

2. In Holland's letter of 11th February to Secretary, W.P.F.C., he has however charged all expenditure on normal services to this Colony despite the fact that we no longer receive any direct or indirect revenue from Banabans to meet it. Please state whether this is your intention so that application may be made for Special Warrant to cover items not in Estimates. Presumably 1947/48 Estimates will be adjusted in Suva. It would appear inequitable that Colony should defray cost of administration on Rabi unless we receive grants-in-aid for the purpose from Banaban Funds as in pre-war years.

3. Apart from above it is not possible to allocate certain other items as between Banaban and Colony funds until further details are forwarded by Holland - see my despatch No. 18.

Resident Commissioner.

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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Confidential.

SUVA, FIJI.

No. F.48/30.

25th March, 1947.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 6 of the 24th March (confirmatory copy enclosed), relative to the forth-coming visit of Mr. H.B. Maynard, of the British Phosphate Commissioners' staff, to Rabi Island to negotiate with the Banabans for the acquisition of the remaining areas of mining land in Ocean Island, I am directed to forward, for your confidential information, the attached copies of telegrams, as noted in the margin, received from, and sent to, the High Commissioner during his recent visit to Canberra.

2. You should, of course, take no part whatever in Mr. Maynard's land negotiations with the Banabans, making it clear to them, if necessary, that those negotiations are wholly between them and the British Phosphate Commissioners.

3. In order that you should understand the position from the Commissioners' point of view, Mr. Maynard will no doubt explain to you the differing values of the remaining areas of mining land according to the estimated yield of phosphate per acre.

I am,

Sir,
Your obedient servant.

Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.

The Officer in Charge,
Banaban Settlement Scheme,
Rabi Island,
Fiji.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Confidential.

SUVA, FIJI.

No. C.F. 48/5/10.

26th March, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 3rd February on the question of a settlement with the Banabans in respect of lands, funds, etc., on the lines proposed in Mr. Maude's memorandum of the 2nd September.

2. I am to assure you that the decision to send senior representatives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and Fiji Governments to complete the negotiations with the Banabans implies no lack of confidence in your ability successfully to handle these people and to discuss terms of settlement with them. It is, however considered desirable that senior officers of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and Fiji Government should be present at the final negotiations.

3. Arrangements are therefore being made for Mr. H.E. Maude, M.B.E., Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, and Mr. P.D. Macdonald, representing the Fiji Administration, to proceed to Rabi Island towards the end of April to complete the negotiations and secure the final agreement of the Banabans to the terms of settlement.

4. His Excellency has noted with satisfaction the progress made in securing the agreement of the Banabans to settle permanently in Rabi Island, as reported in your letter of the 2nd December. Some of the points mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 of that letter are already covered by the proposed terms of settlement as set out in Mr. Maude's memorandum; the remainder will no doubt be settled by agreement during the final negotiations. With regard to your paragraph 6, the first two items, the future management of communal funds and the Banaban Landholders Fund, are also covered by the proposed terms of settlement.

5. On the question of the "Agreement with the British Phosphate Commissioners" (assuming that this refers to the further acquisition of land in Ocean Island), see my Confidential letter No. F. 48/30 of the 25th March relative to the forthcoming visit to Rabi of Mr. H.B. Maynard, the representative of the British Phosphate Commissioners, to negotiate with the Banabans on the terms of acquisition of the remaining areas of land in Ocean Island. Arrangements for the visit of the boundary-marking party will no doubt be discussed at the same time.

Major F.G.L. Holland, O.B.E., C.M.,
Officer in Charge,
Banaban Settlement Scheme,
Rabi Island, Fiji.

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6. The views of the Banabans with regard to the incidence of cost of transport to Ocean Island have been noted, but it is extremely doubtful that the Government will be prepared to accept such a liability. The Banaban Provident Fund was specially created to meet expenses in connexion with the provision of a new home for the Banabans. If Rabi is accepted as their new home, then the cost of any necessary transport between Rabi and Ocean Islands must logically be regarded as a fair charge against the Provident Fund. In this connexion reference is requested to paragraph 2 of my Confidential Letter No. C.F. 48/5/2 of the 31st December.

7. For your information and guidance I enclose copies of telegrams to and from the Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, as noted in the margin.

P29

8. You should now proceed to inform the Banabans in a general way of the proposed terms of settlement - see paragraph 1 of the enclosed telegram to the Resident Commissioner No. 150 of the 26th February. You are authorized to use your discretion, in the light of local circumstances and the attitude of the Banabans towards the proposals as to the interpretation of the words "in a general way" that is, as to how far you should explain the details of the proposals to the Banabans. They will, no doubt, raise many points in connexion with the proposals and will endeavour to obtain concessions in various directions. But you should bear in mind that we are not authorized to go beyond the terms laid down in Mr. Maude's memorandum of the 2nd September - terms which are in fact very liberal and should meet all reasonable aspirations of the Banabans and they should be discouraged from raising points which go beyond those terms. In case of their insistence in any such case you should inform them that the point will have to be referred to higher authority and note it for the final discussions with Messrs. Maude and Macdonald.

9. I am to invite your attention particularly to paragraph 2 of Mr. Maude's enclosed telegram No. 214 of the 20th March, relative to expenditure on Banaban services in Rabi Island. Particular care is necessary not to commit the Government to any expenditure from Government funds (as distinct from Banaban Trust funds) and no promises or undertakings of any sort should be given to the Banabans that any costs or expenses in connexion with the settlement in Rabi Island (other than those clearly covered by the terms of the Memorandum) can be accepted as charges against the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony or Niji Government funds.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.



(26)

TELEGRAM

To : Holland, Rambi.
From : Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Suva.

28th March, 1947.

(24) of B.S.S. Gen. March 24th, No. 6. Your telegram 3rd February, paragraph 2, negotiation with Banabans for lands in Ocean Island. Maynard will arrive at Rambi by "Yanawai", leaving here Saturday, March 29th. Period of stay will depend upon how soon he can reach agreement with the Banabans. He will probably return here and remain in Fiji for negotiation with Banabans on main settlement, in terms of Maude's memorandum, in case he is required for points that may arise in connection with the acquisition of lands in Ocean Island.

2. Please arrange for his accommodation and do what you can to facilitate his mission. Letter follows.

Secom.

-----oOo-----

Present :

H. D. Maynard.		
F. G. L. Holland.		
Tekai Archibo -	Interpreter.	
Ben Corrie -	Interpreter.	
Iete Bri	Kabanti	Nei Pirie
Rotan	Tanora	Nei Terokita
Akeriba	Tito Airu	Nei Oreba
Revi Kaibuariki	Hatua	Nei Raitinibure
Natalo	Tekotau	Nei Tebotia
Urebano	Abakuka	Nei Rutira
Kaitu	Tikaua	Nei Tauca
Katarako	Terakoro	Nei Tauata
Auriana	Taraing	Nei Tekotara
Tabuariki	Waikara	Nei Katsa
Tekenimatang	Ikanawa	Nei Tauraci
Hakura	Tutara	Nei Tanke
Airu	Kareniti	Nei Rote
Ngaiwaka	Kabuta	Nei Tanana
Tehewa	Revi Teta	Nei Mine
Tonaso	Ioteba Karebanga	Nei Aurane
Taukurawa	Aaron	Nei Kiebu
Tawaka	Tania	Nei Terira
Terenite	Keangibe	Nei Aptara
Tione	Durangke Airu	Nei Namoriki
Karuoteiti Airu	Nei Naiti	Nei Ameri

(Meeting opened at 9 a.m.).

Mr Maynard : I told you last year that I would come back to Rambi. First of all I bring to you the best regards of Sir Albert Ellis and Mr Gaze. There are two other Gentlemen you have not met. Their names are Mr Amery and Mr Webster. Mr Amery and Mr Webster know about the Banabans because they have talked with Sir Albert and Mr Gaze.

Sir Albert, as you know, represents the New Zealand Government. Mr Amery represents the Government in England. Mr Webster represents the Government in Australia. All three gentlemen know what I am going to say to you about your lands.

Now I am going to talk about land.

I have brought to Rabi a new plan of Ocean Island in colour. I have brought a number of copies with me. This is not the plan we used before. This plan has more additions for better explanation. On the plan and also on other papers, see the paper marked "reference", are words explaining all the different lands on Banaba.

Will some of you take these plans?
 (Ikanawa now gives out the plans).

You all know Banaba. On the plan you will see some areas marked yellow No. (1). That island either worked out or partly worked out. As you all know, it has been a promise that all lands will be going back to the Banabans. Now against No. (1) (look on your map) you will see 345.7 acres, approximately 346 acres. The whole of the island is estimated to contain approximately 1470 acres. 346 acres is finished with or nearly finished with.

Look at red No. (2). Look on your map. You will see 99 acres. This is unworked land. Land which we have not yet worked.

Now look at blue No. (3). You will remember where we built the Chinese Location. You will remember where we built the Commissioners houses. They were erected on this area. The total area is 419 acres of which 104 acres is leasehold land. The other land which is not leasehold land is freehold land. Now every time I meet you, you talk about this freehold land. After this agreement is concluded I will explain about freehold land. Remind me.

Look at purple No. (4). This area has 291 acres including Buktonikal village and including part of the old government station.

Phosphate land remains in two divided parts. Look on the plan and you will see it. You see a line which we call a survey line. That is the survey line which some of you know in our past surveys. I think some of you remember Mr Wrigley who used to do the surveys. There is also another line called a contour line - it is the 170 foot contour which I will explain later.

Now this is the first piece of phosphate land I wish to talk about. The first piece is approximately 294 acres. This area is good phosphate land. You know good phosphate land. Some of you have been No.1 overacres on the land.

The next piece of land is stone No. (5). It is stone colour on your plan. This area is about 300 acres. We cannot say exactly what the area is until we go round with the survey instruments. This 300 acres is the poor phosphate land. It is the land running down to the coast. This poor land includes the Tabiang and Tabawa village sites.

So there are two pieces of phosphate land I am going to talk about.

Before I talk about the good phosphate land I want to talk about brown No. (6). This is the rocky land. Look on your plan. It is the land coloured brown. The area is about 204 acres. This area includes the Oona village site. You will see how this brown area runs round the island.

The last piece of land on your plan and on the "reference" paper is the area of about 30 acres. This area includes Mission station, Quarantine Station, Leper Station, New Government Station, Government leases and cemeteries.

Now look at the note at the bottom of the plan and at the bottom of the "reference" paper. This note speaks about some leasehold land. The area of this land is about 4.62 acres and is at present held as leasehold land but will be included in phosphate mining land.

Before I take my plan down I want you to ask questions.

(No questions).

Shall I talk about phosphate land now? I am now taking my plan down, but keep your plans in front of you. We had better stop and have a cigarette.

(Stopped at 9.45 a.m.)
(Resumed at 9.50 a.m.)

Mr Maynard: Shall we talk about purple No. (4), the good phosphate land, about 294 acres?

You know we have been on Ocean Island since 1900 and we get clever at estimating what amount of phosphate a piece of land may contain. We measure the height of the land and examine the rocks in that area and we also sink holes about 10 feet down to test the phosphate.

We estimate that 294 acres when worked out will give us about 18,800 tons per acre. Working out the amount of phosphate we can calculate a price. For the land in the 294 acres with an estimated yield of 18,800 tons per acre we calculate a price of £94 per acre. Now to this £94 per acre we have agreed to add £106 per acre, so the price we offer now is £200 per acre Australian currency.

You remember in 1940 Sir Albert Ellis and Mr Case offered £175 per acre.

When I was here last year you put up a "bubuti" for £225 per acre.

Sir Albert Ellis and the other Commissioner and Mr Case read your "bubuti" letter and talked about it. They cannot agree to give £225 but they increase the £175 by another £25 per acre. So the price we offer now is £200 per acre.

294 acres at the price of £200 per acre. (Mr Maynard takes the chalk and works the sum on the blackboard).

We multiply together and we get a total of £58,800 for the surface price. This is £58,800 in Australian currency and is equal to about £51,500 in Fijian currency.

40 98

Now there has been a talk about this money after it has been paid. I think it is a very good idea that the acre price should be placed in Savings Bank Accounts in the names of the owners who could draw the interest currently. £58,200 should be placed in Savings Bank Accounts in the owners names according to the amount each owner owns. The landowner can draw interest from this £58,200. £58,200 represents the acre price of the 291 acres. (The land will be used to provide food) £58,200 represents land in your books and you will draw the interest. I think interest is at 2% in Fijian Savings Bank. That is £2-10-0 per annum on every £100.

Before I talk about the poor phosphate (store colour No. (5) approximately 300 acres) land, I want to say a few words about Royalty. Royalty, as you know, is what we pay for every ton of phosphate delivered in Australia, New Zealand and England. When I was here last year you "bubuti" the Commissioners and Mr Gaze to pay 1/6 per ton Royalty. The Commissioners and Mr Gaze considered 1/6 altogether too high. Before we had offered 1/- per ton; now we offer 1/3 per ton. We go halfway.

When we offer 1/3 a ton we estimate shipments each year about 300,000 tons. We shall not do it this year because of the Japanese but soon we shall be able to ship 300,000 tons a year.

Now 1/3 a ton when we ship 300,000 tons a year will give us Royalty of £18,750 per year in Australian currency.

You know Royalty now is 10½d per ton.

When we ship 300,000 tons at 10½d per ton the Royalty is £13,125 in Australian currency.

Now we offer 1/3 per ton and that gives an increase of £5,625 in Australian currency. (Mr Maynard points to the figures on the blackboard).

The figures are on the blackboard: They are -

300,000 tons per year at 1/3 per ton =	£A. 18,750
300,000 tons per year at 10½d per ton =	£A. 13,125
<u>Increase per year</u>	£A. 5,625.

The Commissioners and Mr Gaze say that if this agreement is signed they will make a gift. //

We have some land which we bought before. We are starting to work it again. On that land we have to pay 10½d Royalty. Now we estimate that in this land there remain 3,500,000 tons and if we make this arrangement instead of paying 10½d we shall pay 1/3 per ton.

Now when we deliver 3,500,000 tons and pay Royalty at 1/3 the fund will receive £218,750 in Australian currency. We need only pay 10½d per ton on the 3,500,000 tons which equals £453,125 in Australian currency. The difference between £218,750 and £453,125 is £234,375, which is a gift to you.

Look on the blackboard and you will see the figures written down. (Figures on the blackboard).

Phosphate land held but unworked

3,500,000 tons at 1/3 =	£A. 218,750
3,500,000 tons at 10½d =	£A. 453,125
<u>Gift</u>	= £A. 234,375.

What you are interested to know is how much you will get by the time Ocean Island is finished. We estimate that the remaining phosphate on Ocean Island is about 12,000,000 tons. (twelve million tons).

12,000,000 tons at 1/3 per ton equals £750,000.

You can see the figures on the blackboard. (Mr Maynard points to these figures). 12,000,000 tons at 1/3 = £A. 750,000 (£A. 663,717).

Some of you want to know about the boundary marking party and transportation to Ocean Island and back to Nadi. I will speak about that now and then go back to talking about the land.

landowners are by
 shall send a table
 how many women
 party. Mr. Case
 decide when he
 party to Ocean
 Ocean Island and
 work is finished
 with the boundary
 asked me if I
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Island the members
 Commissioners
 at Ocean Island
 pointing out the
 boundary making
 Rabi.

Ocean Island and
 accommodation
 will not bear the
 one must grub
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How
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I
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How
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to be \$94 to
 acre, so we have
 on comparison of
 price for the
 we add \$20 per
 Australian currency

300
 294
 300

All
 will remember
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 land where the
 there were few
 think about that.

cases with Major Holland how many
 Ocean Island. When that is agreed I
 Mr. Case telling him how many men and
 women to form the boundary marking
 party into this matter and in due course
 ship to take the boundary marking
 I hope to be able to go with you to
 with you at Ocean Island until the
 the work is finished I hope to return
 party to Rabi. Some of you have
 to go to Ocean Island with you. You
 in this year. I hope to go with you.
 boundary marking party goes to Ocean
 party will be the guests of the
 as they leave Rabi until they arrive
 during the period they are on Ocean Island
 rations also from the time the
 leaves Ocean Island until it arrives at

marking party will travel free to
 Ocean Island to Rabi.

marking party will receive free
 and free medical attention on Ocean Island
 but will not bear the cost. Your funds
 the Commissioners will bear the cost.
 we to live in tents on Ocean Island. No
 fault because we cannot provide houses.
 we you comfortable and happy. What we
 bridge is the Manager at Ocean Island
 we can do to help you during your visit

How
 Do you
 me to talk about the good or the poor

are ready to say a few words about the
 good land. But I
 say something about the poor land.
 surveyed line near the 170 foot contour.
 maps or plans you will see that this is
 (5) and the area is approximately 330

I told you that we estimate that the
 300 tons per acre so we estimate that the
 produce 6,000 tons per acre. A lot of
 very well, the land running down the hills

calculated the price for the good land
 and \$106 to make our offer of \$200 per
 and a price for the poor land worked out
 of 6,000 tons per acre and we make a
 \$230 per acre. To this \$230 per acre
 the price we offer is \$50 per acre

multiplied by 50 equals a total of \$19,000.
 are written on the blackboard.
 at \$200 per acre = \$A. 66,000
 at \$50 per acre = \$A. 19,000

(£. 51,504 8 9)
 (£. 16,614 3 3)
 £. 68,318 12 0.

costs include the cost of trees. You
 you asked us to pay for the trees
 lots of trees you wanted here for the
 plentiful and less for the land where
 Mr. Case told you he would have to
 Case arranged for a count to be made.

But it could not be made because of the war. Many of the trees were cut down by the Japanese. So our price still includes all the remaining trees after the Japanese left.

If it is agreed later that this money should be deposited in the Savings Bank in the owners names you will get the interest marked in your Savings Bank Account.

I think it is good and that you would be wise men to conclude this agreement for both the good and the poor land.

I know some will agree now, and some will not agree now but I must give my reasons because they are true.

We are ready to send our survey party and we are ready to take the boundary marking party as soon as the matter is arranged and we can arrange the ship.

We are not yet ready to mark out the poor land in the same way as we are ready to mark out the good land.

In the good land we can mark your land, and our surveyors will make their readings on their instruments.

In the poor land if we cannot during your visit survey your lands in the same way as in the good land we can put pegs on the pieces of land and mark them to show to whom the land belongs. Then we can survey them later just as we survey the good land. When we survey the poor land we can arrange and we can just take one Bamaban to see it done.

We are all getting older and the sooner each of you can know his land marks the better it will be for all of us. If you do not do this now who can give us the land marks in 10 years time ?

Your children will not know. You know me and I know you. You know Sir Albert Ellis and Mr Gaze and they know you. And in 20 years time who will you know to settle your land marks. I shall not be on Ocean Island in twenty years time. So it is best to think and talk about it now.

(Adjourned 10.30 a.m. - Resumed 10.35 a.m.)

Mr Maynard : Any agreement which we conclude must be signed here at Rabi Island.

I have authority to sign for the three Commissioners and Mr Gaze. You should choose some of your number or the Councillors to sign for you. I shall ask Major Holland to add his signature to my signature and your signatures.

The moment the agreement is signed I shall send a cable to Mr Gaze, and after a week I promise you a date to pay £77,200 in Australian currency, and later you will discuss with Major Holland to find out how much each landowner should get. But we shall pay into the bank immediately on the date agreed so that interest may soon be added. So after 12 months you will be able to draw interest. Major Holland will watch that.

After one week of signing this agreement the first ton of phosphate delivered in Australia or New Zealand will carry 1/3 Royalty.

The poor land about which I have been talking will not be worked for many years. Usually we should not pay for this poor land at the same time as we pay for the good land. We are ready to pay for the poor land at the same time as we pay for the good land.

Before any of you say 'no', I must ask you to be wise and think, and think carefully.

If you do not understand me please ask questions. I want to do what you wish. You must decide.

(Bambans thinking).

Mr Maynard : I have been reminded that I have not made the Royalty clear to you. The Royalty of 1/3 applies to the good land and to the poor land. So there is only one Royalty, a Royalty for all phosphate delivered in Australia and New Zealand. This agreement will be sacred. It does not matter

if Mr Case dies or if I die or if all of you now present die, your children will have this agreement as a sacred thing. I shall take this agreement away with me and one copy will be kept in Major Holland's office for you.

Now is there any one to ask a question before I say something more ?

When we Europeans want to come to and make a decision and cannot come to an agreement where we all think the same, and still we want to come to and make a decision and come to an agreement, we put up our hands and if the majority agrees to a certain decision then we agree to that decision and we all come to agreement. That is what we do otherwise business would never be done.

Now there is something else that I ought to say. Some of you think that we are taking the poor land so that you will never be allowed to set foot on Bamba. You are not right. Bamba is the home of the Bamabans. You have land on Ocean Island for which we pay rent. You have land on Ocean Island on which we pay Royalty. We have promised to you and the Colonial Secretary in England that Ocean Island after being mined by us will be yours. All the rights will never be altered by us. If any Bamaban would like to fly over to Ocean Island now or tomorrow morning he would be free to land. He will be free to land on Ocean Island. No one will say to him "What are you doing here?" "Your land is Babi". All the lands along the coast will still be there and they are all yours. Your lands which we are mining now will be yours after we finish mining them. Because you sell us this land it makes not the slightest difference to the ownership of the land returning to you after we have finished mining the land.

If you do not want to sell this poor land, say something so that I may explain.

Well then, if you have nothing to say I shall say something more.

I must know if you agree with the majority. As I explained before, when we are holding a meeting we take a vote and what the majority agrees we all agree. But you should say something before the majority agrees. Don't say "it's all right", then later try to upset the whole business.

I do not want you to do something which your children will be sorry for afterwards. Let me again explain what I mean. There is a piece of land in the middle of this mining area. Now what happens to the children if the owner of this land refuses to sell? All the other lands will be paid for, the money banked and the interest drawn. This piece of land is not bought, no money representing this piece of land is paid into the bank, no interest is received. The present owner dies. He is dead and his child asks "Why don't I receive interest from that piece of land?".

Later, all the other lands are worked out and returned to the Bamabans. And the Bamabans whose lands have been worked out continue to draw interest. The child of the dead father asks, "Who is going to buy my land?" The Manager says that he cannot work this lonely piece of land surrounded by worked out land and coral pinnacles. His railway lines have been transferred.

All other lands sold join in getting a royalty. This lonely piece of land gives nothing to the Royalty.

Revi : I wish to ask why you want this outside area and yet you have not worked all the good phosphate land.

Mr Maynard : We always look ahead before we actually work the land. We must make preparations. Do you remember Mr Case's talk in 1940? It is the way of business.

Revi : Yes, I do remember. You know we are always ready to sell our lands to you, but we wonder about your reasons for buying.

Mr Maynard : Now are you prepared to vote for the good and the

poor land? I have tried in every way possible to make everything clear for you.

Rewi : There is nothing we worry about in the central area. That has been decided. It is the outside area about which we are not yet ready to decide.

Mr Maynard : I shall not be leaving Rabi Island until this agreement is signed. Ask Rewi if he is representing others who won't sell the poor land.

Rotan : Please may I have a few words with Rewi.
"Rewi, are you now speaking for yourself or for the Banabans?"

Rewi : Not for all. It's up to each landowner to give his opinion.

Mr Maynard : Might I say that one day you Banabans will put up a big school building. Some of you will wish to paint it red some white. If you can't agree on the colour of the paint are you going to leave it unpainted?

Rotan : We thank you very much Mr Maynard for your assistance in helping us, but will you allow us a few moments to make our final decision?

Mr Maynard : Yes, that's all right. You talk together and make a decision now.

(A lengthy discussion among the Banabans followed. Mr Maynard was not present.)

Mr Maynard : You have had a talk and I have had a rest. I am now ready to hear you.

Rotan : We thank you Mr Maynard for giving us time to decide. We are now prepared to sell the poor as well as the good area. You must know that this is the last land, the poor land, and when it's finished, Ocean Island is finished also. We ask therefore for a better price for the outside area, if the Commissioners can be generous enough to do so.

Mr Maynard : Give me a few minutes to work out some sums.

Mr Maynard : This is what I am prepared to do. Yes, I am prepared to increase the price from £50 to £65 an increase of £15 per acre, which means that 300 acres will bring £24,700 an increase of £5,700. The total of both areas now comes to £82,900 in Australian currency. Now I advise you to accept it.

Natua : What is wrong with the land you call the poor land?

Mr Maynard : Well, for one thing we get about 88% phosphate of lime from a good land, and about 84% from a poor land on Ocean Island. (Mr Maynard had explained earlier that the good land, 291 acres, was estimated to yield 18,000 tons per acre, and the poor land, 300 acres, was estimated to yield 6,000 tons per acre).

Natua : The Royalty of $\frac{1}{3}$ is the same for both classes of land. I suggest that the price per acre should be the same.

Mr Maynard : It's up to you. But if we make the prices the same, then the average price per acre will be about £123, instead of £200 per acre for the good land and £65 per acre for the poor land.

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Natua : We have seen at Banaba that the depth of phosphate is the same whether in the central or not.

Mr Maynard : Are you talking about phosphate or coral ?

Natua : Both soil and guano (Phosphate).

Mr Maynard : It is not true that the depth of phosphate is the same. Sometimes in a mine coral sand is dug out in error, but laboratory tests soon show that a mistake is being made. The Manager is then informed and he stops mining in that place. Now, you remember don't you, the tests in the laboratory when coral sand was shown and not phosphate or lime.

Rewi : Yes, I remember.

Mr Maynard : Now I have increased the price of your land from £50 to £65 per acre, and you must say whether you accept it or not.

Tito : Can you increase it a little beyond £65 please ?

Mr Maynard : No more. Mr Case will support the increase of £15 from my first offer of £50 thus making the price £65 per acre. Mr Case will tell the Commissioners that I increased the price from £50 to £65 per acre.

(Banabans seem to accept the price).

I want to say something further. I want to prepare an agreement on these figures and have the agreement signed. The next business will be the land boundary marking party. I suggest you discuss the boundary marking party with Major Holland.

Now I hope to have this agreement signed sometime tomorrow. When the agreement is signed I will send a cable to Mr Case saying that the Banabans are now discussing with Major Holland the question of the members of the party. Mr Maude and Mr Macdonald are coming to Rabi and you have to finish your talks with them so that I can take you to Ocean Island. I am not going to discuss with you who shall be the members of the boundary marking party, that is between you and Major Holland. When the boundary marking party is settled Mr Case will send a ship as soon as he can arrange it. We shall care for you and make you as comfortable as possible. But some of you will have to stay in tents because we are short of houses. I let you know now so that you won't grumble, will you ?

Tito : Before signing --

Akeriba : We thank you Mr Maynard very much for all your help in explaining things for us. And what about the soil under the surface ? Will that be payable to the landowner ?

Mr Maynard : (who thinks Akeriba is talking about the surface price) I think the money will be put in the Bank, and each landowner will draw interest.

Akeriba : Yes, but what about the under surface 1/3 per ton. What shall be done about it ? I am talking about the Royalty.

Mr Maynard : I have nothing to do about that. That is none of my business. I should advise you to ask Mr Maude and Mr Macdonald about it.

Akeriba : Thank you. It's all clear now.

Mr Maynard : Are you prepared to sign the agreement now ?

Akeriba : Yes (loudly).

Tito : Not yet. All the figures are in Australian currency. I ask if you could pay us the same figures in Fiji currency.

Mr Maynard : The answer is this. We are dealing with Australian currency. We raise the phosphate on Ocean Island where Australian currency is used. We work on Ocean Island and earn our money in Australian currency. The figures in Australian currency shown on the blackboard are quite clear, with their equivalent value in Fiji currency. The Commissioners will not agree. The price we offer is a good price. If we put Fiji currency instead of Australian currency the Commissioners will not pay that amount.

Tito : Australian money buys much less in Fiji. That is why I asked you to pay us in Fiji currency. We "bubuti" Mr Maynard to convey our petition to the Commissioners to pay us in Fiji currency.

Mr Maynard : I tell you that the Commissioners will never agree to that. They have worked out and kindly offered you a good price. These are generous figures and not mean ones.

Tito : And supposing some of us go and ask the Commissioners.

Mr Maynard : They will also say, No. I am the voice of the Commissioners.

Rawi : Tito, that will do. We must all join together in this matter and agree with Mr Maynard.

Mr Maynard : May I with Major Holland make an agreement form ready for signature tomorrow ?

The Banabans : All together, Yes.

Rotan : I wish to know whether Mr Maynard can help us in increasing the interest percentage when our money is invested.

Mr Maynard : That's the Bank business but I will cable to Mr Gaze to see if he can help. (See note below)

Rotan : I am sorry to put up this request, which is that the B.P.C. may send one of their ships once a year to Nahi, so that we may get a chance to go to Ocean Island.

Mr Maynard : I cannot promise you that I can help you. It's a very expensive thing sending a ship up here. Well, thank you very much and I hope to go amongst you and see your "Batero". Thank you.

(Meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.)

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Note : Cable sent to Mr Gaze by Mr Maynard on the 11th April, asking Mr Gaze if he will hold £82,900 with interest at 3% until individual areas surveyed, when Banaban landowners hope to arrange with Government to place the money in Savings Bank Accounts in names of individual owners who could draw interest currently. Cable from Mr Gaze to Mr Maynard, received on 16th April, said "Agree hold £82,900 carrying interest 3% from 17th April".

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