

TELEGRAM.

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From: Resident Commissioner, Tarawa.

To: High Commissioner, Suva.

No. 156.

(Date) 28th February, 1947.

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

2. While I fully agree with para. 4 I would urge that this should be drawn up by legal experts. 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 Advisers, High Commission staff and later with Holland and Banabans. Furthermore, unless verbal translating at meetings 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 document and any subsequent amendments and interpret at meetings. Importance of avoiding misunderstanding would appear to justify comparatively small expenditure involved, which should not exceed £100.

Resident Commissioner.