

TELEGRAM.

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From: High Commissioner, Suva.

To: Resident Commissioner, Tarawa.

No. 150.

(Date)

26th February, 1947.

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 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 up 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 the 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 land terms are raised by Banabans with you and Macdonald.

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

6. Telegraph urgently reply to paragraph 2 and 3 above.

High Commissioner.