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BY AIR MAIL

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AUSTRALIA

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

Date  
4th February 1976

Dear Professor Maude

OCEAN ISLAND PHOSPHATES - ROYALTY ACTION

I am sorry not to have been in touch with you personally over the last few days but was unexpectedly taken ill towards the end of January and have only just returned to the office.

My already hard-pressed colleagues have made heroic and highly successful efforts in my absence to deal with my work but you will appreciate that there are still many matters (including on cases other than this one) which I now have to attend to, so I hope you will forgive me if at present (apart from thanking you for your letter of 26th January and the enclosed notes, which are certainly of interest and which I have circulated to all our Counsel) I deal only with the following points:

- (1) I have seen a copy of your letter of 30th January to Richard Sands; a detailed telegram is being sent to him (and it may be that he will have discussed the position with you by the time you receive this) but, in brief, it is hoped and believed that, in substance, all your wishes expressed there will be able to be met. I may say that it was always the intention that any medical or hospital expenses should be met by the Crown and I am sorry that I did not make this clear.
- (2) Richard Sands may also have mentioned that, following a careful appraisal by Mr Vinelott and his colleagues of the strategy of the Crown's case, it is thought that your evidence and that of Mr Macdonald should follow that of our experts on technical and financial matters and in fact conclude the Crown's evidence. Consequently, taking into account the "acclimatisation period" which you have, very rightly, requested, it would be as well for the date (now intended to be definite) for your arrival to be Sunday 7th March. Richard Sands has therefore been requested to adjust accordingly the flight and stop-over bookings which have already provisionally been made and I am asking the Royal Commonwealth Society to make a similar adjustment (again, on the basis of 3 weeks from the new date of arrival). We very much hope that this will prove satisfactory for yourself and Mrs Maude.

I have sent Mr Macdonald a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely

N. D. Ing  
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