

77 Arthur Circle,  
Forrest, A.C.T. 2603,  
31st January, 1976.

Mr Richard Sands,  
British High Commission,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Mr Sands,

Ocean Island Phosphates: Royalty Action

We have been to the University and photocopied that swag of correspondence as it seemed quicker than typing it all out. Its in the enclosed envelope, with a covering letter from me, and I should be grateful if you would kindly send it on to Mr Macdonald.

In my covering letter I took the liberty of suggesting that if he had any cavils to advance he might as well send them direct to Mr Ing, as time gets short and it seems a less roundabout way than sending them to me, to send to you, to send to the FCO, to send to Ing (and the same way back home).

You will, I'm afraid, feel like shooting me but yet another contretemps has occurred over the week-end. My wife has been talking with another couple who have been staying recently at the Royal Commonwealth Society (curiously enough on the Banaban affair too) and they tell her that, unlike Australia, while some of the rooms have what is euphemistically known here as 'the facilities', i.e. a toilet and some means of washing oneself, others do not.

It has occurred to us that nothing has been mentioned in any of the correspondence about the type of accommodation booked for us. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would be so kind as to ensure that our room has two single beds, with a private lavatory and bathroom attached. May we also assume that our accommodation will be under the same roof as the Society's dining room, library, etc.? If possible, of course, we should appreciate one of the 'New Rooms', as they are so free from dust (which unfortunately gives my wife asthma).

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.

P.S. Should these two essential prerequisites be considered in any way importunate I should be glad to explain why they are in fact not so.



77 Arthur Circle,  
Forrest, A.C.T. 2603,  
30th January, 1976.

Dear Paddy,

Herewith another series of letters about our going to London, which has now apparently been put forward to the 15th (that is we leave Canberra and Sydney on the 15th). But I wouldn't put it past them to change it again several times.

2. I am sending the correspondence to you to settle because evidently I have lost my drafting skill and everything seems to have got into rather a muddle.

3. The main points at issue seems to be that:-

(a) At (1) of my letter of the 3rd to Sands I had meant to ask for a clothing allowance of £200 for you and £200 for me. They have now cut it in half for you.

(b) At (7) I meant to indicate that we must be covered against any medical or hospital expenses whatsoever, however incurred. They now mention only compensation for accidents and not illness.

4. Another point has arisen today. Honor has just discovered that (believe it or not) our neighbours the Hutchisons flew to London last year to represent the Australian Government in the Banaban business, and stayed at the Commonwealth Society. They state that some of the rooms have what is called here 'facilities', i.e. a toilet and presumably a shower or bath, and some do not.

5. As neither Honor nor I are well and could easily be bed-ridden in London, we cannot go running down draughty corridors every time we want to consult a 'facility', so we are insisting on at least a toilet or else to be booked elsewhere. Neither of us wash so the bath is not essential. Sands will get my letter a.m. on Monday.

6. All this nit-picking, plus I suppose the worry of the Court proceedings ahead, has laid me a bit low and I have had to retire to bed twice last week. Goodness knows how we shall ever manage the Law Courts (especially the cross-examination), but I suppose its our duty to go oven if it kills us. But Honor is a tower of strength, and she says she is relying on you to be another.

7. Sands is kind but can do nothing (not even lend me a fiver) without written authority from London. Also he's doing two jobs since, though Hewitt is back, his offsider has broken his back riding. So if you have any cavils concerning the enclosed correspondence best write to Ing direct, for



anything to me has to be copied and sent to Sands, who copies it and sends it to the FCO, who copy it and send it to Ing (and ditto on the way back).

8. Just one other matter. I am most grateful to you for the celerity with which you let me have all that dope on the lands settlement for it has enabled me to make out a complete resume for use in Court (I don't think they will trouble you on lands: maybe on funds, concerning which I know nothing bar what's written in my published Memorandum, and certainly on the settlement of Rabi and the Statement of Intentions). But please send me page 5 of Enclosure (2) to Grimble's despatch No.175 of the 27th May, 1932, to the H.C. In other words his draft Ordinance, which was missing from the swag you sent.

Here's hoping that all goes well with you,

Yours,