

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
18th February, 1976.

Dear Paddy,

Your letters of the 12th and 13th have just arrived: and I have dropped everything to answer immediately.

2. Re yours of the 12th, I have nothing, unfortunately, to add to para.8 (15) of my letter of the 9th February addressed to your goodself. I can hardly flatter myself that a few pencilled notes made in shorthand essentially for my own use in preparing my letter of the 11th July, 1947, to the H.C. could be of any great use to Vinelot. My recollection is that Holland made more detailed notes for the purpose of writing up a precis of proceedings for his own use (as he did for Maynard's interview with the Banabans), but goodness knows where they are. It was no part of my functions as R.C. to act as a recording clerk and write down minutes of proceedings for the H.C. or anyone else. If the H.C. wanted these, and he didn't, he would no doubt have sent a professional shorthand writer. What I was asked to do was to produce a report and recommendations; and that I did.

3. Re yours of the 13th. Your para.2: accommodation problem in U.K. fixed. We have 'facilities' attached to our bedrooms. Your para.3 (a): noted. Your Para.3 (b): there is apparently no consul at Honolulu these days (nor, I think, at New Orleans), but in any case we have now booked accommodation for you and us at all stop-overs through a travel agency; and they have paid in advance and charged it all to Sands. British Airways agreed to book but declined to pay even an advance to secure the rooms. Anyway now all we have to fork out is for taxis, tips, eats and drinks. We are taking \$1,000 in Travellers Cheques, which should surely do for these.

4. Many thanks for the second commentary on the transcripts, which I have duly digested with great appreciation of your industry and powers of condensation. I could even understand a part of Mowbray's arguments.

5. This letter is written in haste because Honor has been in bed with flu since Sunday, and now the history of my life has been sent to her for revision (its apparently for my festschrift, which I am, of course, supposed to know nothing about, but I gather from hints that kind friends are trying to publish it in time to present it to me on my 70th birthday). This 7,000 word biography needs constant reference to dates, persons, events, etc., and I have to produce these, as she cannot move.

6. Sands rang up to say that your air ticket is waiting for you at the U.K. High Commission, which is more than ours is. Note: I should have said that its waiting in the High Commission in Suva.

Yours,

Lee M.

G.P.O. Box 1404,
Suva, Fiji.

13th February, 1976.

Professor H.E. Maude, O.B.E.,
77 Arthur Circle,
Forrest, Canberra.

I promised to answer your letter of the 30th January, with its several enclosures of photocopies, except for paragraph 8, dealing with Banaban land tenure and inheritance legislation, which I replied to on the 10th February.

2. I do hope that you have got the accommodation problem to your satisfaction.

3. As regards what might be terms the terms and conditions of our visit, I really have only two comments, and I doubt if it is worth pursuing the first at this stage - feeling it is better to leave it to discuss with Ing and his minions when we reach the UK; I am sure they will be reasonable if a case is made out - and you have already made a pretty good one already:-

(a) the clothing allowance - I seriously doubt whether the sum of £100 will suffice. I am not having to purchase such items as suitcases, but a suit alone is going to absorb most of the above sum. However, as mentioned above, I suggest we tackle Ing about this in the UK if you can finance yourself until then, as I can fortunately. But, should you take the point up again, you can say that I too regard the sum of £100 as inadequate; and,

(b) this is not really "a term or condition of service" but you raise it in the antepenultimate paragraph of your letter to Sands of the 30th January - namely British Airways, or some other body, being authorized to pay for our expenses at 'stop-overs'. In this connexion, I suggested in paragraph 3 of my letter of the 11th February that the FCO authorities (consuls ?) should do this at 'stop-overs'. I do not know what the best answer is, though, in view of our mission, the FCO ought to help. But the really important thing is that they should be authorised well in advance, so there are no interminable arguments later on, with the necessity to send telegrams, etc. etc. Otherwise it means us having to carry quite a bit of money with us, even if in the form of travellers' cheques. But they have to be bought first!

Maude

GPO. Box 1404,
Suva, Fiji.

12th February, 1976.

Professor H.E. Maude, O.B.E.,
77 Arthur Circle,
Forrest, Canberra.

Wm Veece

You will begin to think that I really enjoy using my typewriter, and inflicting letters upon you; not so. I am only sending you those "precis" of the transcripts out of a sense of duty and hoping some occasional excerpts may be of some help to you,

2. However, the aim of this letter is to ask you a short and simple question. In the final despatch that you wrote to the HCWP about the meeting anent the "Statement of Intentions", you wrote "The delay in forward^{ing} the document (i.e. the Statement of Intentions" is regretted, being due to the fact that it was, with other notes relating to the Banaban negotiations, left in the High Commission office on my departure from Fiji.

3. I was bombarded in England by Vinelott, Ing, Price et al., for copies of the minutes of the meetings at which the above document was discussed, but have assured them and reassured them that no minutes are on record - at any rate in the Western Pacific Archives. Apropos of the words underlined above, however, do you recall if any minutes were ever written up? I can hardly think they were kept during the meetings as we were all far too busy straining to hear and reply to questions, and in the evenings we must have been far too tired. Did Holland keep any - you have his papers? Were your "notes" above quoted simply notes to enable you to write your despatch - and not minutes?

4. I am being very heavily pressed here for an answer on this point, so, though I hate to ask it, could you send me a very brief reply as to whether there were ever any minutes of those meetings or not please as soon as possible. Only a few lines will suffice.

Wm Veece