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Mon View

5th February, 1976.

I must have been prescient when I asked you some time ago for your telephone number. It certainly saved a good deal of time by having it handy yesterday, when I called you.

2. In case you did not manage to get down the text of the telegram from Davies, Brown & Co., I now send it to you in the enclosed note, which also records my conversation yesterday evening with MacDonald, one of the Junior Counsel for the Banabans in London. I do not think there is much I can add to it. It is ludicrous to suggest that Rotan has only "just discovered" my views as expressed to the solicitors - eight months ago, especially if we are such bosom pals as was constantly reiterated. I think my conclusion, as expressed in the final paragraph of the attached note, is indubitably correct. MacDonald sounded slightly miffed when he finally rang off - but he must have had to find arguments in support of his call, when he had to remind me how old Rotan and I used to play cricket together!

3. Incidentally, it was good of Miller, the Acting High Commissioner here, to allow me to use their official phone to call you. I suggest that, if for any reason you had to call me on this subject, you should get Sands to allow you to do likewise. (Its a costly business otherwise). I might mention, in case you have not got it, my phone is Suva 383514, though during the daytime I am more often at the Western Pacific Archives, Suva 22113.

4. I hope you and Honor got the dates alright. Depart 29th February - a Sunday - arriving in London on 7th March - also a Sunday - ready for briefing on Monday, the 8th March - and giving evidence from, say, 15th March onwards. I presume that you will be departing from both Canberra and Sydney on the 29th February, and I join you very late that night at Nandi.

5. I discussed tickets with Miller, the Acting High Commissioner here. He is booking my air passage to Nandi leaving the return date open, whereas Sands will be booking my passage from Nadi to London, leaving the return date open. One aspect of this is desperately important and I have stressed it to Miller. I must have my ticket in ample - repeat ample time, here in Fiji. The reason is threefold; unless I have it in advance of your arrival, I cannot claim 1st class baggage allowance on my Suva/Nadi flight. Secondly, I cannot check in my luggage at Nadi airport without the ticket. Thirdly, I cannot even get into the departure lounge to board the Qantas plane without the ticket. So I have asked Miller to ensure that Sands sends it to him in ample time. But it will do no harm to check later with Sands that he has sent it thus since, I'm sunk if he does not do so.

6. I hope they are going to allow us a few hours to ourselves when we reach the U.K. so that we can buy clothes, collect some money, etc.

7. I have a pile of rubbishy transcripts to read and tell you about, if necessary, when I can find a little time. What with that, and what I might term "the position papers" I sent you, I'm going to ask old man Ing for more E.s.d.

8. Incidentally, I am writing to Gaynor in Mass. USA. to tell him about the new dates as a result of which he won't see either of us unless he delays his visits. Poor chap, he will take it hard; in a recent letter he said that "not to see Maude (and you) would be unthinkable".

No other news at the moment that I can think of -

Love to Honor
W. K. Mac