

TELEGRAM

FROM: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, RABI ISLAND

TO: CHIEF SECRETARY, WPHC

19TH OCTOBER 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

On October 4th, during meeting of Island Council and in my presence, Rotan the Chairman stated that Naude and Macdonald had carried through the Statement of Intentions hastily(?) as a trap to bind the necks of the Banabans. There was no context, the meaning was beyond doubt, and the words were repeated a few minutes later. I was included in the accusation. Rotan has since denied using the phrase "as a trap" but acknowledges the remainder.

2. I informed the Council and Rotan at the time that his statement must be withdrawn and apologised by him in writing. Two days later Rotan expressed regret to me for the words used and promised to follow this with written apology desired. He then accepted my offer to draft letter with phrase quoted above excluded. Draft translated and handed to him but request made by him for time. We have met several times since but on each occasion Rotan has testified his inability to make written acknowledgement on the grounds of conscience.

HOLLAND