

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

7th January, 1975.

Many thanks for your letter T&M 71/948/NDI of the 18th December, which I received yesterday afternoon. I am most grateful to you for sending me a copy of your letter to Maude of the same number, and the same date, and for the transcripts of the speeches.

2. The first point I should like to make, if you will permit me, is the appalling length of time taken between the date of your letter and the date of its receipt here by me, viz. 19 days. The normal time taken by letters by ordinary airmail post is about 5 days, which is the reason why I addressed my previous letter of the 20th December, and this letter, to you by the ordinary post. As it is necessary that I should keep in close touch by correspondence with Maude in these matters, the sooner I can receive your letters the better. I wonder, therefore, if it would be possible for you to send your letters to me by ordinary airmail, and the photocopies of material on the case through the channel presently being used, although that too will be subject to the long delay abovementioned.

3. I am a little perturbed - although your letter of the 18th December was despatched two days before I wrote my earlier letter - that I have not received a reply to that earlier letter. I am therefore taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of it since, apropos of your kind offer to give any assistance with regard to our arrangements for visiting London, you will see from that letter what has been arranged, and the three points on which your assistance would be most welcome, viz.:-

- (a) the reservation of accommodation at the Royal Commonwealth Society;
- (b) authorization to the United Kingdom High Commissioner here to pay for air passages for me from Suva to Nadi and from Nadi to Suva. when I make application to him for such assistance; and,
- (c) the income tax exemption certificate - see paragraph 2 of my earlier letter.

As far as the reservation of air passages, and hotels, and financial requirements are concerned, you will observe that the whole matter is, or should be, in the Hands of Sands.

I hope that, by the time you receive this letter, you will have heard from Sands, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

4. The information in your letter to Maude about the progress of the case, and the probable date on which our services are likely to be required was most helpful. I agree most unreservedly that we should be present in Court to hear some of the plaintiffs' evidence - and gain the "feel" of the Court, and also to have preliminary discussions with Vinelott; I regard both these points as extremely important.

5. As far as I am concerned personally, I can arrange to leave Suva for Nadi and London at any time, but the more notice I am given as to the date the better I can arrange my affairs here during my absence.

With kind regards and best wishes for 1976,

Yours sincerely,

(P.D. Macdonald).

Mr. N.D. Ing,
The Treasury Solicitor,
Matthew Parker Street,
London SW1H 9NN