

Dear Mr. Ing,

I must apologize for the delay in replying to your letter No. T&M/948/NDI of the 28th November; apart from the fact that it took a rather longer time than normal to arrive, I was absent when it arrived and did not receive the letter for some days after my return. I now deal with the specific points raised in your letter to me and in your letter to Maude, as follows:-

- (a) I shall be grateful if you will at the appropriate moment make the necessary booking for me at the Royal Commonwealth Society;
- (b) I note that you agree with Maude's proposal that we should travel together to the United Kingdom, for me to have attempted to book passages here in Fiji, and also to reserve hotel accommodation en route, whilst Maude was doing the same in Canberra, would, in my view, have inevitably led to difficulties and might well have resulted in last minute problems, difficult if not incapable of solution. I therefore suggested to Maude, and he agreed, that he should approach a Mr. Sands of the United Kingdom High Commissioner's office in Canberra (whose name had been mentioned in our discussions in Canberra), and arrange for the reservation of both our passages to the United Kingdom through him - Maude's from Canberra to London, and mine from Nandi (where I should join him) to London. I should have to arrange separate passages for myself from Suva to Nandi, and return in due course. I hope that the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Fiji would pay for these latter passages, when I so request him. (Maude will be discussing with Sands the route he wishes to take to the United Kingdom and the stopovers en route); and,
- (c) as regards what you term my "requirements on the financial aspect", as Maude agreed to discuss passage arrangements with Sands, it seemed only sensible to deal with all aspects of our affairs through him, so that you have only one source to deal with. I have therefore sent Maude full details of my financial requirements, and he will communicate those, with his own, to Sands, who will doubtless notify the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, which I assume will in turn communicate with you.

2. There is one point, not mentioned in your letter, which you will recall that I raised at my second meeting with Vinelott in London, and that concerns my liability to United Kingdom income tax. I understand that such a liability arises if a person spends 180 days or more in the United Kingdom in any one tax year, I arrived in London on the 30th May, and left on the 22nd October (being delayed several weeks by my operation), thus giving a total inclusive of both dates mentioned of 146 days. I do not know how long I may be required to be in the United Kingdom in connexion with the case but, if it amounts to 34 days, it would appear that I shall be liable to United Kingdom income tax. There is also the further point that I shall almost certainly wish to spend up to two weeks after the case is finished (as far as I am concerned) seeing my children, grandchildren, etc. I shall therefore be grateful if you can obtain for me an authority in writing from the United Kingdom income tax authorities exempting me from the liability for payment of income tax to them in the current tax year if my stay should exceed 179 days. The extra fortnight I wish to spend in the United Kingdom is, I agree, an additional complication perhaps, but it

would be very distressing to me, as I am sure you will agree, if I cannot see my children and grandchildren.

3. Two final points:-

- (1) I have already begun to receive material on the case through the United Kingdom High Commissioner here, for which I am most grateful; and,
- (2) if there are any specific points on which the evidence of Maude and myself is likely to be required, the sooner we know of them the better; in particular, I wonder if there are any matters with which I should acquaint myself in the Western Pacific Archives here; if there are perhaps you will let me know.

Yours sincerely,

P.D. Macdonald.

Mr. N.D. Ing,
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