

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
12th December, 1975.

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

Dear Mr Ing,

Ocean Island Phosphates: Royalty Action

As promised in my aerogramme of today's date I enclose herewith the two Application for Temporary Membership Forms for the Royal Commonwealth Society, duly filled in.

With them I also enclose:-

- (1) Sir Albert Ellis's 'Diary of his First Visit to Ocean Island in May, 1900'; and
- (2) Three of the actual Voting Cards used by the Banabans when, on the 10th and 11th May, 1947, 270 of them voted to make Rabi their headquarters and home, and 48 voted against.

Both these items were requested by Mr Vinelott when he came to see us in Canberra with Mr Price.

As regards (1) I should be grateful if it could be returned after perusal and, if desired, copying. It was marked 'Strictly Confidential' by Sir Albert when he handed it to me as he was then engaged in writing his three well-known books and contemplated including it in one of them, or publishing it separately. He told me, however, that I could publish it after his death, if I so wished and he had not already done so, and though I never made use of this permission I did send a copy to the British Phosphate Commission who, I believe, had it circulated at one of their meetings.

Re (2) these Voting Cards were square sheets of paper stamped with the official stamp of the Magistrate's Court, Rabi Island, and one was handed to each of the Banabans immediately before he or she entered the Police-guarded room where the two clearly-marked (and locked) ballot boxes were standing on a table.

I kept the Court Stamp in my personal possession until the Ballot Boxes had been opened in public and the Voting Cards counted and checked by the scrutineers, to prevent any possibility of fraud.

The Ballot **Cards** were unmarked in any way (other than by the Stamp) to prevent the identification of the voter. Thus I had no idea who had voted to return to Ocean Island

and therefore stayed two further days on Rabi so that they could come to me for arrangements to be made for their free passages back to Ocean Island. But no one came.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'H.E. Maude'.

H.E. Maude.