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BY AIR MAIL

Professor H E Maude
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Please quote
T&M 71/948/NDI
Your reference

Date
5th August 1975

Dear Professor Maude

OCEAN ISLAND PHOSPHATES

Thank you for your letter of 29th July.

First, I am very pleased to learn that Mrs Maude's asthma is continuing to improve - that it should be doing so in spite of the untimely attack of flu seems to me particularly encouraging. I trust that the Becotide (with which I am not personally familiar) and circumstances generally will continue to have so beneficial an effect.

Mr Vinelott and I are of course grateful that you feel you should, if at all possible, come to England in order to give evidence in the royalty action. It is only right that I should say again that this is of real importance - one of the reasons being the one which you have yourself underlined in the final sentence of the penultimate paragraph of your letter.

I too have seen a copy of Mr Hewitt's letter (of 25th July) to Mr Patterson and I understand that Mr Patterson is communicating in detail with Mr Hewitt about the matters set out there. To avoid possible duplication, therefore, I will not attempt to cover the same ground, except to mention one rather important point.

This relates to the question of whether you and your wife would be able to come to this country between mid-November and mid-April. I fully sympathise with your feelings about this; there is, nevertheless, as you will appreciate, a practical problem. While it is no doubt possible that the "replanting" timetable might get so desperately into arrears that evidence in the royalty action could not be heard until April or thereabouts, the present estimate is that the hearing of evidence is likely to be appreciably earlier than this - so, conceivably, within the period against which you have stipulated. Owing to the uncertainty of the "replanting" timetable, it is difficult to be at all specific at present and I can only express the hope that, if this should prove necessary, you would give serious consideration to whether, provided suitable arrangements could be made, you might after all be prepared to come during the period concerned.

In closing, I would like to express again my best wishes for the health of your wife and yourself.

Yours sincerely

N. D. Ing
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