

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,
29th July, 1975.

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

Dear Mr Ing,

I have just received a copy of Mr Hewitt's letter to Mr Patterson, of the Pacific Dependent Territories Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which seems to cover our possible visit to England in his usual lucid and succinct style.

After reading your letter R&M 71/948/NDI of the 9th July my wife and I came to the rather reluctant decision that it was our duty to go to England, despite medical advice, if so requested by the British Government.

After mature consideration, however, we felt compelled to stipulate that we could not remain in England between mid-November and mid-April simply because since 1936 we have had to avoid contending with an English winter and at our present age, and with indifferent health, it could be tantamount to a death sentence.

However, as Mr Justice Megarry now proposes to visit Ocean and Rabi Islands in October, we are optimistic that it could well be April before the second case gets under way.

I am not overly worried about my possible cross-examination by the plaintiffs' counsel on matters which took place on Ocean Island in 1931 as I take it that they would be prevented from cross-examining me on points which had not been brought up in the examination-in-chief. In any case most of my evidence on the Neill adjudication and its sequel would of necessity be merely hearsay, as I was away from Ocean Island at the time, and the rest very possibly precluded from disclosure by virtue of the Official Secrets Act.

On the 1947 phosphate land negotiations on Rabi I know but little, as I was on Tarawa in charge of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony at the time and such matters were dealt with by the Western Pacific High Commission in Suva and did not come within my purview. I appreciate, however, that in view of the somewhat free-ranging character of the first case as developed by the plaintiffs' counsel you may feel it desirable to be forewarned against possible eventualities when the second comes to be heard.

You will be glad to learn that my wife's asthma continues to improve despite an attack of flu following the total cessation of her daily maintenance doses of cortisone. This is due to her favourable response to Becotide, after a disappointing negative reaction to Intal.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.