

Mon vieux,

Many thanks for your letter of 14th December, received at 5 pm today and being answered now - 8 pm so as to catch the earliest possible post tomorrow, 19/12. Let me deal first with what you call the financial expectations, using your numbers in your paragraph 7;

(1) agreed;

(2) I do not think the arrangement you suggest is very satisfactory; thus, 2 clear nights at, say, Mauritius, might mean only 36 hours there e.g. 6 pm to 6pm to 6 a.m. I think it would be better to say 5 period of 24 hours on the journey to London, and the same period for the return journey - payment could then be fixed on a daily rate or actual costs incurred - I think the latter;

(3) this proposal whilst unexceptional in principle will surely cause some difficulty. Thus, who is to say how much clothing should be bought, and where, Harrods or Burton the Tailors - a vast difference! Again, who is to keep track of such things as tips, taxis and internal transport. Again, what does the "etc" in your letter include? I think a winter clothing allowance, say, £100, plus an allowance for other items would be far more satisfactory. We will have much to think about and talk about without making lists of tips, etc. Say, £5 a day for tips, taxis, etc.

(4) I would strongly deprecate your phrase "living-away-from-home" allowance. I have consulted various senior folks I know in the private sector, both in Sydney and in London, as well as here, and they equally deprecate such a phrase. Any such allowance should represent "compensation for loss of income" by having to be away from home. I suggest you call it "compensation for loss of income" allowance. The £20 per diem I suggested is based to a considerable extent on researcher fees at the WP Archives. I spoke to Bruce Burne about this but he dithered and dithered. He left here at the end of November to attend a conference in Indonesia and thence for a holiday in Hongkong, Tokyo, and Manila, and Sydney. I agree about the expert witness fee though I have no idea of what it might be.

(5) okay, though presumably a lesser sum for me, if you include Honor in your figure. Presumably you intend that flight insurance is included.

(6) watchman - housebreaking and burglary are the popular sports here and it is essential to have a reliable watchman at all cost. I do not think one could secure one for under \$F 3 a night, say 30 shillings; servant's wages - \$F 80 per month, say, £ 40 pounds.

(7) agreed, but omit specifying the last 10 words, though you could use them verbally.

2. With regard to the last sentence of paragraph 7 about the non-necessity to stop off in Los Angeles, very well, BUT allow several hours for a connexion there in case our plane into Los Angeles is late. This is most important.

3. Your paragraph 8 - I agree that you should see Sands, but I doubt if there should be too much "negotiation"; they want our services, let them pay a fair sum. He will in any case refer it to London as you say. I will tomorrow write to Ing and say that, as we felt that it was most appropriate for our joint passages to be booked by one authority (in this way too they can get us adjacent seats), I suggested that you should do this thru' the UKHC in Canberra, and in that case it seemed sensible to submit our financial requirements in the same way. I shall, however, mention my need for a letter guaranteeing that I shall not be liable for UK income tax. No need for you to mention this to Sands. I will send you a copy of my letter to Ing.

4. Your paragraph 9 - see my (2) above. I think it might be as well to try and get some idea from London as to how long a period is required for us, i.e. on inward and outward journeys and the time in London.

5. Finally, since we cannot continue this correspondence on these points (I see the second case has already started in London), you have my fullest authority to exercise your discretion as to whether you accept my views as expressed above - or not. I shall be entirely happy with whatever you decide, after you have consulted your Financial Adviser (Honor) of course! Please feel entirely free to make decisions.

6. I hear from the UKHC's messenger here that he has a large envelope on material for me though whether from London or Canberra he did not know. So my reading work starts in earnest soon.

7. I must find out from you all about 'Tip-Ex' and 'Cop-Ex' when we meet.

Must close - love to Honor. I will send you a copy of my letter to Ing shortly.

Happy Xmas! + New Yr.  
W.S. Fadd

P.S. I will make arrangements here for my air passages to and from Suva and Nadi and probably ask the WK HC here to pay. If he declines, I will pay and claim on Ing i.d.c.

Next time you write, let me have your phone number just in case I need it