

CONFIDENTIAL

2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
17th June, 1956.

C.R. Lambert, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Secretary, Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Mr Lambert,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS

I wish to report that in conformity with the suggestion contained in your confidential letter No.DR.118/6 of the 20th April, as confirmed by your telegram of the 3rd May, I duly visited Rambi and Kioa Islands with Mr J.A. Bop and Mr R. Gadabu, Nauruan delegates to the third South Pacific Conference. The tour was undertaken with the full knowledge and approval of Sir Ronald Garvey, Governor of Fiji, who had received the Minister's letter of the same date and appeared personally interested in the question of possible Nauruan settlement in Fiji.

2. Our itinerary on this visit was as follows:-

Nasinu	dep.	4.5.56	-	9.45 a.m.
Taveuni	arr.	"	-	noon
"	dep.	"	-	12.30 p.m.
Rambi	arr.	"	-	5 p.m.
"	dep.	6.5.56	-	noon
Kioa	arr.	"	-	3 p.m.
"	dep.	"	-	5 p.m.
Taveuni	arr.	"	-	6.30 p.m.
"	dep.	7.5.56	-	12.30 p.m.
Suva	arr.	"	-	4 p.m.

The journeys from Nasinu to Taveuni and Taveuni to Suva were made by Fiji Airways, from Taveuni to Rambi by chartered launch and from Rambi to Kioa and Taveuni by the launch "Ventura", kindly provided free of charge by the District Officer, Taveuni.

3. On arrival at Taveuni we were met by Mr G. Grant, Banaban Adviser on Rambi Island, whom I had known previously

when he was an officer



when he was an officer in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony service. Mr Grant not only arranged for our accommodation and all the other details involved in our visit but was extremely co-operative in every possible way, accompanying us on all our visits and acting as liaison with the Banaban local administration.

4. On our arrival at Rambi we were met by the senior local officials and representatives of the people and taken on a tour of Tabwewa village, followed in the evening by a reception and dance in the central "maneaba" or community hall. The following day we visited the two southern villages of Tabiang and Buakonikai, with lunch and speeches of welcome in the Buakonikai "maneaba". On the final day we inspected the new island hospital, leaving for Kioa soon after midday.

5. At Kioa we examined the village and plantations of the Ellice Islands settlers and concluded our visit with a discussion with the community elders. Here the delegates were able to see the remarkable progress which could be made by settlers on an island which was virtually undeveloped at the time of its acquisition.

6. In conformity with your instructions no effort was made to proselytize in favour of a Nauruan home in Fiji. Messrs Bop and Gadabu were given to understand that I was anxious, as the officer originally responsible for the acquisition and settlement of Rambi, to revisit the Banaban people there and see for myself how they were settling down in their new home. In offering to take them with me I said that I felt there must be considerable interest on Nauru in the fate of a neighbouring community with which the Nauruans had been in close contact up to the time of the Japanese occupation of their islands.

7. No persuasion was attempted or necessary, however, as the Nauruan delegates were only too anxious to accompany me and thus be the first Nauruan representatives to renew former contacts. As I had expected, they were received with open arms by the Banabans, entertained and feasted; and in return they gave an address in each village conveying a suitable message of greeting from the Nauruan people coupled with an expression of their personal thanks for hospitality received. I was impressed with the behaviour of both delegates, and with their attitude of ease at all functions.

8. Nevertheless,



8. Nevertheless, despite the fact that I was careful to refrain from taking the initiative in any discussion of the possibility of the Nauruans establishing a home in Fiji, the matter was mentioned on a number of occasions by the Nauruan delegates themselves, who had already raised the question of their future, in general terms, at one of the sessions of the Economic Committee of the third Conference: you will recollect that it was similarly brought up at both the first and second Conferences.

9. To most questions I was able to reply in general terms but whenever asked for specific information I gave a factual reply. In particular the delegates appeared interested in knowing whether land for settlement could be purchased in Fiji and on being asked whether this was feasible I stated my personal belief that it was, since I had bought two islands myself for that purpose. I added, however, that it would be necessary to make detailed enquiries before a definite answer could be given, as Government policies could change and suitable freehold properties were not always available.

10. I had hoped to have been able to visit Wakaya and Lauthala Islands, mentioned in my memorandum of the 11th April, with the delegates but found that this would not be possible without a special charter and, as the owners' permission would be necessary to land, without exciting considerable speculation and comment. However, we flew over Wakaya on two occasions and along the shore of Lauthala, so I was able to point them out as freehold islands, suitable for community settlement, which I had examined as possible homes for the Banabans.

11. It is difficult to say whether the delegates themselves were particularly interested in the question of a second home. My own feeling (and it is little more than that) is that they were not; though I have little doubt that either would be willing to make political capital out of it should occasion offer. At the same time I am sanguine that the visit was worth while since it enabled the Nauruans to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of settling in Fiji with their recent next-door neighbours the Banabans. I have no doubt that their account of what they saw and heard on Rambi and Kioa, when told and re-told to the Nauruans on their return, will result in raising once again the whole question of a

second home; and



second home; and on a more practical plane than hitherto, since for the first time the islanders will be in possession of first-hand information on other colonization ventures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H.E. Maude', with a small flourish at the end.

H.E. Maude.



Telegram

LAMBERT        TERRITORIES        CANBERRA

Confidential    Your 20th April    Proceeding Rambi and  
neighbouring area with Bop and Gadabu fourth returning  
Suva seventh.

Maude.

-----  
-----  
-



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Payment of your account has been made for the following services: -

ADVICE OF PAYMENT.

Department of *Postmaster*

To-  
 Mrs. H. L. Maudslayi  
 2 Maudslayi Street  
 Wollongong N.S.W.

The in spec. official week  
 to 21/3/56 from 11/3/56 to 18/3/56  
 plus 2 days on preparation of  
 report = 10 days @ £10 per day  
 & refund of expenses £100.5.0  
 7-2-3

£107-2-3

No acknowledgment is required, but if payment is by cheque it is requested that you endorse the cheque in the space provided, in exactly the same manner as your name appears on the cheque and pay it into your bank account without delay. This payment is made free of exchange.



## CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND)

VIA IMPERIAL

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named: Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official Instructions—if any.

ISSUING OFFICE



CIRCUIT

CLERK'S NAME

TIME RECEIVED

L 1745

11:37

OF148 S CANBERRA 44 3 1502 BGETAT =

IMMEDIATE H E MAUDE SOUTH PACOM SUVA FIJI =

FROM LAMBERT HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEM TOUR FOR

BOP AND GADABU WITH LEYDIN STOP HE NOW

AGREES TRIP SHOULD PROCEED UNDER ARRANGEMENTS

MADE BY YOU STOP PLEASE INFORM PITTMAN TO

ACT ACCORDINGLY STOP LEYDIN IS ALSO

TELEGRAPHING PITTMAN TERRITORIES \*

Enquiry respecting this telegram should be accompanied by this form and may be made at any of the Company's offices





DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

CONFIDENTIAL.

Canberra, 20th April 1956.

In reply quote No. DR.118/6

Dear Mr. Maude,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 11th April 1956, in which you report the results of your informal enquiries with regard to the possibility of resettlement of Nauruans, in the Fiji Group. I would like to thank you for the information you have supplied and the very clear way in which you have set it out.


2. The Minister has considered your report and I am directed to inform you that there are several difficult questions, some of them of international significance, to be resolved, before it would be possible to come out in the open on this subject, even with the Nauruans. At this stage, therefore, it would be undesirable to go even so far as to attempt to enthuse the Nauruan delegation with the desirability of acquiring a second home in the Fiji Group. The most we should attempt to do is to give the delegation the opportunity to visit some of the islands you mentioned and perhaps an urban centre nearby, merely on the basis of a conducted tour designed for their entertainment and education. Thoughts about the desirability of establishing a second home for Nauruans, in Fiji, should not be put into their heads. If the thought springs from them voluntarily, and without prompting, so much to the good.

3. If at a later date when the air is clearer, it is desired to broach the leaders of the Nauruan community with the object of "selling" them the idea, there will be the advantage that two of them have seen the place and can convey to the others their impressions of it.

4. On this basis the Minister has written to the Governor of Fiji, and I enclose a copy of his letter for your information.

5. Advice will be conveyed to Mr. Pittman, Nauru Director of Education, who is leading the delegation, so that the way will be clear for him to permit the Nauruan delegates to accompany you.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

H.E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
2 Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA. N.S.W.



CANBERRA. A.C.T.

20 APR 1956

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir Ronald,

The Australian Government has on its hands, as the administering authority for the Island of Nauru, the problem of finding a second home for Nauruans when the phosphate deposits on the island are exhausted.

The Nauruans are only a small community of people, numbering not more than about 2,000 in all. They are a fairly well advanced people, by Pacific Islands standards, and under the influence of the education and work opportunities provided by the Australian Administration and the activities of the phosphate enterprise, they have largely adopted European customs and modes of living. They recognise the inevitable need for transfer to a second home but have been inclined to seek an island settlement where they can preserve their national identity and have their own form of government.

The enquiries my Department has made indicate that it would be impracticable to find an unoccupied place which would satisfy this ambition, and at the same time provide sufficient economic opportunities to enable the Nauruans to continue to live after the standard to which they have now become accustomed. In consequence, our thoughts have turned to the possibility of finding a place where they could be assimilated under conditions which would provide adequate work opportunities, according to their skills and capacities, and where they could have a small community centre which, for the time being, would act as a focal point for keeping them in touch with one another; and amongst people with whom they could meet freely and on equal terms and by whom they are likely to be accepted.

My Department consulted Mr. H.E. Maude, who has had considerable experience in the colonisation of Pacific peoples, and Mr. Maude suggested that the location which best met these requirements was Fiji. He suggested that it might be possible to acquire one or two freehold islands in close proximity to the Fijian mainland; the idea being that some Nauruans who wished to follow an agricultural life could be settled on small holdings there, whilst others would be able to obtain employment as clerks, trade workers etc. at an urban centre on the mainland, in close enough proximity to the island settlement or settlements to maintain touch with their people there.

I became interested in this suggestion and I arranged with Mr. Maude that, on his next visit to Fiji, he might make strictly informal enquiries as to the possibility of Fiji accepting the Nauruans for permanent residence and the possibility of a suitable island or islands being acquired. Mr. Maude has now furnished me with a report on the result of his enquiries, in which he mentions the informal discussions he had with you. I would like to express to you my very great appreciation of your kindness in giving so much of your time to Mr. Maude and for the interest you displayed in the proposal.



I would like it to be clearly understood that the present enquiries are only of an exploratory nature and are by no means to be considered as anything in the way of a formal proposition for consideration. We have yet to consider many difficult questions, some of them of international significance, arising in connection with the resettlement of the Nauruans and even if we clear these up to our satisfaction, we have yet to broach the subject to the Nauruans and obtain their reactions. Should we decide eventually to raise the matter in a formal way, we will do so in the formal manner. In the meantime, and I know you will agree with this, it is better to keep the exploratory enquiries on an informal basis and to avoid any publicity in connection therewith.

There is one further favour which at this stage I would like to seek from you. At the South Pacific Conference which meets in Suva next week, there will be a delegation from Nauru in which is included two members of the Nauru Local Government Council. Mr. Maude has offered to conduct these two Nauruans on a trip to one or two of the islands he has under consideration, and perhaps to one of the main urban centres. This trip will be ostensibly for their entertainment and education and no attempt will be made to suggest to them the idea of resettling there. In agreeing to the suggestion, I have solely in mind that should we eventually reach a position where we wished to broach the subject to the leaders of the Nauruan community, there will be two of them who will have some knowledge of the location, and of the people and the conditions of life there.

I would appreciate it very much if you could see your way clear to concur in Mr. Maude's conducting this tour. He will be attending the South Pacific Conference and I have asked him to call upon you before he proceeds to make any arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



(Paul Hasluck)  
Minister for Territories.

His Excellency Sir Ronald Garvey, K.C.V.O.,  
K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,  
Governor of Fiji,  
Government House,  
SUVA, Fiji.



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
14th April, 1956.

C.R. Lambert, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Secretary, Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Mr Lambert,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS

With further reference to your letter No.DR.118/6 of the 3rd February, I wish to advise the completion of the investigation for which I was engaged, as set out in your para. 2. My report and recommendations have now been typed by your Sydney branch office and posted to you this day.

2. The period spent by me on my visit to Fiji in connexion with this work was 8 days (from a.m. on Sunday the 11th March to p.m. on Sunday the 18th March). In addition, 2 full days were spent on the preparation of the report, making a grand total of 10 days chargeable to your Department. In actual fact a longer period than 2 days was spent on the report, but as I was unduly slow (lacking a Secretary) I am not claiming for more than this.

3. No expenditure was incurred on accommodation or meals while in Fiji (other than for one night at the Mocambo Hotel, Nandi), as I stayed either at Government House or with the Secretary for Fijian Affairs; nor on the typing of the report, as this was kindly undertaken by your Departmental staff in Sydney.

4. I enclose a small claim for the refund of expenses incurred directly in connexion with my visit to Fiji or the preparation of my report, together with receipts (where possible) and a signed declaration in support, and I should be grateful if this amount could be refunded at the same time as the payment of my fee.

5. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the several officers of your Department, both

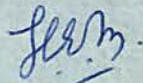
in Canberra and



in Canberra and Sydney, who have gone out of their way to assist me in connexion with my journey and the preparation of my report: they could not have been more helpful. I can only hope that this investigation may prove worthwhile by resulting in the eventual acquisition of a suitable home for the Nauruan people.

6. I am leaving for Fiji again, to attend the South Pacific Conference, on the 17th April and at present plan to return on the 6th May. I could, however, stay on after that date if desired, this being one of the recommendations in my report.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



Enclosure.

Claim for Recovery of Out-of-pocket Expenditure.

Visit to Fiji: 10th - 18th March, 1956.

(1)	10th March	Accommodation at Mocambo Hotel	£1. 10. 0
(2)	" "	Gratuities at Mocambo Hotel	5. 0
(3)	13th "	Cable to Maude, Sydney, re return	3. 9
(4)	15th "	Laundry	10. 0
(5)	" "	2 Maps of Fiji at 1/3 each	2. 6
(6)	" "	6 copies of Ord. 33/47 at 1/- each	6. 0
(7)	16th "	Gratuities at Government House	£2. 10. 0
(8)	17th "	Taxis	5. 0
(9)	18th "	Gratuities to Mr G.K. Roth's staff	£1. 10. 0

-----  
Total (Fijian currency) - £7. 2. 3  
-----

I hereby certify that the above expenditure on travel and accommodation was incurred by me solely in connexion with my official visit to Fiji on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Territories, with the exception of Items (5) and (6), which were required in connexion with the preparation of my official report.

Sydney, N.S.W.,  
14th April, 1956.

*John M.*  
.....



CONFIDENTIAL.

2 Netherby Street,

WAHROOBA ... N.S.W.

11th April, 1956.

MEMORANDUM to:-

G.N. Lambert, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANTBERRA ... A.C.T.

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

In conformity with the Minister's directions set out in your letter M.118/6 of the 3rd February, I visited Fiji from the 10th to the 18th March for the purpose of investigating whether:-

- (i) the Fiji Government would be willing to permit the acquisition of land in the Colony for the purpose of providing a second home for the Nauruan community and, if so, the terms on which they would be permitted to enter the Colony and settle on this land; and whether
- (ii) any islands, or other suitable properties, are available for purchase in Fiji and, if so, at what approximate prices.

2. I left Sydney by Qantas plane on the 10th, spent the night at the Hounbo Hotel, Nandi, and arrived in Suva by Fiji Airways at 11.30 a.m. on the 11th. On my return Suva was left at 8 a.m. on the 18th and Sydney reached at 3 p.m. Three of my seven days in Suva were spent at Government House, by kind invitation of Sir Ronald Garvey, and the remainder with Mr. G.N. Roth, the Secretary for Fijian Affairs.

First interview with the Governor.

3. At the first of my two interviews with His Excellency, held at 11 a.m. on the 12th, I outlined the problem of providing a second home for the Nauruans, which I pointed out had become a matter of some urgency owing to the growth of political consciousness in the community, the example before them of the successful re-settlement of their former Banaban neighbours on Ocean Island, and criticisms made (particularly by Russia and India) at meetings of the U.N. Trusteeship Council. I emphasized that Australia recognised that the phosphate deposits on Nauru had a limited life, though they would not be exhausted for many years to come, and that Nauru would then, in all probability, cease to be an attractive home owing to its isolation and infertility; the Commonwealth Government was therefore anxious to do everything possible to ensure the welfare of the community by obtaining



a suitable alternative home to which those who desired could proceed at once, with the expectation that the remainder would follow gradually over the next few decades.

4. I explained to Sir Ronald that the main criteria which any new home for the Nauruans should possess were reasonable fertility, salubrity of climate and proximity to an urban centre where clerical and other employment could be obtained as well as secondary and technical training for their children. The last requirement was possibly the most important, as the Nauruan was an urbanised wage-earner rather than an agriculturalist.

5. Unfortunately, a careful survey of the Australian territories had established the fact that they contained no suitable locality for Nauruan colonisation: indeed, as a result of over 20 years spent in planning and supervising migration projects, I considered that the only suitable areas in the entire Pacific were in French Oceania (which would not be acceptable to the Nauruans) and Fiji. Fiji, furthermore, possessed the great advantage of having a population with which the Nauruans would readily mix, and eventually no doubt inter-marry.

6. His Excellency stated that he had every sympathy with Australia's difficulties in resettling the Nauruans and would do all he could to aid their solution. He had no objection in principle to the Nauruans coming to Fiji but there were certain practical obstacles, which might prove to be insuperable. In the first place, the experience gained from the colonisation of Rarua Island by the Banabans demonstrated that it was neither in the Fijian interest, nor in that of the immigrants, that they should isolate themselves on an island and, with their own system of local Government and local legislation, constitute a sort of imperium in imperio divorced from the normal Fijian administration. This made them unpopular throughout the Colony and delayed indefinitely their assimilation into the general population, while at the same time retarding their social and economic progress. The Ellice Islands colonists on Kion, on the other hand, had never asked for, or been given, any special treatment; this Polynesian group mixed well with their Fijian neighbours and as a consequence were deservedly popular as well as being a happier and more successful community.

7. In recent months the Legislative Council had discussed the Rarua settlement and, while refraining from open criticism of the Government's action in permitting it, had clearly indicated that they would not favour any further migration on similar lines. Sir Ronald considered, therefore, that if the Nauruans purchased land in Fiji (and there was nothing to prevent them doing so), they must be prepared to live in the Colony as ordinary citizens, without expecting any special legislative or other privileges.



8. I told Sir Ronald that I had myself come to the conclusion that the establishment of the Bumbans on Bumbul as a closed community administered under its own regulations was a mistake. In the case of the Nauruans, however, it was not suggested that they should be given any special legislative or other treatment designed to separate them from the rest of the Colony's population. While they required a tract of land (ideally an island) which they could regard as being in a sense their new homeland, I hoped and expected that they would find employment throughout the Colony, and particularly in the urban centres. Thus living and working in association with Fijians and others, assimilation should be painless and relatively rapid; more especially since I anticipated that the process of migration from Nauru to Fiji would be a long drawn out affair with only a few families coming during the next decade.

9. His Excellency then said that he would like to discuss the whole question with his advisers, whereupon he would see me again to convey his decision. In the meantime he suggested that I should make a few discreet enquiries as to whether any suitable properties were, in fact, available; though he realized the difficulty of conducting any detailed investigation without disclosing the reason for my interest.

#### Second interview with the Governor.

10. At my second official interview with His Excellency, Sir Ronald said that he was prepared to consider favourably the acquisition of an island or other property or properties in Fiji for the Nauruans, and their settlement in the Colony, provided:-

- (i) the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, 1947, were complied with; and
- (ii) the immigrants become ordinary citizens of the Colony, without any special legislative or other privileges.

From Fiji's point of view the sooner the Nauruans (and other immigrant communities) become assimilated the better and this process could probably be accelerated if only small numbers came at a time.

11. Sir Ronald added that public opinion in Fiji, as voiced by unofficial members of the Legislative Council, was hardening against any form of group migration into the Colony and that it would be of assistance if he could point, in the event of criticism in the Council, to some quid pro quo being offered by Australia in return for the provision of a second home for the Nauruans. He mentioned particularly the prohibition of banana importations into the Commonwealth and hoped that this bone of contention could be reviewed in due course, though there was, in fact, no immediate prospect of Fiji shipping any but a negligible quantity.



12. Sir Ronald suggested that the best procedure for expediting action on the settlement project, if Australia decided to go on with it, might be for the Minister for Territories to write direct to him, thus continuing our unofficial discussions on a more formal basis. I gathered that His Excellency was anxious to deal with the matter himself in order to prevent, as far as he could, the possibility of something going wrong or action being held up in the secretariat. A tentative draft letter is accordingly submitted for consideration as Enclosure VII.

13. It was perhaps fortunate that in Sir Ronald I was dealing with a Governor who possesses an unusual grasp of Pacific problems, having served for many years in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Solomons and the New Hebrides as well as Fiji. I found him particularly sympathetic to the argument that Australia was at present open to attack in the Trusteeship Council by Russia and others for not having provided an alternative home for the Nauruans when in point of fact she had no suitable area available. It was thus essential that the other members of the British Commonwealth should do all they could to help: to refuse to do so would represent a distinct victory for the Iron Curtain countries, who would be in a good position to use it for their own political propaganda among the Pacific Islands peoples (including those in Fiji). I believe that Sir Ronald will, in fact, do everything that he can to assist, even to the extent of relaxing the normal immigration requirements, as set out in Enclosure II, wherever discretionary powers under the Immigration Ordinance are vested in him. At the same time he has perforce to proceed carefully in view of the opinions held by the unofficial members of his Executive and Legislative Councils on immigration into the Colony and, perhaps even more important, for fear of arousing Indian opinion to demand a similar relaxation of immigration restrictions in the case of their compatriots. It was to curb Indian immigration into Fiji that the Ordinance was originally enacted, though it is naturally drafted on a non-racial basis.

The availability of suitable properties.

14. In investigating the possibility of acquiring land in Fiji, particular attention was paid to island properties, since the ownership of an entire island, which they could make their headquarters and base of operations, would undoubtedly appeal more to the Nauruans than that of a section on Viti Levu or one of the larger islands. The following is a list of the principal freehold islands in the archipelago, underlined in black on the attached map:-

<u>In the Lau Group</u>	<u>Elsewhere.</u>
(i) Vatu Vatu	(i) Larkhala.
(ii) Kainbu (off Yathaba)	(ii) Wainya.
(iii) Naitania	(iii) Naiti.
(iv) Kanathoa	(iv) Nioa.



In the Lau Group (Cont.)

- (v) Mago
- (vi) Mada
- (vii) Natafaga

Of these the most suitable for the Nauruans are, in my opinion, Wakaya and Lauthala (in that order), whether from the standpoint of proximity to urban centres, fertility or availability. The islands situated in the Lau Group are rather too isolated from the main towns to be ideal; though, on the other hand, they are in many cases exceptionally fertile and close to islands inhabited by the Tongan-Fijian Lauans with whom the Nauruans might be expected to inter-marry freely. Other freehold islands, e.g. around the coast of Viti Levu, are too small for the purpose required.

15. (1) Wakaya, of which a description is given in Enclosure III, is 5 miles long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in greatest width, with an area of 2,200 acres. In 1940 the Banabans asked that this island should be bought for their new home in Fiji, but in the event it was decided to purchase Nukunono as being larger and possessing a better water supply. Wakaya would not, of course, accommodate all the Nauruan community if they were to settle there as agricultural small-holders but this, I submit, is not at all essential. What is wanted is a small but attractive island close to the mainland and to an urban centre, which the Nauruans can look upon as their base or headquarters in Fiji. Here they would have their own village (or villages), their church, school, hospital and other amenities. But for employment they would, in the majority of cases, look to the urban areas, where having regard to their intelligence, commercial sense and educational advantages, I have no doubt that they would obtain good positions as clerks, professional workers and artisans and take their share in the commercial and industrial life of the Colony. Some of them might become agriculturalists and require land; but this need not necessarily be in Wakaya itself. The importance of a home island is to cushion the period of cultural transition (and without a centre which they can call their own the Nauruans would not consent to migrate), but if too large it may result, as in the case of Nukunono, in the Nauruans living on it in isolation from the rest of Fiji, thus preventing assimilation and encouraging a state of cultural and economic stagnation.

16. Wakaya is not too small for a community centre and pied-a-terre, its great advantage being the fact that it lies only 10 miles from Levuka, the capital of Ovalau and former capital of Fiji. Here there is a good secondary school, cinema, bank and other urban amenities to which the Nauruan is accustomed. Its main drawback is a water supply which is at times restricted, though it has never been known to fail; this difficulty (if it proves to be one) can, however, be readily overcome by the construction of catchment areas.



17. The island of Waiyaya belongs to a Mrs. Bentley, one of the three daughters of Mr. Watson, the previous owner. She asked £25,000 for this freehold property in 1941, when enquiries were being made on behalf of the Banabans. Although Mrs. Bentley has not been formally approached, it is understood that she is still willing to sell, the price to-day being about £40,000.

18. (ii) Lautala is a volcanic island lying off the eastern coast of Taveuni. It is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide, with an area of 4.7 square miles, and is separated from Nggea Island, which is surrounded by the same barrier reef, by a strait of 500 yards; Nggea in turn is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Taveuni.

19. While Lautala is not situated near any town, the nearest semi-urban centre being at Somooso and Waiyuvu on Taveuni, the island lies close to Rambi, the Banaban settlement, and Roca, which has been colonised by the Polynesian Ellice Islanders - see map in Enclosure IV. It is regularly visited by inter-island shipping based on Suva and possesses a well-developed copra plantation which produces several hundred tons more than Rambi. The agricultural possibilities for subsistence and export crops are superior to Waiyaya and it would therefore support more Nauruans; but this fact does not, in my opinion, outweigh the advantages of Waiyaya's greater accessibility.

20. Lautala was sold by its owner, Mr. McGowan, in the 1940's to Messrs. Morris, Hodstrom and Co., Ltd., for £40,000. This firm has now sold its entire business to Messrs. W.H. Carpenter & Co., Ltd., which is understood not to be particularly anxious to dispose of it at the present time. Carpenters are, however, an Australian concern with extensive interests in Papua and New Guinea and it would be surprising if some concession could not be given which would make them glad to sell the property at a reasonable price.

21. (iii) Norathavila (Gacavila) Estate, Taveuni. Apart from islands, a number of estates were reported to be available, at a price, but none appeared particularly attractive as a settlement area for Nauruans. Particulars of a typical offer are given in Enclosure V and other similar properties are understood to be coming on to the market from time to time.

22. (iv) Ravilevu Crown Freehold, Taveuni. His Excellency himself suggested that the Nauruans might take over the 10,000 acre Ravilevu Crown Freehold, situated on the east, or windward, side of the island of Taveuni. This property is described in the 1929 edition of the Handbook of the Colony of Fiji as follows:-

"A very fine block of land on the east coast of the rich island of Taveuni but, unfortunately, there is no sheltering shore reef and no safe anchorage. The land is all under light forest and rises from sea-level to 2,500 feet. Rainfall 140 inches or more, but soil is light and porous overlying



volcanic lava and scoria. The lower slopes are suited for coconuts, while the higher slopes would make very rich fattening paddocks for cattle. The great drawback is the lack of a really good outlet, and only a planter or company with a large amount of capital could afford to make a road to the south coast, eight miles distant, or erect a breakwater for a port for use in fair weather."

23. An ecological survey was recently made of the reserve, an epitome of the report being given in Enclosure VI. I consider the property unsuitable for Nauruan settlement since the high rainfall and steep slope makes it particularly subject to erosion when cleared; the fact that 137 crocks were crossed by the survey party in 6 miles speaks for itself.

#### Summary.

24. The various points detailed above may be briefly summarized as follows:-

- (i) His Excellency the Governor has indicated that no objection would be raised to the Nauruan settling in Fiji, provided no special legislative concessions are required;
- (ii) it is considered that a number of freehold islands or freehold sections of larger islands could be acquired for settlement by negotiation with the present owners; and
- (iii) of these properties Wakaya Island is recommended as the most suitable for a Nauruan headquarters centre, followed by Luthala Island.

25. The choice at (iii) is based on my view that accessibility to urban centres is more important than the ability to support the entire population of Nauru as agriculturalists. Probably no property in Fiji except one or two freehold islands in the Lau Group, e.g. Nango, could support the Nauruans off the land - these are all relatively isolated and, at present day values, could not be bought except at a very high figure. It cannot be too strongly emphasized, however, that the Nauruans are not agriculturalists and Wakaya or Luthala should be sufficiently large to provide small-holdings for the few who may desire to become so. If not, further properties could be acquired from time to time as required.



Recommendations for action.

26. The following course of immediate future action is recommended:-

- (i) the Minister to follow up my visit by a semi-official letter addressed direct to His Excellency (see Enclosure VII);
- (ii) preliminary negotiations, without commitment, should be commenced with a view to the possible acquisition of Wakaya and Lauthala Islands (if desired, I am willing to undertake these immediately myself);
- (iii) I should approach the Nauruan delegates to the South Pacific Conference, on a personal and unofficial basis, and endeavour to enthuse them with the desirability of acquiring a second home in Fiji;
- (iv) arrangements should be made (if necessary by chartering a schooner) for the Nauruan delegation and myself to visit Wakaya, Lauthala, Bendi and Kioa after the conference;
- (v) the Government could then inform the Nauruans that they had obtained my services as the recognized Pacific specialist on colonisation and that I would be visiting Nauru forthwith for discussions with the community;
- (vi) on arrival in Nauru I should go into the whole question of a second home with the local leaders and endeavour to bring public opinion gradually around to requesting the Commonwealth Government to purchase Wakaya or Lauthala on their behalf.
- (vii) on receipt of this request action to purchase the property would be taken by the Department, thus completing the first phase of the migration project.

The main advantage of my undertaking (v) and (vi) personally would seem to lie in the fact that I am known to the Nauruans as the person who successfully organised and carried out the migration of the Gilbertese to the Phoenix Islands, of the Iroquois to Bendi and of the Ellice Islanders to Kioa. They might well, therefore, be prepared to listen to my advice when they would suspect that given by anyone connected with the Commonwealth Public Service, their own administration or the British phosphate Commission.

27. The second migration phase would involve the preparation of the island for the first party of Nauruan settlers: presumably including (unless the Nauruans are to undertake this work themselves) the construction of houses and public buildings in consultation with advance representatives



of the community. Any actual shift of population must clearly be voluntary and I would repeat that I do not anticipate more than a handful of settlers proceeding to Fiji for many years to come. Much, of course, will depend on the experiences of the first pioneers and it is important, therefore, to do everything possible to assist them to establish themselves comfortably and happily: the Nauruans are materialists and if the new home proves to possess demonstrably superior advantages - economic, social and educational - they will move to it in time. For the present, however, the importance of the migration project appears to me to be twofold: it effectively silences political criticisms of Australian neglect of the Nauruans' future welfare, whether this criticism emanates from the Trusteeship Council or the islanders themselves, and at the same time it provides an essential outlet for the younger, better educated and more progressive elements on the island, who at present show unmistakable symptoms of frustration at the limitations imposed by their environment.

Sydney, N.S.W.,  
11th April, 1956.

*H.E.M.*

.....  
H.E. Maude.



SCHEDULE OF ENCLOSURES.

- I. The Emigration Ordinance, 1947.
  - II. Emigration Requirements.
  - III. Vavaya Island.
  - IV. Lauthala Island.
  - V. Qacwala Estate.
  - VI. Ravilovu Reserve.
  - VII. Draft letter to the Governor.
  - VIII. Map of Fiji.
-



COLONY OF FIJI.



THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE,  
1947.

---

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

---

SECTION

1. Short Title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Ordinance not to apply to certain persons.
4. Appointment of Immigration Officers.
5. Powers of Immigration Officers.
6. Duties of Masters of ships and passengers.
7. Prohibited Immigrants.
8. No person to enter the Colony without a permit.
9. Offences and penalties.
10. Governor may order certain persons to be deported.
11. Liability for expenses incurred in respect of prohibited immigrants.
12. Regulations.
13. Repeal and Saving.





I assent.

[L.S.]

J. F. NICOLL,

Officer Administering the Government.

3rd December, 1947.

## AN ORDINANCE

TO MAKE BETTER PROVISION FOR THE CONTROL  
OF IMMIGRATION.

[3rd December, 1947.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of Fiji with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Immigration Ordinance, 1947. Short Title.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

“deportation order” means an order made by the Governor under the provisions of section 10;

“immigration officer” means any officer appointed under the provisions of section 4;

“passenger” means any person travelling or seeking to travel on board a ship who is not a seaman;

“seaman” means an officer or member of the crew of a ship;

“ship” includes aircraft and the expression “master of a ship” includes the commander of an aircraft, or if there be no commander, the pilot thereof;

“member of a crew” means any person employed in the working or service of a ship.



Ordinance  
not to  
apply to  
certain  
persons.

3. Subject to the proviso hereinafter contained the provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to the immigration of—

- (a) any person who is a British subject or British protected person and—
  - (i) was born or is domiciled in the Colony; or
  - (ii) has resided in the Colony for a period of five years: Provided that a person who is absent from the Colony for more than twelve consecutive months shall cease to be resident for the purposes of this section;
- (b) any serving member of His Majesty's Forces;
- (c) any officer or member of the crew of a naval ship of a friendly power;
- (d) any member of His Majesty's diplomatic or consular services and his household;
- (e) any member of the consular service of a foreign power duly accredited to the Colony and his household;
- (f) any person employed in Government service in any part of His Majesty's dominions or of any territory under His Majesty's protection or of any territory in which His Majesty has from time to time jurisdiction and the wife and family of any such person.

Provided that until such time as any such person satisfies the immigration officer that he comes within any of the exemptions set out in this section the provisions of the Ordinance shall apply to him:

Provided further that—

- (a) a person aggrieved by a decision of the immigration officer may appeal to a magistrate's court of the first class;
- (b) a magistrate's court of the first class in hearing any such appeal shall have all the powers which may be exercised by the court in the hearing of a civil suit and may permit any party to appear personally or by advocate;
- (c) appeal shall be by way of a petition in writing and shall be made within thirty days of the decision appealed against.

Appointment of  
immigration  
officers.

4. The Governor may appoint a Principal Immigration Officer and such other immigration officers as he may consider necessary for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance.



5.—(1) In the exercise of his duties under this Ordinance an immigration officer may—

Powers of immigration officers.

- (a) board any ship;
- (b) require the master of any ship, or any person entering or leaving the Colony, or any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe is a prohibited immigrant, to give him such information and produce such documents in his possession as may be necessary to enable the immigration officer to carry out his duties under this Ordinance;
- (c) require any person entering the Colony to be examined by a medical officer.

(2) An immigration officer may arrest or cause to be arrested any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe is a prohibited immigrant and—

- (a) if such person be a passenger on a ship cause him to be handed over to the custody of the master of the ship until its departure from the Colony; or
- (b) cause him to be taken before a magistrate's court and charged with a contravention of the provisions of section 7 of this Ordinance:

Provided that if such person demands to be taken before a magistrate's court he shall be so taken and charged with the offence aforesaid.

6.—(1) The master of every ship arriving in the Colony from some place outside the Colony shall—

Duties of masters of ships and passengers.

- (a) deliver to the immigration officer a complete list in duplicate of all passengers carried on the ship;
- (b) not permit any passenger to disembark until disembarkation has been authorized by the immigration officer;
- (c) inform the immigration officer if he knows or has reasonable grounds for believing any passenger to be a prohibited immigrant, and prevent such person from disembarking unless authorized by the immigration officer;
- (d) prevent, with such reasonable force as may be necessary, the disembarkation of any person—
  - (i) who has been given into his custody under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 5;
  - (ii) in respect of whom a deportation order made under the provision of section 10 is in force;
  - (iii) in respect of whom he has been notified by the immigration officer that such person is prohibited from landing in the Colony.



(2) Every passenger arriving in the Colony by sea or air from any place outside the Colony shall appear before the immigration officer at such time and place as the immigration officer may direct and shall furnish him with such information in such manner as the immigration officer may require or as may be prescribed.

Prohibited  
immigrants.

7. The following persons are prohibited immigrants and it shall be an offence for any such person to land in the Colony—

- (a) any person who is not the holder of a valid permit issued under the provisions of section 8 unless such person is exempted under the provisions of that section;
- (b) any person with respect to whom a deportation order is in force;
- (c) any person with respect to whom the Commissioner of Police has, with the approval of the Governor, notified the Principal Immigration Officer that, as a result of information or advice received from a reliable source, the entry of the said person into the Colony is likely to be prejudicial to peace and good order and should be prohibited;
- (d) any person who has been convicted by a court outside the Colony of an offence which, if committed within the Colony, is punishable with imprisonment for more than two years.

No person to  
enter the  
Colony  
without a  
permit.

8.—(1) Unless exempted under the provisions of subsection (4) of this section no person shall enter the Colony except in pursuance of a permit issued to him in that behalf by the Principal Immigration Officer or by some person acting under his authority.

(2) The Principal Immigration Officer may issue a permit to any person entitling him to enter and reside or remain in the Colony upon such conditions as to the security to be furnished, the profession or occupation which the holder may exercise or engage in within the Colony, and to any other matter whether similar to the foregoing or not which the Principal Immigration Officer may deem fit to impose or as may be prescribed.

(3) Subject to such directions as the Governor in Council may deem fit to issue to him the Principal Immigration Officer shall have a complete discretion as to the persons to whom permits to enter the Colony may be granted under the foregoing provisions of this section.



(4) The following persons shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (1) of this section—

- (a) a person who enters the Colony and departs without landing, or if he has landed from an aircraft without leaving the airport at which he arrived;
- (b) a person who enters the Colony and leaves the Colony on the ship on which he arrived immediately upon its departure;
- (c) a person who, having entered the Colony for an intended stay of not more than four months, appears before the immigration officer in accordance with subsection 2 of section 6 and if required by him so to do furnishes such security for his compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance as the immigration officer may require:

Provided that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a person who by secreting himself on a ship has obtained a passage to the Colony without the consent of the master, owner or agent.

(5) If a person who has entered the Colony in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of this section—

- (a) becomes incapable of supporting himself and his dependants;
- (b) behaves in a manner prejudicial to the peace and good order of the Colony; or
- (c) fails to leave the Colony within four months of his arrival,

it shall be lawful for the Principal Immigration Officer, by writing under his hand, to order such person forthwith to leave the Colony and if such person fails to carry out such order he shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) If any person enters the Colony in pursuance of the foregoing provisions of this section and contravenes or fails to comply with any of the conditions of the permit under which he has been allowed to enter or any of the provisions of this Ordinance, then, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable—

- (a) if security has been furnished by way of deposit such deposit may be forfeited;
- (b) if security has been furnished by bond the Principal Immigration Officer may sue and recover the amount secured by the bond,

and any sum forfeited or recovered under the provisions of this subsection shall be paid into the general revenue of the Colony.



9.—(1) Any person who acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance or any conditions lawfully imposed in pursuance of the provisions thereof or any lawful order or requirement given by an immigration officer, or aids or abets in any such contravention or harbours any person whom he knows or has reasonable grounds to believe, has acted in contravention thereof, shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance. In particular, any person shall be guilty of an offence who—

- (a) refuses to answer any question lawfully put to him by an immigration officer, or withholds or refuses to give any information in his possession or to produce any document which he is lawfully required to give or produce;
- (b) whether within or without the Colony, knowingly makes any false declaration, return or statement for the purpose of obtaining or assisting another person to obtain a permit to enter the Colony under this Ordinance;
- (c) alters any permit or copy of a permit issued in pursuance of this Ordinance;
- (d) wilfully obstructs any immigration officer in the exercise of his duty;
- (e) knowingly uses or has in his possession any forged passport, permit, certificate or other document, or any passport or document on which any *visa* or endorsement has been forged, or any passport permit, certificate or document which has been altered or issued without lawful authority;
- (f) unlawfully remains in the Colony after the expiration or cancellation of a permit issued to him under the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Any person convicted of an offence against the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable to a fine of two hundred pounds.

(3) Where any person is convicted of an offence under paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of this section the court may, in addition to any penalty imposed for such offence, cancel any permit which was issued in consequence of such false declaration, return or statement as is mentioned in that paragraph.

(4) Any person in respect of whom a deportation order has been made who fails to leave the Colony in accordance with the terms of the order or returns to the Colony whilst the order is in force shall be liable to a fine of five hundred



pounds or to imprisonment for three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(5) Where any person lands in the Colony from any ship in contravention of the provisions of section 7 relating to prohibited immigrants and the master is in respect of such person convicted of contravening any of the provisions of section 6 then, in addition to any other penalty, the ship may, by order of the court, be detained until provision has been made by the master, owner or agent, as the case may be, to the satisfaction of the immigration officer for the conveyance out of the Colony of such person.

(6) Where any fine is imposed under the provisions of this Ordinance upon any master, owner or agent of any ship, such ship may, by order of the court, be detained until such fine has been paid and it shall be lawful for the court when imposing any such fine to order execution against such ship in satisfaction of such fine.

10.—(1) Where a person is convicted by a court in the Colony of—

Governor may order certain persons to be deported.

- (a) landing in the Colony in contravention of the provisions of section 7;
- (b) acting in contravention of the conditions of a permit issued under the provisions of section 8;
- (c) remaining in the Colony after the expiry or cancellation of such a permit; or
- (d) failing to leave the Colony when ordered so to do under subsection (5) of section 8,

the court shall certify its finding and recommendation to the Governor and the Governor may, if he deem fit, make an order in this Ordinance referred to as a deportation order, requiring the said person to leave and remain thereafter out of the Colony.

(2) A person with respect to whom a deportation order is made shall leave the Colony in accordance with the order and shall remain outside the Colony so long as the order is in force.

(3) A person with respect to whom a certificate is given or a deportation order is made under the provisions of this section may be detained in such manner as the Governor may direct and upon the making of the order may, whether or not he has completed any sentence of imprisonment which may have been awarded under the provisions of this Ordinance, be placed on a ship about to leave the Colony and shall be deemed to be in lawful custody whilst so detained and until the ship finally leaves the Colony.



(4) A person against whom a deportation order has been made shall be deported to the place whence he came, or, with the approval of the Governor—

- (a) if he is a British subject, to a place in some part of His Majesty's dominions or country under His Majesty's protection to which he belongs, or to any place to which he consents to be deported, provided that the Government of such last mentioned place consents to receive him; or
- (b) if he is not a British subject to some place in the country to which he belongs, or to any place to which he consents to be deported, provided that the Government of such last mentioned place consents to receive him.

(5) The master of a ship who is proceeding to a place to which a person is directed to be deported and is required by the Principal Immigration Officer with the approval of the Governor to do so shall receive a person against whom a deportation order has been made and his dependents, if any, on board the ship and afford him and them a passage to that place and proper accommodation and maintenance during passage. Except as provided by section 11 the cost of such passage accommodation and maintenance shall be paid by the person deported or if the Governor so directs out of the general revenue of the Colony.

Liability for expenses incurred in respect of a prohibited immigrant.

**11.** The master and the owner and the agent of any ship from which any prohibited immigrant disembarks shall be jointly and severally liable to pay to the Government all expenses incurred by the Government in connexion with the care, maintenance or treatment of such prohibited immigrant and his deportation or conveyance from the Colony. The amount of any such expenses as aforesaid shall be recoverable in an action brought by or in the name of the Principal Immigration Officer:

Provided that in no case shall the amount for which the master owner or agent of the ship is liable in respect of such deportation or conveyance from the Colony exceed the costs of deporting or conveying the said person to the place from which he was brought by the ship concerned:

Provided further that the Governor may if he thinks fit direct that the whole or any part of such expenses shall be paid out of the general revenue of the Colony.



12. The Governor in Council may make Regulations <sup>Regulations.</sup> prescribing anything which may be prescribed under the provisions of this Ordinance and for the better carrying out of the provisions thereof, and in particular for—

- (a) the procedure to be followed by persons applying for permits to enter the Colony, the particulars or documents to be supplied by them, and the persons through whom application may be made;
- (b) the forms to be used for the purposes of the Ordinance;
- (c) the amount of the security which the Principal Immigration Officer may require to be furnished by persons entering the Colony;
- (d) prescribing further terms and conditions upon which permits to reside in the Colony may be issued.

13. The Immigrants Ordinance is hereby repealed: Provided <sup>Repeal and saving.  
Cap. 57.</sup> that—

- (a) any permit issued or security given under the provisions of the Ordinance hereby repealed shall be deemed to have been issued or given under the provisions of this Ordinance;
- (b) any person who entered the Colony in contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance hereby repealed shall be deemed to have entered the Colony in contravention of the provisions of section 7 of this Ordinance.

Passed in Council this twenty-fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven.



## IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.

The 1946 Census of Fiji revealed that the population of the Colony was increasing very rapidly. It was estimated that the total population, which numbered just under 260,000 in 1946, would have grown to 340,000 by 1956 and might pass the half million mark soon after 1970. In November, 1947, therefore, an Ordinance limiting immigration was passed by Legislative Council.

### Freedom from Restriction—

The restrictions on immigration do not apply to:—

- (a) British subjects born or domiciled in Fiji;
- (b) British subjects who have lived in Fiji for five years and who are returning after an absence of less than twelve consecutive months;
- (c) serving members of British or Allied forces;
- (d) persons employed in Government service in territories of the British Commonwealth.

Those concerned must prove to the satisfaction of the immigration authorities that they come within the categories listed.

### Tourists—

Tourists arriving in the Colony may stay for a period of up to four months. They are required to be in possession of valid passports and, except in the case of British nationals, must have *visas* for Fiji affixed to the passports.

The immigration authorities require a tourist to be in possession of an order for a return air or sea passage or to deposit a sum sufficient to cover the cost of a passage to the country from which he has come. They may also require him to deposit a sum of money or to furnish other security for his compliance with the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance.

### Short-Term Permits—

Permits to reside in Fiji for *less than four years* may be issued at the discretion of the Principal Immigration Officer to apprentices, skilled tradesmen, miners, students, persons under medical treatment, and persons entering the Colony under short-term contracts of employment with local commercial or agricultural undertakings.

### Residents' Permits—

In general, permits to land and reside *permanently* in Fiji will be granted only to the following:—

- (a) farmers and planters if they have already acquired a property in the Colony of not less than 100 acres, three quarters of which is productive land;
- (b) professional men and women with recognized qualifications who intend to practice their profession in the Colony;  
(The entry of teachers must be approved by the Director of Education).
- (c) Ministers of religion;
- (d) persons who are employed outside Fiji by local firms or undertakings and who are transferred to the Colony;
- (e) persons who satisfy the Principal Immigration Officer that they have an assured income, that they will not become a charge on public funds, and that their entry is not contrary to the public interest, and who accept any conditions which may be imposed;



- (f) persons absent from Fiji on June 11th 1948, who hold Fiji passports issued before that date, provided that they—
- (i) were originally admitted into Fiji under the indenture system and were resident in the Colony when the passport was issued, or
  - (ii) had resided continuously in the Colony for not less than ten years before applying for a Fiji passport and also have permanent business interests or employment in the Colony;
- (g) persons who have established or who establish a residential status under the Ordinance by living for five years continuously in the Colony, and who, having left the Colony with the intention of returning, lose that status by remaining away for more than twelve months; provided that the person concerned satisfies the Principal Immigration Officer that he was unable to return because of circumstances beyond his control, or for some other good and sufficient reason.

Only in very exceptional circumstances will permits to enter and reside permanently in Fiji be granted to persons not included in the above categories.

**Application for Permits—**

Applications for permits to enter and reside in Fiji, and correspondence on immigration matters should be addressed to—

The Principal Immigration Officer,  
Suva.

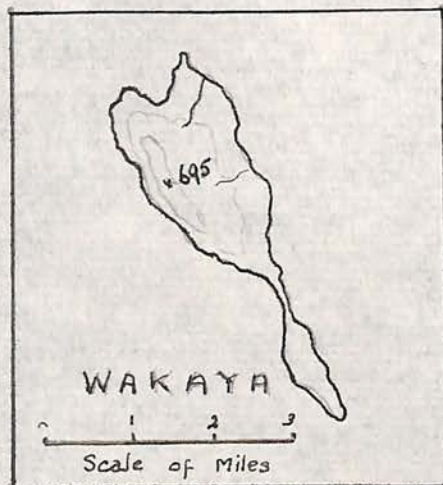
Applications for permits to enter and reside in Fiji should be made on a special form of which copies are obtainable from the Principal Immigration Officer, Suva.

An applicant should not leave for Fiji until he has received a permit. Requests for telegraphic permission to land and reside in the Colony cannot be considered.



1.

WAKAYA ISLAND.



Total area	=	2,200 acres.
Area under coconuts	=	500 "
Arable land (excluding coconuts)	=	200-300 acres.
Copra yield per annum	=	150-200 tons.

Situated 10 miles N.E. of Levuka. <sup>2.</sup>

5 miles long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide at its greatest width.

Area = 3 square miles.

Privately owned and operated as a plantation. It was one of the first islands in Fiji to be sold to Europeans, being bought from Cakobau in 1840 by Houghton, owner of the schooner "Currency Lass". Later acquired by Dr. Brewer, for many years U.S. Vice-Consul for Fiji.

Wakaya was the scene of the earliest trials of sheep in Fiji, after which Dr. Brewer planted areas in cotton and sugar-cane and erected the first sugar mill in the Colony.

The island is overstocked with goats, deer (introduced early in the century), pigs and cattle, so much of the undergrowth has disappeared.

The following food crops grow well; Cassava, bananas, breadfruit, kalo, sugar-cane, lamalae and yams. Fruit trees include: breadfruit, ivi, lemon, orange, custard-apple, mango, guava, dawa, liberian coffee and shaddock. Fish are numerous.



Rainfall is probably less than on Tavani, but the soil is similar. There are no permanent streams. Water is reported to have been restricted at times, but "fresh water supplies have never entirely failed even in the driest seasons". The Director of Agriculture of Fiji considered that, as a purely agricultural project, Makaya could support immediately 50-60 families totalling say 200-300 persons. The cash income from sale of copra, plus the existing fruits, fishing, etc., would support them comfortably until they settle down and grow food crops, when they should be relatively prosperous.

---

1.

Information obtained from:-

- (1) Derrick, H.A. "The Fiji Islands". Suva, Government Printer, 1951. Pp. 282-284.
- (2) Survey made in 1941 by W.L. Farnes, Agricultural Assistant, in connection with the proposal to settle the Bonaban community on the island.

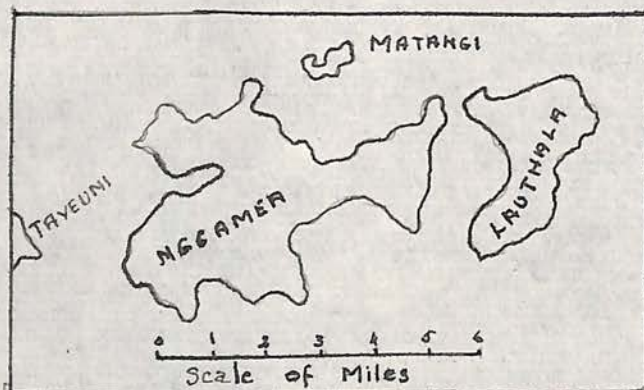
2.

Lovisa, on the island of Ovalau, is an important centre of the copra industry and its principal industries are connected with the production, handling and transhipment of that commodity. Other small industries include boat-building and pineapple canning. There is a limited tourist trade and daily communication by launch and road to Suva with frequent shipping services to Suva and other island ports. An important educational centre, possessing several higher training institutions, Lovisa has a population numbering about 2,000.

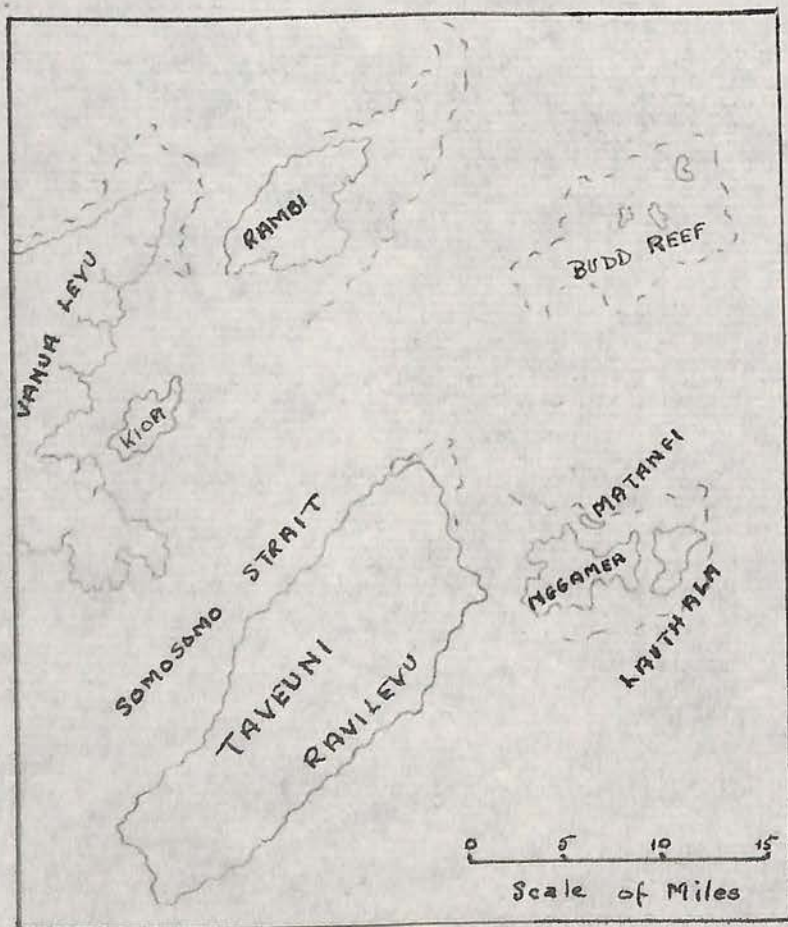
---



1.  
LAUTHALA ISLAND.



LAUTHALA IN RELATION TO TAVEUNI.



RAMBI, KIOA AND LAUTHALA.



LAUTHALA, NGGEMEA AND MATANGI

Lauthala lies east of Nggimea, separated from it by a strait which, in the north-west, is about 500 yards wide. It is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, and from 1 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide, with an area of 4.7 square miles. There are patches of forest in the interior, and a large part of the north end is under grass and coconuts. The island is privately owned, and worked as a copra plantation, the homestead being situated in the north. In 1946 the population of planters and their labourers was 66.

Nggimea is situated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Thurston Point, Tavuni, and is native owned, with a population in 1946 of 410 Fijians.

Matangi is privately owned, with a population in 1946 of 10.

Lauthala, Nggimea and Matangi are all enclosed in the Tavuni barrier reef, which is far enough from their shores to permit of navigation within the lagoon.

---

1.

Information obtained from Derrick, R.A. "The Fiji Islands" Surv., Government Printer, 1951. pp. 251 and 252.

---



1.

INGATHAVILA ESTATE, TAVIUNI.

The following advertisement regarding this property appeared in the "Fiji Times and Herald" on the 22nd February, 1956:-

FOR SALE.

INGATHAVILA ESTATE, TAVIUNI.

TENDERS ARE INVITED for the purchase of the 300 ton coypa plantation known as "Ingathavila Estate" on Taveuni.

The property is in excellent condition and consists of:-

1. Freehold land, C.T. XI/05-252 containing 502 acres on which are erected a modern commodious wood and iron residence with usual outbuildings of laundry, garage and workshop; labour lines, coypa shed; smoke dryer and sun drying vats. Excellent piped water supply to houses and cattle troughs.
2. Native Lease of 352 acres known as "Munici" expiring 26th February, 1960. Transfer subject to approval of the Native Land Trust Board.
3. Yearly tenancy of 100 acres known as "Dranimiki". Transfer subject to approval of the Trustees of the Church of England.

Further particulars may be had from the undersigned who is authorised to accept the best tender above £3.45,000 received before 31st March, 1956.

A.G. GOULD, Chartered Accountant (Aust.)  
Attorney for the Owners,  
Bank of New South Wales Chambers,  
SUVA.



A similar advertisement will be found on page 125 of the "Pacific Islands Monthly" for March 1956.

I understood from Mr. S.G. Gould, Attorney for the owners, and other informants that the original price asked for this estate was £F.60,000. It is considered that there will be little difficulty in selling at £F.45,000.

---

1.  
Senavila according to the Fiji standard orthography.

---



1.

HAVILEVU RESERVE.

Crown freehold comprising the whole of the central section of the east, or windward, side of Taveuni Island.

Area - 10,000 acres.

Originally sold to the Crown in 1912 for £F.3,750 as a possible area for settlement and development.

Climate continuously wet, with heavy rain falling every month. At Salialevu Estate, which marches the area on its south-west side, the rainfall averages 220 inches a year. The altitude and location make the climate relatively cool.

Situation on one slope of a lava flow, the slope being about 15°. High rainfall and steepness cause extensive geological erosion. There are many creeks, close together and often in deep ravines: 157 were crossed in 6 miles. The distance from the central ridge (average height 3,000 feet) to the sea is about 4 miles.

Beaches are few and narrow. Coast rugged, with steep cliffs 200-400 feet high overhanging a rocky foreshore. Only one anchorage - at the mouth of the Wainibau at the north-east end of the block.

Almost the entire area is covered with high forest (canopy height 60-70 feet). Undergrowth dense. No flies or mosquitoes.

Soil moderately fertile, the chief drawbacks being some acidity and lack of phosphate. But the fertility is dependent to a large extent on organic matter present and any clearing of bush, with subsequent exposure of soils to the weather, would result in an increased rate of decomposition of organic matter and a corresponding drop in soil fertility (after an initial increase). Soil erosion would be a hazard if the bush were to be cleared for the establishment of plantation crops. With such a heavy rainfall the tall bush does not afford sufficient protection to the exposed soil surface.

Agricultural development would need to be limited to the growing of crops tolerant of the conditions obtaining. It is considered probably too wet for coconuts. Coconuts would grow but yield would be low.

---

1.

Summarised from "An Ecological Survey of Havilevu, Taveuni", by I.T. Nyford (Soil Scientist) and J.S. Hall (Agricultural Officer).

---



DRAFT.

Enclosure VII.

His Excellency Sir Ronald Garvey, K.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,  
Governor of Fiji,  
Government House,  
SUVA ... FIJI.

Dear Sir Ronald,

Some months ago my Department asked H.E. Maude, who was then on the staff of the South Pacific Commission, to advise us on possible localities for resettling the people of Nuru, whose island will be unattractive as a home when its phosphate deposits are exhausted.

This problem has recently come to the fore owing to efforts at meetings of the Trusteeship Council to make political capital out of it. Its solution has therefore assumed an urgency which it would not otherwise possess (since the phosphate deposits are estimated to last for another 50 years).

Maude, who as you know has had considerable experience of Pacific migration projects, reports that the only islands or other properties suitable for Nuru settlement are situated in Fiji and offered, on a recent visit to Suva, to sound out quite unofficially the possibilities of Nurus being permitted to make their home in the Colony and of a suitable location being obtainable for their headquarters.

I understand from Maude that you were good enough to see him and kindly undertook to give your sympathetic consideration to any request received from the Commonwealth Government. I am therefore taking the liberty of writing to you direct to ask you to see your way to permit the immigration of Nurus into Fiji and the purchase of sufficient land to provide a home for those who may desire to go.

The Nurus are, in general, well educated by island standards, English speaking and accustomed to a semi-urban life. It is anticipated that in Fiji few would choose to become agriculturalists, for which they have no particular aptitude, but that they would, for the most part, tend to take on clerical employment with the Government or in business, become professional writers and artisans, or be employed in other capacities in industrial and commercial concerns. In view of this fact, and also that they will, to a certain extent, be self-supporting from phosphate royalties, it is hoped that strict adherence to the requirements for Residential Permits set out in the Fiji pamphlet headed "Immigration Requirements" will not be insisted on in this special case, as to do so would effectively debar any but a small minority from being allowed to enter the Colony. I would emphasize, however, that no exemption from the provisions of the Fiji Immigration Ordinance, 1947, is sought, or any special legislative or other privileges for the intending settlers.



I should explain that in the event of your being able to agree to this request, I would propose that the Nauruan delegation to the South Pacific Conference should examine one or two likely properties available for purchase and that, in the event of any being considered suitable, negotiations would be commenced, subject to the approval of the Nauruans themselves, for their acquisition.

It is recognised that any property which could be acquired would, in all probability, be too small for the entire support of the Nauruan community as an agricultural estate. In the first place, however, it is not anticipated that more than a few Nauruan families would migrate to Fiji during the next decade and that most of these would obtain employment in the main Colony centres, regarding their home property merely as a community centre and base. Nevertheless, should the need arise, further properties could be acquired.

In conclusion I should add that in not suggesting any special privileges for the Nauruans, I have in mind the desirability of their being assimilated as rapidly as possible into the general life of the Colony and, by acculturation and inter-marriage, into its population. I feel sure that this would ultimately prove to be to the benefit both of the Fijians as well as the Nauruans themselves.

Yours sincerely,

(Paul M. Hasluck)  
Minister for Territories.







COMMISSIONERS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM  
on the  
SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION.  
---

Government House Offices,  
SUVA, FIJI.

29th February, 1956.

No. S.P.C. 9/4.

Dear Maude,

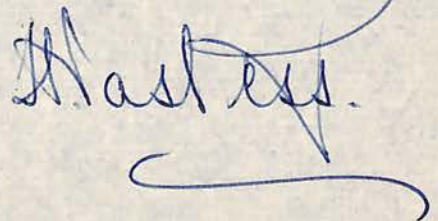
Many thanks for your letter of the 6th February, which I have not been able to answer sooner because of my preoccupation with the review of the South Pacific Commission.

I had, however, ascertained from Sir Ronald that the date of your visit to Suva was being taken care of on the Fiji side and that you were being informed when it would be most convenient. So there appeared to be no urgency from that angle in sending you a reply.

I shall therefore look forward to seeing you in person in the near future, when we can have a talk on our appraisal of the value and usefulness of the Commission, among other things.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. E. Maude'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

H. E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
2 Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA, N.S.W.



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
29th February, 1956.

J.E. Willoughby, Esq.,  
First Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear John,

In a letter from Mr Lambert (DR.118/6 of the 3rd February) he advised me to get in touch with you on the travel and financial arrangements consequent on my proposed visit to Fiji for the Department of Territories.

I am accordingly enclosing a copy of a letter which I have sent to Mr Lambert suggesting that I should be booked to Fiji by Qantas plane leaving Sydney on Saturday the 10th March. If you could kindly have your Sydney office instructed to make all necessary arrangements I would go and see them as soon as they phone me. There is not too much time to get such matters as my Income Tax Clearance fixed up but I imagine that your office can probably get them through quicker than I can.

As to the payment of my fee and expenses, which Mr Lambert suggests I should discuss with you, I feel that it would be best to leave such questions until my return. I will take sufficient Travellers Cheques with me to Suva, from my own funds, to meet my current expenses and can recover what is recoverable from you on my return.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
29th February, 1956.

His Excellency Sir Ronald Garvey,  
K.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., M.B.E.,  
Government House,  
SUVA, Fiji.

*Dear Ronald,*

Thanks for agreeing to be a referee for me and I hope that the Australian National University have got in touch with you by now, or soon will.

I find I have to visit Fiji in the near future and in fact expect to arrive in Suva on Sunday the 11th March. I understand from Kingsley that you will be there until the 18th and should be most grateful if I could have a talk with you on one or two matters some time between the date of my arrival and your departure. I know you must be chronically busy but please do spare me a few minutes.

I havn't been to Fiji for ages and am quite looking forward to seeing the many changes which one reads about. But I imagine that practically everyone I knew will have left by now.

Looking forward to seeing you once again,

*Yours,*

*J.R.M.*



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
29th February, 1956.

G.K. Roth, Esq., O.B.E.,  
Secretary for Fijian Affairs,  
The Secretariat,  
SUVA, Fiji.

Dear Kingsley,

Your letter is to hand and I have asked to be booked to Nadi by Qantas plane on Saturday the 10th March. I shall sleep the night at the Makambo Hotel and come down to Suva by the first plane on Sunday.

Many thanks indeed for kindly offering to put up with me for a few days. It would certainly be marvellous, though if I have to stay on in Suva for more than a short while I insist on departing to a hotel: you can have little conception of what a trying person I can be in the house in my old age: 48 hours and everyone has had me.

I have also taken your advice and written to Sir Ronald that I am coming to his domain. Maybe he will, as you say, invite me to spend a night or two in my old home but alas I have no tails and rumour says they're now all the rage in G.H. circles.

If it is not convenient to have me on Sunday and I shouldn't be at all surprised please be an angel and book me in an expensive hotel (I'm not paying this trip).

Yours,

*John*



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
29th February, 1956.

C.R. Lambert Esq., C.M.G.,  
Secretary, Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Mr Lambert,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS

With reference to my letter of the 11th February, regarding my proposed visit to Fiji, I have now heard from Mr G.K. Roth that Sir Ronald Garvey will be in Suva from the 6th to the 18th March.

2. I would propose, therefore, to leave Sydney for Nandi by Qantas Flight EM732 at 11 a.m. on Saturday the 10th March, stay the night of the 10th at Nandi and leave for Suva by the first Fiji Airways plane on Sunday morning.

3. If this is acceptable to you I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to have the necessary authorization issued to your Sydney office to book my return passage to Suva, via Nandi, and my hotel accommodation at the Makambo accordingly.

4. As the actual date of my return journey from Suva to Sydney cannot very well be settled until I get to Fiji I will fix up the details of day and flight direct with the Qantas agents as soon as possible after my arrival there, and have the necessary particulars endorsed on the return half of my ticket.

5. As indicated in my letter of the 25th January, if the Fiji authorities are unable to entertain any proposal for the settlement of Nauruans in the Colony there would seem to be no reason why I should have to stay more than two or three days. If, however, they are willing to consider the suggestion it will be necessary to remain longer, though how much longer I cannot tell in advance.

6. I understand that



6. I understand that Sir Ronald has been advised that I am coming to Fiji and that it is probable that I shall be invited to stay with him for a few days and with Mr Roth for part, or the whole, of the remainder of my visit. It is not necessary, therefore, for any accommodation to be booked for me in Suva at this stage. If I do stay at a hotel for any portion of my visit I shall make the arrangements myself and recover from your Department on my return.

7. Should it be desired to communicate with me when in Fiji I suggest that letters, cables, etc., be addressed c/o Mr H.H. Vaskess, C.M.G., O.B.E., Government House Offices, Suva.

8. I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr J.E. Willoughby, who I understand will be dealing with my travel and financial arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.





IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE :

GKR/56.

FIJIAN OFFICE  
THE SECRETARIAT  
SUVA, FIJI

17 February, 1956.

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter of 7th February about your proposed visit to us. Sir Ronald expects to be away from Suva from 2nd to 5th March, and again from about the 18th to 27th March. As far as I know he will be in Suva until the 2nd March. My visits away from Suva are roughly the same. He would like to put you up for a few days and I suggest that you drop him a note saying that you would like to see him, whereupon my foresight tells me that he may reply and say that he will be glad to have you stay with him for a day or two. Outside that time I shall presume that we will put up with you in our quarters.

I am delighted to hear you are settling down to some publication work and I look forward to your bursting into print ~~at~~ at an early date.

Yours ever,

*Kingsley*

H.E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga,  
NEW SOUTH WALES.



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
11th February, 1956.

C.R. Lambert Esq., C.M.G.,  
Secretary, Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Mr Lambert,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS

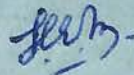
Thank you for your letter DR.118/6 of the 3rd February informing me that the Minister has approved my proceeding to Fiji for the purposes set out in your para. 2.

2. The conditions of engagement as stated in your para. 3 are accepted.

3. On receipt of your letter I wrote to Mr G.K. Roth, Secretary for Fijian Affairs, who is a friend of mine, informing him that I expected to visit Suva in the near future and would like to have an opportunity of seeing both Sir Ronald Garvey and himself. I have asked Mr Roth to let me know when they are likely to be in Suva and on receipt of his reply, which I expect in a day or two, I shall be in a position to recommend when I had best leave for Fiji.

4. In the meantime, I am taking action as suggested in your para. 5.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



2 Netherby Street,  
Wahroonga, N.S.W.,  
7th February, 1956.

G.K. Roth, Esq., O.B.E.,  
Secretary for Fijian Affairs,  
The Secretariat,  
SUVA, Fiji.

Dear Kingsley,

I find that I have to come to Fiji on business during the course of the next few days. But as I should like to discuss one or two matters with yourself, and possibly later Sir Ronald, I am anxious not to go when either of you are likely to be away.

So, my dear Sir, may I please ask you to be so kind as to interrupt your labours to jot down on a sheet of paper when during February and March you anticipate that Sir R. and yourself will be in residence.

I think I should be in Suva about a fortnight.

How nice it is to be a retired man of leisure. You really ought to try it. I feel tons fitter.

You'd be amazed what a mess the Beadle is making of the Commission: one would almost think him a saboteur planted by the Russians.

Yours as ever,

*John*





DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 3rd February 1956.

In reply quote No. DR. 118/6

Dear Mr. Maude,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25th January 1956.

2. The Minister has approved of your engagement for the purposes of proceeding to Fiji to make a confidential investigation of the following points:

(1) Whether the Fiji Government would be willing to permit the acquisition of land in the Colony for the purpose of providing a second home for the Nauruan community and, if so, the terms on which the Nauruans would be permitted to enter the Colony and settle on this land.

(2) Whether any islands, or other suitable properties, are available for purchase in Fiji and, if so, at what approximate prices.

3. The conditions of engagement will be:

(a) Payment of a daily fee of £10 whilst actually engaged on the work, including the preparation of your report.

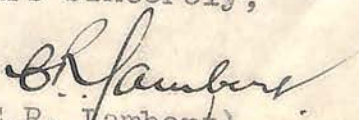
(b) Refund of all expenditure incurred in travelling, hotel accommodation and meals, on production of receipts or a signed declaration.

(c) Engagement to be terminable on one week's written notice on either side.

4. If the engagement is acceptable to you on these conditions, will you kindly let me know when you propose to depart from Australia. We would like this to be as soon as possible.

5. It might be advisable for you to discuss with the Acting First Assistant Secretary (Mr. J.E. Willoughby) any necessary arrangements with regard to your travel and payment of your fee and expenses.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

H.E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
2 Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA. N.S.W.



2, Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA, N.S.W.

25th January, 1956.

Dear Mr. Lambert,

Future Home for Nauruans

With reference to our recent telephone conversation, I have given due consideration to the feasibility of my proceeding to Fiji to make a confidential investigation of the following points:-

- (i) whether Fiji Government would be willing to permit the acquisition of land in the Colony for the purpose of providing a second home for the Nauruan community and, if so, the terms on which the Nauruans would be permitted to enter the Colony and settle on this land; and
- (ii) whether any islands, or other suitable properties, are available for purchase in Fiji and, if so, at what approximate prices.

Having settled certain personal considerations involved I am now able to state my willingness to proceed to Suva at any time desired. It is suggested that an appropriate remuneration for this undertaking would be:-

- (i) the refund of all expenditure incurred in travelling, hotel accommodation and meals on production of receipts or a signed declaration; and
- (ii) a daily fee approximately equivalent to the salary and allowances which I received when travelling on duty for the South Pacific Commission.

C. R. Lambert, Esq., C.B.E.,  
Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.



I work out (ii) to have been about £111 per diem (this can be checked by your staff from the published Commission budget) and would be willing to accept a fee of £10 to commence on the day of my departure from Sydney and cease on the day of finishing my report or four days after my return (whichever is earlier).

It is estimated that the undertaking would not take longer than a fortnight to complete though it is not possible to guarantee this. Clearly if the Fiji authorities are unwilling to consider the proposal or no suitable land for settlement is at present available the work would take only a few days.

It seems probable, though far from certain, that I shall be visiting Fiji in May-June at Commission expense in connexion with the South Pacific Conference. If preferred, therefore, I could conduct the investigation at the same time. In this event it is suggested that I should be given a flat fee of say £50 on production of my report and refunded any out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connexion with my investigations.

Yours sincerely,



H. E. Maude.





TELEPHONE No.: CANBERRA F0 411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "TERRITORIES" CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, = 8 DEC 1955

In reply quote No. DR. 118/6

Dear Mr. Maude,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks,  
your letter of 6th December 1955, addressed to  
Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Lambert is in the United Kingdom  
at the moment but I will place your letter  
before him on his return on the 20th or 21st of  
this month.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

(J.E. Willoughby)  
A/First Assistant Secretary.

H.E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
2, Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA. N.S.W.

File



2, Netherby Street,  
WAHROONGA, N.S.W.

6th December, 1955.

Dear Mr. Lambert,

Future Home for Nauruans

With reference to your letter DR.118/6 of the 27th September, I would advise that as Sir Ronald Garvey, the Governor of Fiji, was unable to attend the Seventh Session of the South Pacific Commission held at Noumea last month I discussed the possible reaction of the Fiji Government to the settlement of Nauruans in the Colony with Mr. A.F.R. Stoddard, Colonial Secretary, who was acting as Senior Commissioner in Sir Ronald's place.

My talk with Mr. Stoddard was on a purely informal basis and I did not, of course, indicate that any move of this character was contemplated by the Australian Government or anyone else. Mr. Stoddard had been speaking to me about the Banabans on Rabi Island, as I had been responsible for their settlement there, and I took the opportunity of enquiring what the probable reaction of the Government would be to the immigration into the Colony of further Pacific Island groups, such as the Nauruans.

Mr. Stoddard replied that he did not think that there would be any objection in principle, provided sufficient land for their maintenance could be purchased, but that the Government would almost certainly insist on the Nauruans (or any other group) coming under the same laws and system of Government as the other residents of Fiji. He said that a mistake had been made in permitting the Banabans to carry on the system of local

C.R. Lambert, Esq., C.B.E.,  
Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A. C. T.



administration that they had been accustomed to in the Gilbert Islands Colony, that he had experienced considerable difficulty in steering the necessary Bill through the Legislative Council, and that even a modified imperium in imperio of this nature did not make for harmonious relations with the remainder of the population.

I gathered that Mr. Stoddard felt that the criterion in deciding whether or not a migrant group could properly be admitted into Fiji should be the degree to which the group was likely to prove ultimately assimilable into the general body of the Fijian population. There would seem to be no objection to the Nauruans on this score, however, as there is every reason to suppose that they would inter-marry with Fijians and other Pacific Islands groups once they had settled down in their new environment.

In my opinion Mr. Stoddard's views are sufficiently encouraging to warrant further enquiries being made in Fiji itself, in the first place to confirm that the Nauruan community would in fact be acceptable settlers and in the second to report on the availability of suitable freehold land.

Should you wish me to undertake either or both of these duties I shall be available from the 1st January, as I am retiring from the Commission at the end of the year. I should be prepared to visit Fiji at any time suitable to yourself, in return for my expenses and a fee.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude





TELEPHONE No.: CANBERRA F0 411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: " TERRITORIES " CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 27th September 1955.

In reply quote No. DR.118/6



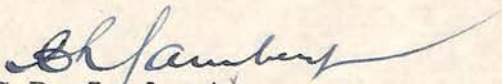
Dear Mr. Maude,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

Referring to the discussion you had with the Administrator and myself, in Sydney, on 23rd September, I wish to advise that the proposal that when you meet the Governor of Fiji at the forthcoming conference you might broach the subject to him, in an unofficial way, and find out the likely reaction of the Fijian Government to settlement of Nauruans in their Territory, meets with the approval of the Minister.

I will look forward to hearing from you, in due course, as to the results of your informal discussions with the Governor.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

H.E. Maude, Esq.,  
South Pacific Commission,  
Social Development Section,  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY.





TELEPHONE No. : CANBERRA F0 411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS : " TERRITORIES " CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 14th September 1955.

In reply quote No. DR.118/6



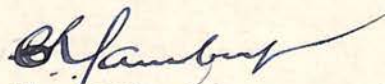
Dear Mr. Maude,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th September 1955, relative to the proposed discussions with the Administrator on the question of the future home for Nauruans.

I have received advice that the Administrator, Mr. Leydin, departed from Nauru on Sunday, 11th September. I understand he will arrive in Canberra about the 22nd or 23rd September and it looks as though the 26th September would be an approximate date for the discussions.

I expect the Administrator to telephone me as soon as he lands in Australia and as soon as I am able to make definite arrangements with him I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

H.E. Maude, Esq.,  
South Pacific Commission,  
Social Development Section,  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY.

*Mr. Leydin telephoned to say  
that the reference is to be at  
9 a.m. on Friday the 23rd  
September in Territories office.*

*flm  
21.9.55*



Pers

8th September, 1955.

Dear Mr. Lambert,

Thank you for your letter DR.118/6 of the 3rd September, informing me that the Minister has approved the procedure set out in your minute as a basis for discussion with the Administrator of Nauru, who has been requested to proceed to Australia for the purpose as soon as possible.

I note that you would wish me to take part in these discussions and shall be glad to do so.

I should be able to visit Canberra at any time desired except between the 18th October and the 12th November, when I am due to attend the Fourteenth Session of the Commission in Noumea.

Yours sincerely,

*HeM*

H.E. Maude

C.R. Lambert, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Session dates: 22/10 - 8/11  
Dep. Syd/Noumea: 19/10  
Dep. Noumea/Sydney: 11/11





TELEPHONE No.: CANBERRA F0 411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "TERRITORIES" CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 3rd September 1955.

In reply quote No. DR.118/6

Dear Mr. Maude,

FUTURE HOME FOR NAURUANS.

I refer to your letter of 18th August 1955, which was waiting for me when I returned from New Guinea earlier this week.

The Minister has approved that the procedure outlined be adopted as a basis for discussion with the Administrator. I have cabled the Administrator asking him to come to Australia as soon as possible and to advise me the approximate date of his arrival. I would like you to take part in these discussions, if you could arrange to do so, and I would appreciate it if you could keep yourself available for that purpose. I will let you know as soon as I hear from the Administrator as to when he is to arrive.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

Mr. H.E. Maude,  
South Pacific Commission,  
(Social Development Section),  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY.



18th August, 1955.

Dear Mr. Lambert,

I am sorry not to have replied before to your letter of the 29th July, enclosing a draft submission to the Minister on the possible resettlement of the Nauruan population. Unfortunately, it arrived about the worst time it could, as it co-incided with the visit of the Secretary-General and the preparations for the winding up of our activities in Australia and the removal of the Social Development section to Noumea.

I consider that you have set out the gist of the resettlement scheme excellently. After sitting down and thinking over the steps one by one I could not find any material alteration which I would wish to make.

Knowing the Nauruans as I do, and I have been visiting Nauru off and on for over twenty years, I am quite sure that unless their future home is carefully chosen, and in collaboration with themselves, they are going to raise a great stir. As you rightly say, they must live close to an urban centre: part of the Queensland coast, or better still one of the islands off the coast, would be all right but in my opinion nowhere else in Australia. In New Guinea an island or coastal strip off Port Moresby, Rabaul or one of the other main centres, but again nowhere else.

Fiji would be best of all, because of the possibility of intermarriage and eventual assimilation into the local population. They could scarcely be expected to intermarry, or even to mix, to any great extent with Melanesians or Australian aborigines.

C.R. Lambert, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA, A. C. T.



If the Minister approves your submissions the key to success lies in the way in which the stages outlined in your paragraph 8 are carried into effect. Your sequence may need modification in the light of circumstances, but at this stage I do not suggest any.

I have bought some fourteen islands from Europeans at various times for native settlement so, at stage 2, while news would probably get around that I was in the market again, I think few would guess who it was on behalf of.

At stage 4 I fear the cat would be out of the bag, but I doubt if it can be avoided. Probably it wouldn't matter so much then.

Since I feel that your scheme, as now set out, is a practical one I am willing to assist in carrying it out, if desired, largely because it appeals to me and will obviously need a good deal of tact and finesse if it is to have a hope of success.

I do not think, however, that you should consider employing me until stages 1 and 2 are safely over. In brief I suggest :-

- (i) I should sound out Sir Ronald Garvey, the Governor of Fiji, quite unofficially, when he comes to the Commission Session in October; and
- (ii) if there seems any chance of his agreeing, I should follow this by visiting Fiji as soon as I am freed by the Commission, still informally and in a private capacity, and complete the work of stages 1 and 2.

I would then report back to you on the reactions of the Fiji Government, and the possibilities of purchasing a suitable island, and you could move from then by engaging me to carry on with the other stages if you so wished. All I would ask for visiting Fiji, investigating and reporting, would be my expenses and fee.

Wishing you all success with the Minister.

Yours sincerely,

*JRM*





TELEPHONE NO.: CANBERRA F0 411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "TERRITORIES" CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 29th July 1955.

In reply quote No. DR.118/6



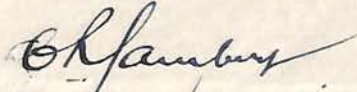
Dear Mr. Maude,

Referring to the discussion I had with you in Sydney, earlier this week, with regard to the resettlement of Nauruans, I have roughed out a submission to the Minister, a copy of which I attach hereto. You might be able to improve on this considerably and I would welcome any suggestions that you can offer in that regard.

In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you would treat as confidential the subject of our discussions up to date.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.R. Lambert)  
Secretary.

Mr. H.E. Maude,  
Executive Officer (Social  
Development Section),  
South Pacific Commission,  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY.



RESETTLEMENT OF NAURUANS.

1. We have been floundering about on this subject for some time, trying to find some possible line of approach. We have had the New Guinea Administration examining possibilities on islands of the Territory close to the mainland, but the prospects do not appear favourable.
2. In Sydney last week, I sought out Mr. H.E. Maude who is Executive Officer (Social) for the South Pacific Commission and who I understand has had previous experience in the resettlement of island people. Some of the resettlement projects of island people with which he has had something to do, are dealt with in the pamphlets attached to this file.
3. In our discussions we endeavoured first to determine the basic considerations which should be taken into account in the approach to this problem. We arrived at the following:
  - (a) The Nauruans are rapidly becoming urbanised and have developed wants and tastes which can only be satisfied by cash incomes. Consequently they would not be content with resettlement on an island under conditions which only allowed a bare subsistence economy.
  - (b) They are not experienced in agricultural pursuits and consequently any resettlement proposal which included dependence upon an agricultural economy would involve special training.
  - (c) They have to some extent been spoiled by the easy conditions under which they have been able to obtain a living in recent years, and by which, through royalties and "tolerant" employment, they have enjoyed benefits which are not altogether due to their own efforts and work. Consequently their resettlement will involve some readjustment of their outlook on life.
  - (d) There is a conflict between the desire to establish their own island home under their own Government, and their desire to obtain conditions of life under which they can follow the activities and gain the enjoyments which they have had since the phosphate activities and Australian administration came to Nauru. The place which would completely satisfy both is, apparently, not available. Some compromise between these desires is therefore inevitable.
  - (e) From racial and climatic considerations it is desirable that they resettle amongst or in close proximity to, people of their own racial type, so



that there is every prospect of their being accepted to mix freely in and, where necessary, being readily assimilated in the general neighbourhood society.

(f) The nearest approach to satisfying the needs is resettlement based on an island or islands -

(i) on which can be provided basic industries capable of comfortably supporting a number of people;

(ii) in close proximity to a larger area where those of them who wish to may follow urban occupations without being too far from the rest of their people;

(iii) in a location close to people who will readily accept them and with whom they may readily mix.

(g) Because of their pride and their suspicion of anything which they might think the Administration is trying to foist on them, the Nauru Local Government Council should participate in all discussions and, where possible, in the decisions relating to their future home.

4. In the light of these considerations we reached the conclusion that neither New Guinea nor Australian Territory would be suitable locations for resettlement. We believe that the best location would be the Fiji Group. Here there is a prospect of buying an island or two at present held in freehold by private interests and at present developed mainly for copra production. The purchase or purchases of a suitable island or islands can be made out of the Nauru Royalty Trust Fund. Such island or islands would provide the basic home for Nauruans. Although dominion over the new island home would be held by the Fijian Government, it should not be difficult to arrange that the Fijian Government grants some form of local government to the Nauruans on their island home, similar to that so provided for the Ocean Island people who were resettled on the island of Rabi in the Fiji Group.

5. A resettlement plan would involve the allocation of land amongst the Nauruan settlers, but this could well be left to the Nauruans to do themselves, through their own local governing authority.

6. There will be a lot of detail work in the planning of the new settlement, in the movement of the Nauruans and in getting them settled into their new home. A great deal of advisory assistance would be necessary from the Australian Government but it is believed that there would be no difficulty in providing this.

7. The ultimate pattern of society that it would be hoped to develop is a society living on an island or islands engaged mainly in primary production, particularly agricultural and fishing, with some members of the society seeking and finding employment in various activities on the adjacent mainland. In time it is expected that the Nauruans would inter-marry with the Fijians and gradually be assimilated into the whole Fijian society.



8. The probable courses of action, in order, would be -

First - make confidential approaches to the Fijian Government to ascertain whether the resettlement of the Nauruans in the Fiji Group would be acceptable to that Government and the Fijians.

Second - examine the possible islands which might be suitable for the purpose and which might be possible of acquisition from the freehold owners.

Third - approach the Nauru Local Government Council on the subject of a new home and endeavour to get the Council to appoint a committee of three to act for the Nauruans in investigating any prospects put forward.

Fourth - when the committee is constituted a conference should take place with the Australian Government represented, at which conference the Fiji Group prospect should be introduced and the suggestion made that the Nauruan committee visit the Fiji Group to view the prospect; this visit to be announced as an educational tour and the real purpose not revealed.

Fifth - if the Nauruan committee favours the prospect it should seek from the Nauru Local Government Council a resolution authorising the opening of negotiations for options on suitable properties and subsequent purchase if ratified by the Nauru Local Government Council.

Sixth - if a suitable property is acquired the details of the resettlement plan to be prepared in collaboration with the Nauruan committee and submitted to the Nauru Local Government Council for approval.

9. For the purposes of this programme it is desirable that we have available, working to the Department, an officer having experience in this form of work, who can devote his whole time to the task. If you approve the proposal I would recommend that we offer Mr. Maude an appointment to undertake the work - cost to be charged to the Nauru Administration funds.

10. If you so wish, I could arrange to bring Mr. Maude to Canberra so that you might discuss with him the general prospects, and form your own conclusions as to whether you consider the proposition as outlined herein is worth proceeding with.

Secretary  
29/7/55.

THE MINISTER.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HONOLULU 14

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

March 29, 1955

Mr. H. E. Maude  
Social Development Section  
Box 5254, G. P. O.  
Sydney, Australia



Dear Mr. Maude:

Your letter of March 24 was greatly appreciated. I had not been too sanguine about the possibilities of working along the lines I had suggested in foreign territories, but on the other hand I did not want to overlook the possibilities of studying such communities. I shall write to Mr. Minnit in regard to the Gilbertese movement. I think I will let the Nauruan situation ride for the time being.

I have approval from the Trust Territory officials at Guam to continue my study this next summer in the Marshall Islands, with two groups under observation: the Bikinians at Kili I., and the Eniwetok natives at Ujelang Atoll. The latter situation is being investigated by Mr. John Tobin, District Anthropologist in the Marshalls, and I hope to depend more on his future publication of this research and concentrate my own efforts at Kili with the group I have worked with before.

I am grateful for your comments about other relocations that have or will be occurring in the South Pacific, and would appreciate receiving any further information along these lines as you are able to supply. I am very much interested in your report of Miss O'Loughlin's paper on the Banabans at Rabi. I have not heard much about them for some time now.

Yesterday I had the good fortune to spend a number of hours with Dr. Ralph Bedell who has stopped here for a few days en route to his new post as Secretary-General of the Commission. I endeavored to show him around the University and acquaint him with many of our personnel who have been working in the Pacific area, and to assure him of our wish to be of the greatest use to the Commission whenever possible. He appears to have accomplished an amazing amount of ground in making himself familiar with the operations of the Pacific group at Noumea. I do hope he proves to be a worthy successor to his predecessors in the new post.

Sincerely yours,

*Leonard Mason*  
Leonard Mason

File



CONFIDENTIAL

24th March, 1955.

Dear Professor Mason,

I am sorry not to have replied before to your enquiry, dated the 1st February, on the subject of the status of the Nauruan resettlement scheme. I have, however, only just returned from a visit to the Solomon Islands and New Guinea so can plead an alibi.

I am marking this letter confidential because the possible resettlement of the Nauruan population is a thorny one politically and officially I know little about it, though I have been urging a certain course of action on the Department concerned since 1949.

From unofficial sources, however, I gather that action to date consists of:-

- (i) discussions with the Nauruans of an exploratory nature without commitments on either side; and
- (ii) a rather desultory search for an island suitable for their resettlement.

I cannot for a moment visualize the Nauruans consenting to live on any of the islands (all in New Guinea waters) which have been mentioned in my presence as possibilities, and at the present rate of progress I feel that it will take years before anything practical eventuates.

My purely personal opinion is that you would experience considerable difficulty in persuading the Australian authorities to allow an independent scientific investigation of the move along the lines you envisage. But on this, and all other questions concerning the resettlement scheme, you could write to:-

The Honourable Paul Hasluck,  
Minister for Territories,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Professor L. Mason,  
University of Hawaii,  
HONOLULU 14.



You would probably get a reply signed by the Secretary to the Department of Territories but I think it would be best to contact the Minister himself in the first instance, as he is more partial to scientific research. But quite frankly I do not rate your chances high.

I hope that you can obtain an allocation of TRIPP funds to study the present-day Banaban community at Rabi and the Gilbertese in the Phoenix Islands. The Ellice Islanders' settlement on Kioa (next door to Rabi), which has never been under Government sponsorship or direction, would make an interesting comparison.

Miss O'Loughlin, Research Fellow in Economics at the Australian National University, has recently sent me a paper which she has prepared as a result of her recent investigations at Rabi. It shows that the community is facing political and economic difficulties, for which Rotan, the Banaban leader, must be held at least partly responsible.

I think you would be particularly interested in the proposed settlement of Gilbertese on Gizo in the Solomon Islands: many of these are to come, I believe, from Sydney, in the Phoenix Islands, which has proved to be unsuitable for colonization owing to the absence of good pandanus and "babai" lands and the difficult fishing. The transfer of population from Polynesia and Micronesia to Melanesia has hitherto been frowned on by administrations, for medical reasons, but modern prophylactic measures have changed the picture and I predict that this settlement experiment, if it is successful, will be the forerunner of quite large movements of population into Melanesia, which as you know contains whole areas where development is at a standstill for lack of inhabitants.

I think you would stand a good chance of being permitted to observe this resettlement, in the Gilberts (or Phoenix), on the move and later in the Solomons, on the lines you suggest for Nauru. If you are interested I would recommend your writing to:-

Mr. R.J. Minnitt, C.M.G.,  
Chief Secretary,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
Honiara, British Solomon Islands Protectorate;

mentioning, if you like, that I have so recommended. I have just arranged with Mr. Minnitt for Mr. Grace, a linguist working for the Tri-Institutional Pacific Program, to visit Honiara, so he will know something of the research being carried on under TRIPP auspices.

The only other resettlements that I know of (other than in New Guinea) are from Pukapuka to Nassau and from the Gilberts to Christmas Island, but these are small scale ventures and, in my opinion, have not the same significance as the Solomons project, where Micronesians are being



3.

settled in Melanesia, and atoll dwellers on high islands.

I think I have dealt with all your queries with the exception of the possibility of extending a Fulbright to include research in the islands: I understand that this can be arranged. Anyway, if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to write again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. E. Maude".

H. E. Maude.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HONOLULU 14  
TERRITORY OF HAWAII

February 1, 1955

Mr. H. E. Maude  
Executive Officer for Social Development  
South Pacific Commission  
Box 5254, G. P. O.  
Sydney, Australia



Dear Mr. Maude:

Within the framework of the Tri-Institutional Pacific Program (University of Hawaii, Bishop Museum, and Yale University) aimed at research into the processes of culture change, we have placed some emphasis upon the study of resettled populations. I am sure you are familiar with the broad outlines of our program. I am writing at this point to inquire about the status of one proposed resettlement, namely, the search by Nauruans for a new home in the Pacific.

You are acquainted with my own study of the Bikini Marshallese, as outlined in an article in Human Organization back in 1950. I have recently completed a 500-page analysis of the same situation for my doctoral dissertation at Yale University, and this will be published some time this year by the Bishop Museum. It is my intent to follow up this study in two directions: (1) a continuation study of the Bikinians since 1950 at their present location on Kili Island, and (2) a series of studies of other relocated communities for comparative purposes. The work connected with the second aspect will not be done by me alone, because we hope to draw in other investigators with support by funds available under the TRIPP program noted above. The communities for study in the comparative research will be selected partly on the basis of opportunity and partly on the basis of the significant variables presented for testing of hypotheses about the process of culture change in such situations.

I have long been interested in Nauru as well as Ocean Island, because of the need for relocation ultimately in each case. As you will recall, we have corresponded earlier on the removal of the Banabans to Rambi. This would have been an ideal situation for our present research interests to be carried forward, and it may be profitable still to sponsor a detailed investigation of the means by which these people have adapted their life to the new environment. Your own studies on the Banabans and the Gilbertese who went to the Phoenix are very useful in outlining the main features of such removals, but our needs in the TRIPP program require a much more careful and directed investigation to be useful in hypothesizing about culture change more generally.

Request No. 787



On several occasions recently I have seen notices (in PIM and the United Nations Review) to the effect that the Nauruans are at present making definite moves toward acquiring another island with the prospect of having to abandon Nauru before many years have passed. Are you familiar with steps which are being taken in this direction? How imminent is the proposed resettlement? To whom could I write, with your recommendation, for more information?

Ideally, if Nauru could be included in our research program, we would like to have a community study undertaken prior to any move, in order to establish the existing community organization, economic status, political pattern, and other life. Second, we would like to be able to observe the community in the process of immediate preparation for moving, the move itself, and initial settlement on the new site. Third, we would require a follow-up study perhaps a year or several years later to assess the nature of changes which may have occurred. The pre-move study should take at least three months to do; a similar period would be necessary for the move itself and immediately before and after, and a longer period for the follow-up study. This, however, is the ideal.

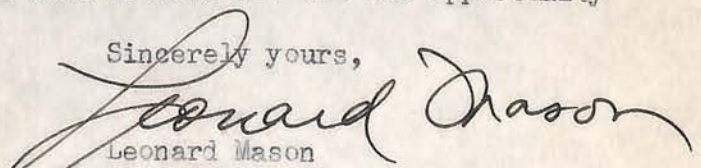
I can see a number of difficulties which would have to be met. In the first place, what would the administration's reaction be to the carrying out such a study. We have found in the Micronesia Trust Territory under the United States that inevitably some advantage accrues to the administrator in the information obtained about the community which aids in the handling of the resettlement problem. Would the administration at Nauru welcome, for instance an American such as myself, to undertake such an investigation? Secondly, the timing of the move and the availability of the investigator(s) presents a problem. We have just had to pass up in the Trust Territory (Pingelap in the Eastern Carolines) an opportunity to view a mass migration (to Ponape) because we had no one available with the background to do the necessary observation.

I plan to return to the Marshalls this coming summer to restudy the Bikinians. Thereafter I would be interested in a similar study at Nauru, depending on what year they move and what my own schedule is. My work would be financed in part by our TRIPP funds, but probably I would have to apply for a Fulbright to Australia to supplement my finances for such an extended trip. (I wonder whether a Fulbright could be extended to include research at Nauru; would you have an opinion?)

As you see, what I am seeking at the present is more information about the proposed Nauru move, and the possibilities for work by myself (or perhaps another American) under sponsorship of the TRIPP program. I am inquiring about a number of other resettlements that I know about in the Trust Territory north of the equator, too. If you know of still others south of the equator that are under consideration I would appreciate hearing about them. I anticipate that within the next decade we may expect to have an increasing number of such migrations of whole or partial communities, as overpopulation becomes the threat on other islands that it already has in the G and E Colony.

I look forward to your answer with interest. As I have indicated in earlier letters, I am still disappointed that we have not had the opportunity to meet, but we may do so yet.

Sincerely yours,

  
Leonard Mason  
Assoc. Prof. in Anthropology



# "Re-creation" Of Nauru Urged

NEW YORK, June 22 (A.A.P.). — India suggested yesterday that Australia should consider sending soil and manure to Nauru so that it can provide a living for its people after the island's phosphate deposits run out.

Mr. Krishna Menon (India) made the suggestion in the U.N. Trusteeship Council.

[Nauru, an island of eight square miles, midway between the Solomon and Marshall Islands in the Pacific, depends for trade on the export of its phosphate deposits. It is a trust territory of the United Nations, and Australia is the administration authority on behalf of the U.N. Australia has estimated that the phosphates will be exhausted in 60 years.]

Mr. Menon said that the ships which go to Nauru empty to take the phosphates away could take soil and manure to Nauru so that the Nauruans could grow sugar cane and bananas.

## AGAINST CHARTER

He said one proposal was to train the Nauruans in various callings, and to remove them later to another island to earn their living, but he believed that this was premature. India did not favour the transfer of a whole population, and that idea was against the U.N. Charter.

Australia could not fulfil its obligations of the trusteeship agreement if the people were taken away from the territory.

When the Nauruans had attained their independence they might want to inhabit another island, but they must decree that themselves.

He suggested that Australia should consider the "rehabilitation of the Nauruans in the real sense."

Proper compensation for the phosphate excavations on the island might be the re-creation of the island by importing soil. The island would then be converted into the pleasant place it was before the Germans took it over.

Mr. Menon said it was the duty of the Trusteeship Council to see that the Nauruans became an autonomous self-governing community.

He congratulated Australia for the advances made in Nauru, and said that his criticism had nothing to do with the administration of the territory.

Mr. W. D. Forsyth (Australia) said that the enterprise of the British Phosphate

Commissioners represented a very costly investment.

The land from which the phosphates were extracted had always been useless for agriculture.

The population would have increased in any event beyond the agricultural resources of the island, and it was necessary to find alternative means of subsistence. The Phosphate Corporation had provided these means.

The Nauruans had been living very well, and would



MR. W. D. FORSYTH

continue to do so until the phosphates were exhausted.

Australia, in consultation with the Nauruans, was studying what to do to give the islanders a permanent livelihood.

Mr. Forsyth said that the acquired rights of the Phosphate Commissioners antedated both the trusteeship and mandate agreements. The U.N. Charter and the trusteeship agreement fully protected the British Phosphate Corporation.

## Jury Acquits Two In Gravel Case

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday. —The Wangi gravel case jury to-day acquitted two more of the eight men who were accused of having conspired to cheat and defraud the Railways Department of large sums of money.

The men are John David Johnston, 23, and Lance Arthur Puddy, 29, both carriers.

The charge contained allegations that the eight men conspired to cause the Railways Department to make payments for quantities of gravel which, in fact, were not received by the department.

The jury has now dealt with six of the eight men charged.

## The Future Of Nauru

Nauru—perhaps because most delegates know nothing about it—has been a favourite target for fatuous suggestions and criticisms in the U.N. Trusteeship Council. But the excursion into Cloud Cuckoo Land to date was Mr. Krishna Menon's proposal that the island should be resurfaced with loads of soil and manure (coals to Newcastle, surely!) and that the Nauruans should become "an autonomous self-governing community."

Self-government is a word of power in the United Nations, but even the acquisition of a mountain of soil would hardly qualify the Council, are based on 1,600-odd Nauruans for the dignity of nationhood. What is more, it is extremely doubtful whether the Nauruans would welcome the prospect of being left on their own to build grass huts and growing "sugar cane and bananas." Prosperity — and by island standards they are extremely prosperous — has given them new tastes.

There is nothing very novel about Nauru's problem. Efficient administration and material benefits have raised the population beyond the

S.M. Herald 24.6.54



Gen ✓  
N. 14

17th March, 1953

Dear Dr. Kroon,

I was most interested to receive your letter of the 6th March with its news that the Australian Government is now requesting the Commission to conduct an agricultural land use survey of Nauru.

The future of the Nauruan population has exercised me for some time and I think that the best way to give you my views on the subject is to let you peruse my file. It will be evident, from such perusal, that some of the letters are confidential, at any rate as far as those outside the Commission staff are concerned.

You will see from the correspondence in the file that I have for several years been urging the authorities to acquire an alternative home for the Nauruans as we did with success for the neighbouring Banaban population of Ocean Island: also a phosphate island with admittedly even less agricultural possibilities.

I also enclose my memorandum on the Banaban problem as it is mentioned in the correspondence: may I have it back, with the file, in due course, as it is my only copy?

You will see that I started the ball rolling with a letter to Mr. Halligan, then Secretary of the Department, as long ago as 1949. Nothing happened until about the middle of 1950, when an officer was sent down from Canberra to see me on the whole question of Nauruan migration (they had apparently lost the file with my original letter) but again nothing came of it, despite the fact that Australia was, and is, being attacked frequently at the U.N. Trusteeship Council Sessions for her procrastination.

Dr. A.H.J. Kroon,  
Executive Officer for Economic Development,  
South Pacific Commission,  
NOUMEA, New Caledonia.



I do not believe that the compulsory transfer of the Nauruan population to any new home is a practical proposition at the present time, but I do believe that some of the more progressive members of the community will move and that others will follow in the years to come as Nauru becomes progressively more of a poor place to live in. The one essential, however, is that the home chosen should be near to some main centre of civilized life where their children can be educated and where those who want can obtain suitable employment. For the Nauruans are an acculturated people, who are accustomed to the amenities of life, as provided by the Phosphate Commission.

I had a talk with Mr. Harold Gaze, the Managing Director of the British Phosphate Commission, a fortnight ago and found that his views were exactly the same as mine and that he had been also endeavouring for years to get the Government to realise their responsibilities in this matter. He was of the opinion, however, that they were anxious to avoid facing the issue for as long as possible and it may well be that the present move is an attempt to postpone making the inevitable decision to set about finding a new home for these people.

At the same time I suppose that no harm can be done (other than the possibility of further delay) in making an agricultural survey; even though I am personally convinced that the result must be negative. But I would suggest, for your consideration, that as the agricultural factors are far from being the only ones in the situation, someone from the social side should form a member of any team, with a view to incorporating in the team's report a section showing the sociological implications of endeavouring to keep the Nauruans on Nauru instead of facilitating their immigration. Demographic considerations are also important here, as you will readily appreciate.

I hope that I have given you all the information you want, but if there is anything more I can do please do not hesitate to let me know. I am sorry that I cannot say that you are being too pessimistic, since your conclusions would appear to coincide with my own. Anyway, I have spoken freely, as I know you would wish me to do.



3.

With kind regards from us both,

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.



SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

PENTAGON, ANSE VATA,  
NOUMEA,  
NEW CALEDONIA.

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

PENTAGON, ANSE VATA,  
NOUMEA,  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE.

2244

In reply, please quote V/9/(a)

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7th May, 1953.

Mr. J. R. Halligan,  
Senior Commissioner for Australia  
to the South Pacific Commission,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.



Dear Sir,

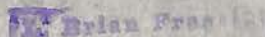
I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18th February, forwarding the enquiry of the Secretary of the Department of Territories as to whether the Commission could undertake an agricultural land-use survey of Nauru.

It is appreciated that the total amount of land on Nauru which is considered with present knowledge to be suitable for any type of agriculture is very limited. Hence a survey of Nauru limited to the terms of reference set out by the Secretary might not be able to arrive at the most significant conclusions with regard to the formulation of a sound future economic foundation for the indigenous inhabitants. I understand from the official reports on the administration of Nauru that such a formulation is the ultimate objective of the Australian authorities.

If I am correct in regarding the proposed land-use survey as part of an economic survey of Nauru, then I can advise that provision exists under the current budget - Project E.15, Economic Surveys - for the Commission to render immediate assistance. This would, I think, pre-suppose some discussion between our respective technical staffs of the terms of reference for the survey, and a mutually acceptable arrangement regarding responsibility for the cost of the work.

Assuming a satisfactory outcome from discussion of these points, the work could begin on the Commission's side as soon as a suitable survey officer or team of officers could be engaged by the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

 Brian Fraser

Secretary-General

cc: Mr. Maude



SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION  
NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA.

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD  
NOUMEA, NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE.

In reply, please quote LE-P-4

6th March, 1953. *gwm*

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Dear Mr. Maude,

With reference to a letter dated 18th February from the Senior Commissioner for Australia, I should greatly appreciate your opinion on the following matter.

The Administration of the Territory of Nauru has made the following statements in its Report to the United Nations (1948-49):-

"The environs of Buada Lagoon, the only inhabited area of the plateau, contains many coconut and other fruit trees and is the only fertile spot on the island, apart from the coastal belt.

.....  
"The land is not suited for agriculture, except on a minor domestic scale, and agriculture has never been practised by the Nauruans, apart from the cultivation of the coconut and pandanus palms, which need little attention.

.....  
"Cattle and horses were imported as an experiment in the first decade of the century, but it was found that the land could not supply the feed requirements.

.....  
"The timber available on the island has no commercial use.

.....  
"The geology of the Territory results in almost three-quarters of the total land area having no practical value other than as the source of a single industry, upon which the whole economic structure depends.

.....  
"Apart from the phosphate deposits on the island, there are no other natural resources. Where the phosphate has been worked out the land has been converted into waste land studded with coral pinnacles which are gradually being covered with secondary growth. The plateau, however, which apart from the visible or hidden pinnacles is one huge deposit of phosphate, is not and has never been arable land, nor has it been settled upon by the indigenous population, except around Buada Lagoon. It is not practicable to level the worked-out fields as part of a land reclamation project.

.....  
"The only land utilised for non-export crops consists of plots, usually fragments of an acre, used by Chinese gardeners for the growing of vegetables for private purposes.

.....  
"As indicated earlier in this Report, there is a minimum of agriculture and possibilities for the future are negligible.

.....  
"The indigenous people at one time did exist on the products of the island, their diet in those days consisting mainly of coconuts and fish. With the introduction of civilised ways,

*Request  
and  
made  
12-3-53*

*file  
40  
773.53*



their tastes have expanded and local products are used now only to supplement the adopted diet. Having their own trading store and access to other sources of supply on the island, the Nauruans subsist on a compromised diet between European and local foods."

I quote further from the 1949-50 Report:-

"The island is not suited for pastoral or agricultural purposes, but information has been sought as to new types of food-producing plants and trees which might be introduced to Nauru.

.....  
 "The Trusteeship Council recalled its previous recommendations and recommended that the administering authority undertake studies which will enable it to determine whether the Territory will remain habitable or whether the removal of the entire population will have to be envisaged.

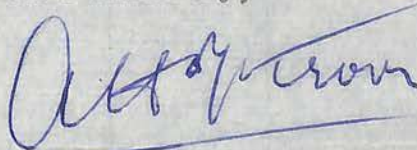
.....  
 "In the short term the welfare of the Nauruans is being met by the provision of European-type houses and other amenities. The long term problem relates to the time the phosphates on the island will last, and it is estimated that the deposits will not be exhausted for at least another seventy years."

So the situation is that a non-agricultural, well-housed, well-educated people, already with a half-European diet, will have to face the fact that perhaps after approximately seventy years the only resource of the island will be dried up. The soil is very poor, but supposing it were possible to establish some agriculture, production would nevertheless be very low, and it seems impossible that the population should accept a life under such conditions. It is my view that only a very small proportion will stay, and that the others will have to emigrate; it seems reasonable that a fairly highly educated population could find a good living as teachers, medical men, and in trade and shipping and so on. Education should as soon as possible lead in this direction. It is surprising that an agricultural land use survey is asked for after the very positive unfavourable statements as quoted above. The main fact, in my opinion, is that the population of Nauru is already now unable to live on a coral reef at subsistence level and this will be so to a higher degree after seventy years.

Perhaps you can give me another view of the case. Please do not hesitate to tell me if I am too pessimistic.

With kind regards to Mrs. Maude,

Yours sincerely,



A.H.J. Kroon  
Executive Officer for Economic  
Development.

H.E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.,  
 Executive Officer for Social Development,  
 South Pacific Commission,  
 26 Lower Boyle St.,  
CREMORNE, N.S.W.



C O P Y.

Department of Territories,

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

18th February, 1953.

Dear Sir, .

Project E.4 - Land Use Surveys.

I have received from the Secretary of the Department of Territories a communication in the following terms:-

"We are anxious to place and have completed as soon as possible a specific task in relation to the Island of Nauru on terms of reference as follows:-

To make an agricultural land use survey of Nauru and advise in particular as to -

- (a) the area and location of land suitable for agriculturere purposes;
- (b) the crop or animal production systems which might be followed to make the best use of the land, having regard to the environment and the settlement pattern of the Island and with due regard to self-sufficiency and commercial farming;
- (c) the physical and economic possibilities of regenerating worked-out phosphate land so as to make it useful for agricultural purposes in the future;
- (d) recommended research and experimental agricultural projects which might be undertaken.

I should be pleased if you would approach the Commission and ascertain whether, if formally requested to do so, it would undertake this project and, if so, what resources it has or could make available to carry out the project and when it considered it would be able to make a commencement."

I should be glad to receive information as early as possible regarding the above enquiry.

Yours faithfully,



J.R. Halligan  
Senior Commissioner for Australia  
to the South Pacific Commission.

The Secretary-General,  
South Pacific Commission,  
The Pentagon, Anse Vata,  
NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA.





TELEPHONE No.: CANBERRA F0411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "TERRITORIES" CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 22nd January, 1953.

In reply quote No.

Dear Mr. Maude,

I have your letter of 13th January forwarding the further information you were able to find relating to Lauthala Island.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter and your comments on the possibilities of Lauthala for the settlement of Nauruans in conjunction with other suitable islands.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

*J.R. Halligan*  
(J.R. Halligan) *JRH*



Mr. H.E. Maude,  
Social Development Section,  
South Pacific Commission,  
Box 5254 G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

*file*  
*28/1/53*



N/14.

13th January, 1953

Confidential.

Dear Mr. Halligan,

I am afraid my search for additional information on Lauthala Island has drawn a blank: I enclose the few scraps discovered in the Mitchell Library but they are not of much use. I had a fair amount of material myself when thinking of buying the Island for the Banaban homeland but it is all in the High Commission archives if anywhere.

I agree that Lauthala would be too small to support all the Nauruans. But it is a well-developed island, in contrast to the mountainous wilderness which is nine-tenths of Rambi. I understand that it already exports several hundred tons ~~of~~ more copra a year than Rambi, and that subsistence and export crops of all kinds could be developed.

My own feeling is that by buying Lauthala, the Nauruans would acquire a base island in the Fiji group near to their relatives the Banabans (and also to the Ellice Islanders on Kioa). The young folk could go there and develop the Island, under the supervision of a few of their elders, and at the same time use it as a base for acquiring further properties in Fiji and engaging in various commercial pursuits (including commercial fishing). If thought desirable the show could be run, as in the case of much of Rambi economic development, by their co-operative society.

Mr. J. R. Halligan,  
Senior Commissioner for Australia  
to the South Pacific Commission,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.



But if the principle of buying one or more islands for the Nauruans was accepted, there are others, e.g. Wakaya and several in the Lau Group, that could be investigated with a view to selecting the very best for your purpose.

As a result of that letter about passing requests to visit New Guinea through the Secretary-General, I believe he is writing direct. On the other hand SurrIDGE's visit is now to be so late that I cannot coincide with him without missing the South Pacific Conference and as Groves will be away for some months it is difficult to say what I can accomplish by going up there just now, and I should myself be inclined to postpone the trip until Groves' return.

I leave for the New Hebrides in a fortnight to advise on the development of co-operatives there. Appropriately enough for an Anglo-French Condominium it is to be a joint Anglo-French report.

With best wishes for 1953.

Yours sincerely,





REFERENCES TO  
LAUTHALA ( LAUGALA )  
ISLAND



Pacific Islands Pilot, vol. 2 (7th ed. 1943)

Lauthala, close eastward of Nggamea, is a densely wooded island, 880 feet high. It is connected with Nggamea by a coral reef, which can be crossed by boats at any time of the tide. The barrier reef is sufficiently far offshore to allow vessels with local knowledge to navigate between it and these two islands except off the eastern end of Lauthala, where there is a passage for boats only.

The settlement on the northern side of Lauthala, about half a mile westward of the north-eastern extremity, can be reached by three passages through the reefs, all of which are available in bright weather with a good lookout from aloft.

Anchorage may be obtained on the northern side of Lauthala, in depths of from 12 to 17 fathoms, coral, with the white dwelling-house of the settlement in line with Palm Hill, bearing  $116^{\circ}$ , and distant 2-1/2 cables; also off the spit of rocks eastward of this position in a depth of 12 fathoms, with the white house bearing  $190^{\circ}$ , distant 3-1/2 cables, where the bottom is clearer, but the distance offshore greater.

Great Britain - Admiralty - Naval Intelligence Division -  
Geographical Handbook : Pacific Islands, vol. 3, 1944, p.252.

Lauthala, separated from Nggamea by a channel between 1 and 2 miles in breadth, is 2-1/2 miles across at its widest, 4 miles long and roughly L-shaped. The population of planters and their labourers totals about 50.

Lauthala Island  
Population, 1946 Census

European		Euro-others		Fijians		Melanesians		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	2	4	29	27	1		33	33
		Area 4.71 sq. miles.							
		Population per sq. mile 14.01							



CONFIDENTIAL.



TELEPHONE No.: CANBERRA F0411.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "TERRITORIES" CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF ~~EXTERNAL~~ TERRITORIES,

Canberra, 8th December, 1952.

In reply quote No.



*seen*

Dear Mr. Maude,

I thank you for your letter of 25th November in which you remind me of our discussion concerning the possibility of another home for the Nauruans.

I had already revived this matter with a special mention of Lauthala Island you mentioned to me. The only information I was able to obtain about Lauthala was contained in the attached extract from "Fiji Islands". If you have any additional or more up to date information I should be glad to have it.

You will see that the area is given as 4.7 square miles which seems to be a bit small for the purpose we are discussing.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*R. Halligan* *File*

Mr. H.E. Maude,  
Social Development Section,  
South Pacific Commission,  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

*card made*

*He*

*CT Maude With a conf. request  
like this. Should I simply  
make out a serial card  
with a number, name of enquirer,  
date, and reference to conf.  
file, but no subject-card  
such as the attached?  
JPS 11/12/52*



QAMEA. LAUCALA ( LAUTHALA). AND MATAGI.

QAMEA, LAUCALA, AND MATAGI are volcanic islands grouped immediately to the east of Thurston Point, Taveuni. Qamea and Laucala are surrounded by one barrier reef, which is far enough from their shores to permit of navigation within the lagoon, except east of Laucala, where there is room only for the passage of boats; Matagi lies on the north face of the same barrier.

QAMEA, situated a mile and a half from Thurston Point, is six miles long, and varies in width from three miles to about eight hundred yards. Its area is thirteen square miles. The coasts are deeply indented; opposed bays from two to three miles wide approach to within half a mile of one another, almost severing the eastern end; and a narrow mangrove-filled inlet enters from the west. The surface of the island is broken by steep-sided valleys lying between high hills, several of which approach a thousand feet in height; and the north coast, especially, is steep with little flat land. The dense forest that blankets most of the island contains much good timber; but where the hillsides have been cleared for cultivation they are now covered with reeds and grass, and a few scattered trees.

Qamea is, for its size, a populous island, having ten villages with (in 1946) a total population of 410, almost entirely Fijian. A feature of interest is the annual migration of land crabs (Iaira). Late in November or early in December, when the breeding season approaches, the crabs are moved by a common instinct to leave the land and take to the water; during a period of from two to five days there is a general movement, countless thousands of the ungainly creatures passing in procession across the mud flats and beaches to enter the sea.

LAUCALA lies east of Qamea, separated from it by a strait which, in the north-west, is about five hundred yards wide. It is three and a half miles long, and from a mile to two and a half miles wide; its area is 4.7 square miles. The surface of Laucala is less broken than that of Qamea; and although there are patches of forest in the interior, a large part of the north end is under grass and coconuts. The island is privately owned, and worked as a copra plantation, the homestead being situated in the north. In 1946 the population was sixty-six.

MATAGI is a small island, 232 acres in extent, lying to the north of Qamea, on the seaward face of the main barrier reef. It is about a mile long, two hundred yards across at its narrowest part, and shaped like a crescent, opening towards the north, where there is no off-shore reef and the coast is unprotected. There are two hills each four hundred and forty feet in height; and the surface of the island is broken and densely wooded. It is privately owned, and carries a population of less than ten people.

---



N. 14 ✓

25th November, 1952

Dear Mr. Halligan,

You may remember our discussing the possibility of a second home being purchased for the Nauruans. You expressed your interest in the matter and said that you might look up the correspondence when you had a spare moment to see if the ball could not be got rolling again.

In case it is of any assistance in tracing the file I thought I might mention that the last letter on the subject is dated the 14th December, 1949, and addressed to you as Secretary of the Department.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Maude.

J. R. Halligan, Esq.,  
Senior Commissioner for Australia  
to the South Pacific Commission,  
Department of Territories,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.



N. 14

28th July, 1952.

Dear Mr Cude,

Thanks for your letter of the 20th June returning the two papers. I am sorry that the proposal to purchase a second home for the Nauruans moves but slowly.

Yet, as you say, it is better to move slowly than too fast in such matters when dealing with islanders, as any suspicion that they are being pushed around to suit the B.P.C. (or any other European group) would be fatal.

I feel that ultimately the initiative will have to come from the Nauruans themselves, if it comes at all. They are the ones to suffer eventually if they do not get things moving now.

I too hope very much that you will be accompanying the Nauruan delegation to the second South Pacific Conference, when we can have a good long talk on this and other questions of mutual interest.

Looking forward to seeing you again in April, if not sooner,

Yours sincerely,



T.H. Cude, Esq.,  
NAURU ISLAND. Central Pacific.



RECEIVED

18 JUL 1952

18

N. 14

Ans'd.

Nauru to  
Central Pacific  
20<sup>th</sup> June 1952

Dear Mr. Maude,

Many thanks for your letter of Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and your two publications "Settlement of Barnabans on Rabi" and "Colonization Experiments in the Central Pacific" which I have read with great interest and herewith return.

I have been back three months and have been kept busy on several Land Appeal cases left over for my return from Gava.

I have had two long talks with our Native Affairs Officer Head Chief Detudamu on the subject of getting another island for his people, he assured me he is strongly in favour of such a scheme.

Mr. Pissell, Assistant General Manager B.P.C. had a long discussion with the new Nauru Local Govt. Council on the same subject during his visit last February, before the meeting closed he informed them he would further discuss it with Mr. Gage on his return to Burskhia, it will be interesting to see the outcome of such discussions.

For certain reasons I consider it inadvisable just at present to enter into further discussion with the Nauruans on this subject, the main reasons being (a) objection by certain land owners in Bora, Yamen Districts



to lease their land for a permanent air field (b)  
BPC have agreed to allow certain of their Chinese  
& Native employees to bring their wives and families  
to Nauru towards the end of this year.

My long experience with natives has taught me  
to proceed with the utmost caution in such matters,  
otherwise they may get the idea that the only reason  
for getting them another island is to get rid of them to  
make room for the wives and families of  
the BPC employees.

I have always favoured getting the Nauruans  
another island but unfortunately some people do not  
see eye to eye with me in this matter, they say -  
even if the native population doubles itself in 15 to 20  
years there will be ample opportunities for employment  
in the phosphate industry, I wish I could agree with  
them, but past experience have shown that with the  
exception of a few they have proven unsuitable  
for such work. Even if they were, the problem of their  
future when the phosphate is worked out must still be  
considered.

If External Territories Canberra agrees to such a  
move I gather they would not permit settlement  
outside their own jurisdiction.



You will gather from the foregoing that little, if  
any progress has been made with the proposed  
scheme of getting another island home for the Nauruans.  
I am hoping I shall again be selected as  
advisor to the Nauruan delegates to attend the  
Second South Pacific Conference in Noumea  
next April as it would give me an opportunity to  
bring the subject up in Cambria and discuss it  
with you as well.

With kind regards and good wishes  
Yours sincerely  
J. H. Clark

---



EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO : Captain R.C. Garsia,  
Redhill  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Date: 3rd April, 1952.

ORIGINAL FILED ON : V.5.

---

"Cude duly wrote to me and I sent him all the information  
I could on the question of a second home for the Nauruans.  
I have also had a talk with the Rev. J S. Robinson, the  
L.M.S Missionary on Nauru, on the same subject. "



N.14  
29th February, 1952.

Dear Mr Cude,

It was a pleasure hearing from you the other day, especially on the subject of the possibility of the Nauruans purchasing another island, a matter which has interested me for years.

I wrote to Mr Halligan in December, 1949, offering my services to the Government both on the question of finding a suitable island for a future home for the Nauruans and also on the details of settlement (which, presumably, would be voluntary and spread over a long period).

I mentioned that I had a fair knowledge and experience of land settlement and colonization schemes in the Pacific, having personally purchased some 14 islands in the Central and Eastern Pacific for the British Government for native land settlement and been responsible for the organization of two mass colonization schemes.

The last of my efforts in this direction was the purchase and colonization of Rabi by the Ocean Islanders which has proved an unqualified success and resulted in settling what looked like becoming a very tricky international problem. All my twenty years experience of the Central Pacific area leads me to believe that the one measure which would make the Nauruan community happy and contented, would be the purchase of a fertile, productive island close to the amenities of civilization, which they can regard as a second home. At this stage they (or some of them) would visit it from time to time, some would settle there permanently, but above all it would provide something to absorb the energies of the younger generation, economic rewards for those who show enterprise, and security against the day when the phosphate deposits are no more.

My recommendation to Mr Halligan at the time was that the island of Laucala in Fiji would be ideal for development, and eventual settlement, by the people of Nauru; being close to Rabi (where the Ocean Islanders live), extremely fertile and with copra plantations capable of producing 1,000 tons a year. I never received a reply to my letter and since then Laucala has

T.H. Cude, Esq.,  
Perrins Creek Road,  
KALLISTA, Vic.



been sold to Morris Hedstroms.

I believe, however, that this firm would be willing to sell Laucala, though no doubt at a profit to themselves, and I should be willing to sound out Mr H. E. Snell, the Managing Director of the firm and a friend of mine, if desired. Alternatively, there are other suitable islands in the Fiji Group (e.g. Wakaya, Mango or one of the other Lau islands), and one or two fairly suitable ones in other parts of the Central and Eastern Pacific (e.g. Manuae).

I heard a rumour some months ago that the Department was contemplating the purchase of the Mortlock Islands for the Nauruans. I do not believe, however, that any coral island would be at all suitable, nor any island in a malarial region or isolated from the reasonable amenities of life to which the Nauruans are accustomed. In fact there are few places in the whole Melanesian region that would be even remotely suitable.

Furthermore, I feel that nothing in the way of a compulsory migration could, or should, be attempted. The Nauruans should have the main say on the question of the island to be obtained for them, though we can no doubt advise. In any case I do not see them settling en masse but rather by dribs and drabs, meanwhile exploiting the economic resources of the new island and thus finding a useful outlet for the surplus energies and ambition of the younger folk.

If the administration would like, I should be glad to report on the whole matter in detail. It would take a fortnight or more, however, and I should probably require to go to Fiji at least. My salary and part expenses would in all probability be paid by the Commission, as this is an example of the expert advisory service for which the organization exists. I may say that I have recently completed a similar report, though on co-operative development, for the administration of the Cook Islands, the whole job taking about a month.

One further point: have you ever thought of the Nauruans sending one or two delegates to Rabi to see for themselves how a group migration scheme can be carried out? They could come to Australia by phosphate steamer and thence by air. Again, as a representative of the South Pacific Commission, I should be glad to arrange details with Fiji if desired.

//

I enclose a copy of the memorandum on which the settlement of the Ocean Islanders on Rabi was based and also my paper on "Colonization Experiments in the Central Pacific", which details a number of colonization ventures. May I please



have them back when you have finished with them as they are my only copies. However, there is no hurry and by all means take them back to show to the Administrator first if you think he would be interested.

With best wishes for the future success of your efforts,

Yours sincerely,

*J. E. M.*





Spring Creek Rd  
Kallista. N. 13  
Victoria  
18 Feb 1952.

Request  
card  
made  
BFB

Dear Mr Maude,

While in Canberra a fortnight ago - Had the pleasure of spending an evening with Capt. & Mrs. Garcia, after dinner our main topic of conversation was - Naum and Naumans.

I apt to mention that the Naumans were contemplating buying another island and how disappointed we were not being able to visit Rambi while in Fiji attending the South Pacific Conference

It was then Capt Garcia mentioned you had made a suggestion to the Department some two years ago and had offered to assist in purchasing an island

During the past four years I have had long discussions with Head Chief Detudamo and other educated Naumans on this subject. I have also discussed it with our Administrator and on my return from Suva I made a strong recommendation to him that steps be taken to purchase another island for the Naumans before it is too late.

I was in Canberra for two days only and sorry I was unable to see either the Minister or Mr. Homes as I intended to discuss this important subject with him.

I did discuss it with Mr. Brack and formed the opinion



that the Department was not opposed to the idea

You will appreciate I have no official authority to act in this matter and my letter to you is purely unofficial but I would be glad if you had a suitable island in view that would provide a good second home for the increasing Nauruan population

I hope to return to Nauru on TRIADIC due to depart Melbourne on March 8<sup>th</sup>, therefore I would be glad of any information you can give so that I may again start the ball rolling on my return.

With kind regards and good wishes  
Yours sincerely

H. G. G. G.

H. G. G. G.  
South Pacific Commission  
Social Development Section  
Box 5254 P.O.  
Sydney, N.S.W.



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Box 5254, G.P.O. Sydney.

14th December, 1949.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Territories,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Mr. Halligan,

During your recent visit to Noumea I mentioned to you that the island of Laucala in Fiji would be ideal for development, and eventual settlement, by the people of Nauru; being close to Rabi (where the Ocean Islanders live), extremely fertile and with copra plantations capable of producing 1,000 tons a year.

As you said that you would be glad to have details I wrote unofficially to a friend as soon as I got back to Sydney, but in his reply he says that the island has just been sold to Morris Hedstroms.

Should your Department decide at any time to consider seriously the purchase of an island for the Nauruans, I should be glad to assist with advice both on the question of a suitable locale and also on the details of settlement (which, presumably, would be voluntary and spread over a long period).

I have a fair knowledge and experience of land settlement and colonization schemes in the Pacific, having personally purchased some 14 islands in the Central and Eastern Pacific for the British Government for native land settlement and been responsible for the organization of two mass colonization schemes. I also know of several islands which I think might be considered suitable for the Nauruans.

The last of my efforts in this direction was the purchase and colonization of Rabi by the Ocean Islanders, which has proved an unqualified success and resulted in settling what looked like becoming a very tricky international problem. All my twenty years of experience



of the Central Pacific area leads me to believe that the one measure which would make the Nauruan community happy and contented, would be purchase of a fertile, productive island close to the amenities of civilization, which they can regard as a second home. At this stage they (or some of them) would visit it from time to time, some would settle there permanently, but above all it would provide something to absorb the energies of the younger generation, economic rewards for those who show enterprise and security against the day when the financial deposits are no more.

... I enclose a copy of the Memorandum on which the settlement of the Ocean Islanders on Rabi was based and could send other literature if it would be useful: e.g. my paper to the Pacific Science Congress on "Colonization Experiments in the Central Pacific", which details a number of Colonization ventures.

Yours sincerely,



H.E. MAUDE.

South Pacific Research Council.



AIR MAIL.  
No. C. F. 10/38/3.

RECEIVED

- 2 DEC 1949

262 N.14  
Ans'd. ....



*in reply to (2)*

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

28th November, 1949.

*My dear Maude,*

I have your letter of the 22nd November on various matters and I have pleasure in sending you Bauro Ratieta's annual report for 1948.

Land settlement in the Gilberts is going very well indeed and it looks as if it will be completed in advance of schedule. We shall then be able to economise in staff and Cartland can go back to general administration which he himself realises will be helpful to him.

About Laucala Island, this was bought by Morris Hedstroms a few months ago so I doubt if there is any point in my giving you information about it. If, however, you nevertheless would like particulars, please let me know and I will send them.

With kind regards,

*Yours sincerely*

*P. B. Hambro*

H. E. Maude, Esq., O.B.E.  
South Pacific Commission,  
Box 5254, G.P.O.,  
Sydney,  
Australia.



XXXX

N. 14

answered in ②

Box No. 5254, G.P.O.,  
Sydney.  
Tel. BW 7606

22nd November, 1949

G.D. Chamberlain, Esq.,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
SUVA. Fiji.

My dear Chamberlain,

Thank you for your offer to let Dr. Fry have a set of the B.S.I.P. legislation, when ready. He is at present in Canberra and I will pass on the welcome news by letter. When is the G. & E.I.C. revision to be completed?

May I bother you about one other point: Lauthala Island. I seem to remember that your office collected a certain amount of information about this place (including area, production, owner, price, etc.) in connexion with Gilbertese settlement, but that you had decided against its purchase in view of the desirability of tackling the colonization of Christmas without dissipating energies in other areas.

Should this be so I wonder if you'd mind letting me have a copy of any particulars available about the island, for the confidential information of the Nauruan administration? Naturally, this is only a request for information and if any action whatsoever should be taken in the matter it would be through official channels.

I imagine I also owe you thanks for a copy of the report on the completion of the Ellice Islands Lands Settlement, which I have read through with great interest. Lake has done a great job of work, but then he is first-rate: curious how Cartland can never write a report without attacks on everyone else but Cartland (when he apparently considers pretty good).

If your office has a spare copy of Boare Ratieta's P.R.O. report, might I have one too please?



I see it mentioned in "Overseas Education".

Yours sincerely,

J. M.