

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,  
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,  
3rd February, 1975.

Mr R.M.L. Brown, Ll.B.,  
Davies, Brown and Company,  
130 Arthur Road,  
Wimbledon Park,  
LONDON, SW19, 8AA,  
England.

Dear Mr Brown,

I owe you my acknowledgements for several letters and sincere thanks for all the helpful suggestions and arrangements which you have gone to such trouble to make in an endeavour to facilitate and render endurable my suggested visit to London in April and May.

In particular I should like to thank you for so kindly offering to put me up in the bosom of your own ménage during my stay. This deserves a citation for service 'far beyond the call of duty' and I was very touched by feeling that you made your offer out of genuine kindness and not because it was in any way incumbent on you to do so.

I must confess, however, that long residence on some of the most isolated islands in the South Seas has converted me into what is termed in Australia a 'loner' and that, at times of stress, I unfortunately retreat even further into my shell, when I am apt to become completely abstracted.

I saw Mr Hohnen, the solicitor assigned to me, for a brief period on the 27th November. I was subsequently informed by him, by letter dated the 24th December, that he was in touch with you, and later that he was away. I am sure that he will protect my interests, in so far as they can be protected legally, though I have little idea what he is doing or if he proposes to see me again.

I have given the whole question of my possible attendance in London almost constant attention for several weeks now and have reached the conclusion that it is a moral or ethical, and not necessarily a legal, one.

There appear to be many facets to this ethical question and I have considered them under seven main categories, which I need not enlarge on. I have also discussed the issues with other, and wiser, heads.

In brief the result of all this agonizing is that I am satisfied that, although now on pension, I am still a servant of Her Majesty's Government and am consequently not prepared to give evidence in a case in which that Government is involved except at its express request in writing, and that this applies to evidence in Court or by commission.

I am at all times ready to give my unofficial advice on documentation and such like matters whether to the Banabans, the British or Australian Governments or the British Phosphate Commissioners; and in fact have done so at one time or another to all of them. But this is very different to giving sworn evidence in a Court of Law on behalf of plaintiffs engaged in a law suit against the Crown, whose servant I am.

I consider that my Christian duty to my fellow men, as in the present instance represented by the Banabans, has been satisfied by the five months I spent in 1931 settling their land disputes; by my instigating and negotiating the purchase of Rambi Island for them; by my actions in arranging for their transportation there after the destruction of their villages on Ocean Island by the Japanese; by my negotiations with the Fiji Government for their settlement there; and by my discussions with them (followed by a secret ballot) to ensure that they remained on Rambi of their own free will and aware that they would be returned to Ocean Island free of charge should they so elect; as well as by my subsequent replies to any requests for information, in so far as it lay within my power to do so. I am not aware that any other expatriate has done as much for them, or has a tithe of my knowledge and interest in their affairs and future.

My reply to your request, therefore, is not a categorical but a qualified negative, for if the British Government wish me to give evidence they will no doubt, if solicited, indicate as much by a simple request to me to that effect. If they do not so wish, then as a loyal servant of the Crown, it would be morally wrong (quite apart from being inexpedient) for me to do so.

Should you prefer me to incorporate the gist of the above in a formal letter to be forwarded to you through my solicitor I would be glad to do so.

Again thanking you for all your courtesy, kindness and forbearance; and with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
H.E. Maude.

*Copy taken by Mr. G. W. Hartt, U.K. High Commission*

DAVIES, BROWN & CO.  
SOLICITORS

R. M. L. BROWN, LL.B.  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

OUR REF. RMLB/FD

YOUR REF.

130 ARTHUR ROAD  
WIMBLEDON PARK  
LONDON, SW19 8AA

TELEPHONE 01-946 9555 & 01-947 3434

Professor H.E. Maude,  
77 Arthur Circle,  
Forrest,  
ACT 2603,  
Australia,

22nd January 1975

Dear Professor Maude,

Further to my recent letter to you, the suggested date of your arrival in London from Canberra is 27th April with a view to giving evidence on 1st May.

I did say in my last letter that I thought you ought to rest for a day or two before giving evidence. It occurs to me that in view of your state of health that you might prefer to advance this date by a week or two at least if you accept my invitation to stay at my home. Of course if you should prefer to stay in a hotel all your expenses would be paid, but it did occur to me that you might be happier staying in a quiet house such as mine where perhaps we could look after you better.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Brown*



DAVIES, BROWN & CO.  
SOLICITORS

R. M. L. BROWN, LL.B.  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

OUR REF. RMLB/FD

YOUR REF.

130 ARTHUR ROAD  
WIMBLEDON PARK  
LONDON, SW19 8AA

TELEPHONE 01-946 9555 & 01-947 3434

Professor. H.E. Maude,  
77 Arthur Circle,  
Forrest, A.C.T. 2603,  
Australia.

17th January 1975

Dear Professor Maude,

Further to my recent letter I have made enquiries ~~of~~ my doctor. There will be no difficulty whatever in finding a suitable nursing home to which you can go to, if necessary, for the medical condition ~~to~~ which you require to be treated.

My suggestion would be that if you are prepared to come you should first get some notes from your own doctor. We will of course arrange for you to be met at the airport and I think we should arrange matters so that you have a day or two to rest at least, before appearing in Court.

I have heard from your Solicitors and I have written to them at length concerning legal safeguards and they will no doubt be in touch with you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Brown*