

GPO Box 1404,
Suva, Fiji.
26th November, 1975.

Mon vieux,

What an answering service you receive out of respect for your grey hairs. Your letter received this morning at 9 a.m. and this reply is being typed at 10 a.m., now that I have just completed making a chocolate mousse for Jean Brown who is coming to supper this evening (Stan being away with the Fiji Navy!).

I can well understand that your curiosity is around by the term "associated services" in the account from the Forrest Motel, but I had hoped that this was some peculiar phrase used by Canberrans to cover - well All I can say is that no alluring nikiranero from the ANU or anywhere else was provided to entertain me, or occupy that double bed. I had assumed that the rather common phrase must cover the entertainment at supper of such distinguished Canberrans as Professor and Mrs. Maude.

But if that is a mystery, what of your letter. As Alice said "Curiouser and curiouser". On the back is written your Canberra address (and your name) but the envelope bears a 3¢ Fiji stamp celebrating Diwali. It looks to me as though you have been cheating Messrs. Whitlam, Hayden and whoever the PMG may be.

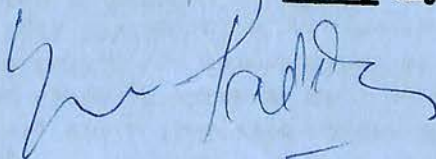
Yes, I found my way back here without mishaps, and I have already written to Honor and yourself about it. I too would greatly have liked to stay longer, though the rarified atmosphere of academic Canberra rather terrifies me.

As for the letter to Price:-

- (1) I wish you ruddy academics would paragraph number your official letters as it makes references so much easier; (this is not an official letter);
- (2) With regard to your second paragraph, I thought your phrase "other financial matters" admirably tactful;
- (3) With regard to your third paragraph, I think you do me too much honour altogether. In future, I think, in such circumstances, it might be wiser simply to say that I may remember matters which you have forgotten, or do not remember clearly. The first part of the second sentence of this paragraph might lead them to think that I have very detailed clear recollections of my actions, whereas in fact all I recall is taking a blackboard down to Tabiang maneaba on a number of occasions and explaining their various funds to them;
- (4) Your paragraph 4 - good, and I will take action as suggested in your paragraph 6; and,
- (5) Your paragraph 9 - one issue on which we must be totally clear and speak with one voice is what happened during our famous visit to Rabi in May 1947, especially after a discussion of the draft "Statement of Intentions", when the question of whether the Banabans should stay at Rabi or return to Ouan Island, and when you allegedly "frightened" Rotan so badly that he agreed to stay. I want to get these arguments by heart because I feel that Rotan may well play the same tune again. He will also argue I am sure, that he did raise the questions of royalty rates, and payments for, and leasing of, additional lands for mining. Here again, we simply must speak with one voice.

Remember when the time comes to procure your air ticket - through the British High Commission? - we must agree first on our route home, where to stop over and for how long, well in advance. I take it that our present views are (a) Nadi (b) Honolulu (c) either San Francisco or Los Angeles and (d) Miami to London, so I shall make some exploratory enquiries on that basis. Whatever you do, though, get an open return ticket so that you can return by whatever way you may decide in London.

Must close. Love to Honor. I really enjoyed that visit to you in Canberra.



PS. I am horrified to observe an appalling spelling mistake in the penultimate line of paragraph 8 of your letter. Can't your typiste do better than that? or is that how they spell the word in Canberra?