

77 Arthur Circle,  
Forrest, A.C.T. 2603,  
18th March, 1974.

The Editor,  
The Australian Financial Review,  
G.P.O. Box 506,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001.

Sir,

To correct a misconception in Brian Toohy's remarks on Ocean Island phosphate ("Financial Review," March 18) the Banabans (not Barnabans) were not removed from their island after the discovery of phosphate there in the early part of this century but by the Japanese during World War II.

As they were unable to return to Ocean Island at the end of the war owing to the destruction of their villages they were taken, as a temporary measure and with their own consent, to Rabi Island in the Fiji Group, which had been purchased for them with part of their accrued royalties as an investment.

After three years on Rabi they elected to remain there and are consequently not claiming compensation in the English High Court for their removal but for alleged non-fulfilment of prior contractual obligations.

H.C.M.

Forrest, A.C.T.