



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION  
CANBERRA

6<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Harry,

Many thanks indeed for giving me so much of your time yesterday — it was of great interest and value, and a pleasure. Afterwards I was thinking that you may not have seen the private report submitted by the 2 M.P.'s Bramine & Lee after their visit to Ocean Island. In this they draw considerably on you



own opinions & writings, so I think it right to let you see this paper - in confidence of course. And if you would like to let me have any observations upon this argument or conclusions I would be very glad of them - and would also treat them in confidence.

Would you be kind enough to return this report to me through David Tilling when you've finished with it? Yours very truly  
George John Bennett

77 Arthur Circle, Forrest,  
A.C.T. 2603, Australia,  
23rd April, 1975.

Mr J.P. Pomeroy,  
Chief Migration Officer,  
Office of the High Commissioner for Australia,  
Canberra House, 10-16 Maltravers Street,  
Strand, LONDON WC2R 3ER, England.

Dear John,

Many thanks for sending me the newspaper cuttings re the Banaban case (or cases). The solicitors for the Banabans have been trying to persuade Honor and me to fly to London to give evidence on their behalf; but although I can well understand their desire, since I know more about their affairs than anyone else, I have had to say that as a servant of the Crown, albeit on pension, I cannot give evidence against the Crown except on the direct instructions of IMG (which has not been forthcoming).

I have now been served with a subpoena, which is not of course enforceable in Australia, and we are becoming Australian citizens (just in case). Maybe I shall find myself handcuffed to a London bobby and brought to England with Mr Stonehouse.

And today comes an appeal from the Chief Minister, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, for advice on the Banaban claims to have Ocean Island removed from the jurisdiction of the Colony.

At least life in one's old age seems never dull.

Hoping that all goes well with you both; living in luxury in: 'that proud capital of the world, where e'en the streets are paved with gold',

Yours,

*John*