

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Encl.

MEMORANDUM.

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From: Secretary to Government, Tarawa.
To : Chief Lands Commissioner, Tarawa.
Copy to / District Officer, Phoenix Islands District.

F.17/11/4.

13th December, 1948.

No. 209

Reference my memorandum No. 127 of 6th August.

His Honour has minuted as follows:

"Ref. all this contravensy about coconut trees not growing on "buka" land, I know I started it but I feel that I should record that I have since had a talk with Sir Albert Ellis, who planted Hull and Sydney and who informed me that both islands were covered with "buka" trees before planting and that actually the areas where the "buka" forest was thickest proved to be the best for coconuts. There is good evidence to prove that all the low Pacific Equatorial Islands (including the Gilberts) were originally covered in "buka" forest and some, e.g. Vostok, which have not yet been planted still are so. This does not, of course, apply to these islands in the arid belt. So I don't think one need really worry about the "buka" forest on Gardner being inimical to the growth of coconuts."

[Signature]
Secretary to Government.

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BLG
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