

file

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

May 28, 1965

Dear Ralph:

I have your letters of May 11 and 12, regarding your travel plans to Nigeria. I note from your letter of May 12, that you now expect to arrive in Lagos at 2000 hours on Tuesday evening, June 8. We will request a reservation for you at the Federal Palace Hotel for the nights of June 8 and 9. I expect to arrive in Lagos on June 5 and will plan to meet you at the airport on the evening of June 8 unless something critical interferes. John McKelvey expects to arrive in Lagos on the evening of June 9. I have not yet heard from Dick Bradfield, but assume that he will probably expect to arrive on that same day. I have therefore planned that we would spend the night of June 9 in Lagos and leave for Ibadan early on the morning of June 10.

With regard to location of the Institute, the proposal that went to the Government of Nigeria specified an area of land adjacent to the University of Ibadan on the north end or west. I am not sure of that. This necessarily eliminates a location adjacent to the Moore Plantation, although I suppose we would have to consult the government about that if it seemed desirable to select a location near Moore Plantation. However, considering the advantages of being close to the University of Ibadan and the fact that the location has already been specified in the proposal, I think it would be desirable for us to plan on an area in that location. It is for that reason that we have ordered the aerial photographs for that particular area. When we were in Nigeria last month John and I visited with Robert Dutton, the AID soil survey specialist at the Western Regional Station, Moore Plantation. He indicated a willingness to help us if we wished with the land selection.

As I understand the situation, there is no detailed soil survey map of any of the area north and west of the University of Ibadan property. The whole area has been covered by a reconnaissance soil survey, but if I remember correctly the grid lines were at four-mile intervals. As a result, it would not be very useful for selection of an area as small as 2000 acres. From the aerial photographs a contour map on fifty-foot contours has been developed by the Canadian Aero Service for a section covering part of the area in question.

May 28, 1965

They advise us, however, that there is no contour map for the section which covers the remainder of the area. I have written to Mr. Dutton suggesting that we would like to come to his laboratory as a first stop on June 10. If this is possible, and I assume it will be, we will have an opportunity to see the General Soil Association map developed from the reconnaissance survey and to obtain from him any other material or information that may be available regarding the area. We have ordered a field model single prism stereoscope and with that plus the aerial photographs it should be possible for us to get some impression of the lay of the land. I have also asked Mr. Dutton whether soil augurs could be available from his equipment supply and if not where they may be obtained in Nigeria.

I am not at all sure how much on-the-ground inspection we will be able to do. It has been suggested that the people who inhabit the area might take rather violent objection to having a party working in the area, particularly if the rumor had gotten around that the land was about to be taken over by the government. It is possible that we may have someone from the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Research or from the Western Regional Ministry of Agriculture with us. I assume we will have to determine the feasibility of on-the-ground inspection after we arrive on the scene. I will look forward to seeing you in Lagos on the evening of June 8.

Sincerely yours,

W. M. Myers
Associate Director

Dr. Ralph W. Cummings
17 Kautilya Marg
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 21
INDIA

cc: AHM, JJM, David Heaps

WMM:mhw