

Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani

The Hereditary Kings and Queens of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands

Kevin Anthony Allmond
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24 June 2015

Mr Joe Legg
Desk Officer for New Zealand and Fiji
Pacific Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty House
London
SW1A 2PA

Dear Mr Legg,

Thank you for your reply of 09 January which was duly passed onto Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani. I would like to clarify a fairly major point with you, if I may, which is as follows:

1. Your letter states that you do not recognise the Cook Islands as a Sovereign State and therefore you are unable to recognise my appointment.

In order to set the record straight with regards to my appointment, I feel it necessary to point out that I have actually been appointed by Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani (The Hereditary Kings and Queens of the Cook Islands) to act on *their* behalf as Ambassador Plenipotentiary rather than by the Cook Islands Government to represent the Cook Islands.

I'm sure that you are already aware, and I apologise if I am teaching you to 'suck eggs' as it were, that an ambassador is an official envoy, especially a highest ranking diplomat who represents a state and is usually accredited to another sovereign state, *or* to an international organization as the resident representative of their own government **or sovereign** or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.

Therefore, it was a sovereign, or in this case a group of sovereigns, that have appointed me to represent them. Just to make sure that you understand that Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani are indeed sovereigns please allow me to enlighten you as to who they are.

The Ariki are undoubtedly the I understand that the UK Government certainly recognised the Ariki in August of 1888. When Queen Makia (Makea) of Roratonga sent word through the Governor of New Zealand and through the Foreign Office, praying for the protection of the British flag, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, addressed a telegram to Sir W Jervois on the 4th August 1888, requesting him to instruct Her Majesty's Acting Consul in Rarotonga to declare a **British Protectorate** over that island and the rest of the Cook group.

According to the report, Mr Exham then proclaimed a **British Protectorate** over the Cook Group on the 27th September. This information is available from the report by R Exham from the British Consulate, Rarotonga on November 23 1888.

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As for queen Makea (Makea Takau Ariki 1839 – 1911), her history is well documented. She was a sovereign of the Cook Islands. She was the ariki (queen) of the dynasty Makea Nui (Great Makea), one of the three chiefdoms of the tribe Te Au O Tonga (The mist of the south) on the island of Rarotonga. She succeeded her uncle Makea Abera Ariki in 1871. Her reign lasted forty years during a crucial time in the history of Rarotonga and the Cook Islands. It was under her reign that the Cook Islands became a British protectorate in 1888 before being annexed to New Zealand in 1900. In the 1860s she married Ngamaru Rongotini Ariki, one of the three high chiefs of Atiu and of the adjoining islands of Mauke, and Mitiaro. The ariki, mataiapo and rangatira titles are passed down through the family to the present day. Some of the ancient ceremonies and traditions are still being practiced in the Cook Islands.

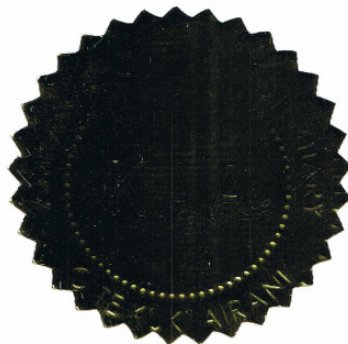
To further clarify, I would also like to point out that shortly after New Zealand declared that the Cook Islands were 'self governing' and in 'free association' with New Zealand in 1965, the fledgling government of the Cook Islands tried to legitimise itself by creating the House of Ariki (Are Ariki) which is composed of the Cook Islands high chiefs (Ariki).

So, in conclusion, we have established the fact that an ambassador can be appointed by a sovereign, rather than a sovereign state, and that they can be appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment. We have also established the 'Bone Fides' of Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani (The Hereditary Kings and Queens of the Cook Islands) as true kings and queens by historical records of Queen Makea, by the reports of Mr R Exham of the British Consulate, Rarotonga in November of 1888 and from the Cook Island Constitution and New Zealand Government. This then tends to beg the obvious question:

Do you not recognise my appointment because you do not recognise Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani (The Hereditary Kings and Queens of the Cook Islands)?

I would be extremely grateful if you could answer the above question at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Anthony Allmond
Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the UK
To Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani