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TONGA: Visit: Nov 79



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T217/83

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 December 1983

Your Majesty

During your visit here, which we all recall with so much pleasure, you mentioned to me a product called Stabisoil. I promised that we would investigate it.

I have now received some expert advice on the stabilisation of sand and soil by the addition of various chemicals. Much of the work is based on the well-known natural phenomenon in 'salt flats' where the gradual percolation of various salts from a water table just below the surface of the flats produces a hard and durable surface. Other methods of stabilisation depend on the use of a cement-based grouting compound.

The product which Your Majesty showed me does not appear to fall into either of these categories since one of the major constituents is an organic chemical. I am advised that stabilisation using this type of compound is liable to degradation from prolonged sunlight and damage from surface water. There appears to be no published technical literature on the Stabisoil product so it has not been possible for our experts to check whether these problems have been overcome by some novel addition.

I am told that general experience with the use of chemicals to stabilise soil and sand has been disappointing. While there is

/ always scope

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always scope for successful innovation, Your Majesty may wish to get good independent technical advice on this new development before making a substantial financial commitment.

With respectful good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Raymond Shaliter

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His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, GCMG, GCVO, KBE