



PRESS SECRETARIAT

MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER & CABINET

Apia, Samoa

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Press Release

Monday, 01 November

To put to rest the litany of rumour and misinformation circulating about an alleged scheduled interview between Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and TV 3 reporter John Campbell, the Office of the Press Secretariat is prompted to release the following exchange of correspondence to clarify the issue.

The Prime Minister was not aware of such an interview said to be scheduled for 11.am Wednesday last week.

This office has also taken the liberty to release a corresponding email from Pip Keane – who claims to be the executive producer of the Campbell Live show (received Sun 31 October) –for the sake of clarity and to provide a chronological sequence of the email correspondence.

(attachment) Office of the Prime Minister Apia, Samoa

27 October 2010

Claudine,

I should be grateful if you will pass on the following email to John Campbell: “I sent to you yesterday the following messages for your ease of recall quote, I refer to your Email of 21 October re Interview with John Campbell that was sent by you to our Press Secretariat and later passed on to me, 26th October 2010. Because of the great damage incurred on the integrity of this Government as a result of John Campbell’s interview with my deputy, I agree to the suggestion. That interview can begin on our Thursday, 4 November at 2.00p.m beginning with the site visual inspections of the villages that received assistance on the tsunami. There are 51 villages listed in page 11 of the Report given to John. We shall also visually sight all the access and public roads built, since the tsunami, the Electricity lines, the water pipe lines, the 862 houses built and /or repaired, school buildings rebuilt, sea walls built, Tourist fales, Telephone line and crops replanted. (You do not know Samoa, and only when we jointly visit the places destroyed that I will believe you. I cannot allow you to tell lies ever again on Samoa.) Also we shall engage our TV people to shoot the Interviews and produce DVDs completed for distribution to interested TV Channels in New Zealand and Australia for their telecast. Mr Campbell must also submit in advance an outline of his questions and no new questions shall be

allowed. The length of the actual interview shall be 10 minutes excluding the time taken on interview with people on the proposed site visits.

Warmest Regards,”

**This was followed up, with the next email correspondence (via attachment) again from the Prime Minister's office, the following day (October 28).*

That message was not lightly thought out.

As news presenter for the NZTV viewers and who is interested in the truth on the Tsunami Relief funds and usage, you should be accorded all the reasonable preparations necessary to make your report on an interview with me who is the leader of our Government, as accurate as possible. I know that the only way to find out the truth is to physically verify the existence of works performed by this Government of Samoa. Therefore we must together physically view the works performed by this Government, meaning, to see the 862 houses CARITAS, HABITAT, the Government of Samoa and other donors have built, the electricity lines, the water pipe lines, telephone lines, School Buildings, Tourist fales and facilities rebuilt, sea walls, plantations access and public roads, crop replanting and many more which were funded from the 35 million tala and our own funds expended on the Reconstruction and Recovery projects. My professional training as a Public Auditor and Accountant and former partner of Coopers and Lybrand International has led me to that conclusion of what we must do to facilitate your quest for the truth. That is, if truth is really what you are after. You initiated the trail and you must finish it with all the efforts considered necessary.

And since we too are interested in your success, we consider it essential that we must engage an independent producer to film also your quest for the truth in case you twist the truth as you did in you interview with my deputy. Rest assured I enjoy what you do - so long as you do it right. There is nothing sinister therefore in my proposing November 4th, 2010 for an interview. This will give me adequate time to arrange for a producer ourselves and give you John enough time to think about your questions which you must give to me in writing in advance. That will ensure that I study your questions and give you full and satisfactory answers. You should now respect the reasons why I have decided for November 4th, 2010.

Which brings me to your sudden appearance in the company of two young nice looking local females last night at a function which I hosted late into the night here in Apia, and tried to force me for an interview on the spot despite the fact that you received copy of my email from your contact in Auckland – (you unconsciously mentioned the 10 minutes interview, I allowed which you could only know from my email.)

To me, then you were indeed trying to evade the conditions I asked you to abide by. Your email of 21 October had never mentioned that you would be in Samoa on 27th October and I have checked this morning with my Secretary for the alleged appointment you referred to last night and she had no knowledge of it. The lesson in the future for you is to always obtain direct confirmation of appointments from the person you want to meet. The

manner in which you approached me last night at the wrong time and wrong place, and the way you persistently insisted on our interview on the spot, after you received my Email response to your email request suggested that you are a very rude and disrespectful person. I have lived in New Zealand and know many New Zealanders who are friendly and have good manners. Even our own media people in Samoa who enjoy unlimited freedom do not behave the way you approached me last night. However, leaving that aside, I hope you should now understand the full background to my email to you yesterday. I anxiously look forward to the day that I will face you in our interview.

With my warmest regards,

Yours sincerely

(Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi)
PRIME MINISTER OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA

**This third email (again per attachment) was sent on Friday 29 October.*

Dear Claudine

TV3: CAMPBELL LIVE – TSUNAMI ITEM

This letter follows my correspondence on 27 and 28 October 2010 (copies attached).

In my letter of 27 October I offered a time on 4 November when Mr Campbell could conduct an interview. In the Samoan Observer this morning Mr Campbell is reported to be under the impression that I am not prepared to meet him, which has never been the case. Despite the inappropriate behaviour of Mr Campbell highlighted in my letter of 28 October the offer of an interview on 4 November remains open to you. However my schedule for next week is a full one and I will need to hear from you by the close of business on Monday (Samoan time) as to whether Mr Campbell still wishes to do this interview, and receive a list of questions that Mr Campbell wishes to ask. This will allow time for my office to collate the information Mr Campbell is seeking and to arrange the site visits.

When responding please send correspondence to 21822 (fax) to avoid a repeat of any miscommunication error.

With warmest regards.

Your sincerely

Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi
PRIME MINISTER OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA

**The following email correspondence from Pip Kean (sent Sunday 31 October) to the Prime Minister's office.*

From: Pip Keane (pkeane@mediaworks.co.nz)
To: tofaileava@yahoo.com; presssecretariat@samoa.ws
Date: Sun, October 31, 2010 11:22:38AM
Cc: jcampbell@mediaworks.co.nz; cmaclean@mediaworks.co.nz
Subject: Campbell Live and Samoa

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

In response to your email to my producer Claudine Maclean over the weekend, this is to inform you we are broadcasting a follow-up story about the tsunami aid money on our programme tonight.

I am the Executive Producer of Campbell Live. It is wrong for you to say you didn't know about our planned interview on October 27. The Samoan Government engaged the services of Auckland law firm Chapman Tripp to lay a formal complaint about our last story. I have detailed the relevant correspondence between myself and Andy Nicholls.

From: Pip Keane (pkeane@mediaworks.co.nz)
Sent: Thursday, 21 October 2010 4:57p.m
To: Andy Nicholls
Cc: Linda Clark; John Campbell; Claudine MacLean
Subject: Government of Samoa and Campbell Live

Dear Andy,

Further to my phone message, John Campbell and producer Claudine Maclean are planning another trip to Samoa next week.

Claudine has put in a formal request for John to interview Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi about how foreign aid money following last year's tsunami has been spent.

Clare Bradley tells me the Samoan Government is planning to lay a formal complaint.

The figures John used in the introduction to his story on September 27 were sourced from a document supplied to us by Deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni on the day of our interview.

It would be helpful, ahead of our return to Samoa, to have some details of this complaint.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Pip Keane

Here is the email correspondence. Andy Nicholls says he has been asked to liaise re our request for an interview. This was on October 22.

On 22/10/2010, at 2.44PM, Andy Nicholls<Andy.Nicholls@chapmantripp.com> wrote:

Hi Pip

Following up on my email below, we will have the details of the complaint with you on Tuesday.

We have been asked to liaise with you on the request for an interview with the Prime Minister. His office is clarifying his availability. Do you have a timeframe in mind for the trip to Apia? (will Warner Bros execs be the focus of the first half of next week at least?)

Regards

Andy

Then we received this email the next day on Saturday October 23 confirming our interview)

From: Andy Nicholls [mailto:Andy.Nicholls@chapmantripp.com]
Sent: Saturday, 23 October 2010 2:54p.m
To: John Campbell
Cc: Pip Kean; Linda Clark; Claudine MacLean; Larissa Wall
Subject: Re: Government of Samoa and Campbell Live

Hi John and team

The Prime Minister has confirmed a time of 11am next Wednesday (Samoan time). We will email with details next week.

Regards
Andy

Andy Nicholls

Sent from my Blackberry

Prime Minister, if you did not know about this interview time, who did Andy Nicholls speak to in your office to arrange it? I am very confused. Did he make it up?

I did not find out the interview time of 11am Wednesday October 27 was not going ahead until 6:21pm on Tuesday October 26. I found out because Andy Nicholls sent me an email. If he wasn't working with you to arrange the initial interview, why did he email me your letter postponing it? This was very unsatisfactory at such late notice.

In regards to providing written questions before an interview, this is not our policy. We have never done it. We don't provide questions ahead of interviews with Prime Minister John Key or any of the people we interview. You said in your email our last story caused "great damage to the integrity of the Samoan Government", yet you postponed our interview at the last minute when we had been in Samoa for three days. We wanted to give you an opportunity to clarify your concerns about our last story and also to ask you some more questions about the tsunami aid money.

John was already very prepared for his interview with you. Unfortunately, he will not be returning to Samoa on November 4. We don't have a budget to pay for his flights back and because he was away on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Samoa, he is needed to present the programme here in New Zealand this week. Further to my email to Andy Nicholls last week, I would like to extend an invitation for you to come to Auckland for a live studio interview with John.

I am very disappointed you thought John's behaviour was "inappropriate". I have watched his attempt to seek some answers from you after your dinner and I would strongly disagree. John is an award winning journalist and was recently named New Zealand's best presenter at the Qantas Media awards, namely for his work covering last year's tsunami in Samoa.

Campbell Live has been very supportive of Samoa. We broadcast our final Christmas show from Samoa last year. We took gifts to all the children in Lalomanu. We gave generous donations to families who had lost their homes. We recently raised NZD\$70,000 for tetraplegic rugby player Ben Leia. We interviewed Ben whilst we were in Samoa but we would not have traveled to Samoa solely for that purpose.

Yours sincerely

Pip Keane

(Please find other attachments for latest response by the Prime Minister to Mr Pip Keane's e-mail)

Government Press Secretariat