



AIR NEW ZEALAND

Gary Toomey
President & CEO

14 August 2001



ANSETT AUSTRALIA

Rt Hon Helen Clark
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Executive Wing
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing in regard to comments made in the course of your interviews yesterday with Paul Holmes on Newstalk ZB and Mike Hoskings on TVNZ Breakfast.

I assure you that – to the best of my knowledge – no-one at Air New Zealand is suggesting that you are shifting your weight behind the Singapore Airlines proposal, that your Finance Minister is being out-ranked on the matter, or that the Cabinet is split on this matter.

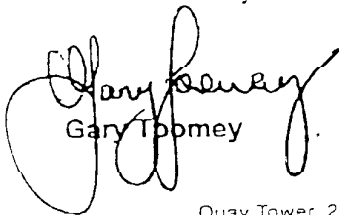
I fully understand your need to keep an open mind on the various proposals relating to Air New Zealand while they are under examination and negotiation by the Government's advisors - and your concern at the Dominion article quoting "sources close to the deal" that such developments are occurring.

However, the inclusion in the same article of some excerpts of wire service reports of an address I gave in Australia the previous day is no indication that the "sources close to the deal" were at Air New Zealand.

Our stance is that the Government has complex public interest issues to consider, we do not know which way Ministers are leaning, and accept that it is our job to present a compelling case for the company's proposal.

If you have any other information to suggest that someone in, or acting on behalf of, Air New Zealand is deviating from this stance, I would appreciate it if you could provide it to me so that I can take corrective action. The points reportedly made by "sources close to the deal" do not reflect the view of Air New Zealand.

Yours sincerely


Gary Toomey

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