

## MEMORUNDUM

*attachment 6*

TO: The Honourable Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
P.O. Box G1  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands

From: John Mark Parafea [Former D/CID]  
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Date 26-09-02

Subject : REPORT ON JOHN ALEXANDRA MEINT SMITH OF BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

### INTRODUCTION

This Report aims to highlight important issues that are related to the recruitment, employment and the subsequent deportation of the above person. It would also suggest means and ways that may be of some assistance for the reconsideration and perhaps the uplifting of the " PROHIBITION ORDER" made against John Smith not to return to the Solomon Islands.

In 1997 during the reign of the Ulufa'alu Government, the Honourable Prime Minister had requested the Commissioner of Police to cause an investigation into the Power of Attorney alleged to have been held by John Smith. I was then appointed by the Commissioner to undertake the task in Australia. The request was made purposely to ascertain the claim made by John Smith whether or not he has a genuine claim.

It is well over five [5] years since carrying out the investigation in Australia and therefore cannot accurately memorise the whole or otherwise correctly resembles the whole issue. Nonetheless, the inception is outlined hereunder.

### BACKGROUND

Accordingly, John Smith is a citizen of Australia. He was recruited by the former owners of Anuha Tourist Resort in Australia, before coming to the Solomon Islands to work as a chef at the Resort.

During the course of his employment, he had made lots of friends with local people there, especially late Fr. Robert Pule and his family, Mr. Mathias Sake

and his family and many others. Their work relationship continues to improve as time goes on. He has assisted them in many ways, particularly showing them how to achieve a satisfactory work completion. But regrettably John's involvement with the locals did not go well, he has been closely observed and his daily association with the locals had been seriously monitored by the Management, without any realization.

Sometimes later a disagreement arose between late Fr. Robert Pule and the owners of the Resort over the construction of some new buildings. Rev. Fr. Robert Pule alleged that he should have been consulted over such matters, but the Management claimed to have the legal right to do what they wanted and so the argument continued. John Smith sensed a sinister and tried to intervene and calm down both parties and iron out their differences, but Fr. Robert Pule who have not had good reception with the Management had made a vow that he would lead his people and set fire to the resort. John Smith so worried not of his safety, but the likely destruction of the Resort, quickly advised the Management so as to be aware of the threat and take a different approach in dealing with the locals. But in contrast, John's involvement was given a different reception by the Management. He was not treated as a mediator in the heated argument but as a supporter of the locals and therefore was left in isolation with very little communication with the Management. Evidently though of hatred was the photograph of John Smith taken together with late Fr. Robert Pule at Ade beach by an Australian Television crew had been purported to be taken at Anuha beach by the Management.

During the rioting and the actual burning of some buildings on Anuha Resort by late Fr. Robert Pule and his supporters, John Smith was already in Honiara, and upon hearing of the incident at Anuha, he tried to board a plane at Henderson Airport back, but was prevented to do so by Police on the advice of some prominent foreigners in Honiara. At the same time too the foreigners have used their influences to convince both foreign and local lawyers to lay charges against Smith. During the same time too when Smith was lodging at Honiara Hotel that he was threatened by two local chaps and he had to request for Police Protection. It was during this particular occasion that late Fr. Robert Pule personally called in at Honiara Hotel to see John Smith. It was during their discussion that late Fr. Robert Pule handed a note containing the first Power of Attorney to John Smith, in the presence of Mathias Sake. Late Fr. Robert Pule and his party then left the Hotel in order to return home by their canoe.

A few days later John Smith would have to leave the country to return to Australia, due to the continuous insistence from his employers to leave the country. He then appointed a private lawyer, Thomas Kama as his advocate; unfortunately this had not been cleared whether Thomas had actually represented John in any Court hearing.

Incidentally an earlier investigation carried out by Johnson Siapu and his men on the alleged involvement of John Smith at Anuha Tourist Resort had proved negative, as there was no evidence against him and the case had been long closed.

Literally, during the course of Police investigation of Power of Attorney in Brisbane Australia, it was disclosed that John has had in his possession the



[2] second Power of Attorney which he claimed to have been passed to him by late Fr. Robert Pule during their telephone conversation in 1989, both copies [photocopies] of the two Powers of Attorney were obtained.

Upon completion of the said case, it was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecution, outlining the weight of evidence obtained so far, and it would be up to him to decide thereafter of any action.

### OTHER CASES.

Before the termination of my employment with the Solomon Islands Government in May 2000, I do not have in my record any other cases being investigated against John Smith and for what offences. Perhaps the Director of Public Prosecution may have something to say about that. Similarly, the Director of Immigration should be consulted to justify other alleged criminal charges and the Prohibition Order.

### PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

I stand correction on this matter, but I am of the view that John Smith had been inhumanely treated by both his former employers – former owners of Anuha and the Solomon Islands successive Governments over the past [14] fourteen years. This has undoubtedly transpired from sheer jealousy over John's involvement with the locals and especially John's close involvement or association with late Fr. Robert Pule and the subsequent handover of two Powers of Attorney to him. How this arrangement was made is anyone's guess, but as we do know it was carried out between two men who had known each other for sometimes.

However others have taken different view on this and had in fact, tried desperately to prevent further development of the Resort, either by John Smith or other interested genuine investors. This kind of approach is not in the best interest of the Country and therefore, the Solomon Islands Government should take an appropriated and immediate action to necessitate further development.

### RECOMMENDATION

I am of the view that due to what we have done to John Smith over the past fourteen years, I do not think he would ever want to set foot in this country. But what he wants is to have his name cleared of any wrong doings. Therefore, I recommend that a Commission of Inquiry be established to determine John's case and dispose of it once and once for all.

**J.M.PARAFEA**