

JADE

• S T O N E •

2nd April 1991

Rt.Hon. Mr Bolger
Prime Minister
Prime Ministers Office
Parliament House
WELLINGTON

Copy

Dear Mr Bolger

I attach copies of letters received in reply from my local M.P., Mrs Moir and Minister of Conservation in regard to my request for the reason in suspending all nephrite jade mining applications in New Zealand. Also enclosed are copies of letters from previous Government Ministers aiding my company's request to export our product, along with a copy of an exert from a 1987 National Geographic that may be of interest in this matter.

Mr Marshall's letter points out that your Government will be addressing the issues of the Waitangi Tribunals recommendations.

To me this is indicative that the ministry is at least considering granting these rights to the Maori peoples. I hope you may prove me wrong.

Like most New Zealanders, I have been quietly surveying the situation with regard to the Maori claims in general. It now has become apparent that the Maori leaders are very serious in their attempts toward acquiring independent ownership of some Crown resources, basing their claims on the Treaty of Waitangi.

Until now, I have been brought up in this country of ours to consider all races equal in every respect and to share our national heritage as one people. It is of grave concern that I now see some Maori people wanting to divide us by claiming individual rights over lands and resources owned by all New Zealanders and administered by the Crown.

I recognise there was a treaty document and land sale contracts between the Crown and Maori peoples but consequent to these, the Maori, as New Zealand citizens, have still retained as much right to these lands and resources as non-Maori New Zealanders have.

Mr Marshall states that the Waitangi Tribunals report recommends that my prospecting application area be vested with the Ngai Tahu. Please consider these very important aspect, that I have spent the past fifteen years exploring and prospecting this remote South Westland

and Northern Fiordland region for minerals and jade.

During the course of these endeavours, I have also studied the various historic Maori jade mining sites and their cultural related aspects. I have found no evidence either physically or documented, of the early Maori gathering jade within my application area. I personally discovered this particular source of jade, the Maori historically extracted their jade from the lowland riverbed and beach alluvials in this particular region.

By legitimately applying for a prospecting licence to professionally evaluate my discovery, I have revealed its location publicly and now it seems, the Ngai Tahu Maori wish to claim it for themselves.

Under the Mining Act 1971, I was required to publicly advertise my application for the purpose of any objections to the granting of a licence. As I understood our mining laws, the Ngai Tahu had their opportunity to object to my application at this stage. They did not do so. I therefore question why they are not following legal procedure as any other persons are required to do.

As Mr Marshall has not specifically answered my question of why the Department of Conservation has directed the Ministry of Commerce to suspend all jade mining applications, I respectfully ask you Sir, as Prime Minister to be kind enough to offer an explanation.

In the past year I have struggled here in South Westland to research and develop a jade tile manufacturing business, hoping eventually to help create more employment opportunities using a local resource. I am presently negotiating markets in Japan, USA and Europe.

The Ministry of Commerce assisted me with my business development and now think it ironic that they are no longer processing my applications to secure its future.

I do not wish you to interpret this letter as only from a small businessman trying to defend his rights to one of our national resources but more importantly as an ordinary 'Kiwi' who's forefathers defended our country at war to allow us our rightful heritage that all have strived for through the generations.

Your sincerely

Kenn J Landaus.

Copy