NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Television

1 February 2011

Dear Jake:

Your letter to have has been referred to me for response. This response reflects the position of National Geographic Television on matters of consultant review of our programs.

Jake, this is not a misunderstanding of the nature of journalism. This is a misunderstanding regarding your role as consultant to the program. National Geographic never intended for you, personally, to fact check the entire program, line by line. Rather, you were hired for your expertise on the subject matter and your consultation was to assure the general accuracy of the subject in the Program. As this is the presumption for your review, all of the back-up materials you requested are not necessary because you only need to opine on the Program as presented in its final form. We both agree that National Geographic Television has final editorial control in this matter.

At the meeting scheduled for February 6, 2011, we will provide you with a script and we will bring a copy of the fine cut of the Program. We will arrange for Todd Hermann, Director of Research for NGT Standard & Practices, and myself to be present to record your notes and comments.

This is the process that National Geographic Television has engaged in with countless consultants for hundreds of hours of programming. National Geographic Television has produced programs before on criminal enterprises and sensitive subject matter, using the same standards and practices process. That process adheres to the highest factual and journalistic standards, and involves independently verifying all statements of fact, then making sure the program meets our requirements for nuance and balance in its depiction of characters and issues. The success of our painstaking process is reflected in over 1,000 Industry Awards for Excellence and 138 Emmy Awards. We understand your concerns, but this Program has been subject to the same rigors as any other similar programs.

National Geographic Channel (Japan) and National Geographic Magazine (Japan) have no interest or editorial involvement in this Program. There appears to be no reason to make them part of the review process. At your request, we have taken pains to assure that the Program is not made available in Japan. While a copy of the Program may find its way to YouTube in Japan, our experience is that YouTube will take a program down at the request of the copyright holder.

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Because we are on a schedule to complete this Program and deliver it to the broadcaster, we must stick to the meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 6th in Washington, DC. If you are willing to review the Program on the terms that have been outlined in this letter and other National Geographic correspondence, we would be happy to follow through with arrangement of the meeting on Sunday.

If you determine that you cannot review the Program, we will respect your decision. As you may recall, you have the option of having your name removed from the Program. We can accommodate such a request.

Sincerely,

Executive Producer, EXPLORER