

06WELLINGTON41

Date: 2006-01-16

date:2006-01-16T23:41:00 source:Embassy Wellington orig
in:06WELLINGTON41 destination:VZCZCXYZ0001 PP RUEHWEB D
E RUEHWL #0041 0162341 ZNY SSSSS ZZH P 162341Z JAN 06 F
M AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIT
Y 2276 INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 4276 RUE
HLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0139 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTT
AWA PRIORITY 0262 RHMFISS/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY RUETIAA/D
IRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD PRIORITY RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASH
INGTON DC PRIORITY RUEKJCS/JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY R
UEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HON
OLULU HI PRIORITY classification:SECRET reference: S E
C R E T WELLINGTON 000041 SIPDIS SIPDIS STATE FOR EAP/A
NP AND INR/EAP OSD FOR LIZ PHU PACOM FOR POLAD HUSO E.O
12958: DNG: ..

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 000041 SIPDIS SIPDIS STATE FOR EA
P/ANP AND INR/EAP OSD FOR LIZ PHU PACOM FOR POLAD HUSO E
.O

12958: DNG: CO 01/16/2013 TAGS: PINR, PREL, NZ SUBJECT: LANGE'S
LAST LAUGH Classified By: Charge d'Affaires David R
Burnett; reasons 1.4 (B and D)

1

(C) Former NZ Prime Minister David Lange's private papers included a copy
of the highly classified 1985-86 Government Communications Security Bure
au annual report detailing its activities, including cooperation with the
U.S

National Security Agency

According to an article in the January 15 Sunday Star-Times newspaper, th
e paper had been given permission by Archives NZ - and by the Labour Cabi
net - to view the documents following Lange's death in August 2005

It is not clear if the Cabinet was aware that the papers included a GCSB d
ocument, but Cabinet Chief Executive Maarten Wevers told Charge January 16
that his staff should have

known the document was there and removed it from the archivable material
s

Wevers said he was under instructions from duty Minister Jim Anderton to
review Cabinet and GCSB procedures to determine how the lapse occurred a
nd to make sure it never happened again

2

(S) The Sunday Star-Times also excerpted memos to Lange from then Minist
er of Trade & Industry David Caygill and Lange's Chief of Staff John Hen

person outlining conversations with the U.S

Ambassador at the time, covering his concerns that the anti-nuclear legislation had eroded trust in New Zealand, thereby threatening intelligence cooperation

The newspaper stressed the Ambassador's concern that if New Zealand were expelled from the "five-eyes" arrangement, the door would be opened for the United States to conduct intelligence gathering operations against the Kiwis

The Star-Times labelled the then Ambassador's language "a clear threat" and "bully tactics," even though the language used made clear that the Ambassador was raising a potential concern and did not know whether the aftermath of the anti-nuclear flap would result in expulsion of New Zealand from the SIGINT community

3

(C) Comment: The Star-Times article is an embarrassment to the Government and to the Prime Minister personally, since she is the Minister charged with intelligence oversight

It raises questions about the Government's competence and its "non-aligned" credentials

The PM values the intelligence relationship very highly

It has ensured that New Zealand still has some access and influence in Washington while allowing Clark to maintain the Labour Party's public ambivalence about the U.S

at home

Maarten Wevers told Charge that Clark has instructed he and Minister Anderson to kill the story as quickly as possible, so that she does not have to face questions about the U.S.-NZ intelligence relationship during CDR PACOM Fallon's visit to New Zealand later this week

End Comment

4

(C) Embassy will not address the intelligence relationship even on background

However, we do intend to background select journalists on our view of the former Ambassador's comments about the importance of trust, stressing the difference between an honest diplomatic exchange on matters of mutual concern and "bullying." A fairly accurate and sympathetic two-part docudrama on the ANZUS crisis has just aired over the past two weekends, and has created an appetite for discussion of the U.S.-New Zealand relationship (and the late David Lange's lack of veracity) which we would like to exploit while we can

5