

AIR NEW ZEALAND

18th January, 1980

Assistant Commissioner
Central Police Station
Auckland
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Commissioner,


On behalf of Air New Zealand's staff in Tokyo and the relatives here I want to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the efforts of yourself and your staff during the recovery and identification of remains from the tragic crash on Mt. Erebus.

As you are aware, people in Japan share a deep, heartfelt belief that the souls of the departed will not rest easy until their remains are brought home to their native land and laid to rest with the proper religious ceremonies. Your kind consideration of this belief and your very humane efforts to speed the identification of the Japanese deceased are deeply appreciated by all the members of their families here.

The staff of Air New Zealand's offices in Tokyo are also grateful because your efforts to expedite the return of the Japanese deceased helped us greatly not only in dealing with the grief-stricken relatives during their stay in Auckland, but in maintaining our good relations with them and with the public at large in Japan.

Please accept, and extend to your staff, our most sincere thanks.

Yours truly,


(M. Sano)
Sales Manager Japan

MS/kk

cc: Mr. James Morgan, Chief Inspector
Mr. Burny Bowerman, Sr. Sergeant
Mr. Wallen Mansell, Detective
Mr. Nick Anderson, Sr. Sergeant

Chief Insp Morgan,
For filing.


JAC
23.1.80

21 January 1980

Mr E. Trappitt,
Assistant Commissioner,
N.Z. Police,
P.O. Box 40,
AUCKLAND.

Dear Mr Trappitt,

I wish to pay a somewhat belated tribute to the Police Officers involved with the Air New Zealand D.C.10 crash in Antarctica.

I purchased a ticket for a friend in U.S.A. and when he was unable to go at short notice I gave the ticket to my uncle, a Consequently, the confusion that arose created additional work for your staff. This was a difficult time for all of us, particularly my elderly aunt.

I cannot speak highly enough of the compassionate and diligent manner demonstrated by all the Police Officers we came in contact with.

I have always had a great deal of admiration for the Police. This incident has made us doubly aware of the tremendous debt we owe to your service.

On behalf of and all of our family - Thank you.

Kind regards,

30 December 1979

Assistant Commissioner E.J. Trappitt
Auckland Central Police Station
Vincent Street
AUCKLAND

Dear Mr Trappitt,

As the nephew of one of the victims of the Mount Erebus disaster, I was called upon to assist with identification at the Auckland Medical School mortuary on the morning of Saturday, December 15. I am writing to pay tribute to Detective Sergeant Brien of the Auckland Central CIB, who dealt with my wife and me. He performed a demanding and delicate task with tact, courtesy, sympathy and good humour. He could not have been kinder or more helpful.

He is a credit to the police force and I hope you will convey to him my heartfelt thanks for the magnificent way in which he conducted himself.

Yours sincerely,



Prime Minister
Wellington
New Zealand

24 January 1980

Commissioner R. J. Walton, O.B.E., Q.P.M., E.D.,
Police National Headquarters,
Private Bag,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Commissioner Walton,

OPERATION OVERDUE

Whilst it will no doubt be some time before the Police involvement in the Air New Zealand DC10 accident in Antarctica is finally terminated, I should like at this stage to express my personal appreciation and that of the Government for the magnificent effort made by a large number of your staff, assisted by many organisations and individuals too numerous to name, in the recovery and subsequent identification of the unfortunate victims of the aircraft crash.

The present indications are that the percentage of identifications achieved during this operation may well prove to be one of the highest ever reached anywhere in the world during a major air accident. This in itself clearly demonstrates to me the soundness of the procedures used and the manner in which all of those involved applied themselves to the unpleasant task with which they were faced. The fact that this crash occurred in such a remote area as Mt Erebus in Antarctica with all the climatic and logistical problems this recovery site imposed makes the ultimate results even more impressive.

I am aware that this operation had three distinct but equally important 'scenes'. I refer of course to the recovery operation in Antarctica, the need for the overall co-ordination through the National Co-ordination Centre at Police Headquarters and the body processing and reconciliation procedures used at Auckland. Each function required a quite different manpower commitment and each

imposed its own arduous working conditions. It was the co-ordinated effort and the manner in which individual members applied themselves to their allotted task that has obviously achieved such a successful result.

As you will be aware I have always had the greatest respect for the ability of the Police and this particular disaster only reinforces my view that the New Zealand Police has the expertise and trained personnel to capably deal with emergency incidents.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to pass on my personal appreciation for a job well done to all of your members. Even those who did not become personally involved in this operation made their contribution by accepting the burden imposed by the deployment of their workmates on 'Operation Overdue'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. D. Muldoon', written in dark ink. The signature is positioned above the printed name and is connected to it by a long, thin horizontal line that extends to the left.

R. D. Muldoon

11th January, 1980.

Chief Inspector Morgan,
Auckland Central Police,
Auckland.

Dear Inspector Morgan, Thank you, and your team,
for your untiring work in identifying the victims
of the Air N.Z. DC10 crash at Mt. Erebus.

When I heard the news that my fiancé,
[redacted] was returning home on Tuesday
evening, I was just so relieved. I had realised
that not everyone could be returned to the ones
they loved, but I was so happy that my
big farmer could be at home, in sight of
the hills where he had worked so hard.
He was buried in a simple graveside service
on Wednesday morning. It was a perfectly
still, warm Summer's morning, and he was
surrounded by the people who truly loved him.