



Prime Minister
Republic of Vanuatu
Premier Ministre
République du Vanuatu

The Attorney General,
State Law Office,
PMB 048,
Port Vila,
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

30 August, 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Pardon of Mr. Peter Harold Swanson

It has been drawn to my attention that the document referred to above, of which a copy is attached, was signed by the then President of the Republic – His Excellency Jean Marie Leye Lenelcau on 11th December 1998, after having received a recommendation from the Committee constituted under Article 38 of the Constitution and exercising the prerogative enshrined under Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu.

For your information, as a result of the Official Secrets Act being applied by a Council of Ministers' directive at that time, Mr. Swanson was unable to defend himself in court and could not release important information that may have affected the verdict.

I believe that His Excellency and the Pardon committee, before issuing Mr. Swanson's pardon, received information which was supplied by Mr. Swanson's associates who took the liberty of presenting the case to His Excellency, with information which was not available to the Court.

I understand that Mr. Swanson having been pardoned has returned to Australia and is now Chief Executive Officer and a significant shareholder in one of the oldest Mortgage and Finance companies in Australia.

It is my understanding that this document needs to be gazetted. Please ensure that the gazetting of this document be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Honorable Barak Rame Sope Maufamate MP
Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu

