

Letter to Honorable Steven Joyce – 28 November, 2016

From: Hugh Steadman

Sent: Monday, 28 November 2016 9:51 a.m.

To: 's.joyce@ministers.govt.nz'

Subject: The on-going Harmon & Carolyn Wilfred Saga and the Trump presidency.

Attachments: [Oct0915, JoyceWoodhouse letter](#), [Nov1116, Ombudsman Provisional Response](#)
[Nov2316, HS Reply to Ombudsman](#).

Dear Steven,

It was almost a year ago today that you gave a talk to the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce at which I raised a question concerning our business partner's visa status and your Investor Plus scheme. You asked me to take the question to the Minister of Immigration and to copy you in on my correspondence with him. To save your searching, I again attach my initial letter. On re-reading, I find that it contains one obvious inaccuracy. Carolyn Dare Wilfred was never actually issued with a deportation order - only threatened with it.

Given the potential threat that Harmon's CIA insider knowledge poses to the Clintons, the Wilfred affair would have been a matter of concern for any incoming Clinton presidency. So too, of concern to our government, would have been Mrs Clinton's potential attitude towards policies on its agenda, such as the TPP. Given so obvious a linkage, I hope I am not mistaken in assuming that as a member of Cabinet, you are reasonably au fait with how the Wilfreds' immigration case has progressed in the interim.

The latest exchange has been a provisional finding from the Ombudsman (see attachment.) It was written before the black swan US election result. Even though the public has been given the impression that the Ombudsman is an independent agency, responsible for championing the individual confronted with government power, this document would seem to reflect only the government's position on the matter. The Wilfreds' lawyer will make a formal response to the Ombudsman before his deadline of 8th December. In the meantime, I have made an informal response, which I also attach. It contains a summary of all those facts of the case, which the Ombudsman chose to ignore and which might be helpful in any attempt to resolve the situation before further damage is done, whether to NZ or to the Wilfreds'.

Had sleeping dogs been left undisturbed, there was every reason to suppose that sometime in 2016, Carolyn would have realised her inheritance and settled happily into New Zealand together with approx. \$50 million, much of which would have been invested in NZ's needy SME sector under your Investor Plus scheme. (If not settled out of court, seven days have now been set aside for the hearing in Toronto, starting on the 27th February.)

Donald Trump's election earlier this month, and the NZ government's decision, fifteen months ago, to separate Carolyn from her husband by suspending her Canadian visitor visa waiver without notice, have both rearranged the pieces on the board.

In regard to Trump; firstly, NZ's major policy goal of a TPP, which included the USA, is now a lost cause. Seeing that Hillary is not going to be in any position to play, further investment along the lines of MFAT's \$13.7 million pay to the Clinton Foundation would be additional tax-payer money down the drain. Possibly worse than in vain, the payments might be viewed by the incoming president as an indicator of NZ's too enthusiastic support for his rival.

Secondly, Harmon, with his publication of letters supporting the Trump election campaign, his several senior contacts within the Trump entourage and his supporting evidence having been forwarded to the FBI team investigating the Clinton Foundation's laundering activities, is likely to be

viewed as a Trump ally. There will be no kudos to be earned by a NZ government for the Wilfreds' continued abuse.

Thirdly, the word is out among the US intelligence community that Trump's promise to 'drain the Washington swamp,' though likely to prove over-ambitious and largely unfulfilled, will nevertheless include a significant purge of the old guard in the CIA: the Agency's former relationships may change and former 'understandings' no longer hold good.

In regard to Carolyn's separation: as I sometimes join in the Wilfreds' Skype conversations, I know that at the moment, Carolyn is so deeply upset by her treatment at the hands of our government that she is arguing strongly with her husband that once they have realised their money, they should explore investing elsewhere in return for a passport for Harmon and wash the NZ dust for ever from their feet. For his part, if at all possible, Harmon would far prefer to become a New Zealand citizen so that the Wilfreds can live out their lives in New Zealand. He appreciates the law-abiding nature of NZ society, the environment and his slowly accumulated small community of friends and allies. (Incidentally, not having any passport, Harmon read and was initially, extremely puzzled by the Minister of Immigration's statements to the ODT, to the effect that Harmon could re-join his wife at any time he chose. In the end he put it down to simply being a cruel and unworthy taunt from a cat playing with a mouse.)

Under the changed circumstance of an impending Trump presidency, could a case not be made for a reassessment of the government's position in regard to the Wilfreds? Why add the loss of Carolyn's millions to the MFAT millions already lost to the Clinton Foundation? My company needs her \$2 million investment; Carbonscape, our neighbour on the Riverlands Estate, whose founder and Chairman is a friend of mine, also needs her \$5 million and, as you must be only too well aware, there are many other NZ companies which could do with the additional investment.

The Harmon/Carolyn story should be read as neither spy story nor political thriller. You are probably unaware of the full extent of the persecution that Harmon had to undergo in the USA after he had blown the whistle, nor of the extraordinary devotion and courage demonstrated by Carolyn in her struggle to extract him from wrongful imprisonments at the hands of corrupt authorities. The truth is that the Harmon/Carolyn story is an incredible love story and it is as a love story that it is being written up for the film that will be made. As things stand, with this latest piece of persecution inflicted by the NZ government, our country will be portrayed as having allied itself with some most unsavoury characters.

Given the extent of Harmon's emotional involvement, do not expect from him an entirely business-like or conventional response. He will pull every media string he can muster to be reunited with his wife. Yes, he does want to make peace with the NZ government, do nothing to upset it and be allowed to settle peacefully in New Zealand. However, the attached Ombudsman's letter really cast him down. Up to that point he had firmly believed (as do most New Zealanders) that the Ombudsman's office served as watchdog over the individual's (and given the public statement on its Website, especially of whistle-blowers') interests, rather than as lapdog for government errands. He, as did his lawyer, fully expected the Ombudsman to remedy the injustices inflicted on him. Now, Harmon's next step will be to call a press conference and attempt to exert the maximum political influence in the hope that he will be able to generate sufficient public sympathy to induce the relevant ministers to review their policies. It might start gently, but once Carolyn realises her inheritance, the Wilfreds will have the means to deploy the best agencies and make a truly wonderful noise!

Such action, should it be allowed to go ahead, could possibly benefit the Wilfreds to the extent that they might be reunited, albeit, possibly not in NZ, but it will certainly benefit neither the government's nor New Zealand's international reputation. In effect, as things stand, it looks as though we are heading for a lose-lose denouement.

Were it one of the anxieties preventing the government from regularising Harmon's residency status, the hostile reception he has had to date, (twelve years of being unable to travel, visit dying relatives overseas, take employment, receive any state or health benefits etc.) should suffice to deter any rush of American 'refugees' from coming to New Zealand and renouncing their citizenships. INZ should find there is no longer any price to be paid on that score.

Is the time now right for an attempt at a negotiation and some sort of deal to be made? If there is a serious possibility of the government reconsidering the course it is currently set upon, I would be grateful for a prompt indication. Harmon is intent on calling his first press conference before the parliamentary recess, while I am hoping to be able to persuade him that such action is not required. The best (and low risk) indication of a governmental change of heart in regard to the Wilfred's, would be the prompt removal of the suspension of Carolyn's Canadian visitor visa wavier. Having missed the last Christmas, it would greatly ease tensions were the Wilfred's to be reunited for this year's holiday, while her residency application continues to be considered. Whatever happens, in late February 2017, Carolyn has to be back in Toronto for the hearing regarding the liquidation of her shares in her family firm.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh W.R. Steadman,

P.S. I would like to add as a footnote. In making a decision on this matter, Cabinet should ignore all the multiple slanders about the characters and actions of the Wilfreds that have been generated by agencies of the US, Canadian and New Zealand governments in their attempts to justify the multiple abuses inflicted. The fact is that the Wilfreds are both highly principled people of good character with no criminal convictions. All past charges against Harmon in the USA were generated by demonstrably corrupt officials anxious to avenge or negate the effect of his whistle-blowing. From the moral, as opposed to the Realpolitik viewpoint, the treatment these two completely innocent persons have received at the hands of the NZ government is unconscionable. Now that the Realpolitik factors no longer apply, is it time for the government to do what is morally correct in regards to respecting the Wilfreds' human rights? These two will make a far more significant contribution to New Zealand's future than 99% of the other immigrants allowed to settle here – myself included!

Hugh Steadman
Director
The Prenzel Distilling Company Ltd
Ph: 64 3 520 8215
Mob: 0295208222
Web: www.prenzel.com

The logo for Prenzel features the word "Prenzel" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Above the letter 'e' is a red star with a white outline, and a red swoosh arches over the top of the letters.The logo for Club*Prenzel features the words "Club*Prenzel" in a blue, sans-serif font. A blue swoosh arches over the top of the letters, and a small blue star is positioned above the asterisk.

Club Prenzel: www.clubprenzel.com / www.5544332211.com/club