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Subject: RE: NZ-Letter dated July 2, 2008 Re: Our request for Documentary
Evidence
Date: Thu, 28 Aug 2008 12:46:52 +1200

Dear Antonio,

Thank you as always for your comprehensive reply to my message. Indeed I can understand your concerns and appreciate that you are being thorough in terms of your enquiry.

Nonetheless, I must remind you that New Zealand has never made any allegations regarding BII and illegal activities. In addition, we never said that BII was linked to the illegal activities of the convicted NZ smuggler. Our concern is based on the connection between de Dios and Nichols, which the permit indicates. The issues regarding whether the consignment reached the Philippines and regarding the nature of the specimens (birds vs. eggs) are not relevant to the NZ position. If the Philippines government feels that these issues are relevant, we respect that position.

Over the past weeks I have been reading as much as I can about captive-breeding operations for rare birds, and there is no question that BII has extensive knowledge about this matter, and that they have had some successes (it is impressive that de Dios has his own Wikipedia page). All of us are working to ensure the survival of these treasures, and by engaging constructively, we will surely do so.

With kindest regards as always,
Wendy