NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Television

1 February 2011

Dear Jake:

Your letter to has been referred to me for response. This response reflects the position of National Geographic Television on matters of consultant review of our programs.

Jake, this is not a misunderstanding of the nature of journalism. This is a misunderstanding regarding your role as consultant to the program. National Geographic never intended for you, personally, to fact check the entire program, line by line. Rather, you were hired for your expertise on the subject matter and your consultation was to assure the general accuracy of the subject in the Program. As this is the presumption for your review, all of the back-up materials you requested are not necessary because you only need to opine on the Program as presented in its final form. We both agree that National Geographic Television has final editorial control in this matter.

At the meeting scheduled for February 6, 2011, we will provide you with a script and we will bring a copy of the fine cut of the Program. We will arrange for Todd Hermann, Director of Research for NGT Standard & Practices, and myself to be present to record your notes and comments.

This is the process that National Geographic Television has engaged in with countless consultants for hundreds of hours of programming. National Geographic Television has produced programs before on criminal enterprises and sensitive subject matter, using the same standards and practices process. That process adheres to the highest factual and journalistic standards, and involves independently verifying all statements of fact, then making sure the program meets our requirements for nuance and balance in its depiction of characters and issues. The success of our painstaking process is reflected in over 1,000 Industry Awards for Excellence and 138 Emmy Awards. We understand your concerns, but this Program has been subject to the same rigors as any other similar programs.

National Geographic Channel (Japan) and National Geographic Magazine (Japan) have no interest or editorial involvement in this Program. There appears to be no reason to make them part of the review process. At your request, we have taken pains to assure that the Program is not made available in Japan. While a copy of the Program may find its way to YouTube in Japan, our experience is that YouTube will take a program down at the request of the copyright holder.

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Because we are on a schedule to complete this Program and deliver it to the broadcaster, we must stick to the meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 6th in Washington, DC. If you are willing to review the Program on the terms that have been outlined in this letter and other Mational Geographic correspondence, we would be happy to follow through with arrangement of the meeting on Sunday.

If you determine that you cannot review the Program, we will respect your decision. As you may recall, you have the option of having your name removed from the Program. We can accommodate such a request.

Executive Producer, EXPLORER

Jake Adelstein

February 2, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

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Executive Producer EXPLORER National Geographic television 1145 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036

Re: Requirements for Verification of Factual Accuracy/INSIDE YAKUZA

Dear Mr.

Firstly I take issue with your attempt to diminish the agreed definition of my role as Consultant to the Program. The contract between us clearly states verifying the "factual accuracy" not "general accuracy".

In order to verify "the final form" as written in the contract, I will still need audio and back-up resources, and time allowed to review them. To do so without those would be impossible, and I believe, a material deviation from my contract.

The contract also allows for "reasonable" amounts of time to do my job, and "reasonable" requests. Pressuring me to compress my review into an inadequate time frame and without adequate materials is clearly disingenuous, and does not inspire confidence in the high journalistic codes and practices you go on to assure me of. To demand an ultimatum with regard to this meeting is also a significant departure from my contract.

I cannot merely accept assurances that National Geographic codes and practices will prevail in a situation like this, especially without being provided with documentation of those codes and practices; and particularly in light of earlier experiences which cast doubt on my confidence in aspects of this program. With regard to the program finding it's way onto YouTube; it only has to leak once before it can be put on file sharing programs like WINNY in Japan and be available in perpetuity. Angering members of the yakuza may then have consequences, as I have mentioned in prior correspondence with reference to TBS and

ö that

Sincerely,

Jake Adelstein

cc: National Geographic National Geographic National Geographic Television Head of of Development National Geographic To E Development National and Associate Development c Television Television and Operations General Television Counsel Geographic

A portion of the redacted internal emails From National Geographic Television on the dangerous circumstances created by the film crew, received from anonymous source.

Note: The document has been redacted, for safety concerns, as best as possible although it is very easy to determine who the is the head of National Geographic Television by a simple Google search. I have highlighted some sections to illustrate a point. Please note the email from the President of NGT in which he writes "Our department of Standards and Practices will review the entire film thoroughly before it is broadcast to insure that the show complies with our standards of factual accuracy and journalistic integrity." Please compare that with the words of the executive producer in the February 1st letter where "factual accuracy" has become "general accuracy." As for the NGT standards of journalist integrity, I have no idea what they are. I keep asking but get no reply. I'm sure they exist in some form or another but at what level, I have no idea.

I have admiration for the one individual in the firm who showed some

I have admiration for the one individual in the firm who showed some grasp of the dangers and genuine concern for the safety of others. (see last email).

People like him are usually the first ones fired when trouble breaks. People with integrity are always a pain in the ass for those without any. He did not provide me with the emails, to the best of my knowledge, but I'm sure he'll be a suspect. Good luck.

From:	
Sent: Wednesday,	September 29, 2010
To:	

sincerely,

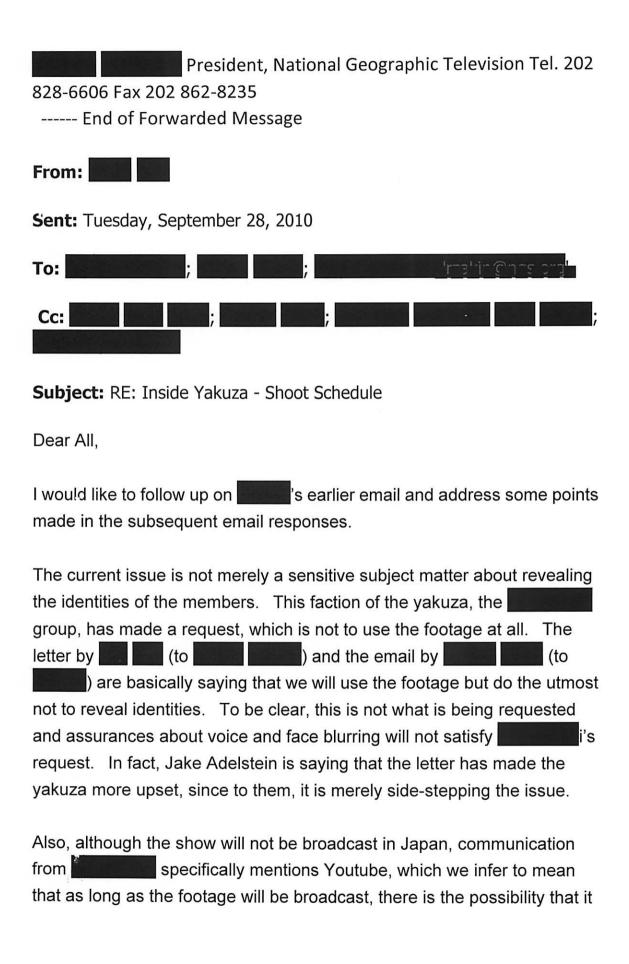
department of Standards and Practices will review the entire film our policy to be extremely careful in these situations. Our material that he has asked us not to broadcast. As you know, it is and informed him that we will not broadcast the , we have discussed this matter with assistance of Specifically, regarding the two interviews we conducted with the safety-conscious in connection with the production of this film. like to assure you that we have been and will continue to be the Tokyo office of NGCI about the NGT film "Inside Yakuza." I would I understand that some concerns have been raised in Subject: Yakuza film gro.sgn@is: To: Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2010 <gre>Saro.sgn From: Forwarded Message nos.viosgianalgeotv.com Channels International phone: 202.912.6596 fax: 202.912.6694 email: V.P. Of Production National Geographic Best --I can do, let me know. will make you all feel more comfortable with the situation. Anything himself. Hope this problem, or you can feel free to contact the Yakuza program. You can either let me know if this resolves the President of NGT – the production company that is responsible for Below is an email from si ohw Subject: Yakuza film

with any additional questions or concerns. Very

integrity. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Producer

thoroughly before it is broadcast to insure that the show complies

with our standards of factual accuracy and journalistic



will appear on Youtube or other internet sites. In other words, the fact that the show will not air Japan is not satisfactory to

The yakuza organization is an active and dangerous organization in Japan and their threats should not be taken lightly. They have already stated that if their request is not obeyed that the Japanese organizations of National Geographic will be responsible.

Lastly, I'd like to add that no means of identity protection will work in Japan. There are no secrets in Japan, as the famous saying goes.

My apologies for the directness of this email but I feel it is warranted due to the very dangerous circumstances surrounding the recent turn of events.

Best,

