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MERGE MANAGEMENT LTD

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Mr. Joseph Bianco *Dip. H2.S*  
Malta Maritime Authority,  
Ports Directorate,  
Marina Pinto,  
Valletta VLT 01,  
Malta.

15<sup>th</sup> May 2000

*Ref: Piper Lance Disappearance, December 1995*

Dear Mr. Bianco,

As you will recall, back in November 1996, a team of MMA hydrographers ably led by your goodself, formed part of the search party aimed at collecting more information or evidence related to the disappearance of my brother Matthew and the other passengers allegedly travelling on Piper Lance 9H-ABU on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1995. Unfortunately, bad weather prevailed and only about 25% of the scanning process was completed.

Though the Report of the Investigating Board has recently been published, the entire disappearance is still shrouded in mystery and the families of the missing persons are still living in uncertainty and grief. Recently I met the owner of the vessel that had been kindly given to us for that particular search and upon seeing my determination to go out there again, he kindly offered his assistance in organizing another search operation. I understand that sand movements and currents over the years will only make scanning and eventual recovery more difficult but I would like to attempt it in any case.

Before contacting the Ministry for possible assistance, I wanted to contact you first in order to confirm that you would, once more, be in a position of helping us by providing your professional services for a few days at sea.

Whilst thanking you for your attention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Aquilina