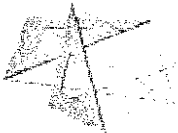


Appendix 4

Below is the statement provided to the DIMIA State Director, Mr O'Callaghan by his executive assistants regarding the phone call to the Chinese consulate on 26 May 2005.

----- Forwarded by Jim O'Callaghan/NSW/IMMI/AU on 26/05/2005 02:01 PM -----



NSW/IMMI/AU
26/05/2005 01:58 PM

To Jim O'Callaghan/NSW/IMMI/AU@IMMI

cc

Subject This morning's events

DETAILS OF THIS MORNING'S EVENT (26/5/05) AS REMEMBERED BY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]
(EAs to State Director)

- * 10.30am - [REDACTED] took a telephone call from the contact centre saying that somebody from the Chinese Consulate called and wished to speak to Nick Nicholls
- * [REDACTED] advised that person should be referred to Janet Mackin, Deputy State Director as she dealt with consular affairs and so call was transferred to Janet's EA, [REDACTED]. As Janet was in Adelaide, [REDACTED] then transferred call back to State Executive Office.
- * 10.35am - [REDACTED] took this call and caller advised that he wants to speak with the State Director Nick Nicholls. Once again caller was advised Nick Nicholls was no longer here and current NSW State Director Jim O'Callaghan was unavailable as he was in a meeting.
- * [REDACTED] asked for the caller's details, and then asked if she could assist or if there was any message and she would convey to the State Director. He said he was calling from the Chinese Consulate. He advised that his name was Yong Lin Chen, mobile 0400 446 775, and could the State Director please be interrupted as it was urgent. He then asked if the State Director could call him back within 5 minutes.
- * 10.37am - [REDACTED] then called Louise Lindsay's office, (as Jim was in a meeting with Louise), she spoke to [REDACTED] and explained to her what had happened and the urgency that the client was claiming, and asked whether she could interrupt the meeting with the message for Jim.
- * [REDACTED] said she would try and interrupt and give him the message. [REDACTED] passed the message to Jim and he undertook to follow up shortly when he returned to his office.
- * Between 10.44am - 11am - Yong Lin Chen called back approximately 3 more times, and after the 3rd (or 4th) phone call advised [REDACTED] that he was downstairs. [REDACTED] then asked exactly his role in the Consulate and it was then that he advised he was the Consul and needed to speak with State Director as a matter of urgency. [REDACTED] heard laughing in the background and thought perhaps the call was not genuine.
- * 10.44am - [REDACTED] contacted security in order to confirm if this man was really downstairs, and to ask for his details and also to keep an eye on him.
- * Yong Lin Chen called again and said that he was with security and [REDACTED] asked for his number at the Consulate as she told him that she needed to check whether he was from the consulate or not. He gave the number 8595 8001 or we could contact him on 8595 8002. [REDACTED] advised Yong Lin Chen that she was going to check the numbers that he gave, and Yong Lin Chen said that it was OK for her to call and that it was better for her to call 8595 8002. [REDACTED] advised that she was still trying to get in touch with the State Director, and that she would keep trying to reach him and if he could hang up and she would call him back. He hung up.
- * 10.47am - [REDACTED] then called the consulate number and there was a Chinese recorded message, and then an English message about visas only. This confirmed to [REDACTED] it was the Consulate number.
- * [REDACTED] wanted to go down and see the man and his card and [REDACTED] suggested that we should leave this to security, and [REDACTED] would call the Consulate to see if a man by the name of Yong Lin Chen was actually the Consul as he claimed.
- * 10.48am - We checked the business cards from the Consulate that we keep in Jim's office. We

found that the name shown on the card was different to the name that the person downstairs was claiming to be.

- * 10.49am - [REDACTED] called the Chinese Consulate number on the business card and asked to speak with the person on the card, Qiu Jian (Consul, Consulate-General of the PRC). [REDACTED] said that she was from the Department of Immigration and asked Qiu Jian to confirm that a man by the name of Yong Lin Chen worked there. Qiu Jian confirmed that a man by that name did work at the Consulate General. He said he would try his mobile, which he did and there was no answer. I thanked him and hung up.
- * 10.55am - While [REDACTED] was talking to security on the phone, Yong Lin Chen called the SD phone again and [REDACTED] answered. She advised that she had called the Consulate to confirm that this man did work there. The line then went silent and then the caller hung up.
- * 10.57am - Yong Lin Chen called again and [REDACTED] answered. She asked him if he was the genuine Consul as he said before, because we confirmed his name with the Consulate. He then said to [REDACTED] "I knew your friend did, you put my life in danger. Please transfer me to the State Director very urgently"
- * [REDACTED] asked him to hold the line so she could go and look for Jim, however he hung up.
- * 10.59am - [REDACTED] then called Louise's office and was advised that Jim had just left
- * 11.20am - SD entered the office with the message [REDACTED] had left him at Louise's office. We advised SD that man had mentioned we had put his life in danger, and so SD advised that we contact Louise Lindsay with his details as he may be seeking asylum so she could speak to him.
- * We then called Louise with his details, and [REDACTED] also explained to Louise that she had called the Consulate to confirm the man's name.
- * Louise tried to call Yong Lin Chen, however could not get through and received a message that phone was switched off or out of range. [REDACTED] was advised that the man had given 2 letters to security and departed quickly. Security then gave letters to OSA, (who are contracted to open all mail). The letters were opened and passed to Neville Nixon in Corporate Operations.
- * 11.30am - [REDACTED] received the letters from Neville Nixon and referred them to Jim O'Callaghan.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant
NSW State Director's Office, DIMIA
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