

DECLASSIFIED

*Handwritten:*  
GITA KAHATH  
26 March 2008

Matthew Hyndes  
16/08/2002 02:23 PM

To: John H Richardson/People/DFATHIGH@DFATHIGH  
cc: Paul Tigne/People/DFATHIGH@DFATHIGH  
Subject: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~: Delays in Security Clearance Review

Dear Mr Richardson

You will recall at our meeting in April that I expressed concern that the Department was not accorded an appropriately high priority to the restoration of my security clearance. As the months roll on I am becoming concerned that I could have achieved a faster result by immediately taking the matter to court rather than waiting for the wheels of DSB to turn.

I believe there is no reason why my security clearance should not be restored immediately. I have explained on many occasions to senior members of the Department the areas in which Mr Sharp's actions in 1997 were illegal, unprofessional and contrary to Departmental policy. I can only assume from the prolonged delay in my being able to lay my concerns regarding Mr Sharp's conduct before the Department is an indication that you are either not taking this matter seriously or you are getting ready to bring another equally ludicrous adverse finding against me. This matter has already cost my family and I hundreds of thousands of dollars, four years of normal posting and promotion opportunities, arguably caused me to declare bankruptcy unnecessarily and has frankly left me ambivalent as to whether the matter is resolved amicably or in court.

I am committed to remaining a loyal and useful member of this Department. I do not, however, see the same level of commitment from my employer towards me. I will not continue to turn a blind eye to the events of 1997 as it means years of additional waiting for a posting and a return to professional normalcy. Mr Sharp's improper action and subsequent inaction by DSB effectively represents the end of my career and I believe it is now time to play this matter out to its final conclusion as quickly as possible. I have decided to impose a deadline on resolving the matter and to outline to you a series of actions that I will undertake if this matter continues to drag on past the end of this month.

If by the end of August my security pass continues to display an "A" under my name I will do the following:

- Bring a case before the Australian Industrial Relations Commission alleging constructive dismissal;
- Initiate action in the AAT regarding the decision to downgrade my security clearance;
- Bring an action in the Supreme Court of the ACT for damages and re-imbursment of legal expenses;
- Alert the relevant authorities and press agencies in Thailand and Australia that the Australian Government places credence in allegations that the Thai Deputy Finance Minister was bribed in 1996;
- Brief Sandra Jenkin's lawyer on what I know about Mr Sharp's standard mode of behaviour prior to the tragic death of her husband;
- Brief other Departmental officers with issues outstanding in DSB of my knowledge of actions taken by DSB officers that may be illegal or contrary to Departmental policy.

I do not really want to do any of this but I have regretfully come to the conclusion that I really have nothing to lose by increasing the stakes to a point where I will know fairly quickly whether there is a future for me here or not.

Regards

Matthew Hyndes

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~