

LANHAM Geoff

From: LATIMER Simon
Sent: Tuesday, 31 May 2005 14:31
To: LANHAM Geoff
Subject: FW: UNCLASS: FW: 2GB Chris Smith/Martin Chulov - airport staff smuggling drugs
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: BENUSSI Paul
Sent: Tuesday, 31 May 2005 14:28
To: WOODWARD Lionel; JEFFERY John; BATMAN Gall; COLLINS David; LATIMER Simon
Cc: CHAPMAN Tim; WARDELL Matthew
Subject: UNCLASS: FW: 2GB Chris Smith/Martin Chulov - airport staff smuggling drugs article
Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Benussi, Paul [mailto:paul.benussi@ag.gov.au]
Sent: 31 May 2005 14:29
To: BENUSSI Paul
Subject: FW: 2GB Chris Smith/Martin Chulov - airport staff smuggling drugs article

From: Troeth, Simon
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 2:01:59 PM
To: Benussi, Paul
Subject: FW: 2GB Chris Smith/Martin Chulov - airport staff smuggling drugs article
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Paul

Of interest - interview with Chulov today re source of report.

ST.

2GB Chris Smith and Martin Chulov
Tuesday, 31 May 2005

Airport staff 'smuggling drugs' article:

- The report is coming to me from several direct sources within Customs both of whom are close enough to know how it was prepared, when it was prepared and who it was sent to
- My understanding is that the AFP did have some access to it at a senior level - I haven't been able to confirm that but I'm told by reliable sources that it was passed across to law enforcement by customs supervisors
- I don't know whether the report has reached him (Keelty), I don't know whether it has reached his general managers - I am going to endeavour to try to find that out today
- This morning we heard John Anderson saying he was aware of some of the contents of the allegations made so to that end you would expect that it has been passed up the line but that aside, the people I am dealing with within customs assure me that there has been minimal action taken to rectify some of the allegations made here

31/05/2005

Smith: If it was within customs why wasn't the public told about this through the Minister Chris Ellison?

- I think we're looking at the dynamite nature of the allegations - it would be very difficult for a minister to put that out publicly
- What we would expect a minister to do is to act or to direct that supervisors within customs or if necessary the AFP do act on what these allegations say because they do paint a very bleak scenario of security

Smith: The report suggests there's no direct evidence to support Schapelle Corby's claim she was set up but it does back the notion that this kind of thing is widespread in our airports, as I understand it there's been no investigation of the domestic system which is why you can't say that there are drugs moved from domestic terminal to domestic terminal - it's not as if they have investigated and found nothing.

- That's right - in a perception sense the contents of this report very much helps Schapelle Corby's defence
- It's not in any dispute according to customs that criminal conspiracies involving narcotics do occur and do occur frequently at the airport

Smith: The big cocaine shipment which occurred on the same day as Schapelle Corby, the airport rosters had to be changed to receive what was a late shipment of cocaine that was supposed to come through on Oct 7...in the confusion - this is the theory - it wasn't taken out of Corby's bag at Sydney where the coke was coming in because all attention had to be given to the bigger commodity through from Argentina. Is that a fair assumption?

- It's an entirely fair assumption - I did check on that theory and have made contact with the two sources we've been dealing with extensively over the last couple of weeks and put that scenario to them
- They support that scenario completely while stressing that there isn't any evidence that they have uncovered to support it - in a perception sense it certainly helps Schapelle Corby
- The suggestion that you make that the coke shipment took precedence does stand up as a concept - whether it can be established or not is another thing

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