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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER M. HALL QC
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION TOLOSA

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON TUESDAY 26 APRIL, 2022

AT 2.00PM

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THE COMMISSIONER: Waiting for the witness to return from lunch. I thought we made it clear that we were resuming in an hour's time and it's now almost 10 minutes overdue. I'm reluctant just to keep everyone sitting around while we're waiting for this witness.

10 MR DARAMS: Yes, that's right, Chief Commissioner. Ms Li hasn't returned at this stage. We're doing what we can to see whether she can return but perhaps the appropriate thing to do would be to adjourn again and we can make contact with you, Chief Commissioner, when Ms Li attends.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. All right then. Perhaps some enquiries if possible could be made to try and locate the witness. Oh, wait a minute. I think we've just found her. Ms Li, we've been waiting for you appear. You are almost 10 minutes overdue. I'll just mention, the Commission likes to resume at set times, so when we ask you to be back by a certain time, would you just please ensure from now on you stick to the program? So I don't
20 want to be sitting around waiting for witnesses to come.---Okay.

You should be here in time. Do you understand that?---Yeah, it's because of the lunch, they just make it, I had to wait.

All right. Okay. Mr Darams.

MR DARAMS: Yes, Chief Commissioner. Might I just say something before I ask Ms Li some further questions. This is really for the benefit of those watching online and observing today, just to indicate that we will be
30 adjourning at 3.00pm today for programming matters and resuming tomorrow at 10.00am.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, very well. Yes, I confirm that for programming reasons the public inquiry will have to complete at 3 o'clock today and the inquiry will resume tomorrow at 10.00am as per schedule.

MR DARAMS: Ms Li, before the luncheon adjournment you were asked some questions regarding a trip you took to Nanjing. Do you remember those questions?---Ah hmm.
40

You could recall that Mr Thornton went on that trip.---Yes.

You could also recall that, was it Mr Kevin Fan was on that trip?---Yep.

You recall that there were other persons on the trip?---A lot.

A lot?---Ah hmm.

But you can't recall the names of any of any of those other persons?

---Because at that time I'm not familiar with the people who are from I-
10 Prosperity yet.

Do you recall the time of year that you went to Nanjing on this trip?---(NO
AUDIBLE REPLY)

You don't?---Can't remember.

How many times have you been to Nanjing with Mr Fan?---With Mr Fan,
first time he came to Nanjing with Michael and, and the second time he
come with Thornton together. Yeah, I think, I think that's it.

20

So the second time was with the, the time were talking - - -?---The group of
people.

The group of people.---Yeah. I think more than, I remember it's a big car,
yeah.

Now, that second time, the time that Mr Thornton attended, do you
remember that being in January 2016?---I can't remember.

30 You can't remember. Do you remember going to Harry Huang's wedding
in January 2016?---I remember, yes.

You remember going to that wedding?---I was there.

You were at the wedding?---I was at the wedding, yes.

Yes. Do you recall a day after the wedding going to Nanjing with Mr
Thornton, is that the occasion you went with him?---Yeah. That's a lot of
people, yes.

40

A lot of people.---Ah hmm.

Do you recall Mr Chidiac being on that trip as well to Nanjing?---I can't remember, too many people, too many faces.

Do you remember Mr Tsirekas being on that trip?---I can't remember exactly, too many people on that trip. Maybe yes.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Have you ever been on a trip from Sydney to China in which either Mr Chidiac's or, well firstly, Mr Chidiac's been present?---Do you mean I fly with him together?

Yeah. Have you been at meetings held in China, meetings or gatherings - - - ?---I, I met him, yes.

And where Mr Chidiac has been present?---In the hotel, yes.

Right. Which hotel are you talking about now?---Langham.

20 Which one?---Langham.

MR DARAMS: Langham.

THE COMMISSIONER: Langham, yes. And that's in - - -?---Shanghai.

Shanghai, is it?---Yes.

30 And have you been on – and you don't know when that trip or trips occurred when you and Mr Chidiac were both present in Shanghai?---I met them there but I don't know they go there because I always take transition from Shanghai.

So have there been occasions when you have met, or been party of a group in Shanghai at which Mr Chidiac - - -?---Party?

At which Mr Chidiac or Mr Tsirekas was also present?---Do you mean Harry's wedding party or what party?

40 At any meeting, any meeting to gathering or party in Shanghai.---I met him in hotel but not party.

All right. You've met them at the hotel?---At the hotel lobby,

And amongst those people you met at the hotel, has Mr Chidiac been present?---Can you repeat your question again?

Pardon?---Can you repeat your question again?

Yes.---How many?

10 We are talking about a gathering of people.---Yeah.

In Shanghai.---Yep.

Not at any particular occasion at the moment, but one, two or more meetings or parties, groups in Shanghai at which Mr Chidiac has been one of those there.---So what's your question?

Do you recall Mr Chidiac having been present in Shanghai?---Yeah, I met him in hotel, yes.

20 What about Mr Tsirekas? Has he been in Shanghai - - -?---Yes.

- - - when you've been there?---Yeah, I saw them in hotel, yes.

And are you talking now about having seen them, both of them, on one or more than one occasion in Shanghai?---Maybe one or two occasion, yes, I saw them.

Maybe, how many?---One or two.

30 One or two?---Mmm.

All right.

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown volume 6.7, page 86? Firstly, do you recognise that location?---Yeah, that's in Nanjing.

Can you tell us where it is in Nanjing?---It's in the – I came out Australia quite a while, so you're asking me exactly location. I don't know where it is but I know it's in Nanjing.

40 This is the, you visited this – sorry. I'll go back. You know the people in the photograph?---Yes.

Can you just identify them for us, please, starting on the left of the photograph with yourself, obviously?---So it's Angelo and Peter and Joseph, Kevin.

Kevin Fan?---Yes, that's right.

So this is the, well, I would suggest to you this is the trip to Nanjing with Mr Fan and Mr Thornton we were just talking about?---Mmm.

10

You agree with me?---Yes, I agree. That's what I told you.

Yeah.---Yeah.

So it looks like Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac were with you on that occasion?---Yeah, that's right. That photo shows.

The photo does show that, doesn't it?---Yeah.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: And what was the occasion that this photograph was taken at? Were you all gathering there for a particular purpose? If so, what was the occasion?---I think it's just, at that purpose, we were taking or, as I remember, we were just taking them to have a, have, around, just play around in Shanghai - - -

Having a what?--- - - - just try some street food, some local traditional locations but, you know, for the location, I'm not, I'm the first time, I think.

30 Are you saying that this was like an occasion when the people in the photograph, apart from yourself, were being shown around more or less as tourists?---Yeah.

Okay.

MR DARAMS: This was the trip when you went to Shanghai for Harry Huang's wedding?---Can you check the date? I can't remember if, if that's for Harry's wedding or not.

40 Well, don't you remember when you went over to Shanghai for Harry Huang's wedding? I think you said before you travelled to Nanjing with Mr

Thornton and Mr Fan?---Yes. If the date is March, then, yes, 'cause I can't remember if that's second date or, I can't remember.

Could I ask that the witness be shown page 90? Now, this photo doesn't include yourself. Did you take this photo?---I can't remember. If it's from my phone, then, yes. If it's not, then no.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Again, the persons appearing in that photograph are the same persons as in the previous photograph shown to you except that you're not there in the second photograph. Is that right?---Yeah, that photo shows, yes.

Thank you.

MR DARAMS: Perhaps if the witness could be shown volume 6.7, page 67? I just want you to ask you some questions, Ms Li, about this exchange that will appear in the next few pages. Now, just so you understand, you recall that the Commission seized some of your devices, Ms Li?---Mmm? Do you recall the Commission seized some of your devices, electronic
20 devices?---Yeah.

Yeah. So what I'm showing you now is an extract obtained from some of your devices that were seized, just so you understand. Now, if I could just ask you to confirm, if you look under that box that says "participants" the first one is a reference to you, is it not, on WeChat?---Ah hmm.

Do you understand or recognise the other owners of the WeChat account?
---No.

30 Well, just if we go down to the next one it says Joseph.---Oh, with the name, yes.

Yeah.---But with ID I can't remember.

So you understand that to be Mr Chidiac?---Yes.

The next one Peter J. Thornton.---Yes.

40 Mr Thornton.---Ah hmm.

Then you've got Angelo.---Ah hmm.

That's Mr Tsirekas.---Yep.

You don't know any other Angelos do you?---No, I don't know unless another, yeah, another one but I think it should be this one.

You have had correspondence with Mr Tsirekas over the years by WeChat, haven't you, using WeChat?---I can't remember. If you having that in the WeChat then, yes.

10

No, no. No, I'm just asking you. You - - ?---I can't remember.

You can't remember using WeChat to exchange messages with Mr Tsirekas over the years?---This year or - - -

Over the years.---Over which year?

Well, from 2015 to 2019.---I think I did message to him twice or three times but I can't remember.

20

Using WeChat?---Using WeChat, yes.

The last person Kevin Xu.---I can't remember.

Now, if you just note the first message under the box there. See the date of that, the 4th of the 1st, 2016?---Ah hmm.

Then the third message on the page "Let's plan the next two days here." ---Ah hmm.

30

See that that message came from yourself. Do you see that?---Is it?

Sorry, I'll withdraw that. Came from Mr Chidiac. Do you see that?---Yeah, I see that.

Yeah. So Mr Chidiac is asking you or asking the group to plan the next two days - - ?---Ah hmm.

- - - in January 2016. Do you see that?---Yeah, I see that.

40

Is this assisting with your recollection of these events now?---(NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

It's not?---No, because I'm not arranging it. There's other people arranging it.

Well, who are these other people arranging it?---The local agency.

The local agency for I-Prosperty?---Oh, I don't know because I - - -

10

Are you sure you don't know?---Of course I don't know. I don't have local company. I-Prosperty have local companies.

That's what I'm asking. You said I didn't arrange it but do you know who did arrange it?---No idea.

No idea who arranged it.---No idea. Even here that Kevin Xu I don't know as well.

20

Now, if we can go over to the next page. The first message is from Mr Chidiac, "What do we need to bring?" Do you see that?---Ah hmm.

Do you see that?---I see it.

Then the next message down is a message from Mr Thornton, "What time?" The third message, "10.45 lobby," that's from you.---Ah hmm.

Now, that suggests that you've got some involvement in arranging the next two days, doesn't it?---I think that's why I'm saying, "Where are we now?"

30

It's not about I'm arranging it.

Well, the question - - -?---If I'm saying I'll meet you in the lobby does that mean I arrange to take you to somewhere else?

That's what I'm asking you.---Yeah. So that's, I'm saying no.

What are you saying in that message then? How do we understand your "10.45 lobby"?---Looks like meeting there at the lobby 10.45.

40

You see what I suggest to you is that you respond to Mr Thornton's message where he says, "What time?"---Mmm.

You respond, "10.45 lobby."---Yeah, that's right.

That's what you did do. Correct?---If it's from my message then, yes.

Yeah, it is from your message. Can you see that?---Yeah, then that's right.

It says "outgoing from" and that's your name.---Yeah, that's right.

10 So what I'm suggesting to you is that that suggests that you had some involvement or some knowledge of these plans that were being organised, doesn't it?---Yeah, I'm aware there is a plan to organise but I'm not the arranger.

Yeah, well, who – when you say the arranger and the organiser, who do you understand was organising the trip?---Like the local agency, like the tour guide and the driver.

20 Did you ring the tour guide or who did that? Do you know who did that?
---No, I don't know.

Didn't you ask someone from I-Prosperity to do that?---I did a suggestion if they want to go to my city, there might be some new place to go. But who arranging it, I don't know.

And how did you know to say "10.45 lobby" in response to - - -?---No, they're asking what time. I just reply.

30 So you just pluck the time "10.45 lobby" out of the air? That's just - - -?
---I think so. Yeah, I just reply.

See, what I want to suggest to you is that you were telling them the time to meet in the lobby because you knew the time to meet because someone who had arranged this trip had told you that.---Yeah, that's right.

Okay.---Ah hmm.

40 Can you recall now who told you that information, though?---I can't remember. Maybe the driver.

Who was the driver?---Who organised to drive to Nanjing I think.

Right.---I can't remember if driving to Nanjing or - - -

Well, how else would you get to Nanjing?--- - - - or how we're going to Nanjing, I can't remember.

What about a train to Nanjing?---There is a train to Nanjing as well.

10 Do you remember going on the train to Nanjing on this trip.---I remember if, I remember there was a driver because we would drive to some local street and Peter refused to eat the street food. That's my memory very clear. We definitely have the driver. I can't remember, sorry.

Now, so just go down a few messages. Mr Thornton sends a message, "What time are we returning? The guys have a meeting at 10.45."---There is a driver, Mr Gui.

20 Yeah, we'll get to that message in a moment.---I, I'm just reply your previous question. You asked me who organised this driver, Mr Gui.

You know Mr Gui?---Yes, it's a driver.

Do you know whether he's associated with I-Prosperity?---No idea.

Have you used Mr, did you use Mr Gui before this or is this the first time that you had come to meet Mr Gui?---I didn't organise.

No, I understand that.---So - - -

30 But, so you just recognised now from the reference to Mr Gui that that's the driver?---Yes, is a driver.

Okay. So someone had given you Mr Gui's details, or Mr Gui himself had given you his details?---Must have been someone else given to me.

Because you didn't organise the trip?---No.

40 No. Now, in one of your messages, partway down the page, "We return tomorrow morning," see that?---Ah hmm. Ah hmm.

Does that mean that you stayed overnight in Nanjing or in that area?
---Mmm, I can't remember. But if I'm saying "tomorrow morning" and I'm leaving today, it should be.

Most likely is that you recall – sorry, most likely is you stayed overnight.
---Yes, if that's what it should be. Mmm.

Well, these are your messages, so when you say, "We return tomorrow morning," that's how we interpret that, that you're staying overnight
10 somewhere?---Yeah, that's what I'm thinking as well.

Yeah. Now, just you were struggling before in reconciling the time, when I took you to that first photo, when that happened.---Ah hmm. Ah hmm.

That's right, you were struggling with the time, pointing out – when I say the time - - -?---I can't remember the time.

You don't remember the time.---Yeah, I can't remember the time.

20 So these messages that I've been taking you to are the 4th of January, 2016.
---Mmm.

That's right?---Yep.

Bear with me one moment, Ms Li. Perhaps if Ms Li could be shown page 71. Now, one moment. Ms Li, the pictures are quite small but if we zoom out the page, can you see there there's two photos in the middle of the page there? One is 43 Pic and one is 44 Pic. Do you see those?---Ah hmm.

30 I want to suggest to you that they seem to be similar to the photo I took you to before.---Ah hmm.

Do you accept that?---I think so.

Yeah. So what this is suggesting is that those photos that are being – and I'll suggest this to you, being sent by you to the others in that WeChat were taken on or before 4 January, 2016. You agree with that, don't you?---Sent it to someone?

The photos that you are sending on this date, that is 4 January, 2016, must have been taken on or before 4 January, 2016. Do you agree with that?
---Should be on the same day, I think.

Yeah. So you're saying you likely took the photo on the day that you sent the photo, is that right?---If I'm in the photo, it should not be I take the photo.

10 Well - - -?---But I send it on if I receive it, I send it on the same day, share to the people who going there. Normally that's what I do because later I can't remember.

Well, what I'm trying to suggest to you is that the fact that you are sharing these photos on 4 January, 2016 should assist you with the time when these photos were taken. Do you agree with that?---Yeah. If the photo is already recording the time, yes, then that is the time.

20 So if we just go back to page 86 now. See in the top right-hand corner, 44 Pic?---Ah hmm.

So what I want to suggest to you, Ms Li, is that this photo was taken, obviously not by yourself, but someone on your camera, on or before 4 January, 2016. You would agree with that, won't you?---Yeah. If that's you already find out then that's the date.

Yeah. So going back to some of the questions I asked you before, do you accept that these photos were taken on a trip you took with Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac to Nanjing? Do you agree now?---Yeah.

30 Yeah. You did go to Harry Huang's wedding in January 2016?---I went to Harry Huang's wedding but which day I can't remember.

THE COMMISSIONER: You earlier said in evidence that you attended the Huang wedding in January 2016?---Yeah.

Correct?---If that's the date of it, yes.

40 And these images you were shown, 43 and 44, are dated 4 January, 2016, the same month as the Huang wedding.---Yeah, if that's the recorded, yes.

It suggests, doesn't it, that those present as shown in images 43 and 44 just a moment ago, were part of the group who attended the wedding, the Huang wedding, including yourself?---Yeah. I went to the wedding, yes.

Yeah, yeah. You and those depicted in the images 43 and 44 attended as guests at the Huang wedding in January 2016?---Ah hmm.

Correct?---Yeah, should be correct, yes.

10 Yeah, ah hmm.

MR DARAMS: Yes. Could I just have the witness be shown volume 6.7, page 213? Do you recognise anyone in those photos?---I wasn't there yet, think.

Do you recognise anyone in the photo?---Kevin Fan, Michael, Harry, that's it.

20 So Harry's kneeling, is he, with the bouquet in his hand?---Yes.

Michael is, if you're looking at the photo, to the right?---Mmm.

That's right?---Yeah.

Where was Kevin Fan, sorry?---That's the one.

Sorry?---That's the one. You pointed. Yeah, your arrow pointed.

30 Sorry, I can't -- yes, I see.---Okay. Okay.

Yes. So when you say you weren't there at that time, are you saying you didn't take this photo?---I wasn't there. I wasn't in that occasion.

Right. So in terms of attending Harry Huang's wedding, what occasion were you at, the - - ?---Dinner.

The dinner afterwards?---Dinner, yes.

40 So was this the ceremony, did you understand that to involve a smaller group of people than who went to the dinner?---No, it's a larger group of people.

At the ceremony?---Yes.

The dinner was smaller?---No, the dinner is not smaller. The dinner is bigger. The dinner got more than, I think more than 300 people.

THE COMMISSIONER: Where was the dinner held?---In the hotel.

10 That's The Langham Hotel?---I think so. I think so, yes. Yes. Somewhere close, I think.

Anyway, 300-odd attendees?---Yeah, a lot of people.

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown page 215? Now, this is a photo of you and Mr Tsirekas?---Yes.

Do you recall where that photo was taken?---I think some night.

20 Do you remember on which occasion? Was it this trip to Shanghai in 2016?---I can't remember but I think Shanghai. I saw that building behind.

That's what I was going to ask you. There seems to be a large, it looks like a Christmas tree on the left of the photo.---It, it's definitely Shanghai because there are two buildings behind. I remember that street.

Right. Do you recall whether this was the night of the wedding or - - -?
---Can't remember.

30 Do you recall whether it was on this trip in January 2016?---It should be.

Should be.---If you say a Christmas tree and it's winter and they're in Shanghai, should be.

THE COMMISSIONER: Do you recall the occasion of this photograph? Were you showing Mr Tsirekas some of the highlights of Shanghai, were you, as a tourist?---I think it's just behind the hotel, these, these two building.

40 But were you and he, as it were, looking at the city, and he is a tourist and you as somebody who was familiar with Shanghai?---Yeah.

Okay.

MR DARAMS: Could the witness be shown page 216 of volume 6.7?
Now, that's Mr Chidiac?---Mmm.

Did you take this photo?---I can't remember.

Can you tell us where that location is, that is, do you recognise - - -?---It
should be Shanghai, as well, because you see that building now behind.

10

So when you say "it should be Shanghai" do you mean that is in Shanghai
'cause you recognise the building behind?---Yes.

Do you understand whether this was the same night as that previous photo
that I just took you to?---I can't remember but I can see it's Shanghai.

Right. So it's possible this was another night in Shanghai?---I think you can
find out the date.

20

Well, perhaps if the witness could be shown page 217? Do you recognise
that location?---I can't remember.

You can't remember. Is this photo taken on the same evening as the other
photo involving you and Mr Tsirekas?---I can't remember.

Well, did you go out with Mr Tsirekas on another evening when you were in
Shanghai in January 2016?---Another night. Maybe.

30

So it's possible that you went out with Mr Tsirekas on more than one
evening in January 2016 in Shanghai?---I can't remember. If you can find
the date if there are different dates and different nights.

Yeah.---Yeah.

But you can't remember now?---Too long.

These photos demonstrate that you weren't just running into Mr Chidiac and
Mr Tsirekas in the lobby of the hotel, were you?---No, this one is not a
lobby.

40

No.---Looks like, I don't know, can't remember this one.

I see. Could the witness be shown page 218, please. Do you recognise that location?---Yes, it's behind, behind the hotel. The New World.

Sorry, say that again.---This location is behind the hotel called New World in Shanghai.

Do you recognise that person with Mr Chidiac?---No.

10 No. Do you recognise whether that photo is taken at the same location as the photo that I just showed you of you and Mr Tsirekas?---On the other side I couldn't recognise. But on this side, it's behind the hotel.

Yes, but my question was - - -?---I can't remember. I can't recognise.

So let me just finish my question.---Mmm.

My question was you've been able to locate the location or identify the location where this photo was taken. Is that correct?---I don't know.

20

Well, you just said it was behind the hotel.---This one is behind the hotel.

That's - - -?---But that, another, another photo you asked me "Is that in the same location?" I don't know.

So being able to identify this location in this photo hasn't helped you in relation to the location of the other photo?---Another photo is looks like inside. This one is definitely outside.

30 Well, if we go back to the other photo, page 217 - - -?---Yeah, is inside, see? You've got, yeah, it's inside.

It seems to be pretty cold inside. I just want to suggest to you it looks like it's outside because - - -?---No.

- - - behind Mr Tsirekas' head looks like there's a heater. Do you see that? ---No, if it's cold I won't take off my scarf 'cause I'm really, don't like cold.

40 Mr Tsirekas seems to be pretty rugged up as well.---Mmm. I, I can't recognise, but that one definitely behind the hotel. This one I can't recognise where we are.

Could the witness be shown page 219? Are you able to assist us with the persons in this photo?---I only know Kevin.

So just, so on the far left of the photo, Mr Fan.---Yep.

Right.---Right hand is Michael.

Sorry, just there with the green - - -?---Yes.

10

- - - T-shirt on or polo?---Yeah, yeah.

That's Michael Gu.---Yes.

Right.---And then Thornton, Peter Thornton.

See Mr Thornton, he, there's a man who's obscured with a, obscured by Mr Gu's head, and then there's Mr Thornton.---Yeah, Mr Thornton, yes. Mr Thornton I know.

20

Well, you recognise the fellow to Mr Thornton's right, don't you?---Yeah, Angelo.

Yes.---And then Joseph. The rest I don't know.

Do you know the person standing up in the grey?---No.

Do you recognise the person in the blue, that one there? No.---No.

30

Do you recognise this location at all?---This location in Shanghai.

Whereabouts in Shanghai?---Can't remember.

How do you know it's in Shanghai?---How what?

How do you know it's in Shanghai?---'Cause Michael is there.

Right. Have you – where this was taken, have you attended there before?
---No.

40

So the fact that Michael Gu is there tells you it's in Shanghai?---Yes.

Could the witness be shown page 220, please? Do you know that location?---The Shanghai East.

Yes. Could the witness be shown 221, please? Now, do you recognise that location?---No.

You don't.---But that's my friend.

10 Sorry, that's your friend?---Yeah. The, the girl is my friend.

The girl is your friend?---Yeah.

What's her name?---Sasha.

Sasha. So this looks like it's a photo taken in the day, is that right? Do you recognise this occasion?---I can't remember the place.

20 Have you obviously invited your friend to meet Mr Chidiac?---No. My friend's come to visit me. My friend's come to visit me.

I'm Shanghai?---No. She is living in Shanghai.

She came to visit you on this occasion?---Yes, that's right.

So this is another – it looks like it's in the daytime. Do you agree with that?---Ah hmm, that's right.

30 So this is another occasion where at least you are with Mr Chidiac - - -?---I think it's she coming, I remember this one, she coming to me to pick up something I bought for her from Australia.

Do you remember where you met her?---Close my hotel.

What hotel was that?---Langham.

The Langham?---Langham Hotel.

40 You stayed at The Langham?---Yes.

Mr Chidiac stayed at The Langham?---I, oh, sorry, on, on Harry's wedding, I am not staying at Langham, I am staying somewhere else. Yeah. But I came to the hotel because the, she coming to pick, coming to there because she is coming to pick up some of her stuff.

When you say you came to there, where is this?---The hotel. Langham Hotel.

10 So this is The Langham Hotel?---Yes, yes. Behind, I think it's behind. Maybe New World, but I can't remember if that's exactly. I should be somewhere there because there is very convenient transportation. She come to pick up some, something from me.

Could the witness be shown page 222? Do you recognise that location?
---The New World.

Sorry, say that again?---New World.

20 New?---New World.

Ward?---Yes.

Is that a location in Shanghai?---Yes.

Is this behind the hotel?---Yes.

30 When you answer it's behind the hotel, is it effectively you walk out of the hotel, walk around the block and there's where this location is, that's what you mean?---Yeah. That's right.

Could the witness be shown page 226? Do you recognise where that photo is taken?---I think, I think a temple.

Whereabouts is this temple?---In Nanjing, I think.

Could the witness be shown page 227, please? Do you recognise that location?---I think that's in Shanghai.

40 Is that you in the photo?---Yeah, that's right. That's me.

Could the witness be shown page 228? Ms Li, that's also in Shanghai?
---Yeah, that's in Shanghai.

Yes. Can the witness be shown page 229? Ms Li.---Yeah. Ah hmm.

Now, are you able to assist where this photo was taken?---I think that's in the club.

10 Okay. Which club are we talking about?---I can't remember because I'm not always go to club.

You don't always go to club. Did you go to a club on this occasion? That is, and when I say this occasion, in January 2016?---Before Harry's wedding he took us there.

So Harry took you to a club?---Yes, and a group of people from - - -

Did that - - -?--- - - - his guests.

20 Did that group include Mr Chidiac and Mr Tsirekas?---I can't remember. A lot of people.

Do you know the name of this club?---But I know about maybe 20 minutes' drive from the hotel. That's all I know because I get home by myself.

When you say you got home by yourself - - -?---I go back hotel by myself.

All right.---I left it earlier.

30 Yeah. So you say you don't always go to the clubs but - - -?---No.

- - - can you assist us as to what this club was, the name of the club, the location, what happens at this club?---It's in Shanghai.

That's it?---It's in Shanghai about 20 minutes' drive from the hotel I think.

How many people were in this group?---A lot. That night a lot of people. He invite a lot of people there.

40 Did Mr Thornton go?---I can't remember. It's very dark as well. You even need the people to carry you to toilet.

THE COMMISSIONER: What was Mr Thornton's job, do you recall?---He working for I-Prosperity.

Pardon?---He, he working for I-Prosperity.

Yes. What was his job at the time? Who did he work for?---Who did he work for?

10 Pardon?---Sorry, what's your question?

Yes. I asked you who did Mr Thornton work for as at the time of this wedding in January 2016?---I-Prosperity.

Pardon?---I-Prosperity.

I'm sorry, I can't - - -

MR DARAMS: I-Prosperity.

20

THE COMMISSIONER: I-Prosperity. What was his job?---No idea.

I see. All right. Thank you.

MR DARAMS: Ms Li, was the nightclub a nightclub called Linx?---I can't remember.

Do you know the nightclub called Linx?---I don't know.

30 You don't know. Are you sure about that?---If you find the name is called Linx it's called Linx but I don't know - - -

No, no, I'm asking you do you know a - - -?---I can't remember.

Just let me finish, please.---Mmm.

Do you know a nightclub by the name of Linx Nightclub?---No.

You don't know the name of it?---I don't know the name.

40

You don't know of a nightclub in Shanghai by the name of Linx Nightclub?---No.

No. Chief Commissioner, I note that it's almost 3 o'clock.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR DARAMS: I've come to the end of this line of questioning.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you. Just before we adjourn. Ms Li, at this wedding there are a number of people associated with I-Prosperity Group. Is that right?---Yes, that's right.

And that included of course Mr Gu and Mr Thornton and others associated, Michael, associated with IP, that's I-Prosperity Group were at the wedding. Is that right?---Because at that time I only know Michael and Harry and then Kevin.

20 Well, I think you've identified - - -?---Thornton they introduced me - - -

Yes. Okay.--- - - - after so if you ask me who are there I'm not sure.

No, no, no, I'm not asking who are there. I'm just confirming that at the wedding there were obviously family guests.---Yes, that's right.

And the other guests included I-Prosperity people such as Mr Thornton. ---Ah hmm.

30 Mr Gu.---Yep.

And - - -?---Kevin.

Kevin. Yes, thank you. Mr Chidiac, he wasn't an I-Prosperity Group employee?---No.

But was he at the time of this wedding what might be described as a consultant to I-Prosperity providing services?---Mmm, I don't know - - -

40 He's under contract - - -?--- - - - at that time.

Well, you came to know that Mr Chidiac - - -?---Afterwards - - -

- - - did work for I-Prosperity under contract, not as an employee but as a contract. Is that right?---Yes.

And, in particular, in relation to the Rhodes development project, he rendered services. Is that right?---I think a couple of project related to I-Prosperity he (not transcribable)

So the answer is yes?---Yes.

10

Thank you. Now, Mr Tsirekas, he was what might be said to be an outsider because he didn't work for I-Prosperity, of course.---Mmm.

He didn't work for I-Prosperity, did he, and he wasn't under contract like Mr Chidiac to I-Prosperity concerning the Rhodes project?---No.

So when I say he's an outsider, what I mean to say is he didn't belong or wasn't working for or connected with I-Prosperity, like the others?---No.

20 That's right, isn't it?---No.

You're agreeing with me?---Yeah.

Yes. Thank you.

At this time, what position, and when I say "at this time" I'm talking about the wedding in January 2016?---Mmm.

What, to your knowledge, was Mr Tsirekas' position?---Guest.

30

Pardon?---Guest.

What was his position, what did he do? What was his work?---I don't know.

You don't know? Are you serious?---You mean is he working for I-Prosperity? What do you mean?

40 Well, did you know Mr Tsirekas was associated with Canada Bay Council?
---Yeah, that I know.

Right.---Yeah, yeah.

And arrangements had been made in advance of the wedding that the guest list would include Mr Chidiac, the consultant.---Mmm.

Is that right?---That, I didn't organise the wedding.

But did you come to understand that's what had happened? He had been put on the guest list?---He should be or he wouldn't be there, mmm.

10

And the same with Mr Tsirekas. He was - - -?---Yes, should be.

- - - on the guest list, obviously?---Yeah.

He's one of the guests there?---Yes.

Why was Mr Tsirekas, who, in a sense, was an outsider, he wasn't an I-Prosperty person or under contract to I-Prosperty, why was he there at the wedding?---I don't know. I didn't invite.

20

Sorry?---I don't know. I didn't invite.

You don't know?---Yeah, because I'm not inviting people.

Well, did you know before the wedding that he was going to be there as a guest?---I, I don't think I know before the wedding but the day when they arrive, I know.

30

Well, yes, and the photographs, some of the photographs you've seen - - -? ---Yeah.

- - - you and he having what seemed to be an enjoyable time out, looking at the sites?---Yeah, I took them walking along, yes.

Yeah. Why was he at the wedding?---I didn't invite.

No.---Yeah.

40

But did you come to understand why he was there, why he had left Sydney and travelled to Shanghai?---I think Harry invited.

You think Harry invited him?---Yeah.

I see.

MR DARAMS: Just before we - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: And do you know why Harry invited him?---As a friend.

10 As a friend?---Uh-huh.

So they had developed a friendship, had they?---Looks like or I won't invite someone I don't know to come to my wedding, right?

Yes, Mr - - -

MR DARAMS: Just one question that's related. Did you tell Harry, Mr Huang, that Mr Tsirekas wanted to come to his wedding?---I can't remember but if they knew each other, I can't remember - - -

20

No. I'm just asking about what you did.---I can't remember.

Is that something that it was likely that you would have done something like that?---I cannot remember.

But that would be a memorable thing, wouldn't it, if you had done that, that is, told Mr Huang that he should invite, sorry, tell, you told Mr Huang that Mr Tsirekas wanted to go to his wedding, you would remember that, wouldn't you?---I cannot remember, sorry.

30

THE COMMISSIONER: We might draw stumps. Ms Li, it will be necessary for you to return tomorrow morning for a 10 o'clock start, so could you please be here at 10 o'clock?---Tomorrow, as well?

Tomorrow.---For how long?

I can't tell you how long, I'm afraid, but you can speak to Commission officers and they might be able to give you some idea as to how long you might be required, so - - -?---Can, can I schedule to Thursday?

40

Sorry?---Can I schedule to Thursday?

I'm sorry? I can't hear you.---Can I change from Wednesday to Thursday?

No, I'm afraid not. I'm afraid not. I'll adjourn at this stage.

MR DARAMS: May it please.

THE WITNESS STOOD DOWN

[3.05pm]

10

AT 3.05PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY

[3.05pm]