

# Johore MB: We did not appoint any agent

Investments Ltd was willing to have 50 per cent equity investment in the project.

The joint venture partners would be Umno and the Johore Government.

Datuk Junus Sudin, former Fleet Holdings chairman, explains the receipt of \$500,000 and the sale of a flat in London by Fleet Group.

He says the money was received as part of a \$1 million investment which he invested for and on behalf of Gainpoint Investments Ltd (GPI), a company registered in Hong Kong.

In his meeting with the committee of inquiry on Oct 9, 1984 he was given documents executed in Hong Kong, bearing the Carrion Holdings Ltd (CHL) letterhead.

One was a pay order to him for \$500,000 and the other, a Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation form applying for a \$500,000 telegraphic transfer to him on behalf of GPI.

"I told the committee I was surprised that my name was mentioned in the pay order as I knew nothing about it.

"So far as I was concerned, this should not be in CHL's account as I was not accountable to CHL but to GPI, hence my remarks on this matter as contained in the extracts.

"Further, there was no indication that the money was transmitted by CHL nor did I have any reason to inquire where it originated from."

Regarding the sale of the flat, he says Fleet Holdings, of which he

was chairman at that time, originally bought one flat at Wilton Street. The place was subsequently considered too small for staff use.

Fleet bought a second flat and decided to sell the first flat to Gedling Ltd, a company registered in Hong Kong.

The flat was sold for \$950,000 at a profit. The transaction was handled in London between Fleet and Gedling lawyers.

Datuk Junus says: "I was not involved in the finalisation of the details which I left to my officers.

"I regret that my name has been included in the reports of the committee suggesting my involvement in the BMF affair, which I hereby categorically deny.

"I do not know nor did I have any connection with either Carrion or BMF, nor do I personally benefit from the two transactions."

The firm of Deacons in Hong Kong, acting for Gainpoint, in a letter to Datuk Junus (reproduced in an appendix) on Dec 24, 1981, confirms the despatch of the final balance of \$500,000 of capital investment.

Datuk Mohamed Desa Pachi, present Chairman/Group Chief Executive of Fleet Group, also confirms the sale of the flat to Gedling for \$950,000 in November 1981.

Datuk Mohamed Desa also states that Fleet Group had no dealings with Knife and Dagger (a George Tan company) or Silver Present (a company owned by former

BBMB executive director Datuk Mohamed Hashim Shamsuddin).

Senator Tan Sri C. Selvarajah, businessman and lawyer, says: "I informed the Ahmad Noordin committee that my law firm received three remittances in the sums of \$4.5 million, \$3 million and \$5 million respectively between July and December 1980 from Maritano Investments Ltd of Hong Kong."

The money was paid into the firm's account for the credit of the Aspara Group (owned by Lorrain) and disbursed according to instructions from time to time.

"I declined at that time to give further information as to the details of the disbursements as my client had not waived the privilege which existed between him and I in respect of solicitor/client relationship.

"On Jan 20, 1986 Mr Justice Harun Hashim lifted the privilege and ordered me to disclose such information as I had in answer to questions put by counsel for the Hong Kong Government.

"My deposition is now in the hands of the court. Other than what I have stated to the court, I have no personal knowledge of Maritano Investments Ltd or its beneficial owner or owners.

"I wish to state categorically that my involvement in all these matters was purely in the capacity of a solicitor acting for his client in accordance with specific instructions received from the client and no more."

Tan Sri Selvarajah further denies any knowledge or connection with two companies — Tiverley Links & Felluca Lines and Twincrest.

"I have never been and am not a director subscriber or shareholder in any of them as I have stated in my testimony in court."

The Ahmad Noordin Committee refers in a brief: "We note that in the resolution passed by Twincrest for the opening of a bank account in Hong Kong, the appointed signatory was C. Selvarajah and the personal solicitor of LEO (Lorrain Esme Osman)."

Tan Sri Selvarajah says this statement is totally erroneous as "I am not associated with either the company and the signatures are not mine.

"I am advised that I may have legal remedies open to me on these allegations.

"The signatures appearing for the opening of their bank account in Hong Kong and the power of attorney are not mine.

"I first came to know of these matters when Mr C.K. Yeoh of Ms Chooi & Co who are acting for the Hong Kong Government raised this question before the court.

"The committee of which Mr Chooi Mun Sou is a member, had at no time referred to or asked me any question in respect of the same and had never asked me to confirm whether the signatures referred to were mine or not."

Mr Chooi Mun Sou, the

senior partner of Chooi & Co, is a member of the Ahmad Noordin committee, Tan Sri Selvarajah says.

He adds that he is greatly disturbed that the committee appears to have assumed that he is the "personal solicitor" of Lorrain.

"In fact I have acted for LEO from time to time in a number of matters during the several years when I was practising as an advocate and solicitor but it is not correct to say that I am LEO's personal solicitor.

"Again I am advised that innuendos arising from this statement may be actionable."

He also says that the confidentiality of an interview he had with the committee had become the subject of an interview by the committee to a local newspaper.

"This interview, I am advised, also contains innuendos which may be actionable."

Lawyers J.J. Puthuchery and K. Anantham have a joint response. They state they have replied to an inquiry by the committee regarding Rudah (M) Sdn Bhd, formerly known as Siew Lam Koong Sdn Bhd.

They say they know nothing of the background or the circumstances of the payment of \$1.5 million to the company nor the purpose of the payment.

"Some time before July 15, 1982 we (Skrine & Co) were instructed by a Singapore legal firm Advani Hoo Morris and Kumar to purchase a shell company in Malaysia.

"We bought the company Siew Lam Koong (M) Sdn Bhd. On Sept 9 we were given a certificate of change of name from Siew Lam Koong to Rudah Sdn Bhd.

"On July 15, 1982 two partners of Skrine, namely J.J. Puthuchery and K. Anantham, substituted Ngan Sew Thee and Kwan Tan Mui as directors."

On Aug 16, 1982 the partners resigned and appointed Yong Chong Hee and Yong Chong Wai as directors who passed a resolution that day to open an account in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in Kuala Lumpur.

The two lawyers state that neither of them know anything about the transfer of funds into the company's account at the HSBC in Kuala Lumpur.

In his letter, Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, the Treasury's Secretary-General, makes it clear that the Malaysian Government had never proposed the purchase of Gammon House and had never appointed anyone to be an agent for the purported transaction.

The only building the Government purchased was Lap Heng Building on Feb 14, 1980. The sale was concluded on June 30, 1980.

The purchase including procedure is set out in detail in two appendices to the White Paper.