

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.
WEDNESDAY.

SO, MISTER CHING, I TRUST YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR TIME IN OUR FAIR COUNTRY?

THIS IS FRANCIS WAI-HONG CHING, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CHINGCORP.



THE TRUTH, MISTER SAFIN?

OF COURSE, MY FRIEND.

FRANKLY I FIND YOUR CITY AND ITS PEOPLE QUITE DISTASTEFUL.

AND I WORRY THAT I WILL NEVER GET THE STENCH OF KABUL OFF OF MY CLOTHES.

<IRIS, TEA.>>

ONE OF THE SECRETS OF MY EMPLOYER'S SUCCESS IS THAT HE'S WILLING TO GO TO PLACES THAT OTHERS WON'T DARE.

THAT FEARLESS PHILOSOPHY HAS HELPED BUILD CHINGCORP INTO A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION WITH OFFICES ON SIX DIFFERENT CONTINENTS.



MY EMPLOYER.



HAHAHA! YOU'RE AN ENTERTAINING MAN, MISTER CHING. I BELIEVE I SHALL ENJOY DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE MANDARIN.



TEA, MISTER SAFIN?

NO. BUT I MUST ASK YOU, MISTER CHING...

...AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED FOR YOUR SECURITY? KABUL IS HARDLY A SAFE PLACE FOR BUSINESSMEN SUCH AS YOURSELF WHERE IS YOUR PROTECTION?

MISTER SAFIN, I TRY TO ONLY DO BUSINESS WITH MEN OF VIRTUE, SUCH AS YOURSELF



CH-RIK
CH-RIK
WELL, I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, MISTER CHING. BUT AFTER DOING SOME RESEARCH, I'VE FOUND THAT YOU'RE MORE VALUABLE AS A HOSTAGE THAN A BUSINESS PARTNER.



<YOU SEE, IRIS? YOU'VE LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON TODAY.>

<NEVER TRUST A BUSINESS ASSOCIATE WHO REJECTS AN OFFER OF TEA.>

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

NO MATTER.

<YOU MAY PROCEED, IRIS.>



I ASKED YOU A QUESTION.

WHXX

MY PRIMARY TASK IS TO ENSURE HIS SAFETY.

THUMP



AND I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.





MISTER SAFIN, I HOPE YOU WILL RECONSIDER MY COMPANY'S GENEROUS OFFER.

I'M A PATIENT MAN, BUT EVEN I HAVE LIMITS...





LOS ANGELES, FRIDAY.

AND LASTLY, AS YOU CAN SEE ON YOUR CHARTS, OUR LATEST TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA WILL ALLOW US UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO THOSE REGIONS.

PERIODICALLY, MY EMPLOYER MAKES HIS PRESENTATION TO HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAMS ARE ALREADY EN ROUTE TO THE REGION, BUT EVEN CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES ARE SHOWING OVER 4 BILLION CUBIC CENTIMETERS OF NATURAL GAS DEPOSIT--

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RISK... SIR?

MISTER CHU?

...I JUST FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN ARE... UH... TOO UNSTABLE FOR US TO COMMIT SO MANY RESOURCES.

ALAN CHU, A SENIOR EXECUTIVE FROM NEW YORK, OFTEN PAYS TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO MY EMPLOYER'S ACTIVITIES.



OTHERS PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION...



...TO ME.



PERHAPS WE SHOULD PUT SUCH AN IMPORTANT VENTURE TO A BOARD VOTE, UH... SIR.

I APPRECIATE THE INPUT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD, MISTER CHU.

LET US TABLE YOUR SUGGESTION AND TAKE IT UP MONDAY, ALL RIGHT?



MEETING ADJOURNED, GENTLEMEN.



HEY!



UM, IRIS, RIGHT?

YES?

HEY I'M--

DENNIS RUCKER. VIRGINIA TECH GRADUATE. EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE SINCE THAT UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT DURING THAT VACATION IN PANAMA CITY--

HAHA. OKAY, I GET IT. WOW, CHING REALLY DOES KEEP TABS ON US, HUH?

WELL, THEN YOU MUST ALSO KNOW THAT I'M SINGLE AND, WELL, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT SOMETIME?

NO, THANK YOU.

WAIT! I KNOW. POLICYRIGHT? WELL, LISTEN, WE DON'T NEED TO CALL IT A DATE OR ANYTHING.



I JUSTUH, HAVE SOME IDEAS TO HELP THE COMPANY AND I'D LIKE TO RUN THEM BY YOU BEFORE I PRESENT THEM TO MISTER CHING.

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON HE'S CLOSE TO.



UH, HEY CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYING, RIGHT?



IRIS
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