

Part III

**HOW MANY RED FACES ARE THERE IN EXCHANGE SQUARE ?
CONCORD STAR FAILS TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO MPF**

Concord Star Enterprises Ltd, the operator of the 5 food outlets in Exchange Square, 3 outlets of which are, supposedly, closed for 'renovation', has failed to make any contribution to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) in accordance with The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance, Chapter 485 of the Laws of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

According to Ms Monique Kong, Community Relations Assistant, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, the maximum fine for a company/individual, found guilty of the offence of willfully failing to make the mandatory contribution to the MPF is \$HK10,000 and 6 months in prison.

According to TARGET's information, Concord Star has not paid its contribution to the MPF since March, this year.

In February, Concord Star paid \$HK30,192.43 as its contribution to the MPF, but, since then, a number of the company's staff has either been fired or resigned, for one reason or another.

That being the case, it is difficult for TARGET to know how much is the delinquent/default contribution to the MPF by Concord Star.

What TARGET has confirmed, however, is that Concord Star did deduct staff contributions to the MPF, regardless as to the manner of the departure of staff members.

But those contributions and the statutory contributions from the company have not been sent to American International Insurance (AIA), the Registered Manager of the MPF.

TARGET contacted Ms Aubrey Wong, Senior Officer, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, whose name was supplied by Ms Monique Kong, in order to ascertain whether or not an investigation has been launched into this matter.

Ms Wong said that she would get back to TARGET after obtaining approval (from her superiors, it is assumed) to permit the release of the information because such information is confidential between the complainant and the MPF Schemes Authority.

Whether or not Concord Star has paid a staff member for any month/period, as long as that staff member is still in its employ, the company is bound to pay its contribution to the MPF in accordance with the terms and conditions, expressed or implied, in the contract of employment between the staff member and the company.

TARGET has, also, confirmed that many of the former and existing staff members of Concord Star have not been paid since March 31, 2001.

Reports have been confirmed to have been made to The Labour Department about this matter.

Last Thursday afternoon, a group of 11, former staff members made a formal complaint to The Labour Department about the situation, following The Labour Relations Service, inviting an official of Concord Star to

attend the meeting in order to permit this HKSAR Governmental department to act as mediator between irate staff and management.

Concord Star failed to send anybody to attend the meeting.

Mr Jean-Philippe F. Durieux Talks

Mr Jean-Philippe F. Dureiux, newly appointed Operations Manager, Concord Star, spoke to TARGET, last Friday, and said that the 3 food outlets, that had been closed, would be re-opened in due course.

Though Mr Jean-Philippe F. Dureiux would not state the date of the ‘*scheduled re-opening*’ of the 3 food outlets, which were closed on May 21 – the Net Seafood, Exchange Bar and Exchange Restaurant – he explained that the reason that there was no appearance of anybody, executing renovations, was due to the fact that the modifications to the premises were concerned with the air-conditioning system and other engineering works.

Mr Jean-Philippe F. Durieux, also, said that some of the documents in TARGET’s possession should not have been released and published -- because they were ‘*confidential*’, for certain staff eyes’ only.

TARGET is certain that Mr Jean-Philippe F. Dureiux is correct in this respect and that TARGET’s possession of those letters is somewhat of an embarrassment to Concord Star/Mr Jean-Philippe F. Durieux.

When asked as to the reason that many of the staff members had not been paid, Mr Jean-Philippe F. Durieux said that there were reasons for this.

He refused to state more than that.

TARGET, also, contacted a shareholder of Cantina Holdings Ltd, ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

For further information about Concord Star, please see TARGET Intelligence Report, [Volume III, Number 89, published on May 16, 2001](#), and [Volume III, Number 94, published on May 23, 2001](#)

While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published, TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.

If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in TARGET, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com or targnews@hkstar.com. TARGET does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.