FORMER DIRECTOR OF CHINADOTCOM ACCUSED OF CHICANERY: DAVID JOHN MOORE SAID TO HAVE POCKETED \$HK205 MILLION

A stand-up fight has broken out in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) between Chinadotcom Corporation and its former Director, Mr David John Moore, with suggestions that Mr David John Moore made *'secret profits'* of about \$HK204.67 million (about \$US26.24 million).

Chinadotcom Corporation, which is a NASDAQ-listed company, has filed High Court Action, Number 1504, naming Mr David John Moore as the lone Defendant.

In addition to Chinadotcom, issuing Proceedings against Mr David John Moore as the First Plaintiff, its subsidiary, Mezzo Marketing Ltd, formerly known as 24/7 Media Asia Ltd, is named as the Second Plaintiff to the Action.

With regard to Mezzo Marketing Ltd, when it was known as 24/7 Media, Mr David John Moore was said to be its Chief Executive Officer.

It is, also, alleged that he held a considerable number of shares in this company, which, in turn, held shares in publicly listed Chinadotcom Corporation.

According to the Statement of Claim, attached to the Writ of Summons, between November 2000 and February 2001, the number of shares, held by 24/7 Media in Chinadotcom, fell from 4,863,012 shares to 489,112 shares.

The sales of these 4,373,900 shares resulted in the share price of Chinadotcom, falling from about \$US7 (about \$HK54.60) to about \$US4.44 (about \$HK34.63), it is being alleged.

Taking a median price of \$US6 per Chinadotcom share, it means that the disposal of the 4,373,900 shares in this NASDAQ company grossed about \$US26.24 million (about \$HK204.67 million), according to TARGET's calculations.

The Claims of Chinadotcom

Chinadotcom, the First Plaintiff to the Action, alleges that it is in the business of offering, inter alia, 'electronic and web-based business solutions, web-portals, electronic and web-based marketing services and providing a range of Internet services ...'. (Paragraph 1(2) of the Statement of Claim)

Central management of this company is located in the HKSAR.

The Second Plaintiff, Mezzo Marketing Ltd, is a subsidiary of the First Plaintiff.

24/7 Real Media Incorporated, formerly known as 24/7 Media Incorporated, a US-domiciled company, is a minority shareholder of Mezzo Marketing Ltd. (Paragraph 2 (2))

Mezzo Marketing's main business is said to be 'providing electronic and web-based marketing services and the selling of services through on-line marketing.' (Paragraph 2 (3))

Mr David John Moore was, between June 24, 1999 and November 22, 2000, 'one of the directors of the 1st Plaintiff.' (Paragraph 4 (1))

Mr David John Moore was, also, between December 31, 1998 and March 18, 2002, 'one of the directors of the 2^{nd} Plaintiff.' (Paragraph 4 (2))

As for 24/7 Media, it is alleged that Mr David John Moore 'is and was at all material times a Director, the Chief Executive Officer and a substantial shareholder ...'. (Paragraph 4 (3))

The Statement of Claim makes allegations that Mr David John Moore breached his duty of fidelity in 24/7 Media, which is spelled out in Paragraph 7 of the Statement of Claim.

It is alleged that the functionality of certain of the Chinadotcom's subsidiary's products were sadly lacking, but that fact was not conveyed to any great extent, if at all, to the Board of Directors of the publicly listed company, in timely fashion.

It is alleged that Mr David John Moore failed ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

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