ARNHOLD HOLDINGS LTD: CHAIRMAN MICHAEL JOHN GREEN'S COMPANY GETS SUED FOR \$HK4 MILLION

Is There More To This Than Meets The Eye?

<u>Arnhold Holdings Ltd</u> (Code: 102, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) has received a claim from one of its subcontractors for near enough to \$HK4 million.

This is the fifth claim, filed against Arnhold Holdings or one or more of its subsidiaries since the beginning of this year.

Whereas, it is known that the beneficial owner of the lion's share of the Issued and Fully Paid-Up Share Capital of this publicly listed company is one of the richest Jewish gentlemen of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), at the same time, the frequency of claims, lodged in various Courts of the HKSAR, must fast becoming an eye-opener for a number of people.

For what reason, one might reasonably ask, would Mr Michael John Green, the Chairman of Arnhold Holdings and a close friend of Mr Michael Kadoorie, the Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd (Code: 45, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) allow his company's soiled linen to be hung out on the line in the open where everybody and his cat may view it?

Could the answer be, of course: Chairman Michael John Green has no option in the matter?

On September 9, 2004, Arnhold Holdings gave the bad news to its shareholders in respect of the financial results for the first half of this Financial Year, ended June 30, 2004.

The Interim Results were a Loss Attributable to Shareholders of about \$HK1.86 million.

That Loss Attributable to Shareholders was on a Turnover of about \$HK153.71 million.

For the corresponding period, the Turnover was about \$HK173.63 million, with the Bottom Line, coming in at a Loss Attributable to Shareholders of about \$HK4.10 million.

And, now, Glory Engineering and Trading Ltd has issued Proceedings in the HKSAR Court, claiming about \$HK3.71 million from Arnhold and Company Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Arnhold Holdings Ltd.

According to High Court Action Number 2290, Glory Engineering was a sub-contractor of Arnhold and Company Ltd in respect of 8 projects in the HKSAR.

These projects, relating to air-conditioning systems and mechanical ventilation systems, were allegedly executed between June 2001 and January 2004, according to the Statement of Claim, attached to Writ of Summons, Number 2290.

The 8 projects were, allegedly, all completed and, on August 29, 2003, Glory Engineering issued its Statement of Account in the amount of \$HK3,848,135 to Arnhold and Company Ltd. (Paragraph 3 of the Statement of Claim)

Paragraph 4 of the Statement of Claim, then, alleges:

'The Defendant (Arnhold and Company Ltd) returned the Statement of Account to the Plaintiff (Glory Engineering) under cover of its letter dated 1st September 2003 with its comment marked thereon regarding the payment as claimed by the Plaintiff ("the Revised Statement"). The Revised Statement showed that :-

- (1) a total of outstanding payment for the Projects (excluding variation orders but including the retention money) was HK\$1,173,937.76;
- (2) the Variation Orders in respect of the Ma On Shan Project, Tuen Mun Project, Waterloo Road Project and Nga Tsin Wai Road Project were under assessment;
- (3) the contract work for the Discovery Bay Project was still not yet certified.'

On May 3, 2004, Glory Engineering demanded immediate payment in the sum of \$HK1,173,937.76 from Arnhold and Company Ltd plus a provision for assessment of the value of the Variation Orders within 7 days from May 3, 2004.

Arnhold and Company Ltd ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

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