

COMMISSIONER PSUL SLOWE: Reporting this morning as I indicated yesterday would be Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Ramnarine. Morning Mr. . Ramnarine, what do you swear by?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RAMNARINE: The Bible sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: The evidence you're about to give shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God.

AC RAMNARINE: I do Sir

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Let me just advice the proceedings are being recorded so there's no need for you to as is customary pause to allow for the adjudicator to write so it can just flow with your story when the time comes. I should also advise that if during the course of this Commission during the course of your endings any questions is asked of you the answer to which you feel might be revealing sensitive and secretive information of a national security nature you can indicate you are not compel to answer here in this public setting, you can indicate and I will determine how to purse that particular question. So we are not asking you to reveal anything of a national security nature. All that being; said for the record you are?

AC RAMNARINE: David Ramnarine, Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the Office of Deputy Commission Administration, Guyana Police Force situated at the Commission office Eve Leary.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: you know you were summoned to give evidence before this Commission in relation to the alleged plot to assassinate the President please tell the Commission what you know of this matter.

AC RAMNARINE: Morning everyone, during the 15th of February to the 31st of March, 2017. I was acting Commissioner of Police as the Commissioner of Police Mr. . Seelall Persaud was on annual vacation leave. On the 29th of March Wednesday 2017 I was in office sometime about 10 the Crime Chief Senior Superintendent Blanhum called me and he said sir I have to report a matter in which one Andriff Gillard is indicating

that sometime in the month of June 2015 he was approached by one Nizaam Khan of Grove on the East Bank to engage in an act to do with the assassination of his Excellency President of the Co-operative Republic Guyana. The Crime Chief further indicated to me that it was to be done according to Gillard before his Excellency moved from his Private Residence to State House. Also Andriff Gillard and Nizaam Khan against who he was making the allegation we're very good friends as they had established a relationship sometime since the Year 2005 Gillard according to record was some taxi driver own some small whatever and Nizaam Khan operated a spare parts and had some other business in Grove. He further indicated to me that Is the Crime Chief that there were no Witnesses to this conversation between Nizaam Khan and Gillard and to say that Gillard apparently managed to purchase a home which had caused him 12 million dollars and needed an additional six million dollars to complete that engagement. He had approached Nizaam Khan and Khan said to him well I am not going to give you the money in the sense that you are burrowing it for me but I'll give you and you won't have to give me back but there's some thing my people want to be done so Gillard according to the Crime Chief claimed that he asked Nizaam Khan what is it you would like to be done? or what is it these people would like to be done? and he said I want you to assassinate the President. According to the Crime Chief Gillard claimed that he refused and he said at the time when himself and Nizaam Khan were in Nizaam Khan house they were alone, there were no phone calls no recordings and that Nizaam Khan had a long gun with him he maintained that he refused and he left. Since then that engagement allegedly in June 2015 between himself and Nizaam Khan he had further reported to CID headquarters that he had received very adverse attention from Nizaam Khan to the extent that Gillard was living in a place and his home wasn't completed and someone had purchased that place and Gillard was of the opinion Nizaam Khan was the person behind the court matter; which would have eventually lead to him Gillard's eviction among other things. and Gillard would have made alot of reports against Nizaam Khan at Grove Police station but he wasn't really getting anywhere. I instructed the Crime Chief I said notwithstanding that this appears to have its origin some one year and three quarter in June 2015. This concerns the head of state and you're to spare no effort to launch immediately a thorough investigation into the facts and circumstances and to keep me posted. I made some notes in my note pad during the conversation in

terms of reporting from the Crime Chief, I immediately called for the Honorable Minister Winston Felix who was holding the brief for The Honorable Minister of Public Security who was out of the jurisdiction on duty. I did not get through to Honorable Minister Felix I subsequently contacted the Minister of State, Honorable Joseph Harmon gave him a brief based on the brief given to me by the Crime Chief the Minister acknowledged. Sometime about 16 hours that afternoon on that very day the 29th Crime Chief informed me Nizaam Khan had been arrested and they were proceeding with the investigations I said ok. About 10 hours that evening while at home I received a call which indicated to me that his Excellency wanted a brief at State House at (inaudible) during the next day that would have been the 30th Thursday the 30th. I immediately contacted the Crime Chief and the head of (inaudible) branch for updates including whatever background information we would have thus far garnered about the two Central characters at this point in time that is Gillard and Nizaam Khan and I learnt at that point in time we hadn't any information suggesting they were dishonorable characters or had a bad reputation. The next morning about 5:30 a.m. On the 30th the Crime Chief with his usual responsibility was reporting to me the Crime situation in the country and in that reporting period I asked him what is the position with the person who was arrested the afternoon before in connection with this alleged plot to assassinate his Excellency? He said the person would have to return today I said how come wasn't he in custody yesterday afternoon and he said he was released I was surprised I asked him under whose instruction he said his instructions because he does not believe the story by Andriff Gillard I said okay please keep me posted if he returns. I left and I gave a brief at Statehouse to his Excellency given What preliminary information we had at that point in time. And I assure his Excellency that his safety will continue to be executed by the Guyana Police Force and the elements who were stationed at the Presidential Guard notwithstanding the fact his Excellency that this matter had originated in 2015 we have to get to the bottom of it. His Excellency asked me to submit a short report to him based on what we had so far. I returned to office and I held a meeting which is known as the performance group meeting of the Guyana Police Force which is (inaudible) by divisional branch Commander I made brief remarks with not wanting to disclose too much about this current matter we are investigating. After I got an update from the Crime Chief in the afternoon that Nizaam Khan had returned to the

station during the day because the statement from Gillard was several pages long there were now issues to clear up and he had returned and was assisting them in the investigation. On Friday morning he gave me a further update to the extent there were some names mentioned by Gillard and they have some more work to do, I told him to keep me posted. The Friday evening I enquired from the head of special branch whether there was any further information which would suggest any bad reputation or any improvements on the situation we had before with the two characters and he indicated not at this point in time. On Saturday, 1st April the Commissioner of Police Mr. Seelall Persaud resumed duty and I briefed the Commissioner on the telephone from my home on important matters that would have occurred and that I would've taken decisions on and directed actions including the alleged plot to assassinate his Excellency was being investigated, the Commissioner acknowledge. I also informed the Commissioner that his Excellency had requested a short report i was in the process of preparing such I was not completed because I was awaiting some information from CID. The statements taken were not that legible the handwriting were pretty poor and I had asked them to tidy up so that I could be able to proper apprise myself in preparing the report which is understandable. The Commissioner indicated to me don't worry when you get in office send whatever you have to me and I will prepare the report. On Monday morning when I returned to office I call Commissioner through the intercom and I asked him to (inaudible) and I did and I gave him a written brief on the matters and I said this is the furthest I would have gone and the report I would have prepared and he said he would've sent the report. On my return to office I called his Excellency (inaudible) and I indicated to him I said can you please inform his Excellency that on Thursday he had asked me to prepare a report and the fact that Commissioner resume Duty on Saturday I advised Commissioner and Commissioner had indicated to me that he would submit the report. Thereafter I discharged my duty as (inaudible) and sometime in the month of May Commissioner proceeded on two overseas engagements and I was again acting. At one of the security meetings I attended when as reporting as a matter on the agenda I was reporting giving an update on the probe being made the alleged plot to assassinate His Excellency. I was subjected to a number of questions and comments which caused me to realize that there was some indication about the possible involvement of Senior members of the Force in very early stages of the arrest of one Nizaam Khan was

completed against by Gillard and his brother Imran Khan. I assured (Inaudible) that I would speak immediately with the required officers and to find out who or what was happening because there were concerns that the police were being lethargic, that they were being unprofessional. I returned to office Tuesday that would have been the 16th and sometime about 10:30 that morning I summoned the Crime Chief Head Special Branch, the Assistant Commissioner of operations, the Commander of A division other Senior officers headquarters and I drew to Crime Chief head special branch and those particularly concern in the presence of the other officers the seriousness being generated to the extent that we were not pursuing with this investigation with (inaudible)that it ought to have been proceeded with and thereon I asked the Crime Chief that are you aware of the information that senior officers have made attempts or someway involved in the very early stages when Nizaam Khan was arrested? and he said to me sir I would prefer the head of special branch to indicate who the officers are I said fine. I said head of special branch who are these officers and he indicated to me Commissioner Seelall had allegedly made a call the afternoon when Nizaam Khan and Imran Khan were arrested and that the Crime Chief name was being mentioned and Assistant Superintendent Caesar from major Crimes Unit I cautioned everyone in that room that we are a professional organization and the fact that names can be called in such an important matter it challenges our professionalism and I urged everyone to redul their efforts I reminded the Crime Chief of my previous instruction to him on the morning in question that he himself must oversee such an investigation and the meeting concluded. Sometime the following week when I was again asked to attend a meeting because Commissioner was overseas and I was required to give an update in a written form to his Excellency as I prepared the report I was in the process with the then Deputy Crime Chief because the Crime Chief was on a program I asked the Deputy Crime Chief to bring to me the last bit of legal advice that we got on this matter. Because I sense the report that he was giving me was lacking something based on something I had seen before and for the first time in that bit of legal advice I saw that our police legal advisor had asked the investigators to make some inquiries into whether or not it was true or could be ascertain that Commissioner Seelall Persaud had called the afternoon on that day and given certain instructions and who he called to give instructions and how it is that the gentleman he called knew it was the Commissioner who called. I embodied that

little bit of legal advice along with all the other legal advice in my report which I submitted to his Excellency. (Inaudible) that is my recollection sir.(inaudible)

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Thank you Mr. Ramnarine, just for some clarification so you were saying that the first time you learnt of this matter was on the morning on the 29th of March.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: when Mr. Blahum the Crime Chief called you and he gave you an extensive brief about what was obtained

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: In that brief did he tell you or give you who the allegation was being made?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You told him what?

AC RAMNARINE: I told him notwithstanding that it was June 2015, this is a matter which involves the head of state and to spare no effort and he himself to personally supervise the conduct of the investigation.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: When he briefed you at that time what impression did you form in terms of the seriousness or lack of seriousness?

AC RAMNARINE: At the point in time, it was too early very much early to me to make a determination as to whether it was true or not truth and more so the fact that it was reported that they was a plot "plot" to assassinate the president it would have been early much too early more so that it had its origin allegedly in 2015 we would've had to do a lot of work a lot of work which would've been time consuming which would've helped you sometime later to make a determination as to whether it was preliminary wise any truthfulness or how strong it was.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Alright, I understand what you're saying about the truthfulness but in terms of the seriousness of the allegation did you consider it to be a serious allegation?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, very serious as it was the head of state.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: So much you instructed the Crime Chief to personally supervise the investigation and you report it upwards immediately?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: When next were you communicated to in relation to this matter?

AC RAMNARINE: Sometime in the afternoon on that very day when I was communicated to by the Crime Chief that Nizaam Khan had been arrested.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: When first you learnt that Nizaam Khan was no longer in custody?

AC RAMNARINE: The morning of the 30th the following morning when he was reporting the normal crime situation in the country.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: He told you that that this man was no longer in custody.

AC RAMNARINE: He didn't tell me I had to ask on the normal reporting I didn't hear I would have thought that this would have been the first update I would have gotten a matter involving the president, but I got the normal crime report and then I asked what's the last position with these people in connection with the investigation with his Excellency and then I was told some statement was taken he would have to return and he was released.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: So you're saying that you had to prompt or ask the Crime Chief specifically about this matter before it was told to you what had transpired.

AC RAMNARINE: That's up to the morning yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: I'm talking about the morning of the 30th.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: What did he tell you then in relation to this bail?

AC RAMNARINE: He said it was his decision, I asked really how come? who's decision was it? Who gave the instruction and he said he did. At that point in time I did not go down the road to firmly rebuke the Chief because it had become widely known that his professionalism and his competence and good judgment were at that time above board based on the work and his leadership in the CID. I said to him well you sure these people are going to return you've already released them you've made the decision and you're sure he's going to return or whoever is going to return and he said yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Calling to the evidence you were required to put up a report when were you required to do so?

AC RAMNARINE: When his Excellency..

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Which morning?

AC RAMNARINE: ...the Thursday morning.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Same 30th?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, same 30th

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: What documents were you presented?

AC RAMNARINE: At that time we basically had the two statements

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: From who?

AC RAMNARINE: ...from Andriff Gillard and Nizaam Khan at that point in time to the best of my knowledge.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Based on the two statements how would you characterize the investigation at that time in terms of progress?

AC RAMNARINE: At that point in time in terms of progress we were getting a foundation we were getting a foundation that was inconclusive that is to say whether Gillard was really lying or fabricating something or whether Khan was completely innocent.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: About what time these documents would have been presented to you for you to submit for you to compile your report. On what time in the 30th.

AC RAMNARINE: That would've been sometime after I finished the performance meeting after lunch.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Sometime after lunch on that day I asked for this because do you feel at that time when you got the documents after lunch and based on what you saw the statements that you saw do you feel that significant progress was made in the investigation?

AC RAMNARINE: No.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Why so?

AC RAMNARINE: The story told by Gillard had a number of twists and turns and he had gone to mention names and without contacting those names we would not have been able to say if significant progress was made.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Ok, so you thought that by 12:00 when you saw these documents no significant progress in the report. And you're saying you weren't consulted with Nizaam Khan being sent on bail?

AC RAMNARINE: No.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Would you have instructed for him to be sent on bail.

AC RAMNARINE: Absolutely not.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Why?

AC RAMNARINE: We incarcerate persons for 72 hours for far less serious offenses or allegations.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You mentioned at some stage you spoke to Mr. Das the Deputy Crime Chief being the person holding on for Mr. Blanhum

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir..

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: During the period, how often did Mr. Das briefed you or communicated to you specifically in relation to this matter

AC RAMNARINE: About two times

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: And what was the nature of the communication?

AC RAMNARINE: What progress they were making and the fact that they received legal advice to contact this person?

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You said that when you called Das at some stage you ask him the advice by the police legal advisor?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Please relate again what were some of those?

AC RAMNARINE: A matter of that nature and knowing that the file would've been sent for police legal advice previously I had contacted the police legal advisor who indicated to me that seeing something in the statements to the effect that a call was made by the Commissioner allegedly made by the Commissioner who was on leave and when the preparation of the report had come to me I wasn't satisfied that the report was an act of reflection as to say it needed all bits of legal advice that we had gotten so having had her knowledge the police legal adviser had indicated something to me. I said to Mr.

Das bring the last bit of legal advice that we were given and then I said in black and white that one query to be investigated the alleged call made by the Commissioner of Police.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: That was by the Police legal advisor, in the file that you saw in the minutes?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: And was that aspect of the advice clarified?

AC RAMNARINE: I was no longer in charge at the point in time when those clarifications were made but I subsequently learnt that some amount of work was definitively staged because once Commissioner returned he's in command of the force and I'm subordinate now all of the points were cleared.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You spoke about the Commissioner return let me seek to clarify that you were acting during 13 February and the 31st of March

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: What process does that take is it a formal Handover?

AC RAMNARINE: There's no formal hand over there has never been one I'm acting for the fourth time now. The Commissioner is currently on 128 days leave. And all I know that this occasion for example which is consistent with other occasions I received a call sometime on 4:30 or Friday afternoon which indicated to me from the Commissioner I'm going on leave from tomorrow you're in charge and you must report.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: so there is no documentation to say that?

AC RAMNARINE: no never been one

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Basically you are carrying out the functions of the Commissioner

AC RAMNARINE: Well, I should've explained that prior to the Commissioner going on leave he applies to the Ministry and after consultation a formal written document comes to the Office of the Commissioner indicating that approval has been given for him to go on leave for how many days approval given for acting commissioner Ramnarine (inaudible) or act as Commissioner of Police or discharge duties the last one which came had acting Commissioner of Police

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: I am thinking that discharging the duties of Commissioner of Police and acting as Commissioner of Police there's a difference. I have carried out the functions of Commissioner of police I have never acted as Commissioner of police. I have never received a letter to act but did received letters that I would be carrying out the function. I made the distinction because if you're going to act according to public service rules there's a process to be number 2.that process was never, you were never sworn in as acting Commissioner, you were never given instrument as acting Commissioner?

AC RAMNARINE: No, what I do know is that in the month of November 2016 when Commissioner had returned and there was an issue which found itself at the Press regarding 7 or 8 junior promotions that I had done in my capacity as the acting Commissioner based on letter that the legal opinion given was that there was no need as by law it was covered that he once the Commissioner was due to return was not demitting us was not continue on issues like that then the person who would be discharging the functions or acting as the Commissioner would be fully empowered discharged as though the Commissioner was in office I saw that in black and white.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You indicated that at some stage at your performance meeting this matter was discussed

AC RAMNARINE: I wouldn't say discuss I took the opportunity to inform in very brief terms that we had a report and there was an investigation to inform the membership there.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: So it wasn't an agenda item.

AC RAMNARINE: No, it was not.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Has it ever been on the agenda for discussion?

AC RAMNARINE: No, never.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Do you consider that normal given the serious nature with your experience (inaudible)?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes what?

AC RAMNARINE: The agenda is set by the Commissioner of Police and it's basically a performance meeting which is held every fortnight in the prepping of the agenda I would discuss with the Commissioner because he would tell me what to go on the agenda and I don't recall any instance it being indicated to me that this was an intention to put on the agenda for any discussion.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: But given the serious nature of this allegation do you think it should have been there?

AC RAMNARINE: Maybe it ought to have been there?

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: (inaudible) Mr. Blanhum, on the 29th did he indicate to you how this story came to the attention of the police?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, he did indicate to me that Andriff Gillard was sent from the Ministry having gone there to meet the Honorable Minister he was told by the Minister's Confidential secretary that the Minister is out of the country and we got a call from the Minister's secretary to say they were sending over Andriff Gillard

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: when the crime Chief told you about Nizaam Khan being the person who was accused of making an offer to Gillard did you know as to who he was referring?

AC RAMNARINE: No, I don't know the individual but sometime after I learnt of the individual brother being Imran Khan. And the fact that I recall vividly seeing Imran Khan in the Commissioner's conference room at certain functions and I formed the impression that they were friends.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: They who?

AC RAMNARINE: the Commissioner and Imran Khan and that itself is public knowledge it's known almost to every member of the force who attends functions in the conference room along with other persons who are friends or acquaintance with the Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Well not any because I had attended functions there and if I saw the gentleman I don't know who he is. Just some clarifications you said that you handed over to the Commissioner on the 1st April

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: What form that was?

AC RAMNARINE: First, it was a phone call brought him up to speed with critical matters which were just a few and I said I'll submitted a written brief and I'll see him on Monday morning when I came in.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You didn't meet with him

AC RAMNARINE: I didn't meet him face to face.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You submitted a written brief?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: In that written brief did you include anything on this matter?

AC RAMNARINE:I would want to believe so

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You have any notes or records on that brief?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, I should be able to.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Can I have them as soon as the Commission is over.

AC RAMNARINE: No problem.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: To the best of knowledge and based on the instructions you gave in respect to this matter how many agencies of the force were involved in this investigation?

AC RAMNARINE: The agency that I know would've been involved at that point in time in this investigation would've been the Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch of the Guyana Police Force.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: What role did the prison guard play were they involved in the investigation at that time?

AC RAMNARINE: Not involved in the conduct of the investigation

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You mentioned that when Mr. Blanhum on the morning of the 30th told you that he Blanhum had sent Nizaam Khan on bail you formed the opinion based on his judgment at that time I think you mentioned specifically at that time I am wondering why you said at that time do you have some doubts about the judgment now?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, I do.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: You have doubt about his judgment now can you elaborate on that for me.

AC RAMNARINE: I now come to learn sometime after that he may be influenced on the very afternoon of the 29th that is to say specifically of the call allegedly made by the Commissioner who was on leave.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: So you're saying that might have influenced his judgement.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: To send the man on bail?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Do you think that's who would have influenced the way the investigation was conducted?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: So you think that because of that intervention the influence in what way did it influence the investigation into this matter, in your judgment.

AC RAMNARINE: Because of the fact of the association between the commissioner of police and Imran Khan and Nizaam Khan fundamentally so.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: let me ask you this directly because based on what you have said and based on what previous Witnesses or at least one witness has said do you think in regards, to all you know about this matter, that this matter was probably investigated?

AC RAMNARINE: taking into account all the circumstances surrounding the conduct of this investigation my sincere answer would be no.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: it was not properly done.

AC RAMNARINE: no it was not properly done

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: it was not properly investigated. Okay well let me ask you this now the next question do you and your judgment again based on all the evidence scene and all the facts that you have examined...

C if I'm me I'm getting a bit concerned . You are asking some leading questions which I don't think is permissible in a commission of inquiry and that is why it is always good for a commission to have a council who is trained in matters of evidence giving and receiving and evidence on the chairperson who then makes an independent ruling and I really do believe sir because I have great and personal respect for you my dude believe that you're crossing the line this morning.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE noted Mr. . Ram. Your concerns are noted. so you're saying that you don't think the matter was properly investigated.

AC RAMNARINE no in taking in all all that's transpired in the conduct of the investigation

COMMISSIONER SLOWE during the time that you have been carrying on or acting as commissioner from time to time you seek advice from the commissioner when he's on leave?

AC RAMNARINE In my recollection there is just a handful of instances in which I would do that and if I would explain with your permission sir the only time I seek the advice of commissioner while he's on leave is when the commissioner while on duty would have been personally involved in a matter and if it would be in the interest of the organization for which I have no knowledge and for which he had made decisions for the furtherance of the work of the force and that during the time that he was on leave the matter would have come up which would have known this acetate me to have the commissioner explain a plot which you would have gone into in the initial stages of the matter.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: so Mr. Ramnarine based on what you said I think I'll invite Mr. Chang who is representing the interests of the Guyana Police Force.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE : would you think that that tool have influenced the way the investigation was conducted

AC RAMNARINE : Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE : So you think that because of that intervention the influence, in what way it influence the investigation in to the matter?

AC RAMNARINE: Because of the fact of the association between The Commissioner of Police and Inran Khan and Nizaam Khan, fundamentally so.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Let me ask you this by (inaudible) because based on what you've said and based on what previous witnesses would have said or what one witness would have said, do you think (inaudible) that this matter was properly investigated.

AC RAMNARINE: Taking into account all circumstances surrounding the conduct of this investigation my sincere answer would be no.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE : It was not properly investigated?

AC RAMNARINE: It was not.

AC RAMNARINE: Exactly so.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Let me ask you the next question, do you in your judgment and all you've seen and (inaudible) do you believe...

MR CHRISTOPHER MR. CHRISTOPHER RAM: If I may.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes..

Mr. Christopher MR. CHRISTOPHER RAM: I'm getting a bit concerned, you're asking some (inaudible) leading questions, which I don't think is permissible in a commission of inquiry and that is why it is always for a commission to have a counsel who is trained in matters of evidence leading and evidence taking and the chairperson who then makes an independent ruling and I really do believe, sir, I do have much respect for you, I really believe that you have been crossing the line this morning

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Noted Mr. **Mr. Christopher Ram**, your concerns are noted, never the, well your points are noted.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: amm so you don't think the matter was properly investigated

AC RAMNARINE: **Yes.** I agree it did not

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: it was properly investigated

AC RAMNARINE: giving the totality of all that transpired in the conduct of the investigation

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes., now amm during the time that you have been carrying on or acting as commissioner from time to time you seek advice of guidance while the commissioneris on leave

AC RAMNARINE: my recollection there is just a handful of instances when I would do that and if I would explain to the commission sir

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes.

AC RAMNARINE: the only time I seek the advice or guidance from the commissioner while hes on leave is when the commissioner while on duty would have been personally involved in a matter in the interest of the organization for which I had no knowledge and for which he had made decisions for the furtherance of the work of the force and during the time that he'son leave the matter would have come up which would have now necessitate me to have the commissioners training of taught which he would have gone into in the initial stages of the matter

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: clear, alright Mr. Ramnarine based on what you have said I think I may invite Mr. **Mr. Chang** who's representing the interest of the Police Force, please us the mic Mr. **Chang**, the mic is far from you

Mr. Ian Chang: (Inaudible) I represent the police force .

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes..

Mr. Ian Chang: That is why (inaudible) the commissioner to have a lawyer of its own choice because I am dealing with an organization (inaudible) so you understand my position

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: The commission received a document this morning indicating that the commissioner who is coming to attend on Monday might be represented at that time.

Mr. Ian Chang: I act in the interest of the force in general.

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes. Yes.

Mr. Ian Chang: you understand

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Yes. I understand that fully Mr. **Chang**

Mr. Ian Chang: But there's one question I'd like to ask at this juncture, Mr. Ramnarine.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

Mr. Ian Chang: You said on the 30th you asked the crime chief Mr. Blahum for a report?

AC RAMNARINE: not for a report

Mr. Ian Chang: a what?

AC RAMNARINE: update on the 30th he must report to me first thing on the normal crime situation and then I was asking him how about this investigation then in the afternoon he called me and informed me about the arrest of Imran Khan

Mr. Ian Chang: I'm speaking about the 30th.

AC RAMNARINE: the 30th, a report orally, that is to say an update on the telephone, as we were talking on the telephone

Mr. Ian Chang: And you were talking on the telephone?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes. We were talking on the telephone.

Mr. Ian Chang: and from the report it was then you learnt that Khan was released

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

Mr. Ian Chang: (inaudible) you said he give you a brief on the general crime situation in the country, and it during that report that you learnt that Khan was released.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir., we were talking with each other, Yes, during that period.

Mr. Ian Chang: at this juncture I think I (inaudible) I should not to ask no more question

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: ok, I would like to pause and give Mr. **Mr. Christopher Ram** the opportunity to ask questions, Mr. **Mr. Christopher Ram** would you like to ask questions?

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Good morning acting Commissioner Mr. Ramnarine.

AC RAMNARINE: Good morning sir.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: my name is Selwyn **Mr. Selwyn Pieters** and I'm acting for Travis Chase who is a journalist for HGPTV Nightly News, the question I have pertains to a DVD that would have been provided to Assistant Commissioner James and he

reported to Travis Chase that he transmitted that DVD to the commissioner or acting Commissioner with a written memorandum, were you the person who received that DVD?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes. I do recall.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You do recall what?

AC RAMNARINE: Receiving the DVD?

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and you received a memo as well with that DVD from the assistant Commissioner?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes., I think there was a document attached, a little memo

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: And what was the forwarding memorandum have told you in respect to that DVD?

AC RAMNARINE: I don't recall I don't have it in my possession.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Where is it?

AC RAMNARINE: After it was sent to me I called the Crime Chief and I also indicated to Assistant Commissioner James that CID is conducting the investigation whatever is being in this may be helpful with the investigation and Crime Chief subsequently engaged a special branch and between two of them that document was sent over along with the Disc and would have been in their possession

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Did you keep a copy in your file?

AC RAMNARINE: No, I did not.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Did you review the DVD?

AC RAMNARINE: I did not review the DVD!

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and why didn't you review the DVD?

AC RAMNARINE: That would have been the head of CID and Special branch to review, I have the equipment in my office to view it and I think at the point in time I was preparing to go to an external engagement.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You mentioned that...

AC RAMNARINE: if I may please too sir, I called James and he told me that (inaudible) engage in the matter....

Mr. Selwyn Pieters; Very well, you also said that you received information of (inaudible) relating to The Commissioner of Police?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and you that received information on April 15th of 2017 while you had meeting in brief by senior executive within your command ?

AC RAMNARINE: no not meeting

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Sorry, I thought there was a meeting where you were meeting with your commanders and....

AC RAMNARINE: That was not disclosed there, at that meeting which I shared, I took the opportunity to update the other commanders that we have a matter under investigation where there's a report (inaudible) to assassinate the President, the names of the two Khan's were not mentioned

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: alright, when is the first time you learnt of Khan's close relationship with The Commissioner of Police

AC RAMNARINE: They are two Khans, which one are you talking about?

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: well you speak to both of them, when did you learn of his relationship with Imran Khan and the nature of that relationship with Nizaam Khan and when you learnt it?

AC RAMNARINE: in the first case the commissioner have been seen by me in the company or either way Khan in the company more than one occasion?

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: that was before the allegations were made

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters; and so you would have known that a relationship existed between the two of them

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and when you heard, when is it that you heard that the commissioner made this phone call while khan in custody

AC RAMNARINE: that would be more than a week and a half sometime in the month of April

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: right, and you learnt that he would have provided information or he would have provided instructions that facilitated the release of Mr. Khan?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes., in the form of a legal advice

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: very well, and you also testified earlier when the commissioner was questioning you that Mr. Blamum had told you that on his instructions that Mr. Khan was released?

AC RAMNARINE: Imram Khan that is, **Yes.**, well the Khans' Imran and Nizaam Khan

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: right, did you in any point in time felt having regard of the information received in respect to the commissioner was misled by the crime chief as to who would have made the order in the direction that Khan be released or the Khans' be released?

AC RAMNARINE: at that point in time I was not aware that it was the commissioner allegedly who had called

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: I appreciate that sir, when you received the information that the commissioner made the phone call having regard to the information you had already in your knowledge or possession from the crime chief, did you felt misled when he said that he ordered the release, when you now heard someone who was far higher than him and was on leave that made that decision in that direction?

AC RAMNARINE: **Yes.**, that is true, I felt very badly

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: did you take any action in respect to the crime chief because you were acting as commissioner at that point in time, did you take any action against the crime chief then or now in respect to him misleading you as to who ordered that release?

AC RAMNARINE: I did not

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and why didn't you?

AC RAMNARINE: at the point in time I trusted the judgment of the crime chief, admittedly later on I learnt that the decision to release allegedly was influenced by a phone call and some communication, at this point in time the commissioner had well resumed duties and I was no longer but I did not in all fairness exhilarate me completely from making the point whether documented or otherwise of the fact that I may have been misled

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Right and you understood even before you received the information and I will use your words about an alleged plot to assassinate the President of the cooperative republic of Guyana, you had the information in respect to the relationship between the Khan brothers and The Commissioner of Police?

AC RAMNARINE: The relationship and been seen could be construed as two different things.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Alright let's clear that up.

AC RAMNARINE: the extent of the relationship that were seen

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: alright let's that up, when you aware that they were a very close relationship between the Khans' and The Commissioner of Police (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: I think he said relationship, I can't remember the exact words that he said, the transcript will reveal but he did say there is a relationship (Inaudible).

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Let me ask you this, in respect to Imran Khan, were you ever advised that their was a close relationship between Imran Khan and the commissioner of police .

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: in respect to Imran Khan were you ever advised that their was a close relationship between the two of them?

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: were you ever advise at any point that there is a business relationship between Imran Khan and The Commissioner of Police?

AC RAMNARINE: I learnt a while after the investigation had commenced

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: when did you learn that there was a built relationship between Imran Khan and The Commissioner of Police?

AC RAMNARINE: I learnt sometime late in the month of April, that their appears to be some sort of business relationship, I don't know any other information, I can only say what I heard

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: did you take steps to ascertain the nature of that relationship

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: did you report above the commissioner to anyone about that relationship or about the information you received?

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: why not

AC RAMNARINE: the very nature of the role and functions and the commander of the force must not (inaudible) me to anyone

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: No, there's an issue where there an ethical or legal issue that involved the commissioner, you have a duty to act sir, don't you?

AC RAMNARINE: Not to the extent that the commissioner is in office.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You can speak to the Minister, can you not speak to the Minister if there's an issue?

AC RAMNARINE: I do but it depends what is the issue

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Where their's an issue that compromises the integrity of the commissioner you could speak to someone above the commissioner.

AC RAMNARINE: only if the information is holy and soly authentic

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: I will suggest to you that the information was authentic.

AC RAMNARINE: I don't necessarily agree.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You had information that the commissioner was on leave and made a phone call that influenced your officers involving a very serious allegation that touches a national security of life of the president of the republic .

AC RAMNARINE: I informed in writing the appropriate authority, what saw in a legal advice which purports that the commissioner while on leave had made a call some weeks ago in this investigation.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: and given the information you received regardless of whether (inaudible), you would agree that an apprehension of bias could be perceived and not necessary actual, perception matters

AC RAMNARINE: Yes. it does.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: in this case (inaudible) commissioner of police there's a perception that there's a close relationship with the commissioner and at least one or both of the Khan's brothers, isn't it a situation where you should have at least protected the integrity of the investigation deal with that perception of bias.

AC RAMNARINE: That is information that was in the public domain and known authorities.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You took no steps to act on that information, did you?

AC RAMNARINE: Not personally.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: You were and still remain the second highest ranking officer in the Guyana Police Force..

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: ...and if the commissioner is unethical or acting unethical you have a duty to act, don't you?

AC RAMNARINE: Not in all instances.

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: I will suggest to you in all instances to protect the integrity of the force and the person serving to you, and the public perception.

AC RAMNARINE: Suggestion noted sir

Mr. Selwyn Pieters: Thank you Mr. Chairman those are my questions

Mr. Ian Chang: You said you spoke to Mr.and you saw a man in the commissioners conference room?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

Mr. Ian Chang: Have you ever seen Nizaam Khan with the commissioner?

AC RAMNARINE: No, I have not.

Mr. Ian Chang: You have never seen Nizaam Khan with the commissioner?

AC RAMNARINE: No.

Mr. Ian Chang: Maybe I know Mr. Ramnarine, do I know your brother, if you have one ?

COMMISSIONER SLOWE: Mr. Mr. Christopher Ram

Mr. Christopher Ram: Mr. Ramnarine good morning sir.

AC RAMNARINE: good morning

Mr. Christopher Ram: I may not have heard if this question was answered, did you submit a written statement to the commission?

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Christopher Ram: why not? were you requested to do so by the commission?

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Christopher Ram: did you see it necessary to do so

AC RAMNARINE: if so requested, I would do that

Mr. Christopher Ram: and you didn't see it necessary to do one on your own initiative?

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Christopher Ram: you said that the person who reported the plot, spoke adverse attempt, did you enquire what that adverse attention was?

AC RAMNARINE: let say he had gone to the police station particularly at Grove to do complaints (inaudible)

Mr. Christopher Ram: do you consider that sir as adverse attention?

AC RAMNARINE: in the sense that if they were to take the right course of action, the professionalism of the force would be maintained and when they don't take the correct course of action and treat all reports in the manner they ought to be treated, it does bring adverse remarks and complaints and it will be harmful to the image of the force when they don't respond professionally

Mr. Christopher Ram: but this was a different issue sir, you're changing your story from the image of the force to the adverse attention to the complainant

AC RAMNARINE: when I say adverse attention, I think I was speaking in general terms, im not personalizing it that is to say

Mr. Christopher Ram: you wish to restate for the benefits of the records what you would said

AC RAMNARINE: that would be ok

Mr. Christopher Ram: what would be ok

AC RAMNARINE: the information that I would have speak on is in general terms and that I would have explained that when a report is made at the station and ranks do not take the proper course of action or not given proper information it does bring about

Mr. Christopher Ram: so this has nothing to do with the particular complaint and the complainant

AC RAMNARINE: no

Mr. Christopher Ram: thank you sir, you have been a policeman for I think decades

AC RAMNARINE: 27 years

Mr. Christopher Ram: could you say a delayed reporting of any matter would be of some interest to an investigator?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: and how would you rate a delay of an investigation of a complaint on an incident as you say took place 21 months earlier

AC RAMNARINE: It raises a lot of tense immediately, verbosity, you deal with impact, if it's not a recent matter or weather one year and something ago, what is going on here, what interest does it serve, is it real and particularly from a the background where the two characters in question that is Gillard and Nizaam Khan, had a close relationship, they lived next door to each other, it raises a host of questions, it puts you in the thinking

Mr. Christopher Ram:and as the Deputy Commissioner of police and from time to time persons ordered to take out the functions of commissioner of police, can you say whether you know Mr. Gillard had any brushes with the law?

AC RAMNARINE: At that time it was reported to me that he haven't and that's when he made the complaint for the allegation and some weeks after when a request was made of me by an authority for what you would call background checks to be done and submitted, I also observed on the written form that he may have been charged with traffic violation, not any criminal

Mr. Christopher Ram: That's the only one you are aware of.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: that information you are relaying would be official information from the police records

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

Mr. Christopher Ram: You indicated significant surprise about the release options against 1 I was home a report was made and another in relation to an incident at CID headquarters, did you enquire of the circumstances of the other incidents involving Mr. Imran Khan.

AC RAMNARINE: which other incident sir?

Mr. Christopher Ram: You said he was arrested and taken into custody on the 9th March.

AC RAMNARINE: Nizaam Khan.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Ok, thank you, you were at that stage acting as The Commissioner of Police.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes sir.

Mr. Christopher Ram: if someone is releases and in your judgment that person poses a threat to any issue concerning security tampering (inaudible) with evidence, was it your power to order the re arrest of the person.

AC RAMNARINE: not in the circumstances

Mr. Christopher Ram: Is it in your power or any circumstances to order the re arrest of anyone.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: So you could have done it in this case?

AC RAMNARINE: I would have not ordered the re arrest in this case based on the explanation

Mr. Christopher Ram: You could have done it? That's my question.

AC RAMNARINE: No

Mr. Christopher Ram: why not?

AC RAMNARINE: I didn't see the need to do it, based on the information given to me by the crime chief

Mr. Christopher Ram: im saying you had power to do it

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: but you did not do it

AC RAMNARINE: there was no need for me to do it

Mr. Christopher Ram: you said that your instruction to the crime chief was that no efforts were to be spared, is that correct?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes. that's correct.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Can you tell the commission whether efforts were spared in the carrying out of those investigation.

AC RAMNARINE: What I learnt after about a phone call.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Can you answer my question **Yes.** or no, and then you provide the explanation after

AC RAMNARINE: In totality not every, there was lacking, it was lacking.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Can you specify the degree to which efforts were lacking and what those efforts were?

AC RAMNARINE: Particularly as it relates to the release of the Khans', any order that had to do with putting Khans on bail at that point in time should have been disobeyed.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Mind you, you only knew of one Khan now you're speaking of two Khans, you knew that they were two Khans.

AC RAMNARINE: After the fact, That they were released the very afternoon indicated a lack of (inaudible) effort.

Mr. Christopher Ram: You said that Mr. Imran Khan returned to CID headquarters the following day

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: (inaudible) saying and confronting a situation not only where efforts were being spared but your specific instructions being flaunted and you did nothing about it

AC RAMNARINE: I indicated that the crime chief reported to me the afternoon of the 9th the arrest of Imran Khan

Mr. Christopher Ram: We're talking about the next day?

AC RAMNARINE: and the following morning he then indicated to me as were talking to each other during the reporting period that Khans' who were in custody have been released and then I enquired and then he said it was his decision to release them and that would return because there is further work to be done and I later learnt that they returned.

Mr. Christopher Ram: So therefore the investigation was not compromised by virtue of the release of the persons.

AC RAMNARINE: To my mind it wasn't ...

Mr. Christopher Ram: Well, please tell us how?

AC RAMNARINE: They ought to have been custody?

Mr. Christopher Ram: That's not my question sir.

AC RAMNARINE: to my mind it wasn't

Mr. Christopher Ram: well please tell us how ?

AC RAMNARINE: They ought to have been in custody

Mr. Christopher Ram: That's not my question sir.

AC RAMNARINE: The Commissioner was on leave and is known and seen in company of Imran Khan who is the brother of Nizaam Khan and had called and given instructions, that in itself would have amounted to some compromising

Mr. Christopher Ram: but you were acting and carrying out the functions of the Commissioner, weren't you?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes

Mr. Christopher Ram: and you could have done what you thought necessary to have been done

AC RAMNARINE: Not at that point in time.

Mr. Christopher Ram: why not?

AC RAMNARINE: It wasn't told to me, I didn't know.

Mr. Christopher Ram: ...but you knew the person was released sir?

AC RAMNARINE: I knew the following morning.

Mr. Christopher Ram: ...but the following morning you knew and you had the power to order the re arrest?

AC RAMNARINE: I left and I respected finally that it was a judgment call (inaudible) made crime chief as indicated to me.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Apart from the release and your failure to re arrest the person.

AC RAMNARINE: I don't agree with my failure.

Mr. Christopher Ram: ok, the release of the persons in what other way did the crime chief not carry out a proper investigation.

AC RAMNARINE: That point in time, the very next day I had handed over the duties of the Commissioner to the substantive Commissioner and I don't know in any other way in which the crime chief may have acted in a manner not keeping for the professionalism required.

Mr. Christopher Ram: But you suggested that he acted in a manner that wasn't in keeping.

AC RAMNARINE: You asked me is there any other instance so something like that, if I may.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Yes I asked.

AC RAMNARINE: I don't.

Mr. Christopher Ram: So the only instance that you can mention in relation to the quality of the investigation was the release of the persons.

AC RAMNARINE: In those initial stages, Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Thank you, you mentioned incidentally you acted more than once .

AC RAMNARINE: Yes

Mr. Christopher Ram: ...over the period right through to today?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: Therefore you could have taken action if you wanted?

AC RAMNARINE: Yes.

Mr. Christopher Ram: but you did not?

AC RAMNARINE: action in relation to what sir?

Mr. Christopher Ram: the same investigation sir.

AC RAMNARINE: Yes, the investigation was on going, it was receiving continuous legal advice .

Mr. Christopher Ram: you indicated that you saw the report and advice from the police legal advisor.

AC RAMNARINE: the advice of the legal advisor.

Mr. Christopher Ram: how many of them did you see sir?

AC RAMNARINE: 2.

Mr. Christopher Ram: can you (inaudible) any conclusion made or apart the carrying out further investigations, can you recall anything that the police legal advisor said in or written advice about the investigation and the allegations.

AC RAMNARINE: particularly what?

Mr. Christopher Ram: what else, you read it sir.

AC RAMNARINE: in the first bit of legal advice which were a number of points to the extent that a whole lot of investigations needed to be done in the second bit of advice that a confrontation needed to be done between Gillard and some other person, I can't remember if it's Leon Baldeo or an Adams that he had mentioned, might have been there when this offer was allegedly made by (inaudible).