

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

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SENSITIVE

Chupong Kanchanalak
Praitun Kanchanalak

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

I. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

Take no further action with respect to Chupong Kanchanalak

or Praitun Kanchanalak and close the file with respect to those two respondents.

II. BACKGROUND

These matters under review concern the respondents' violations of key elements of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), which bar foreign nationals from making any political contributions or donations (2 U.S.C. § 441e(a)) and forbid anyone to make contributions in the name of another in connection with federal elections (2 U.S.C. § 441f).

On June 17, 1997, the Commission found reason to believe that Pauline Kanchanalak, her sister-in-law Duangnet Kronenberg, and her mother-in-law Praitun Kanchanalak had violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e and 441f in connection with contributions and donations to the Democratic National Committee ("DNC") and other political committees during the period 1992-1996. On

June 2, 1998, the Commission found reason to believe that Pauline Kanchanalak's husband Chupong Kanchanalak had violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e and 441f in connection with this same activity. This Office was able to serve the reason to believe documents on Pauline Kanchanalak and Duangnet Kronenberg.

However, despite diligent efforts, this Office was unable to serve reason to believe documents on Praitun or Chupong Kanchanalak. It appears that both of those respondents were in Thailand at the times service was attempted, and there was no indication that either planned to travel to the United States. The reason to believe materials related to Praitun Kanchanalak were sent to an address in Virginia in July 1997, but they were returned, marked "Unclaimed—Return to Sender." With regard to Chupong Kanchanalak, this Office sent the materials to an address in Thailand obtained from the Department of Justice in November 1998. Unfortunately, we could not confirm Chupong Kanchanalak's whereabouts or his receipt of these materials. The Department of Justice was unable to provide a current address for Praitun Kanchanalak. Because of respondents' unavailability, along with this Office's view that they were not the primary orchestrators of the conduct at issue here, this matter did not proceed to the probable cause stage as to Praitun or Chupong Kanchanalak. This Office therefore recommends that the Commission take no further action against those two respondents.

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