



*"The Boarding House"*

Friday, 10th November, 2000

Head Master

This morning I attended the initial court appearance of <sup>DFA</sup> ; <sup>DFB</sup> , <sup>DFC</sup> and <sup>DFD</sup> at Bidura Children's Court in Glebe. All boys were accompanied by their parents and each was represented by legal counsel. There were also a number of journalists in attendance even though they had been generally advised that it was a closed hearing.

The Magistrate, Ms Lee Majors, and all the legal representatives agreed that it was desirable for this case to be settled as quickly as possible to enable the boys to resume school by next term.

The case was stood over until 9:30 am, Thursday, 21st November, at which time the Director of Public Prosecutions would be in attendance and could provide an indication of Police intentions as to how matters will proceed.

In conversation with Greg Melick, the barrister representing the <sup>DFB</sup> (see attachment), it became clear that Ms O'Callaghan (JIT) was keen to pursue the case in Court but that others were predisposed towards the reconciliation option.

The key appears to be <sup>EAA</sup> . If he can be convinced of the benefits to all parties of reconciliation, Mr Melick is confident that the DPP would agree to this option. Apparently an admission of guilt (which <sup>EAA</sup> requires if he were to agree to the reconciliation option) can be presented in such a way that will prohibit such an admission being used in evidence should either <sup>REDACTED</sup> or the <sup>REDACTED</sup> later change their minds and opt to instigate criminal proceedings.

I will ring <sup>EAA</sup> and attempt to persuade him of the wisdom of proceeding down the reconciliatory path. Mr Melick has made it clear that he will use all means at his disposal to discredit <sup>CLA</sup> testimony and this would undoubtedly be a traumatic experience for <sup>CLA</sup> .

I will keep you advised of developments.

Rob Scott

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