



CHINA SONANGOL

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Tom Burgis
The Financial Times
Number One
Southwark Bridge
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18th July 2014

I refer to your letter of 2 July 2014 and thank you for your interest in China Sonangol International Limited and its companies, even though we are a little mystified at the level of your interest.

A number of your questions relate to the personal lives, acts and finances of individuals who hold no function within the company. If you have asked them questions in the tone that you have asked us, you are certainly coming across as being offensive and would have certainly infringed upon their right to privacy, which we believe is protected in your country. How would you feel if questions were asked about your love life, salary, career lows by total strangers with a threat to publish answers as well as speculations about these matters? How would the management and staff at Pearson (and consequently indirectly FT) feel if their business activities and practices were the subject of intrusive and hostile reporting?

Consequently, we are denying your request to forward your message to any of the individuals named, as we have no interest in infringing upon the privacy of any person.

For ourselves, we are further perplexed in that you have appeared to have woven unrelated and unverified facts, erroneous information from other media sources and factual inaccuracies resulting in what is likely to be an interesting read but which ultimately, is nothing more than fiction.

Do note that due to confidentiality agreements and our legitimate desire for privacy, which private companies are entitled to, we will not be providing you with any additional information than is necessary. We do however reserve our rights to pursue legal remedies if you repeat or publish defamatory statements. We also want to be clear that you do not have our consent to publish anything from this letter that is to be taken out of context of this letter.

We shall therefore be addressing only a few matters which relate to China Sonangol International Limited. But first, a few more general comments and observations;

- 1) There is a considerable amount of detail about our activities in our website, www.chinasonangol.com. Our main corporate offices are in transparent jurisdictions like Hong Kong and Singapore, where for a small fee, you can search for corporate information about the companies from the corporate regulators. If we are a secretive company, we would not have set up our main offices in these jurisdictions. Your more sophisticated readers will understand that these are not dysfunctional secrecy offshore jurisdictions but highly successful and sophisticated financial and business centres with corporate transparency that rival the best in Europe and America and are locations where the rule of law applies.
- 2) If we keep to ourselves and there are things we do not talk about, no one should immediately draw a conclusion that something sinister is happening or that we have things to hide. This will be the reaction of ignorant and uneducated people, which we trust you and your readers are not. We are not a listed company and the Law does not require us to disclose all our business dealings in the same manner as listed companies. This is true even in the United Kingdom where the FT is based. As stated, we are often legally constrained against discussing our business matters due to legally binding non-disclosure agreements. We are morally and legally obliged to observe our partners confidence in these matters. Our business culture and those of our partners may also be markedly different from yours or some of your readers. For us and our partners, business is a close, private and personal relationship between the parties, and is valued as such. Some NGOs do not appreciate this and have drawn incorrect conclusions.
- 3) The court proceedings referred to do not involve us exclusively. From the records of the court proceedings, these are also preliminary proceedings which may form part of further proceedings and so it would not be appropriate to comment on them.

Returning to China Sonangol International Limited in particular, we will deal with your questions as they appear and we shall answer based on the information we have or are able to reveal: –

Page 2, Paragraph 4 of your letter of 2 July 2014

Again, as stated in my email of 17 May 2014, the Chairman of China Sonangol International Limited is, and has always been, the Chairman of Sonangol E.P. and not the person whom you are suggesting. This is a fact.

Page 3, Paragraph 2 of your letter of 2 July 2014

Based on our records and the memories of our present staff, we have had no communication with Chatham House and do not know the basis of their reports. In any case, you should rely on your own research as one should never rely on the work of others. We do note however, that some of Chatham House's major sponsors appear to be companies whom we are in competition with in the energy and resource space, and hope that they have not been given misleading information by parties with different agendas.

Page 3 Paragraph 3 of your letter of 2 July 2014

Mr. Manuel Vicente stepped down as a director of China Sonangol International Limited on 23rd December 2011. Mr. Vicente has never served on the Board in his private capacity.



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In conclusion, there is already a substantial amount of information as well as inaccurate lies about us in the media. From what we see, what you are hoping to write is primarily a repetition of what has already been written or an attempt to meld information that is already in the public domain into a fantastical tale. As a serious paper, you should verify your information and not merely repeat what was not verified in the first place.

Our rights to respond and to take appropriate legal redress are expressly reserved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "China Sonangol".

China Sonangol International Limited