

## **WENDY WELSHER: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

### **January 1991:**

Francis approached Wendy Welsher for help with the conspiracy. Welsher had known Francis (under the name of Michael Adams) since 1985 or 1986, during which time she had discussed many business proposals with him. Her expertise was in timeshare developments in Turkey and Spain and, as the AN family were interested in timeshare projects in Turkey and Northern Cyprus, she was an ideal person to make an approach to them. After hearing an explanation of the scheme, she asked to meet Jim Davis for further confirmation of the role she was expected to play. On meeting Davis, she was shown his warrant and business cards. He asked for her bank account and credit card details... She was also made to understand that the SFO had run into trouble with the case.

### **February 1991:**

Wendy Welsher travelled to Turkey in an attempt to establish contact with the Nadir family. The visit proved fruitless but, on her return to London, she met a man named Mustapha, who had been associated with one of the Nadir companies and asked for an introduction. This was duly done and arrangements were made for her to travel to the TRNC in March 1991. Prior to travelling, she had her first meeting with Detective Chief Superintendent Tom Glendenning, Special Operations, New Scotland Yard who confirmed the instructions she had received.

### **March 1991: Welsher meets Safiye Nadir.**

Wendy Welsher travelled to Northern Cyprus to meet Safiye Nadir. Her expenses in connection with her accommodation and air ticket were covered by the SFO through Jim Davis. Upon meeting Safiye Nadir, Welsher found it difficult to comply with her instructions as she felt Nadir was too honest and not the sort of person with whom she could discuss the £3.5 million scheme the SFO had requested her to mention.

Instead she explained the timeshare proposition in Turkey to Nadir who referred Welsher to her daughter, Bilge Nevzat who was in London at the time. Welsher then returned to the UK and had another meeting with Davis and Glendenning. She told them that everything was in order and that she had discussed timeshares with Nadir. She did not inform them that she was unable to mention the £3.5 million deal to Nadir, nor did she at any time speak to the Nadir family about this particular proposition.

She had many meetings with Davis and Andy Barnes of the SFO, acting under their instructions, and complying with their request that if she received any documentation from the Nadir family, especially with the signature of Nadir, she should pass it to them.

### **End March/Early April, 1991:**

Welsher had several meetings with Bilge Nevzat (AN's sister) urging her to put up money to fund feasibility studies for the timeshare complexes in Turkey. Eventually, Bilge persuaded her mother to do this.

### **July 1991: Welsher receives £100,000 from Bilge Nevzat.**

Wendy Welsher met Bilge Nevzat at the Hotel Scribe in the Rue de Scribe in Paris to collect the £100,000 which Fehim Nevzat (Nevzat's husband) had brought from Safiye Nadir in Northern Cyprus. The money was for a feasibility study for the proposed timeshare complexes. Paris was the venue because Welsher had persuaded Nevzat that this was going to be an offshore venture and for tax purposes a meeting outside of the UK was more appropriate. At the same time, Nevzat also signed a

joint co-operation agreement with Welsher which had been drafted by the SFO. All of Welsher's expenses for the trip were paid by the SFO. After the meeting Welsher handed over the money and the document to Jim Davis and Andy Barnes of the SFO who were waiting for her at the George V Hotel in Paris.

A few days later, at a prearranged meeting, Michael Francis met Jim Davis and Andy Barnes in Zurich where Barnes informed Francis that he was carrying £100,000 in his briefcase. He went with Francis to a bank to deposit the major part of the money. Barnes took £10,000 in cash.

Between July and October 1991 there were many conversations between the police, Welsher, Francis, Jim Davis and Andy Barnes. There were also various meetings between Welsher and Bilge Nevzat concentrating on timeshare proposals and the status of feasibility studies.

#### **October 1991: Welsher sets up escrow account.**

Welsher was asked by Jim Davis to set up an escrow account so that funds received from the £3.5 million, which the British Authorities were still expecting, could be deposited. It was intended that this should be a joint account between Wendy Welsher and Bilge Nevzat and Welsher persuaded Bilge to meet her in Geneva for this purpose. Welsher's ticket for the British Airways flight was handed to her by Andy Barnes. After the bank account was opened, Welsher returned with Nevzat on a Swissair flight from Geneva to London.

#### **December 1991: Welsher acquires a valuable painting.**

Tom Glendenning and Jim Davis instructed Wendy Welsher to contact the Nadir family and obtain a guarantee from them to support a pending loan for the timeshare project. Welsher convinced Bilge Nevzat that a guarantee would be required and Bilge, in turn, convinced Aysegul Nadir (AN's ex-wife) to put up a painting - "Sisters" by Lord Frederick Leighton - as security. Welsher collected the painting from AN's office at 24 Berkeley Square at the end of December 1991 and handed it to Andy Barnes and Jim Davis of the SFO, whose Ford car was parked in the Square.

#### **July 1992: The continuing saga of "The Sisters".**

Wendy Welsher was asked to meet Andy Barnes and Jim Davis at a prearranged time outside Bonhams, the fine art auctioneers in Knightsbridge. By telephone they had told her they would hand her the painting "Sisters" for entry into a forthcoming auction in two or three months' time. She had been given written authority to handle the picture by the AN family and, on entering Bonhams, she asked to see the gentleman she had been told to meet.

Bonhams accepted the painting to be entered into a sale with other Leightons. Welsher received a receipt for £400,000 representing the insurance value with the information that a Director of Fine Arts would like to meet her and would contact her in due course. In a few days' time she was contacted by a lady called Caroline from Bonhams who said they were absolutely delighted with the picture and had entered it into the forthcoming sale. But the following day Welsher received a telephone call from Michael Francis who told her to collect the painting from Bonhams to meet him in Paris with it. Welsher felt very suspicious about this request and called Andy Barnes of the SFO for confirmation.

Barnes confirmed that the request was correct. So the following morning Welsher collected the painting from Bonhams, put it in the boot of her car, drove through British Customs and Passport Control and French Customs and Passport Control, and met Francis at a hotel at Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris. There she handed over the painting. Later she was to discover that the painting had been entered on the Stolen Arts Register.

**August 1992: Welsher obtains a further £11,000.**

Welsher contacted Bilge Nevzat to inform her that a further £11,000 was required for architects' fees for the timeshare project. After receiving the money from Bilge, Welsher flew to Zurich where she was met by Michael Adams [Francis] and Andy Barnes. She handed over the £11,000 to Barnes. The next morning Barnes and Adams banked £10,000 in Switzerland, Barnes kept £1,000.

**September 1992:**

Wendy Welsher was informed by Mike Barley, a serving police officer of New Scotland Yard, Special Operations that Michael Francis was in Lewes Prison. Barley wanted an introduction to AN. She arranged for Barley to meet AN under a fictitious name and left them alone to talk.

**October 1992: Welsher questioned by the administrators.**

Wendy Welsher was questioned by the administrators of PPI about the missing painting, "Sisters". She had been warned by the SFO that she would probably be questioned and they drafted an affidavit for her. The affidavit was not signed. During October both Welsher and Francis were taken to South Woodford Police Station where further tape recordings were made. A couple called Oliver also became involved at this juncture.

**September 30, 1993:**

Wendy Welsher swore her affidavit in Cyprus.