

**THE NEW PLAY
CRIME AND CORRUPTION (C &C) INEVITABLE?**

**Dr Bob Boland & Team
FCA, CPA, D.Com, ITP (Harvard), MD, MPH**

DRAFT NO. 11 – April 2012

ACT 1 - UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD

ACT 2 LEARNING MORE WITH LAUGHTER

ACT 3 CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN

CAST:

Karl – diplomat, ex UN in Asia now retired, specialist in development projects including health care.

Bill – chartered accountant, who used to be: “the honest man of business”, ex Harvard and UN on development projects in Africa and Middle East.

Shi – In Kabul in Afghanistan helping to bring economic development, after a lifetime with the UN around the world.

Carrie - medical doctor after 20 years of health care in WHOM. Care of mothers and children is her priority.

Idec - ex INSEAD from Rumania heading up the Rally Centre for Democracy - “Democracy as a way of life” and the Rally Business School - "Where YOU make the difference”.

Musta – mysterious visitor who may be associated with an organized crime gangs.

Note: CHILDHOOD is presented as fiction, with some interesting practical ideas to be learned.

Copyright: RGAB 2012/1

ACT 1 - UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD

SCENE 1: HOME BACKGROUND – KARL – THINKING ALOUD

K – I really I want to believe ... that each new day is a gift to me ... for which I must be grateful ... and try to achieve something useful ...

DELAY AND THEN READING OUT A PAPER

Well ... thank you for today ... now for funding CHILDHOOD. But how can this happen ? ... with a one page YouTube video on CHILDHOOD ... today ... so on we go ...

READING ALOUD

CHILDHOOD Switzerland – Caring for Children
One million Swiss francs appeal
Taking Action today to prevent child disability tomorrow.

Seven million children under five in developing countries die every year from preventable illness. Many more are needlessly disabled. Many of the causes of disability in children are preventable or reversible.”

ENTER BILL

K – Oh hello Bill. Welcome to our first CHILDHOOD – Switzerland committee. I am just rehearsing a video we can make for YouTube for fund raising. How are you, Bill?

B – Very well and who else is coming?

K – I have three friends who don't know each other, but who are all enthusiastic about child care. So we should make great progress, today for funding.

B – Great! And the CHILDHOOD website is working now. So this YouTube effort should reinforce it.

K – Agreed. So here we are Bill forming up the committee for starting CHILDHOOD - Switzerland to raise money for care and prevention projects for handicapped children. I want our NGO to be an inspiration both to helping children but also helping society to be more secure and honest. Less crime and corruption (C&C) in the world!

B – So you have a social and a spiritual, almost religious objective? Great effort by you Karl but a bit difficult in this tough business, political and social world, where C & C (crime and corruption) is accepted as “normal” in so many countries and cultures, as “acceptable”, especially when people are short of cash.

K – Yes, I agree. We are short of cash too, and it has been a bit difficult to keep CHILDHOOD going when no money coming in Switzerland for ten years, despite these two lovely offices in the UN in Geneva, Suisse. But I have my values.

B – Values? A very complex issue?

K- Yes and last week now I refused a CHILDHOOD offer of \$20,000 cash. I just could not take it? It was illegal cash!

B – Why ever not?

K – Because it comes from a guy named Musta who wants to give it to me in a suitcase. It comes from a gang, known to be illegal.

B – Oh my goodness. That sounds both illegal and at high risk of terrible events ... but for a great cause handicapped children ... perhaps we should take the chance ... and take the cash? It might be OK.

K – I am against C&C - Crime & Corruption. So I refused it. And then do you know what happened to me?

B – No what indeed/ What reward for your ethical behaviour?

K – My reward was my email was hacked by some guy in the Philippines who emailed my friends (as me!!!) saying that I was in injured Scotland with no cash. Could they send some right away to special account in my name ...which he would collect for me? But I resolved it!!

B – Well done. A Scam!!! But wait a moment. I just got an email from UNDP offering us funding.

K – What did it say?

B – Here it is ... I was so pleased to bring you some wonderful news.

SCENE 2 - SPEAKER

UNDP SCHEME 2011- This is to notify you that you have been appointed as one of the recipients of a Cash Grant/Donation for your personal and community development. You were selected among the beneficiaries to receive the sum of US\$500,000.00 as developmental aid from the UN Foundation. Please contact the UNDP Secretary- Mr. Richard Daniel on this email: richarddaniel_1962@yahoo.com.hk, giving him the information listed below.

SCENE 3 – BACK TO NORMAL

K – Well Idac that sounds great, but with my years of UN Asia experience, you have to be careful with hk.

S - hk? Well until a moment ago ... I thought it was such good luck.

K – Yes, hk. Hongkong. The UNDP email address is not Hongkong, but UNDP.org headquarters in New York. And that seems to be from Hongkong ... which does raise a question ... why yahoo? Now would you be offended if I laugh?

S - Is something wrong. It is such a generous offer?

K – Oh dear. So sorry, it is a Scam. C & C!! I'm afraid and a little too obvious. I got the same email. It is just what we are trying to avoid - corruption, crime, hacking, scams!!

S – Oh dear C & C, what a dumbo. I did not imagine it was a scam. Well I guess I have a lot to learn from you old ex Asia UN retirees.

K – So we are going to be an ethical NGO with no C&C – no crime and corruption, please. And I hope our NGO will inspire people against C&C which so many regard as inevitable.

B – You really have a spiritual objective for CHILDHOOD. But then although cash is the great no. 1 motivator, perhaps our NGO for child care could inspire people to make children even more important than cash?

K – My hope and dream indeed. Now we have three more members of our CHILDHOOD committee coming today ... I invited my friends to join us ...

B – Who are they?

K – I wanted Suisse people but had to compromise. So we have: Carrie MD from France, Idac ex-INSEAD from Rumania and Shi ex-UN from Afghanistan. I hope they will join our committee and help us to find Suisse members.

B – I wonder what they will think about your \$20,000 refusal.

K – We shall see. And I hope they like the idea of a YouTube s funding video, which we can make together today.

DOOR BELLS AND ENTER CARRIE, IDAC AND SHI

SHAKING HANDS ALL AROUND

K - Welcome indeed dear old friends. Carrie. Idac. Shi. How kind of you all to come. So glad you managed to find us here in Geneva. So first be comfortable with some coffee.

PAUSE FOR COFFEE

K And then we can all introduce each other, to this first meeting of the CHILDHOOD Switzerland committee. And then hopefully discuss funding and do a video.

C – Video? That’s a challenge.

K – Yes, video on YouTube. For CHILDHOOD – Switzerland the NGO for handicapped children, founded by a man by a man who handicapped himself with chemistry experiments at the age of ten, and although blind, lived on to found a worldwide caring organisation based on the UN in Geneva, and UNICEF and UNDP and the highest ethical values.

C – I am so pleased to be here to help you, Kevin.

S – Me too.

I – And me. Could I have sugar in my coffee, please?

K – Introductions and then a tough question of \$20,000 to resolve. Well, I am American, as you all know, Karl. The cause of all the trouble. Ex UN in Asia now retired, living in Switzerland, but still specialist in development projects including health care.

B – And I am Bill, ex chartered accountant, who used to be “the honest man of business”, ex Harvard and UN on development projects in Africa and Middle East.

S – Well, I am Shi Afghan. Family in Geneva, but working for the moment, in Kabul in Afghanistan, bring economic development, after a lifetime with the UN around the world. Economic development going slowly. I’m afraid Afghanistan is 80% funded by foreign aid. With the impossible security problems, travel and business development is a bit limited, but we are making progress. And now the Chinese are coming in to develop the oil. Hooray!!

C – And I am Carrie, medical doctor after 20 years of health care in WHO. Care of mothers and children is my priority. How can I help CHILDHOOD – Suisse?

I - I am Idac ex INSEAD from Rumania heading up the Rally Centre for Democracy as a way of life" and the Rally Business School.

K – Well alas, we do not have any Suisse. But we want to start CHILDHOOD Switzerland and hand it over to the Suisse... And we want to raise Suisse cash, to support CHILDHOOD in London, which provides major funding for projects around the world, all administered with a high level of ethical management. Only 5% for administration and 95% for health care.

B – In case you did not know, the founder of CHILDHOOD had wonderful UN contacts, so historically we have two offices at UN Geneva, but we are only going to keep, if we get funding and take action. He was an amazing man who despite childhood blindness, founded an NGO which now has 24 country branches around the world, all active in so many child care projects.

K- Yes, CHILDHOOD has a famous team in India which visits all over for a month at a time, to provide surgery to bring sight and hearing to handicapped children, and a whole range of health care to the villages around. And a team in Bangladesh, which does the same. So now to help them we must plan to raise \$1,000,000 from the wealthy Swiss sources.

S – But, what about the \$20,000 problem you mentioned Kevin?

K – The problem, I believe is that we cannot accept cash just from anyone. Especially if it might be illegal cash. Quick reactions please?

C – Agreed! Not ethical.

B – Well perhaps accept... for a good cause?

S – Well can we find a legal way to do it?

I - Yes, take it in and disguise it.

K – You seem to have interesting ethical cultural values in UK, Rumania and Afghanistan? But for me, illegal cash is too risky!! Suisse is an ethical country. CHILDHOOD Switzerland can only accept legal funding. And today hopefully our committee will at last be formed and can plan the funding and a video.

S – Wait a moment. I have some great news for you. Funding is available!!!

K – Hooray!!! How much?

S - \$500,000!

K – Really? How?

S - UNDP SCHEME 2011- This is to notify you that you have been appointed as one of the recipients of a Cash Grant/Donation for your personal and community development. You were selected among the beneficiaries to receive the sum of US\$500,000.00 as developmental aid from the UN Foundation.

K – Oh dear. Not again?

S – Not again?

K – Sorry to tell you. It is scam. Shi. Bill got the same email. And when my email works better, I will too.

S – Oh so disappointing. Aid is so freely offered for Afghanistan, I automatically assumed it was OK. So if the MAFIA offers us a million dollars for child care, what do we do?

K – Refuse it!!!

B – Refuse it? The world is pretty corrupt you know in politics and business and UN and even NGO's. How do you define corruption, Kevin? How can we raise cash for children care and yet keep away from the real world of C&C? Depends how you define it?

K – My definition is from Google: Corruption is wrongdoing on the part of an authority or powerful party through means that are illegitimate, immoral, or incompatible with ethical standards. Corruption often results from patronage and is associated with bribery and for me that includes crime and scams. So C&C!!

B – Very hard to distinguish corruption from normal business practice. Alas, in my experience as a chartered accountant, business managers do it all the time and call it being “practical”.

I – In Rumania, we call it being “practical” to survive in a country and culture, where everybody else does such things. The only crime is being caught!!!!

K – It is really just being honest with yourself and others. Talking of being honest with oneself, I was just email hacked!

C – Hacked? You too? I just had myself hacked. Not faxed. Hacked!!

S – Oh dear tell us the story.

C – A hacker has been occupying my email account for the past week. Stalking my inbox, replying to messages, with my nickname and refusing to let me in. Going through my personal history and even writing to me.

B – It sounds like a James Bond thriller. How did it start?

C – Well my phone went crazy in a meeting and 1000 contacts received an email from my account saying that I'd been held up at gunpoint in Scotland. Please send cash to a Western Union account, set up in my name to wire a transfer.

S – You were hit with a bomb!!!

C – Absolutely!! Drop everything, freeze bank accounts, freeze all passwords and codes, lose crucial last-minute messages; miss work deadlines. Suddenly I realized my identity was being held hostage.

B – So what did you do to the hacker?

C – I talked to him...

SCENE 4 - CARRIE AND THE HACKER

C- I can't believe you would do this. My old friends are worried about me and might send you money. My young friends know it's a scam. How you justify doing this, to yourself.

H – Can you send me \$1000 dollars?

C – I don't have \$1000 to give you. I can't make any more money until I have access to my email account back. I work freelance and all my work contacts are held by you.

H – Better act fast.

C - If I gave you any money, how would I know that you'd actually send me back my email my contacts anyway?

H – I give you my word.

C – Word? Do you ever feel ashamed?

H – Sure. I don't feel great, but I have no choice. Better than robbing you on the street. Now, I give you my word, if you send me money, I will give you back access to your account, with all your email contacts intact. If you can't send \$1000, at least \$300 dollars will do. I am waiting.

C – Do I have a choice?

H - You don't want the kind of life I am living; it's not as nice and sweet as your life.

C - I'm not making judgments about your life. You are making judgments about mine. And even if my life was really happy, I don't see why that justifies you taking over my emails. How can you feel that you have no choice? Just stop it!!!

H – Are you sending the money?

C - It's my turn not to have any choice. I don't have \$300. I have asked some of my friends if they can help, but they think it's a stupid idea because you can't be trusted.

H – I don't need your details for anything, so to show you my goodwill I could give you back about 20 contacts, and then when you send money, I give you the rest.

C – Well, I have to say ... fax off!!!

SCENE 5 - BACK TO NORMAL

B – What an exciting experience. You were just like James Bond?

C - Well if held up in the street, you lose money and walk away. But if someone takes over your email life, there's always a feeling of "what next?" They read your intimate emails and could pass them on. A search would give them my address, bank accounts, passwords and also those of my friends and family. It's terrible to be taken over!!!

K – So you reported the case with the police.

C – Yes and so did 3,000 others ... all email hacks last year, but so few of these brought to justice. The police haven't even returned my call for a full report.

K – Police no help for this C&C?

C – No and when I did eventually get access to my account back through Gmail a week later, I found that the hacker had personally written to 20 people who replied (to me ... not me!!!) to ask about my problems. The hacker said I'd had a "terrible experience" in Scotland.

S – So you must tell us what you did ... to resolve it all ... we are now all terrified of being hacked...

C – Now I am an expert. To regain access to my account was through chance – a friend of a friend works at Google. Google is great but doesn't have a single human being to talk to in these circumstances.

B – But why not?

C – Too complex and busy. But ... when someone did bother to look into my problem, it only took five minutes to fix. Google disabled it from the inside, and I was able to reset all my security checks without a problem. So my last hacker message was: "I see you got the account back. Sorry for the trouble." I never replied. Could have killed him...

K - So much for C&C with hacking!! I feel the need to understand hackers. When we find reasons for C&C, we'll feel safer.

C - Perhaps it's about restoring a bit more faith in human nature and believing in children.

K - Well now we are all together for CHILDHOOD Suisse, with Carrie from France, Shi Afghanistan and Idac from Rumania, Bill from UK and me Karl from USA. We need Suisse members, to get some Suisse cash.

C – Yes, to start CHILDHOOD – Switzerland, it must appeal to the Suisse culture and ethics?

B – Ethics? I am so sorry to tell you that even in Suisse, there are no ethics in business ...only survival.

K – No jokes please... we have to make CHILDHOOD appeal to the Suisse as a 100% ethical NGO, honest and true, reporting the success and even reporting the failure ... of what we achieve.

B –Oh dear! Reporting failure? NGO's and the UN never report failure. They usually keep it secret. A bit hard on ethics. But seriously, donor companies only want to be associated ... with well publicized successful projects and NGO's ... true or false?

K – Alas true. And even Suisse shareholders may not like to think they funded a failure or C & C. Even though Suisse is or perhaps was the world champion for tax evasion by ex-pats? But now there are many competitors for that title...

S – C & C or not? Should we have accepted the \$20,000 cash from this guy?

K – Absolutely not.

S – Even to help handicapped children? Does seem a bit hard ...

BELL RINGS ENTER MUSTA

SCENE 6 – MUSTA

M – Good morning Kevin and ladies and gentlemen.

K – Good morning.

M – Well, as I told you on the telephone, my organization wants to help CHILDHOOD with the care of handicapped children.

K – Why?

M – Perhaps because our chief Nara is Suisse has a handicapped child at home. So here is the cash

PRESENTING A SUITECASE

K – Cash?

M - \$20,000 in cash as promised. All in the suitcase. Do you want to count it?

B – No! Is this legal money?

M – I really could not say. But it is valid cash in dollars. OK. No receipt necessary. No explanations.

K – No I'm sorry we can't accept illegal cash. So sorry you will have to take it back to your chief. Agreed everyone?

PAUSE – SAD DOUBTFUL NODS ALL AROUND

K - The bank would never accept it without explanation

M – He will be a bit upset.

S – Should we think about it?

I – Perhaps there is a way?

K – Sorry. Good morning to you.

M – OK. Bye for now. Will report back to chief Nara. I may be back.

MUSTA LEAVES

SCENE 7 – BACK TO NORMAL

C – Action? Oh dear. That seems just like the MAFIA. Frightening.

S – Did we do right?

I – I wonder if we could have taken a chance for the children?

B – Perhaps CHILDHOOD London could take the money?

K – No. No. No. Not ethical. This is not the way to start funding from Suisse sources. Now is the time to start. But not this way.

B – Is it too risky for all of us?

K - Our priority is care and prevention for handicapped children everywhere. We have via London requests for so many projects. Our problem is how to get Suisse companies to fund our NGO, for handicapped children, when there are already 500 NGO's in Geneva alone?

S – What makes us special?

K – I think because we will be a highly ethical NGO, which is honest, truthful, very efficient, and never associated with C&C. No crime and no corruption!! Honesty!!!

B – Well I am bit sorry to disappoint you, Kevin. Honesty is a tough subject.

C – Can we discuss honesty? Are we really honest with each other, or is that an illusion?

I – In Rumania honesty, there are two meanings to everything you say. How are you? Fine. But of course if you are old and not fine ...I don't really want to know the miserable details of your aches and pains, so I want you to lie to me and say: I'm OK!!

B – Alas in England too. But, let me give you an honest view on women. Can women be honest about sex? They are superior and live longer. They may lose interest, start cheating and blame the partner ... and then suddenly realize that ... all men are the same ... and so decide to stay and become a loving partner again.... or move on ... or become a nun!!

LAUGHTER

C – I disagree completely!!! Is that do you mean by honesty Karl?

K – No. I mean trust! Honesty - so I can trust you.

S – Oh dear, trust in Afghanistan? Trust you? ... how far? If you are in my tribe ... complete trust ... or they will cut my balls off ... but with another tribe ... it all depends ... we shall have to see.

C – In France of course we are very polite and we don't communicate negative things that might hurt you ... we call it "Politesse".

B – Perhaps, it is all a matter of Euphemisms".

K – Euphemisms? What is that please ... English humour?

B – Not quite. Diplomacy! Euphemisms make lies seem truthful and can even make murder seem to be respectable. Diplomats are specialists. In politics "the minister is indisposed" really means ... he doesn't want to see you.

C – Oh yes, in France a "row" is a "frank discussion" and "a robust exchange of ideas" is really a "full scale shouting match".

I – In Rumania I know that too, "an up and coming neighbourhood" is "crime ridden" and "a stone's throw away" may sometimes mean "a powerful catapult" is needed.

B – Yes and in USA a "loo" is absurdly called a "rest room", "oral sex" is very politely "playing the flute" and in Cairo a prostitute may ask you: do you have someone to wash your clothes?

S –So hard luck for honesty and truth, when these euphemisms are part of lying in every culture, and may go on forever. In Russia ask for a "public house" and they direct you to a "brothel". While in Germany to "thump" is to "bonk". So where is our truth for CHILDHOOD projects, please?

K – Well for CHILDHOOD, we must try hard to be always honest, and use euphemisms only to prevent hurt feelings. A culture without them would be more honest but perhaps more brutal and painful - so we must find a balance and avoid C&C.

I – In Rumania, we seek democracy, but it all depends on the culture. But this is how I survive in C&C Rumania:

1. No commissions/backhanders tolerated, Fired 3 staff for breaking this rule.
2. Refuse back-handers to suppliers. Take our place in the queue and it takes longer to get things done.
3. All impromptu visitors go through interview process to determine what they really want, and if necessary say no! In a culture of double-speak, this filter is essential.
4. Request invoices for all services rendered (although VAT is currently 24% !)
5. Request competitive bids for all works and check for "padding".
6. Avoid family involvement in procurement to avoid being taken for a ride.

I hope this helps ... honesty in a world of C&C..

S - In India they have democracy, but a girl friend of mine married an Indian, and only found out three years later, that he already had a wife and four children in the next town. Oh dear!

K – But C&C is clearly not acceptable to CHILDHOOD. We seek honesty!!!

B – But in the free democratic USA, the governor of Illinois was trying to sell Obama's senate seat for cash and went to prison. Who did he find there? Two previous governors also in jail for C&C.

S – Well in Afghanistan, we may call C&C “fair shares”.

I – Just like Rumania where “fair shares" is a cultural norm, for underpaid civil servants, custom officials and police, who all get along so well together.

K – Well in Suisse and there is no “fair shares” because they are all so well paid. Even though they help the world to evade taxes?

I – Perhaps C&C arise from poverty,

S – Well in Afghanistan we have poverty, and I would have a tough job to change the culture from traditional C&C.

K – So much for honesty limitations, please ... now we must plan to raise cash from the Suisse companies, government and NGO's for the honest good cause of the child care and prevention of handicap in children. Where do we start for CHILDHOOD projects? The video for YouTube together!! Here is the one page outline of the text. We want to be truthful and attract funding.

C - Jesus said to Pontius Pilot: “I bear witness to the truth”, but nobody wanted to know.

K – Quite!! But now we want the care of children ... as our objective ... and with that key value ... children greater than cash ... we want society to adopt new values ... and to believe that C &C is not inevitable...

C – I think our project for CHILDHOOD - Switzerland could be an ethical example to NGO's worldwide ... to help them towards honesty and truth ... in reporting both success and failure ... of their projects?

K - So time for lunch ... to explore our one page video text ... then perhaps we can explore CHILDHOOD in the reality of C & C ... and become a bit smarter than the C&C people... and still raise \$1,000,000 honestly for CHILDHOOD Suisse for care of handicapped children worldwide. On we go ...

B – I believe our video must include laughter ... to give people the chance to change and decide to fund us. When desperately serious, they are locked into old habits ... which may be outdated ... so we must explore CHILDHOOD and relate to C&C with humour ... to find success for CHILDHOOD - Switzerland.

K - We can discuss the video one page outline of the script. We want to be dramatic and truthful, to attract funding. On we go for an inspiring lunch !!!

ACT 2 LEARNING MORE WITH LAUGHTER

SCENE 1 - NORMAL - BILL & KEVIN

K – That was a lovely lunch. We have rejected \$20,000. But we do agree on honesty for CHILDHOOD with no C&C ...which gives us a better chance to understand reality.

B - So ... what real world experiences does our group have to offer?

K – Hopefully, learning about C&C and honesty with humour.

B – Well I think you are in the clouds Kevin. We must live in the real world. It is tough and every company does things it has to do to survive in tough environments. I think we should accept Musta’s cash and put it to good use now.

K – Got to have ethics Bill.

DOORBELL RINGS

K – I will go and see what it is...

EXITS AND RETURNS AFTER 30 SECONDS - SO SAD

B – What is it, Kevin.

K – Registered letter from US IRS. They want me to pay \$50,000 in back income taxes over the five years since I retired from the UN, and \$45,000 for interest and penalties and for failing to file tax returns.

B – As a US citizen did you file tax returns each year?

K – Not to the US. Only to the Suisse where I live.

B – Oh dear. So much C&C on income tax. I think we had better think again on ethics and the real world. Got to help children now ... not in two years time ... next time we get an offer, I think we should have vote on it ...

K – Oh dear. Must do something about this IRS problem, all in good intentions, no effort to do tax evasion ... oh dear ...

B – Not to worry, I will think of something.

SCENE 2 – CARRIE, SHI & IDAC FINISHING LUNCH

S – I think the video one page is a great idea. Shall we do it tonight?

C – Yes indeed. And get it on to YouTube right away to get a feedback.

I – But you know these ethical standards of Kevin are a bit out of the real world. I think CHILDHOOD must accept real cash from anyone. No questions asked. For the good cause of helping handicapped children.

C – Not too sure I can agree. But we have to start somewhere, and to refuse \$20,000 so easily could be foolish in this tough world.

S – I must agree. We cannot hold values higher than the culture of the society in which we operate. If we do we are in the sky, not on the earth. And non-operational!!!

I – So you would take the cash.

S – Yes for a good cause. And then feedback to the donor some good reasons on no C&C in the future. The gentle child caring relationship may give us a good influence for the future.

C – Is that the real world?

I – The real world is strange place ... full of illusions.

C – Makes me wonder if all of what we see and believe is also an illusion. We see it as we want to ... and we so easily refuse to see things that contradict our deep beliefs.

S – Alas true in religion...and alas in relations with each other ...

C - You are beginning to convince me. Let's see if we convince Kevin and Bill?

I - Children are a stronger potential value than cash!! Now lunch over ... back to work ...

SCENE 3 – NORMAL ALL CAST

C – Kevin can we have discussion on ethics and the real world, please?

K – Well I didn't tell before but I have just been struck with a huge back tax problem. As an American citizen living in retirement on Suisse, the

IRS they want me to file tax returns every year, and pay \$95,000 of back taxes. So I am a bit down.

B – Yes Kevin is not too happy on talking about ethics at the moment, but perhaps I could resolve his problem later. So on we go for CHILDHOOD funding please?

K - Yes, OK ... so despite the IRS... that was a lovely lunch. Can we discuss the video.

I - mAll of us doing part of it?

K – Yes. May I suggest; I take the introduction, then Bill does the Disability section with you three each giving one point: iodine, blindness and deafness? Is that OK?

C – Yes. fine. Then I can introduce the CHILDHOOD section. And we can take turns with the rest: vitamin A, immunization and child survival.

I – I would like to do the paragraph on CHILDHOOD – Switzerland and perhaps Shi can end up with the contacts. OK?

S – Agreed.

K – Well then we all need 15 minutes to rehearse our parts. Short break?

C – Agreed.

SCENE 4 – NORMAL 15 MINUTES LATER

K – All OK for a full rehearsal later today? For just now I want us to discuss how CHILDHOOD must avoid C&C. Let us each present one case of C&C ... please ... to show the variety of approaches ... what we should look out for and avoid in CHILDHOOD ... apart from the IRS...

S – So let's not be too sad and serious. We have to laugh to learn. Can it be that the whole world is not honest ... but just cheating to survive? Some examples. My story on Turkey:

SCENE 5 – TURKEY - NEW ACTOR

I was BP representative in a partnership in Istanbul with a Turkish company. All went well for two years ...then I realised that the cash had all gone.

My partner agreed and explained that he needed the cash for another local business venture with a secret syndicate.

I was taken (blindfolded) with escort to the syndicate offices with security 100%.

There I met "the chief"... and expecting to be assassinated, as I asked for BP cash to be returned to avoid an international scandal.

I expected a bullet!

By chance ... the chief finally decided, "Ok, give it back!!!" and I was so grateful to be alive ...

I left with my family the next day... End of the BP partnership.

I – And for me a China story ...

SCENE 6 – CHINA - NEW ACTOR

I was in partnership with a trusted Chinese partner in Shanghai making toys for sale in Europe, doing so well for two years. We had an excellent factory with equipment which I had brought in from Europe. All going so well.

Then suddenly all the equipment and workers and the accounting staff disappeared with all the cash.

I employed a lawyer and got a judgment against the partner, but he had friends in high places, so I could never enforce it.

I left ... a lesson well learned on Chinese ethics, honesty and culture ...

C – Well my medical story is different - Russia.

SCENE 7 – RUSSIA - NEW ACTOR

I was working for SGB in Geneva which handled import/export management worldwide.

I was sent to Moscow with another Suisse staff member to set up a new SGB branch with Russian partners.

For over year we set it up but they kept pursuing us with corruption offers of cash and unlimited sex ... from a whole range of young Russian partners...

My Suisse partner was young ... but I was a bit too old for that...

So they suggested cash from other Russian firms who were in competition with us so we both resisted ...

But then one day ... my Suisse partner colleague members was about to drive off in the morning from his home ... when his car exploded. ...

I left with a nervous breakdown back to Geneva ...never again please...

S – And my story from Iraq

SCENE 8 – IRAQ - NEW ACTOR

I was part of an SAS team in Iraq, fighting the Taliban insurgency with three US and three trusted Iraqi members.

After a year of operations together ... suddenly one morning one of the Iraqis appears with a Kalashnikov.

He opened fire on our team ...

Result four dead and me injured ... retired from duty ...

How could that happen after one year of danger, risk and cooperation together?

B – Well my USA is a business story ...

SCENE 9 – USA - NEW ACTOR

In business I never lie ... unless I have to!

In USA any “whistle blower” on a senior executive fraud, will certainly be fired and unable to get another job in the country, while the “guilty executive” will be gently advised to “behave better in the future”.

All politicians may lie sometimes ... just like everyone else ... so why all the fuss?

Harvard MBA’s have adopted an oath of Corporate Social Responsibility. But they prefer marketing courses to ethics courses.

The safest ethical business career is to quickly make 50 million dollars and then to restrict oneself to a 100% ethical business practice for the future... well 98% anyway (The Economist 2009)

C – My story from a major international drug manufacturer:

SCENE 10 – ABU DHABI - NEW ACTOR

Case: Merck’s established the Gulf Centre for Excellence in Ethics (GCEE) in Abu Dhabi. Increased government transparency to make it less corrupt. Reversing improper contracts for medicines. Extortion by MOH staff declined, as they even began to speak more openly about ethics. Then Merck invested \$9 million in other non-profit ethics centres in various countries to make business more transparent and less corrupt.

And then ... Merck was fined 20 million dollars in USA, for paying doctors to use it’s high priced drugs.

B – The CNN news is full of stories on C&C:

SCENE 11 – CNN - NEW ACTORS

In the CNN news tonight.

Case: Egypt. 250 government contracts awarded to government officials of a political party of the prime minister, who had publicly called for the end of government corruption and bribery.

Case: Scandinavia - Major Norwegian international paper supplier refuses to give bribes etc. to government staff to get major sales contracts. Sells mainly to major national distributors, who do all of those things for it.

BELL RINGS ENTER MUSTA

SCENE 12 – MUSTA

M – Good afternoon Kevin and ladies and gentlemen.

K – Good afternoon. What now?

M – My chief wants to renew his offer of \$50,000 by bank cheque, if you promise not to reveal the source of the cash. He has a handicapped child!

K – Well I would like to accept, but feel it is still just too risky for us.

B – Maybe we could find way?

I – It seems such shame to miss the opportunity. What exactly does your chief do Musta? How does it work for him?

M – Well it is very gentle and complex ... you fellows seem to have the idea that C&C is bad, but has great advantages in difficult environments. It can help poor people to survive. And my chief Nara wants to help you with the care of handicapped children ...

K – Help us?

M – Yes, he thought you might like little amusing program on how to raise cash.

B – That sounds interesting.

M – OK So let me give you a little training program ... I used to be in the theatre ...acting and directing ... so it might be helpful in the future ...with CHILDHOOD funding ... interested ?

ALL – Yes please ...

SCENE 13 – FUNDING BY MUSTA

MUSTA AND TWO NEW ACTORS

M – OK. How to do it ... how to get help or funding ... from company or government officials ...

THREE NEW ACTORS - MUSTA AND TWO OTHERS AS THE PERSUADER AND THE GOVERNMENT OR COMPANY OFFICIAL ... WHO PRETEND TO SPEAK ... BUT MAKE NO SOUND ... JUST HILARIOUS BODY LANGUAGE ... LAUGHTER THROUGHOUT ...

M - Experienced Musta's ten little rules ... on how to corrupt ... no. no, no!!! ... so sorry ... how to get raise funding ... from a company or government staff member ... by developing a “helpful relationship”:

1. Never let “him” feel that you are bribing him; you are just recognising the effort that he makes over and above his normal duties to help you with funding.

BODY LANGUAGE OF THE TWO ACTORS WITH NO SOUNDS - HILARIOUS SCENE...

2. Explain how you want to show your gratitude by a "token" gesture; it could be flowers, tickets, books, a special meal etc.

SAME WITH LAUGHTER

3. Explain that because you are so stressed and have to be off soon, you give them a small cash gift in the envelope (\$1,000!!!) to buy the flowers for his wife: and you apologize that you are inconveniencing him because he has to buy them himself.

SAME

4. Apologize before you start detailed discussion saying that you are well aware that what you require is going to involve his effort, time, initiative or whatever... that is way above what he can be reasonably expected to do for funding.

SAME

5. Explain that since yours is a special situation which is not covered by the normal rules; it does fall completely within his powers and initiatives as a senior manager....

SAME

6. Appreciate that rules cannot cover all the special situations because that would make them too unwieldy, and this is a very special case... for funding

SAME

7. Explain that that there may even be a future problem, for which you may need to ask for his help with a reward. Get the future potential into the mind ... for mutual funding

SAME

8. Never become too familiar. Treat him as “the expert who knows it” all, whilst you are a bit lost and naïve about what to do in this situation...

SAME

9. Only by exception refer to any previous help and very discreetly, ask whether he enjoyed the previous “flowers”, ticket, meal or whatever.

SAME

10. Mention that this challenge is more complicated than the previous time, and you obviously will have to recognize that for him in some way, with your token of appreciation.

SAME

M - And thus CHILDHOOD (BOWING) and the government or company official (BOWING) ... can have a future respectful “helpful” relationship for mutual benefit guided by the trainer Musta (BOWING)...

SCENE 14 NORMAL

K – That was hilarious!!! I am not sure whether it was for C&C or for funding. Thank you Musta. It was fun indeed. But I am so sorry, I must refuse your cheque. But thank you for coming and amusing us.

B – Oh by the way Musta. You have a theatrical background. Here is copy of the script for our one page CHILDHOOD promotion which we are going to make into a YouTube video tonight. Feel welcome to come along if it would amuse you.

M – Thank you. I will try to come. Goodbye for now ... the last rule of funding (and C&C) ... is ... never give up ...

EXIT MUSTA

K - OK I admit it is very tempting ... and difficult ... but perhaps with Musta and C&C, we are learning some new C&C realities ... so here is my final story of sad realities of C&C ... in Gabon in Africa. ... I do hope it will not shock you ... from The Economist June 20th, 2009. He was a pretty good fund raiser ...

SCENE 16 - OMAR - NEW ACTORS

In Gabon, Omar Bongo Ondimba I was president for 42 years, and died aged 73.

Corruption is not an African word – I simply cared for my extended family!

Published examples: oil company and other concessions paid for with suitcases of cash; \$2.6 million of aid monies used to decorate a private palace.

\$130 million in Citibank unquestioned personal accounts In New York; 70 personal bank accounts in France (9 frozen in 2009).

Personal properties in western capital cities.

An old Valery Giscard d’Estaing complaint that I was funding Jacques Chirac. Never investigated by French government. Of course not?

“Democracy” was allowed to develop in Gabon in 1993, but when it became too lively, French paratroops from the Libreville military base were called in to support me – Omar Bongo, etc. etc.

SCENE 15 - NORMAL

S – Sounds so familiar to me in Afghanistan ... but perhaps that is our challenge ...to help inspire funding and new C&C values ... through the care of children ... handicapped children...

K – So we have to achieve funding for our CHILDHOOD Suisse for the care of handicapped children in so many countries and cultures of the world, and still meeting our ethical and social responsibility standards.

S - Let's find a way to do it. Child care can be more powerful than cash!

B - I too feel inspired. Funding without C&C.

I – So much to achieve ... but why not?

K – Break for a beautiful dinner and then on we go to changing the world for children in Africa, Middle East, Asia and South America with the CHILDHOOD projects. And to making a great video for YouTube. We can do it ... despite my IRS crisis ...

B – After dinner I think we must get back to realities of funding CHILDHOOD Suisse with \$100,000 in 2012 as a first step to the million we need ...to really make a difference ... as the NGO with great values to help handicapped children worldwide ... and perhaps an impossible solution for the IRS ... on we go ...

ACT 3 CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN

K - Well, after that inspiring dinner, we are ready to change the world for our children and achieve the \$1,000,000 funding for CHILDHOOD Switzerland? My motto for this is: Cash seems to be the best motivator for achieving the impossible ... but perhaps child care is going to be an even better one ?

B – Funding? Yes, and to be up to date in 2012, I think we should make a dramatic video on YouTube to express our inspiring ideas. Do we have the video camera handy?

K – Oh no. So sorry. I forgot to bring it. But we can hire one locally via the web. Let me do it with my computer now.

DELAY WITH COMPUTER

K – Yes, here it is ...video camera Xgrm 239 high quality for hire.

B – How much?

K – 80 dollars a day and a deposit of 1000 dollars for safe return. We can pick it up locally, just about five minutes from here today.

B- Ok Use my visa card. I will pick it up a bit later. Must be a great camera. I do hope I will get my \$1000 back again. Cash is a great motivator for forgetting.

COMPUTER ACTION

K – Done!!! Now to resolve our problems and then make the video which will raise funds for CHILDHOOD and perhaps even help to change C&C.

S - May I offer my experience now? Afghanistan is a rival to BULGARIA as the C &C capital of the world. So just for a little while let's discuss how to change C&C in the world. Is it possible, with child care as the key value, even more than cash?

I – Well, I don't know. But perhaps before the video we could discuss and understand C&C better as may apply to four areas: no. 1 business, no. 2 government, no. 3 NGO's (including UN) and finally no. 4 at a personal level of truth and honesty.

C – May I contribute to no. 4? Do people want to be honest and truthful with each other? If so why the 95% popularity of alcohol - wine and spirits - which give us joy by changing our perception of our personal reality for a short time.

S – In Russia all the workers drink with breakfast and go to work a bit drunk. It's a tradition. They are content.

B – And all young people seem to need alcohol to make a good party.

K – We seem to ban cigarettes, but nobody dares to ban alcohol, just to make it more expensive.

C – Yes, for our children in the future, we all have a common hope for personal truth and honesty, so perhaps we should set the example for our children to follow. Not just in words but in behaviour – body language which communicates our feelings so much better. And maybe with less alcohol, we will also save cash.

I – Agreed. Cash is a great motivator for achieving the impossible, but CHILDHOOD can be our personal inspiration for a caring responsible happy life style. Now back to no. 1 business. How to motivate less C&C in business?

S – Perhaps C&C and especially tax evasion, can be made to be much more difficult to achieve ... without being found out.

S – By rewarding the whistle blowers. Don't fire them, reward them with cash!! 25% of anti-C&C recovered can go in absolute secrecy to the whistle blower. This would also be wonderful motivation for slowing the epidemic of tax evasion.

K – Oh dear. Are they talking about me and the &95,000 to pay. Will a whistle blower get 25%. Now who could it be? Oh dear, my ethics are getting terribly bruised today.

B – Not o worry Kevin, a chartered accountant. The traditional hones man of business will save you and might evenj call it avoidance, not evasion.

S – So with whistle blowers, including me of course, C&C becomes too difficult ... managers in business begin to think twice to avoid the risk ... and thus it provides a better business environment for their and all of our own children in the future.

B – Add to that an annual external business ethics audit by chartered accountants.

K – But that already exists – financial audit. And they charge a fortune!!!

B – No when we have both a financial and an ethics external annual ethics audit, to make major unethical behaviour will known to all.

C - And of course double fees for chartered accountants?

B - Of course, we have our standards ... and we must always be aware of peanuts and coconuts.

I – Forgive me!!! But what ... do peanuts and coconuts have to do with C&C?

B – Everything. Don't get emotionally invested in peanuts – small cash amounts (unimportant things) and concentrate only on coconuts (large amounts of cash). Must not get emotionally invested in peanuts ... just leave them to the monkeys!!!

K – Will business dare to do it?

B – Up to now they only do it in Sweden, where criminals go to five star prisons. Need to sell the idea in USA and UK, so that CNN love to respond on TV ... with huge drama... “No ethics audit this year ... by the XYZ company ... so they MUST be concealing something they are ashamed of...?”

S – Unless of course CNN would lose advertisers!!

K – Too true! Great stuff!!! OK!! Now for no. 2 government, where cash is the great motivator to C&C. Ideas?

I – We now, thanks to Musta, we know how to be gentle and cooperative with government. Seems so difficult to stop government C&C when civil servants are paid so poorly and have to support a family. In Rumania it's accepted, like giving a tip the waiter ... only the “waiter” may be to a policeman or a customs officer or the tax man ...who has to feed his family, somehow.

S – That is bribery! I think we must begin to hold both the payer of the bribe and the receiver of a bribe equally responsible and send them both to jail with a huge fine. Not just a fine !!

B – But to be fair, we have got to pay government officials a living wage and make it more difficult for them to accept bribes. Perhaps with electronics we could make it so difficult to keep secret? With all sorts of

electronic devices that video and overhear all interactions ... so that there is no secret placed to do the C&C deal

S – And then to be tough. The communists Chinese killed off 3 million criminals, but they didn't have the UN Rights of Man Charter in those days. So NOW ... we just keep them in prison for 25 years and pretend we are being human.

C – My suggestion. A low cost new medical solution for chronic criminals. Let each one have a choice ... choose prison for 20 years ... or a new laser surgery and out in three months. With laser surgery designed to take away all motivation to do C&C. Thus the ex-criminal can be released into society with no danger to anyone.

S – Not yet legal. Very hard for the medical people to accept and very hard for the rights of man to be changed. But over time abortion and no-rhesus have been accepted, and euthanasia is being accepted ... so why not anti-C&C laser surgery. It would save millions of dollars ... a great political motivator.

B – Yes, in the current financial crisis, all of those ideas could save millions, no billions of dollars, worldwide. Ideas? So good for our children in the future.

K – Well now for no. 3 NGO's and the UN. Alas, great sources of corruption. Complex environments of good and bad all mixed up. So many wonderful projects in principle but such a lot of C&C in reality. So we must make that great convincing video. Bill, now could you go and collect the camera please?

B – Will do ... back in five minutes...

EXIT BILL

C – On we go with NGO's and UN. The trouble is PR – public relations. So many projects and funded by external donors, managed by NGO's, staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and supervised by government officials, require reports of success as the only acceptable result. So failure is gently forgotten and almost never publicized, even by CNN (who could lose advertisers!!!)

I – Yes indeed. So when an external auditor of a UN million dollar project is tempted to report failure of a project, he is advised to be “more

careful” in his report with euphemisms such as: project did not achieve all of the objectives, for external causes, but was a “great benefit” to the country e.g. it failed absolutely, but they kept the vehicles!!! ... or he will “not be asked again” to do any more “independent” project evaluations.

C – Now what to do when nobody wants the truth? Answer the CNN and Wiki leaks. Oh dear!! They do manufacture the news ... and could fight for less C&C in UN and NGO’s ...

S - If CNN does not lose advertisers

C – Yes for the long term benefit of changing the world ... for our children.

I – Agreed. And so now we have applied our ideas to the four areas: no. 1 business, no. 2 government, no. 3 NGO (including UN) and finally no. 4 at a personal level of truth and honesty. Now for the video?

K – Yes, now we are we ready to change the C&C of the world for children and achieve 1,000,000 dollars funding for CHILDHOOD Suisse? We are ready to rehearse the video for YouTube, to expresses our CHILDHOOD values. Do hope we have the video camera soon?

ARRIVAL OF BILL

B – Hello again.

K – Camera?

B – Long story. Oh dear. I went to the address. It was not a video camera shop, it was a transport company.

K – Oh no!!! The camera website said 30 dollars to transport a camera.

B– The transport company after a 20 minute delay ... said to me ... no cameras here! It is a scam!!! Scam!!! SCAM!!! You have lost your deposit!!!

SHOCK ALL ROUND

S – SCAM!!! Oh no. Impossible. A whole day discussing C&C and we have been scammed!!!

B – SCAM !!! The guy in the reception was firm and authoritative!!! He said there have been several other cases of camera scam and they have reported them all to the policed, but no result!

K – SCAM!!! Oh dear. Here we are raising cash for CHILDHOOD with no C&C ... and we have just lost \$1000.

B – How could we be so naive? Oh dear. Learning about C&C is tough.

C – Wait a moment. Perhaps all is well. You need a woman on the job in C&C cases. You just used the website. Did the web site give a company telephone number?

K – It is a SCAM!!! But, let me find it...

B - Such a dumbo to lose \$1000 in a SCAM!!! For a good cause.

K - Here it is 44 207 487 2716. It is not here in Geneva. It is in London. Only the transport company is here. I will ring now...

TELEPHONE CONFUSED CONVERSATION...

K – Video camera hire ... yes... order number 4567 ... we paid by Visa card Boland ... and to pick up the camera ... we went to your Geneva address ... they said it was a SCAM!!! SCDAM!!!.....NO ...NO? ...NO SCAM!!! ... !!! ... Hooray... Hooray ... HOORAY!!!

It is NOT a scam ... they are in London, UK and used the Geneva transport company to ship cameras ...they do not have the one we want and have not charged the visa card ... no scam!!!

B – Hooray \$1000 saved.

K – Thank you so much. No, I think we will get a local camera in Geneva. Thank you indeed for not being a SCAM!!! Goodbye ... thank you so much ... you have made my day.

I – Well actually I have a video camera in my car which we use for Rally Democratic Centre videos, and I happen to be an enthusiastic video camera operator ... at your service ... Should I get it now ...?

K – Please?

EXIT ITAC FOR A MINUTE

K – Really. Why did I not even think about that obvious possibility... that we might have a camera right here in the group ... it so easy to forget the obvious ... now on we go to rehearse the video for YouTube video ... to raise cash for CHILDHOOD - Suisse and indirectly ... for my dream ... C&C prevention ... for the benefit of children in the future.

C – Rehearsal let's do the video first rehearsal now ...and then the final later ... ready?

DOORBELL RINGS – ARRIVAL OF MUSTA

K – Oh Musta welcome. You are just in time...we are going to rehearse the video.

M – What luck indeed. I am standing by with theatrical help as needed. I showed your one page outline to Nara, m chief. And he was very impressed. Inspired!!! It changed his views ...

B – Great ... now ready for the video everyone... waiting for the camera?

RETURN OF ITAC WITH CAMERA READY FOR ACTION

I – Camera is ready to run. I can do it ... but who can use it for my performance.

M – Well actually I do know video cameras very well ...perhaps I could do it all ...

K – You are becoming part of the CHILDHOOD team Musta.?

M – Yes, and finding it so rewarding. So let me direct a bit ... OK? Do you all have your parts ready?

K – Yes – All assigned and practiced.

ALL IN LINE TO PERFORM

M – Right ...on we go ... just a first rehearsal ... drama please ... !!!!!

K . - I start

CHILDHOOD SWITZERLAND – CARING FOR CHILDREN

ONE MILLION SWISS FRANC APPEAL

Taking action today to prevent child disability tomorrow

MUSTA WAVING ARMS FOR MORE DRAMA

B - Then me ...

DISABILITY

Seven million children under five in developing countries die every year from preventable illness. Many more are needlessly disabled. Many of the causes of disability in children are preventable or reversible. For example:

C – My turn

MUSTA WAVING ARMS FOR MORE DRAMA

Iodine deficiency is the greatest worldwide cause of preventable child brain damage.

S – My turn

Up to 80% of child blindness in developing countries is avoidable.

I – My turn

Four preventable causes account for 50% of child deafness and brain damage.

MUSTA WAVING ARMS FOR MORE DRAMA

C – Back to me

CHILDHOOD SWITZERLAND - With an Executive Committee and offices in WHO (World Health Organization) Geneva, and in collaboration with the CHILDHOOD World Federation, CHILDHOOD SWITZERLAND seeks to identify and bring Swiss resources to the

prevention and care of child disabilities. It has focussed on three principal areas in which it can help to prevent child disability:

MUSTA WAVING ARMS FOR MORE DRAMA

S – Now me

1. Vitamin A deficiency is the largest cause of child blindness. It blinds at least 300,000 children annually, and malnutrition damages the health of many of the world's children. Rapid change is deliverable with cheap solutions which really work, such as home gardening and cooking schools, food fortification and supplementation.

I – And me

2. Immunization is mankind's most powerful and cost-effective weapon against disabling disease and ensures access to appropriate vaccinations for children, pregnant women and girls of child bearing age.

C – And me

MUSTA WAVING ARMS FOR MORE DRAMA

3. Safer Motherhood and child survival – WHO estimates that 350,000 healthy young women do not survive pregnancy and childbirth each year and approximately 15 million children develop long-term disabilities. A child without a mother has a disability!

S – Now me ...

CHILDHOOD Switzerland aims to be a key provider of volunteer health personnel, technical and financial support to the CHILDHOOD Foundation in poor countries to address the very serious gaps in child disability prevention. It is now appealing for funding to enable it to carry out this life saving and life enhancing work.

I – Now the last one me

CONTACT

Karl McGa, Chief Executive (ex UN regional representative).
Website: <http://www.CHILDHOODswitzerland.ch/>

B – Wonderful Musta! Well done everyone. Well ... no SCAM ... and I have just saved \$1000 ... so let me treat your all to a large bottle of champagne at the bar next door... to put us in a great mood for the final video ...

K – Yes we want a theatrically great fund raising video for CHILDHOOD - Suisse ... on YouTube ... on we go ... together ...with our belief ... that with child care ... crime and corruption is not inevitable ... when we all can care enough ... for our children ...

M - Oh and I have news for you all. My chief Nara was so impressed by the one page of video dialogue and the web site and the way you are all so devoted to honest care for handicapped children ...

K – Really?

M – Yes he has made a decision...

K – Decision?

M – Yes, you inspired him!!! He is going to retire from his business and concentrate on the care of his handicapped child. And now he offers you \$100,000 as a legitimate contribution and would like to be the first Suisse member of your fine CHILDHOOD committee. Do you agree?

K – Well, I think we must discuss this issue ...

B – No. no, no ... no more discussion please ... I put it to the vote ... do we agree to accept?

ALL ... Agreed ... Hooray!!!

B – You see Kevin. You were right. CHILDHOOD can not only inspire care for handicapped children ... but CHILDHOOD can also inspire people to change C&C for the better ... well done Kevin. Well done, indeed! And as your reward, I think I can resolve your IRS problem.

K – Really? \$95, 000 saved? A miracle ... impossible!! .. how can you do it ...?

B – Well I suddenly remembered ... you did say that you filed and paid income tax each year in Suisse?

K – Yes ... I did ... and it's jolly complicated ...

B – Well with the US IRS double taxation treaty with Suisse ... the US always allows you to deduct what you paid in Suisse taxes from IRS tax due ... and as Suisse income tax are higher than US taxes ... thanks to the Republicans and not to Obama ... I think we will find that IRS tax will be nothing due ... and so all IRS penalties will be cancelled

K – Oh. Thank you. Thank you so much. You have made my day ... on we go to raising funds for CHILDHOOD Switzerland ...

C – Hooray!

K – I slowly begin to believe ... that each new day is indeed a gift ... for which we must be grateful ... and together today ... let's achieve something ... for ... CHILDHOOD ...

GROUP CELEBRATING WHILE MUNTA MAKES A CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE CALL TO HIS BOSS

M – Hello Boss ... yes Boss. I did it!! -Better than we thought ... they accepted everything ... we are on the way

END OF PLAY

External Romanian comment on the play before it was edited and changed for actual performance in April 2012 at the Lord Stanley Theatre in Camden London

This is about as specific as I can get without writing a play myself - and I'm behind on my own tasks!

My general (as opposed to specific) point is a question for you: what is your own take on C&C?

Is it something to avoid like the plague (or AIDS)? Or is it something we sometimes, when in a corner, find we have to engage in on a one-off basis (a gift to secure that building permit, a weekend in the country to secure that contract etc) in order to get things done?

Personally, I believe it HAS to be a no-half-measures matter. I may think I'm in for an inch, but it then turns out to be a mile... and with the best of intentions: ie "helping others". Ends, I have decided, never justify means.

Once I begin to bend this rule, I start to be plagued with fear, stress and uncertainty which has an uncanny way of becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. There is also evidence that C&C may be as addictive as heroin or booze - for some of us. (Talk to the recovering victims of human trafficking we work with at the CRD: none of them for a minute INTENDED to get stuck in a life of blackmail, slavery and drugs. They just wanted a job!)

At a societal level there is a very clear correlation between corruption and poverty for the many. (Compare transparency international data with GDP per capita data).

So for the practical purpose of leading a peaceful, contented life (according to those Desiderata for example) I believe it is wiser to shun the lure of C&C utterly, no matter the apparent disadvantage that position may put me in, materially speaking, compared to the rest of my countrymen.

There have been a number of high profile (and probably token or even political) arrests in Romania in recent months: a number of mayors, senators, deputies and customs officials. The position I hear most frequently on such cases is: "Oh so-and-so was just unlucky. There are thousands like him only worse. You'll see: in a few months or a year and he'll be back at it again, like all the rest"

This sort of cynicism hides, I think, a generalised view that C&C is okay here "as long as you don't get caught". Which is how one of the richest countries in Europe (as far as natural, mineral and human resources are concerned), "the former bread basket of Europe", today finds itself (with Greece that has virtually no resources at all) still stuck at the bottom of the EU economic and social heap...