



23 February 1999

JOHN HOWARD MP
MEMBER FOR BENNELONG
PRIME MINISTER

Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Minister for Immigration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of Mr. Wong* of Sydney NSW concerning his wish to remain in Australia after being refused by the Refugee Review Tribunal on 5 December 1996

I have written two previous letters in support of Mr. Wong which you will find in the submission to be made by his solicitors, JUSTIN RICKARD & ASSOCIATES#.

Mr. Wong has visited my electorate office on a number of occasions seeking my assistance with his case. He is very forceful in his wish to remain in Australia and cites the benefits this country would gain if he were allowed to remain. I sympathise with his wish and, although the circumstances leading to his application are very unusual by western standards, they are not unheard of in other cultures.

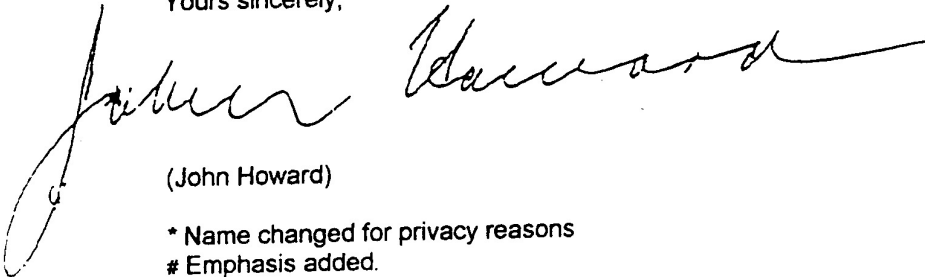
It is Mr. Wong's firm belief that if he were to have remained in Singapore under the influence of his former wife, and the spell, which she had charged a medium to lay upon him, he would be dead. He believes his sister-in-law, because she did not divulge his whereabouts to his former wife, died at the age of 46 of the same spell which was laid upon him. His manner when discussing this situation indicates he genuinely fears for his life should he return to Singapore.

Mr. Wong gave up his successful family business when he fled Singapore. He has continued his interest in this area and won many awards of excellence for sales, through his employer "Harry's"* during the eight years he has been in Australia. He also has a good command of Bahasa and Chinese Cantonese, Mandarin and Hokkien dialects that are helpful with the large Chinese community here in Sydney.

He has indicated also that when granted permanent residence he has the ambition and capital, available through his family in Singapore, to carve his own successful business here in Australia.

I believe that Mr. Wong, if granted sanctuary here in Australia, would make every effort to give to his new country a strong commitment to both community and business life and ask that sympathetic consideration be given to awarding him permanent residence.

Yours sincerely,



(John Howard)

* Name changed for privacy reasons
Emphasis added.

H. I really think this is
a worthy application