

# Manager cheated bank into releasing \$8m to bogus firm years' jail for 'revenge' against employer

MARKETING manager  
t he was under pres-  
y his company to leave  
b decided to take re-  
against his employer.

Hong Kwang, 44, set  
rm to receive payments  
ods worth about \$4.98  
n (\$8.12 million)  
l to Sears Roebuck &  
ny (SRC) in Chicago  
ther company.

was jailed for eight  
yesterday for cheating.  
: the parent company  
rs Buying Services Inc  
a wholly-owned sub-  
which employed Lee  
keting manager.

nead the authority to ne-  
prices with buyers, ap-  
letters of credit and  
equies for purchases.

ugust last year, SRC  
three contracts to  
n Consumer Electron-  
the purchase of video  
recorders worth more  
\$4 million. The VCRs  
ipped by International  
roducts. Payment was  
made by telegraphic  
direct from Thomson.

Lee, now unemployed,  
bout the contracts, he  
a plot against his em-  
He felt the company



Lee: Lost money gambling in Hongkong, says counsel.

He obtained an original  
bill of lading and prepared  
false invoices for IVP Video  
Products, a firm which he set  
up in October last year.

He also used a Malaysian's  
office and banking facilities in  
Kuala Lumpur for his scam.

Yesterday, he admitted  
three charges of cheating  
ABN AMRO Bank in Church  
Street into releasing a total of  
US\$4.98 million, by way of  
letters of credit in favour of  
IVP Video Products, between

count at Perwira Habib Bank  
Malaysia. The other two sums  
of US\$775,462 and US\$960,663  
were released to IVP's ac-  
count with ABN AMRO Bank.

Inspector Ng Cho Wan,  
prosecuting, told the court  
that SRC was checking the  
three contracts with Thomson  
Consumer Electronics this  
year when it found out that it  
had paid twice for the goods.

SRC's bank paid direct to  
Thomson. Another payment  
was made by ABN AMRO  
Bank in Singapore.

Insp Ng said Lee asked a  
colleague to amend the LCs in  
favour of IVP Video Products  
instead of International Video  
Products Pte Ltd, which sup-  
plied the goods.

After the first payment  
went through, he instructed  
the Malaysian to remit  
US\$3.16 million to his bank  
account in Hongkong. In the  
other two transactions, he di-  
verted S\$1.2 million and  
US\$960,000 to that account.

He resigned from SBSI in  
November last year.

The Commercial Crime Di-  
vision investigated the case  
and nearly \$1.5 million was  
recovered.

Lee's counsel said in miti-