

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of:)
)
)
SS NORWAY) DCA 03 MM 032
)

Miami, Florida

Friday
June 6, 2003

The above-entitled matter came on for the
Interview of Pradip Pun, pursuant to
Notice.

APPEARANCES:

For the National Transportation Safety Board:

JIM WALSH

For the United States Coast Guard:

JUAN TORRES

For Norwegian Cruise Lines:

JOHANNAS KERSON (phonetic)

Also Present:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

EXAMINATION

BY MR. WALSH:

Q Pradip, would you give us your full name, please, safety and your crew numbers?

A My name is Pradip Pun, my safety number is 020 and crew number is 058.

Q Mr. Pun, what is your job on board?

A My job is I security supervisor.

Q Security supervisor and how long have you had that job?

A I have been three years.

Q And those three years, have they all been on the Norway?

A Yes.

Q What were you doing before that?

A Before that I was in Star Cruises Line.

Q One more time?

A Star Cruises Line.

Q Star Cruises?

A Yes.

Q And what did you do there?

A Security guard.

Q How long were you a security guard for them?

A Three years.

- 1 Q And prior to that what were you doing, sir?
- 2 A Before that I was at home for four years.
- 3 Q For four years?
- 4 A Yeah.
- 5 Q And your home is in Nepal?
- 6 A Yes. Before that I was in the British Army.
- 7 Q And what did you do in the British Army?
- 8 A I'm an infantry soldier.
- 9 Q Infantry soldier?
- 10 A Yeah. And I promoted as a corporal, as a
11 lance corporal.
- 12 Q Lance corporal?
- 13 A Corporal.
- 14 Q When you came to the Norway three years ago
15 did you receive any special training to be a supervisor
16 of security guards?
- 17 A Special training is not, because they
18 selected me as a supervisor.
- 19 Q Did you receive any special safety training?
- 20 A Yeah. I got this, yes. On board the SS
21 Norway.
- 22 Q What kind of safety training did you receive?
- 23 A I had the first aid training. First aid.
- 24 Q What is that?
- 25 A That's the first aid.

1 Q First aid?

2 A Yes. And basic fire fighter.

3 Q Basic fire fighter?

4 A Yeah. And PSSR.

5 Q The PSSR stands for?

6 A Personal Social Safety Response.

7 Q Personal Social Safety Responsibility?

8 A Yes.

9 UNKNOWN: Is it responsibility or response?

10 THE WITNESS: Response.

11 BY MR. WALSH:

12 Q Response.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Have you received training from Star Cruises?

15 A Yeah, I have.

16 Q What was that training?

17 A Same basically I have done in the Star
18 Cruises. Same thing I have done and after that I
19 joined SS Norway I got same training as well.

20 Q What are your emergency duties on board the
21 Norway?

22 A My emergency duties, vice crowd control
23 leader.

24 Q Vice crowd control leader?

25 A Yes.

1 Q What do you do for that?

2 A And I assist on scene commander and follow
3 the direction of officer in command.

4 Q So you assist the on scene commander and what
5 else?

6 A And direction of officer of command.

7 Q Officer as command?

8 A Operation.

9 Q Operations?

10 A Operational.

11 Q Operational command?

12 A Yes, operational command.

13 Q Who is the on scene commander on board this
14 ship?

15 A The on scene commander is the chief engineer.

16 Q The chief engineer?

17 A Yeah, chief engineer.

18 Q When you drill, how often do you drill on
19 board the ship?

20 A Once a week.

21 Q Once a week. If the ship has a fire drill,
22 what is the code for that?

23 A That's the Code Bravo.

24 Q And what do you do in a Code Bravo on a
25 drill?

1 A If it is sound by PA system, we would
2 assemble where the on scene is and we will follow the
3 order from operational command.

4 Q On your normal drills, when you report to the
5 on scene commander, do you talk to the on scene
6 commander?

7 A Actually, we report directly to the
8 operational command.

9 Q Operational command?

10 A Yeah, operational command.

11 Q Who is operational command?

12 A That's actually captain, but usually done by
13 the staff captain.

14 Q On Saturday, what were your working hours?
15 Saturday, May 24?

16 A Saturday is private island?

17 Q Mm-hmm. Do you go ashore on the private
18 island?

19 A No.

20 Q So what did you do on Saturday?

21 A I was at the gangway security.

22 Q What time do you finish work on Saturday?

23 A At 8:00.

24 Q And what time did you go to bed that night?

25 A As soon as I finish off my duty I went to

1 bed.

2 Q No dinner?

3 A Yeah. I had dinner before that, because I
4 had to work early mornings of holidays, that's why I
5 went to bed.

6 Q What time did you wake up on Sunday?

7 A On Sunday 3:30.

8 Q And the reason you woke up at 3:30?

9 A I had to work 4:00.

10 Q You had to work at 4:00. Who brings the
11 pilot on board when you come into Miami?

12 A The pilot on board is usually our deck
13 department, their guys they rig the ladder for the
14 pilot and we'll man one security standby and deck
15 officer come to pick up the pilot.

16 Q Who is the security officer on Sunday morning
17 that was standing by with the pilot?

18 A It was 3:15, so I couldn't remember. I
19 started 4:00. It should be one of Yock or Semetra,
20 because they working.

21 Q Yock or Semetra?

22 A Yeah, one of them.

23 Q Okay. So you wake up at 3:30, now what
24 happens?

25 A Wake up 3:30 and I just brush my teeth and I

1 just put on my uniform and I started by duty.

2 Q What is that duty at 4:00 in the morning?

3 A Yeah, 4:00. Actually, about -- I stand by
4 for positioning the ship. Positioning the ship.

5 Q Positioning the ship?

6 A Yes, positioning the ship.

7 Q So you're positioning the ship?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q How do you help do that?

10 A Actually, we have a certain distance here and
11 we count down every ten minutes. We count down from 80
12 meters, we count down every ten we count down. After
13 ten minutes and we count down every one meter and after
14 one meter, count down feet (inaudible).

15 Q Are you using a radio?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Who do you talk to on the radio?

18 A The bridge, to the captain.

19 Q Which channel do you use on the radio?

20 A Channel five.

21 Q And where are you doing this count down?

22 A While we are reaching the Miami pier.

23 Q Yes, but where are you on the ship when
24 you're doing the count down?

25 A Oh, okay. Okay. I am in -- okay. Stair

1 tower six.

2 Q So you're doing this from stair tower six?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And the door is open?

5 A Yeah. The door is open.

6 Q Did anything unusual happen that morning?

7 A No.

8 Q So stair tower six, all set. When do you
9 leave?

10 A And then as soon as all the line fasten, then
11 I leave.

12 Q All lines fastened and how do you know all
13 lines are fastened?

14 A Because I heard (inaudible). I listen by the
15 radio.

16 Q Now where do you go?

17 A And then after I close the shell room.

18 Q You close the shell room?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q And now where do you go?

21 A Then I went to the gangway, straight to the
22 gangway.

23 Q Which gangway is that?

24 A That's the Biscayne Deck, Miami end we call
25 crew gangway Biscayne Deck.

1 Q Was anyone else there?

2 A Yeah. I saw two my guys on standby, Semetra
3 and Yock.

4 Q So Semetra and Yock were there?

5 A Yeah, Semetra and Yock were there.

6 Q About what time was that?

7 A It was about 6:20,

8 Q Now what happens?

9 A Is 6:20 and I met security officer Nigel.

10 Q So he's there now too?

11 A Yes.

12 Q So there are four of you there?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Nigel is there. Now what happens?

15 A We set up everything, actually, everything
16 was set up for the security.

17 Q The x-ray is set up?

18 A Mm-hmm.

19 Q What else?

20 A And walk through, everything is ready.

21 Q Do you put out the safety net?

22 A Actually, their guys fix the safety net and
23 everything, yes.

24 Q So that's all ready. Okay. About what time
25 is this now?

1 A It was 6:20, 6:25 something now. It was all
2 ready when I came by the gangway, it was all ready.

3 Q So at 6:25 what happens?

4 A At 6:25, after that I send one of the
5 security guards, Semetra, to have breakfast.

6 Q Okay.

7 A She went to breakfast.

8 Q Now what?

9 A And we wait there for a couple of few minutes
10 and suddenly we heard the sound of bang.

11 Q A bang?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q A loud bang?

14 A Yes, this is a loud bang. A loud bang and at
15 the same time very heavy strong full of smoke.

16 Q You saw a heavy --

17 A Heavy smoke.

18 Q Heavy smoke?

19 A Smoke and pressure, air pressure.

20 Q Air pressure?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Heavy smoke and air pressure.

23 A It was suddenly to the gangway.

24 Q Okay.

25 A And there is no other way, any other chance

1 to go and we just lacking clue, you know. We are just
2 run away to the gangway.

3 Q So you run down the gangway?

4 A Yes. It was like full of smoke so we cannot
5 see anything.

6 Q Full of smoke.

7 A Yeah, full of smoke.

8 Q What does it smell like?

9 A I don't feel any smell, but it seems like
10 CO₂, something like that.

11 Q Do you remember if you could taste it?

12 A No, I can't.

13 Q Is it cold?

14 A No.

15 Q Is it hot?

16 A No. It was hot, yes.

17 Q It was hot?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you feel burning?

20 A No, no I didn't.

21 Q And it's to your back now?

22 A Yeah, back all smoke.

23 Q So you're running down the gangway. Is the
24 smoke following you?

25 A Yeah. It was very strong, so following at

1 the same time, yeah.

2 Q So now you make it to the pier?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Now what happens?

5 A Then after that I saw some crew member was
6 (inaudible) and I run away to find out what had
7 happened and Biscayne Deck I saw two crew member,
8 another fell down on the ship and I run down to grab
9 the (inaudible) and just rescue one of -- Preston. He
10 was already in the water.

11 Q Preston?

12 A Yes. Preston, yes.

13 Q Preston was in the water and you put down the
14 ladder?

15 A The ladder, yes.

16 Q Was anyone helping you?

17 A Yeah. One agent, Felix.

18 Q Felix?

19 A Yes.

20 Q You were with Yock and Nigel. As you came
21 running down the gangway and you're on the pier, are
22 you all still standing up?

23 A Yes.

24 Q So you're all standing up. You ran down the
25 gangway, so you now see to your left somebody in the

1 water.

2 A Yes.

3 Q You go running down there?

4 A Yes, I run down and --

5 Q Where did Felix come from?

6 A Felix was -- he was at the gangway because it
7 was passing the gangway after Semetra, one of security,
8 she say that she's the one who saw the way to escape.

9 Q So Felix wasn't with you at the gangway when
10 you, Nigel and Yock were there?

11 A No, he was not. He wasn't there.

12 Q So you, Nigel and Yock are on the pier. You
13 hear people and you go straight there?

14 A Yes, I straight down there.

15 Q Can you remember what Nigel or Yock did?

16 A They was talking with the bridge and they are
17 telling that two person are in the water.

18 Q Nigel tells the bridge that two people are in
19 the water. Did you hear any signals from the ship now
20 or announcements? Or on the radio?

21 A After we rescue him, we heard that Code
22 Alpha.

23 Q After you rescued him?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you remember any more crew members in the

1 crew gangway? I'm sorry, wrong question. Do you
2 remember any more crew members in the garbage gangway?

3 A Garbage gangway, no. Most of them already
4 out.

5 Q When you say "out," they --

6 A They already -- because of strong pressure,
7 they go outside.

8 Q So as you're pulling up Preston, was there
9 someone else in the water too?

10 A Yeah. One of the crew member already was
11 holding the safety net.

12 Q He was holding the safety net?

13 A Yeah, and somebody rescue him, but I didn't
14 know who do that.

15 Q So you heard a Code Alpha while you were
16 helping Preston up and now what happens?

17 A And after that one of -- harbor master came
18 and was saying we need to open the gangway, aft gangway
19 too, because if we need rescue, we need to have gangway
20 open and immediately I run away to stair tower six.

21 Q So the harbor master tells you --

22 A Yeah, we need to open the gangway.

23 Q Open the shell door?

24 A Yeah. The shell door, yeah. I asked them
25 please to open the shell door and --

1 Q And you asked the bridge to open the shell
2 door. How did you do that?

3 A We need to open the aft gangway.

4 Q How did you do that?

5 A Can I have permission to open the aft
6 gangway.

7 Q But how did you talk to the bridge?

8 A Bridge security.

9 Q Over the radio?

10 A Yes, over the radio and permission is
11 granted, so --

12 Q The aft gangway or the --

13 A Norway Deck aft gangway.

14 Q Norway aft gangway.

15 A And by that time --

16 Q And they gave you permission?

17 A Yes. They gave me permission, but there is
18 no power.

19 Q There is no power.

20 A No power and I call immediately to --

21 Q How did you get there? How did you get to
22 the --

23 A I went by the aft gangway Biscayne.

24 Q Aft gangway Biscayne and up?

25 A Yes.

1 Q You get there, there's no power. Now what
2 happens?

3 A No power and I immediately call assistant
4 bosun.

5 Q You called the bosun?

6 A Assistant bosun, yeah, because we need to
7 open by manual because I didn't have time, it takes
8 quite a little bit long time, so I didn't have the time
9 to wait and open, so I called immediately and they
10 arrive.

11 Q Did you tell the bridge that you had no
12 power?

13 A Yes, I told. I told them there is no power,
14 so we are going to open by hand.

15 Q So the harbor master tells you that you need
16 to open the shell door up on Norway in case -- why did
17 he want to do that?

18 A Because in case we need to evacuate, that's
19 the reason we need to open.

20 Q For evacuation?

21 A Yes.

22 Q You go immediately back on board. What is
23 Nigel and Yock doing now?

24 A Yock was on the aft gangway, is crowd control
25 of the aft gangway and Nigel is still on the pier, he

1 was assisting to rescue team to arrive and medical
2 rescue team he assisted.

3 Q Do you remember crew members coming down the
4 aft gangway?

5 A Some crew member does, yes. Some crew
6 member, yes. Those who were near by.

7 Q Do you remember the captain telling anybody
8 to stop?

9 A Not by that time, no.

10 Q You are up on the aft gangway Norway Deck, no
11 power and you're opening it manually, so you're pumping
12 the hydraulics?

13 A Yes. And by the way, I call (inaudible) to
14 open up.

15 Q And it gets opened.

16 A Yes, it's opened.

17 Q Do you stay there?

18 A No, no. I have to leave because I have other
19 things to do, so I have to leave this area.

20 Q Where do you go?

21 A After that operational command called me that
22 okay, we need to do crowd control.

23 Q Where?

24 A Crowd control, passenger area.

25 Q Passenger area.

1 A Yes, in passenger area and especially
2 International Deck.

3 Q International Deck, okay. So you're on
4 International Deck.

5 A And I just -- after that, the people are
6 gathering, hollering on the pier, my team -- and my
7 team all together and one of them is staying on the
8 forward gangway and mid ship gangway and aft gangway,
9 we man three gangway on Norway Deck.

10 Q Norway Deck.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q How many people on each gangway?

13 A One person.

14 Q One person on each gangway.

15 A And I put Semetra on crew gangway. And after
16 that one of the guys, Mr. Chuck, security officer, send
17 up to crowd control and if there are indication of
18 panic or something else, I send him port side and I go
19 starboard side.

20 Q And this was on International Deck?

21 A Yes, International Deck and also all of
22 public area on whole ship.

23 Q All public areas, okay.

24 A We check, no one there, everybody mustering
25 to their life boat station and we check everything is

1 okay and by that time, one passenger requested to get
2 medicine from the cabin and I went and I find the cabin
3 -- medicine.

4 Q Okay.

5 A It was very hard, of course. There is no
6 electricity.

7 Q No electricity yet?

8 A No. There is no AC on, that's why --

9 Q How about lights?

10 A Yes, light is okay. Light was there, but no
11 AC, so already I saw some of them are very thirsty and
12 I made sure some of them are having water and I call
13 the firemen to bring some water and they response. And
14 they did.

15 And after that, I -- an office commander
16 ordered us to go to (inaudible) and search the cabin
17 with Biscayne Deck and Caribbean Deck and I took Yock
18 and myself to check around and we (inaudible), they are
19 taking both sides on the Caribbean Deck. They are
20 searching both sides of the Caribbean Deck and Yock and
21 myself, we search both Biscayne and Caribbean Deck on
22 zones five and six.

23 Q Zones five and six on the Biscayne Deck?

24 A Yeah, Biscayne and Caribbean Deck.

25 Q And Caribbean, okay.

1 A At the same time, we found five fire fighter,
2 they are also checking the Caribbean.

3 Q Crew fire fighters?

4 A Yes, crew fire fighters.

5 Q Are any of the security guards helping the
6 shore side fire fighters with the injured people?

7 A Yeah, security officer and one of -- Semetra
8 went to assist rescue team to medical center. She went
9 to assist the rescue team.

10 Q Was someone then on the crew gangway when
11 Semetra was doing that?

12 A Yeah. When Semetra wasn't, Nigel was there.
13 Nigel was there. Nigel was there and after that we --
14 after we check everything, so we reported to bridge
15 everything is okay and by that time security officer
16 got order from operational command to mustering the
17 people, those who (inaudible) and I sent three guys to
18 mustering. So three guys.

19 Q Who were the three guys?

20 A One (inaudible) and Yock, three guys. They
21 were mustering those people.

22 Q And how many people did they muster?

23 A There are 119 and they got -- checked the
24 number, sign in and out and they did.

25 Q How come more people left the ship when the

1 captain sounded the abandon ship signal?

2 A Actually, it was from Norway Deck, because I
3 saw some after the abandon ship they tried to and later
4 on staff captain asked to hold the crew member not to
5 go off the ship.

6 Q About how many people left the ship when the
7 captain sounded the abandon ship signal?

8 A One hundred three, Less than 20, 17 people
9 -- 16 people, actually.

10 Q So when the first group went there were 100
11 plus?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And when the second group went, there were
14 about 16?

15 A Yes, 16. Actually, 103.

16 Q Do you recall seeing any crew members on
17 Caribbean Deck waiting for orders?

18 A No. Most of them already gone. I don't
19 know, I just was doing checks.

20 Q Did someone do zones seven and eight?

21 A No, because they told us to do zone five and
22 zone six, Caribbean and Biscayne.

23 Q Is there any reason why someone didn't check
24 the zones seven and eight?

25 A Yeah, probably fire fighter, but because we

1 been told just to do zones six and -- five and six.

2 Q Do you know how many crew members were
3 injured and taken ashore?

4 A I have no idea.

5 MR. WALSH: I don't have any further
6 questions. Johannas?

7 MR. KERSON: No further questions.

8 MR. WALSH: Juan?

9 MR. TORRES: I'm Juan Torres, U.S. Coast
10 Guard.

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. TORRES:

13 Q I just have a question in reference to when
14 you told the bridge that you weren't able to open the
15 gangway --

16 A Yeah, the shell door.

17 Q Was it the aft gangway?

18 A Yes, Norway Deck aft gangway.

19 Q Okay. Did you talk to them on the radio?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What did they reply to you?

22 A And I told bridge I am trying to open
23 manually so there is no power and they said okay
24 manually. And because I don't have enough time, you
25 know, to open manually, so I call assistant bosun is in

1 charge of shell door, so I called immediately to
2 assistant bosun and he came right now.

3 Q Was there somebody there with you when you
4 were trying to open the gangway?

5 A Yeah. Semetra. Semetra is here. One
6 security to help.

7 Q What was it that the harbor master told you?

8 A The harbor master told me that we need to
9 evacuate the passengers immediately. He told me that
10 and he wanted to open the gangway and okay, that's a
11 good idea, so immediately I went to stair tower six to
12 open the shell door, because I usually open the gangway
13 shell door, so I went to open the gangway, but no
14 power.

15 MR. TORRES: That's the only questions I
16 have.

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. WALSH:

19 Q Pradip, did Semetra come with you in the aft
20 gangway and go up or did she go another way on board
21 the ship?

22 A Yes, I didn't notice, because security
23 officer send her to go to assist the medical team and
24 later on Bill Eisen (phonetic) additional one security
25 to assist the medical team.

1 Q Was he at the Norway Deck after the gangway
2 was --

3 A No, no, no. Biscayne Deck.

4 Q Biscayne Deck?

5 A Yes. So after that I just -- yes.

6 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you. That concludes
7 the interview with Pradip.

8 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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