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Statement of Mr Albert Luyckx, Sutton House, Sutton, taken at the Bridewell Garda Station on 1.5.1970.

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I am a Belgian by birth and at present I am a naturalised Irish citizen since 1953. I am an Importer and Exporter by occupation. Sometime early this year, 1970, about February-March, I was approached by a friend of mine - Mr Méal Blaney who asked me if I would be prepared to help a friend of his whose name he said was James Kelly. This conversation took place on the telephone. He did not say at that time what type of help Mr Kelly wanted. I agreed to help but at that time I had no clue what it was all about. Later that night a man called to the Hotel Sutton House which is owned by my son-in-law. He introduced himself as James Kelly and he said he was a friend of Mr Blaney's and asked if I had got Mr Blaney's telephone call. I said I had. He asked me if I could come to the Continent with him to act as interpreter. I think he said something about buying military supplies. I agreed to go with him as I would be travelling to the Continent on business for myself anyhow. I heard no more from Mr Kelly for a while but one day, sometime around Easter, I met Mr Neil Blaney again outside his home on the Howth Road. We talked for a few minutes and Mr Blaney asked me if I was looking after Jim. I knew he was referring to James Kelly. I said that I was. I had no more discussion with him on the matter.

James Kelly called to the Hotel Sutton House on a number of occasions and we had drink together in company with other people but he made no reference to the trip to the Continent. I cannot recall the dates of those visits. About the 15th April, 1970, James Kelly again called to the Hotel Sutton House and he told me about a shipment of arms and ammunition which he wanted transferred from Vienna to Dublin and he asked me if I knew somebody in the business. I mentioned John Squire of Aer Turas and I then telephoned Mr Squire and asked him if he would call to the hotel as I had some business for him. Mr Squire came to the hotel and I had a conversation with him out of the hearing of Mr Kelly. I asked Mr Squire if he would be interested in a freight of arms and ammunition from Vienna to Dublin and he said 'yes'. I then took him across the room and introduced him to James Kelly. At this time I was aware that James Kelly was a Captain in the Irish Army. He told me this himself but I cannot say at what stage he told me.

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I asked John Squire in the presence of James Kelly how much he would charge for the freight from Vienna to Dublin and he replied '£1250'. I then left Mr Squire and Mr Kelly to themselves to discuss the transaction.

Prior to Mr Squire calling to the Hotel, I had arranged with James Kelly, at his request, to travel by air to Vienna, via Frankfurt at 9 a.m. on the 17th April on flight EI 650. We booked the tickets with Aer Lingus by telephone.

On the night in question I left the Hotel leaving Mr Squire and Mr Kelly behind me. I next met James Kelly at about 9 a.m. on Friday the 17th at Dublin Airport, where we boarded a plane for Frankfurt. A Mr Johnston met us on our arrival in Frankfurt. We chatted with Mr Johnston for a short while and then, after having lunch, we boarded another plane for Vienna.

In Frankfurt we telephoned a man named Otto Schlueter in Hamburg. Mr Schlueter gave us the name of a firm of Shipping Agents called Kirchner & Co. of Vienna. Mr Kelly had Schlueter's name and telephone number in his possession before leaving Dublin but I did the speaking as the conversation was in German.

When we arrived in Vienna we went straight to the firm of Kirchner & Co. where Kelly asked to see some firearms and ammunition which they had in their stores. They refused to show him the weapons because they said they belonged to Schlueter. We remained overnight in Vienna as we had a prior arrangement with Mr Schlueter to meet him there on the following day - Saturday. Mr Schlueter arrived in Vienna on Saturday morning and we met him at the Airport. The three of us went to the firm of Kirchner & Co. where we were shown a number of cardboard and wooden boxes. The cardboard boxes contained bullets and the wooden boxes contained firearms. Jim Kelly counted these boxes but I don't know how many there were. The salesman in the firm opened one of the wooden crates and one of the cardboard cartons and showed the contents to Jim Kelly. I saw the bullets but I did not see the firearms. As far as I am aware, no money exchanged hands and I made no transaction concerning money. I had the feeling before leaving Dublin that the transaction had already been completed and that our journey

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and that our journey/

was for the purpose of Kelly making arrangements to have the shipment sent on to Dublin.

Mr Schlueter and Mr Kelly appeared to be in very bad humour and there was very little conversation. Schlueter can speak a little English and nobody asked me to explain anything that was said between them. I got the impression from them that the deal was off. I talked to Schlueter about other business matters and I have made arrangements for him to come to Dublin on Monday next to display certain of his products to the Army Authorities here. The three of us, Kelly, Schlueter and I remained in Vienna on Saturday night and the next morning we I went by air to Dusseldorf and from there by train to Dortmund. Schlueter and Kelly remained behind in Vienna.

I next met Jim Kelly in Dusseldorf on Tuesday 21st and we both got on flight EI 631 back to Dublin, arriving there at 3 p.m. I again saw Jim Kelly on Tuesday or Wednesday night of this week when he called to my home with his wife. I told him that Otto Schlueter would be coming to Dublin early next week and that I would let him know when he arrived. I have not seen Mr Kelly since but I have spoken to his wife on the telephone. Jim Kelly never told me who the arms and ammunition were for but I naturally assumed they were for the Army Authorities seeing as how Jim Kelly was an Army Captain and that I had been asked by Mr Neil Blaney to help him out.

I have heard this statement read over to me by Chief Supt. Fleming and it is a true account of events to the best of my recollection.

(Signed) A. Luykx  
 (Witness) John P. Fleming Ch. Supt.  
 Patrick Dooney D/Inspector

Dated on this 1st day of May, 1970.