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Statement of Mr. Andrew J. Desmond, Surveyor, Customs and Excise, taken at his home 33 Shantalla Road, Beaumont, on Thursday, 23rd April, 1970, by Chief Superintendent John F. Fleming.

About 10th. April, 1970, I was approached in my office by a man who gave the name J. J. KELLY and who said he was from the Dept. of Finance. I said to this man "what do you do in the Dept" and he said "I'm Assistant to Mr. Haughey". I asked him what he meant by that and he said "I'm assisting Mr. Haughey's Assistant, really". He then said he was expecting some mining machinery in on a Charter Flight for the Department of Finance. I asked him what about documents and he said they would accompany the goods. He said the goods would be consigned to "WEEDOCKS - c/o Dept. of Finance". When KELLY had left I saw Jack FARRELLY who is Supt., Import Cargo, Aer Lingus, and I asked him to check-up on this Firm "WEEDOCKS". We could find no information about the Firm or about the importation.

On the following Wednesday, approximately, Mr. FARRELLY came to my Office and told me that the Aer Lingus Agent named JOHNSTON in Frankfort had told Aer Lingus in Dublin that a person in Frankfort was trying to send Arms and Ammunition to a Firm called "WELLUX". Mr. FARRELLY asked me if this was the Firm I was enquiring about and I said I didn't know. Later on same day J.J. KELLY called to my Office and Superintendent Jack RYAN, Aer Lingus called at the same time. KELLY knew RYAN as far as I can recollect. RYAN told both KELLY and myself that Arms and Ammunition were awaiting transport from Frankfort, and KELLY then acknowledged the fact that this was the consignment he was interested in and which he had previously described as mining machinery. He verified that it was an official Government importation intended for the Army. KELLY and RYAN then discussed the shipping of Arms and Ammunition and I.A.T.A.

Prohibitions about shipping ammunition on passenger planes.

On - I think - the following day - Thursday Mr. RYAN called to my Office and he said he had stopped any shipment from Frankfort - that Aer Lingus would not bring KELLY'S Consignment in. J.J. KELLY called to the office while RYAN was there on Thursday or Friday and RYAN had already told him on the phone about having stopped the shipment of goods.
KELLY said to me that they wanted to import the goods without fuss because of the political situation. He said they were thinking of having a charter plane and bringing all the goods in together. I was never committed to any view with regard to KELLY, that is with regard to the bona fides of his claim, or otherwise. If the goods had been imported, they would not have been cleared without proper licences, documentations, etc. as required by Standing Customs and Excise Regulations.

I finished my officiating at the Airport on Friday, 17th April, 1970 and went on holidays and I have not since heard from anybody X x x x concerned in the shipment of these goods.

This Statement has been read over to me by Chief Superintendent Fleming and it is correct.

Signed
Andrew J. Desmond.

Witness.
John P. Fleming.
Chief Superintendent

Dated this 23rd day of April, 1970.