Garda statement by Colonel Michael Hefferon, regarding an alleged plot to import arms into Ireland.

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Some time in August, 1969, it would be after the riots in the month, there was a lunch given in McKee Barracks. It was attended by Mr. Haughney, The Chief of Staff, General McKeon, and I believe the Adj. Gen., Col. Empey and the Quartermaster-General, Col. Donagh and Mr. Gibbons. After the lunch I was sent for and I had a general conversation with them. Mr. Haughney stressed how important the aspect of intelligence work would be in the North. Mr. Gibbons was present and heard this conversation. Mr. Haughney gave an assurance that as far as his Department was concerned funds would be made available if they should be required. The normal channel for the procurement of Secret Service money was from the Minister for Defence, on requisition as required. This was the first time I met Mr. Haughney in connection with the Northern situation. I had a study made of the communication system into Northern Ireland and I submitted a report to Mr. T. Fagan for the information of the Minister, Mr. Haughney, setting out how the transmitter could be set up. This project never materialised. I also gave T. Fagan a report for Mr. Haughney about the Civil Rights Office in Monaghan. I considered that this and the good will of these people could be maintained by assisting them financially to keep this office open. In this report I mentioned that E.S.B. and Telephone accounts in that office were overdue for payment. The amount required to pay these accounts would be approximately £100. I think I mentioned to T. Fagan that the immediate need would be to pay these bills, and that there would be far more sums needed to furnish the office. I got a cheque for £500 from T. Fagan and as far as I was concerned it was with the Minister’s authorisation. As far as I can recall it was more a Government Pay Order than a cheque. It was a printed sheet. I cannot remember who it was signed by. It was made payable to me. I cannot say if it stated what account the money came from. I cannot remember the exact date, but I believe it was in September, 1969. It was as a result of Mr. Haughney saying earlier that he would make money available for intelligence work that I approached him for this particular sum. I recall speaking to T. Fagan around that
around that/

time and he told me that Mr. Haughey said to him that the money could be provided and did I have any particular sum in mind. I mentioned that £100 would satisfy the immediate requirement and that £500 would be required to equip the office. I got this £500 from T. Fagan and I lodged it in a Special Account in the National Bank near the Montrose Hotel. This account was in my name. That was the only account I had in that particular bank. There was miscellaneous office equipment to the amount of £125 odd purchased out of this £500 and it was sent to the Monaghan Civil Rights office. The office closed down some time after this and there was no further expenditure from the Account. The £100 I got from T. Fagan for the immediate needs - E.S.B. and Telephone accounts was passed by me through one of my Officers to the Monaghan office.

I believe this Money Order was also made payable to me. I cannot recall, at present, what particular officer I gave it to, but it may be Captain Duggan. I will have to check on this. I believe it was cash I gave him.

Sometime in early October, 1969, Captain Kelly informed me that he was organising a Defence and Aid Conference in Bailieboro, Co. Cavan, and that Mr. Haughey had agreed to pay £500 to cover the expenses. Tony Fagan was authorised to pay this amount. A Pay Order was sent to me... I cannot recall if it was by post or by hand. I did not collect it from T. Fagan personally. I endorsed the Pay Order and handed it to Captain Kelly. These are the only sums I know anything about and they came from Mr. Haughey through T. Fagan. At this time we had a major refugee problem in the Camps at Minter, Co. Roscommon, Gormanstown and at Blead. Apart from our Intelligence interests in the Monaghan office, it was extremely useful in dealing with the refugee problem. I had no direct contact with Mr. Haughey about the monies. Mr. Fagan is not correct when he says that I called from time to time in the post August period to Mr. Haughey’s office, but he may have been under that impression. I know that the Government set up a Fund for Relief in the North, but I do not know how it was administered. I do not know anything about any accounts in any Bank in Clones, Co. Monaghan. I never met Paddy Devlin in connection with any of the
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Northern problem. I never met a man named Coarty. I do not know anything about the Red Cross being involved in the administration of the Distress Fund. Captain Kelly never discussed any banking arrangements with me, but he gave me the impression that he knew that money was being passed from the Distress Fund to the Northern people. I did not tell Mr. Gibbons about getting the money for the Monaghan Civil Rights Office, as he was present initially when Mr. Haughey stated he would make money available for Intelligence work. Mr. Gibbons did not know about the £500 which I passed to Captain Kelly in connection with the Conference in Ballibeg as already outlined. I cannot remember introducing Captain Kelly to Tony Dagan initially. I met Sheamus Brady once or twice, but I have no knowledge of the operation of the "Voice of the North".

I have heard this statement read over to me and it is correct.

Signed M. Heffron.
Witness Edward J. O'Dea, D/inspector.

Dated this 31st day of May, 1970.

(Signed) Heffron, tell the Inspector & Prio that he had no idea how Captain Kelly's influence in the area of the Continent were paid, that the payments did not come from him.