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New South Wales Police

Statement in the matter of:
 Death of John Gordon HUGHES

Place : Regional Crime
 South - Homicide
 Date : 5 June, 1990.

Name : Neville John SCULLION.
 Address: Kings Cross Police Station.
 Occupation: Detective Senior Constable.

Phn No: 
 STATES;-

1. This statement, made by me, accurately sets out the evidence I would be prepared to give, if necessary, at Court as a witness.

2. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

3. About 3.30pm on Friday the 5 May, 1989, I saw the person known to me as John Gordon HUGHES seated at a booth in the 'Mirras' Coffee Lounge, in Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross. At this time this person was seated by himself. I have known HUGHES as a person who resides and frequents the Kings Cross area for the past 8 years.

4. About 1.35pm on Saturday the 6 May, 1989, I was in the Detectives office of the Kings Cross Police Station when I saw Constable FOX who told me something. As a result of this I then spoke to the person Aaron HILL.

Witness:..... Signed:.....

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5. As a result of what I was told, and in the company of both Constable FOX and HILL, I went to flat [REDACTED] Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point. These premise are a third floor unit, in a residential block of units, situated on the corner of Greenknowe Avenue and Baroda Lane. Entry was gained to the unit using the front door, which was open. I noticed at the time of entering the flat, that the lock to this door was intact. Upon entry to the flat, I saw that it consisted of two rooms, one large room, being both a bedroom and lounge area, with a kitchenette on the right side of the room as you enter the flat. At the time of entering the flat the heater and television were on. To the left of the room was a doorway that led to a bathroom. The flat itself was cluttered but tidy. No signs of a struggle or search of the premises were apparent.

6. On a double bed, to the left of the front door was the body of John Gordon HUGHES. The body was lying face down, across the bed, with his head towards the northern wall of the room. The body's hands were bound behind the back, with white electrical cord, as were his feet, bound just above the ankles. A pillow slip covered the head of the deceased and further electrical cord and a leather belt were wrapped around the body's neck. A pair of kitchen tongs were entwined in the bindings at the back of neck, and appeared to have been used to tighten these bindings. Pieces of broken ceramic were scattered about, on the bed, around the head of the deceased.

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7. Blood stains were on the pillowslip and on the bed, below the head of the body, apparently from wounds to the head of the deceased. Next to the right side of the body were a number of folders containing papers, spread in such a manner as to suggest they had been sorted through in a hurried fashion. On top of these papers was a serrated edged kitchen knife, with a wooden handle and a blade approximately 30 cm long, which had what appeared to be blood stains on it.

8. I then attended to a number of inquiries concerning this matter and was present when crime scene and fingerprint Police attended the scene. Despite a search of the scene, no wallet, credit cards belonging to the person HUGHES was located in the flat, nor was any cash money found. I was also present at the scene whilst Dr. OETTLE and SCHWARTZ, attended and made an examination of the body. I also had a conversation with Constable LANDSFORD, to whom I identified the body as that of John Gordon HUGHES. I subsequently returned to the Kings Cross Police Station and attended to a number of duties concerning this matter, and here I had a number of conversations with Detectives DOIG, PLOTECKI and EMMETT.

9. On the 12 September, 1989, at the Regional Crime Squad South, with Detective Constable PLOTECKI, I saw the person Mark Phillip LOCKE who

Witness:..... Signed:.....

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was interviewed by Detective PLOTECKI and told us certain things. As a result of this information, I made a number of inquiries.

13. On Wednesday the 4 October, 1989, I at the Kings Cross Police Station, I spoke with Detective BENTLEY, who told me something and indicated to me the person Ian Stuart JONES. I made a number of inquiries and a short time later saw Detective PLOTECKI. With Detective PLOTECKI, I then saw the person, Ian Stuart JONES, in the interview room of that station. After a short conversation with JONES concerning other matters, PLOTECKI said to him, "I would like to obtain a statement from you concerning what you have already told me, about your knowledge and relationship with John HUGHES. And your movements over the period leading up to his murder. Do you understand that?" JONES said, "Yeah, I'll give you a statement, as I said, I was in Bathurst, I got nothing to worry about." I then obtained a six page statement from the defendant concerning this matter. After obtaining this statement, the defendant read through it and signed each page and PLOTECKI witnessed his signatures, and retained that statement. The defendant then left the Police Station.

Witness:..... Signed:.....

M. PLOTECKI

Detective Constable 1/c

N.J. SCULLION

Detective Senior Constable
Kings Cross Police Station.

5 JUNE, 1990.