

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Surry Hills Police Station

Murder of James William MEEK


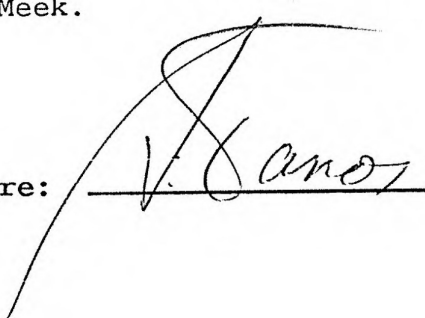
Date: 20 September, 1995

Name: TANOS, Anthony John
 Address: Surry Hills Police Station
 Occupation: Detective Sergeant of Police

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

States:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. 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.
2. My age is 37 years.
3. On the 13 March, 1995 I spoke with Detective Sergeant KASSIS in the Surry Hills Detective Office concerning the death of James William Meek. I then made certain arrangements and conducted a number of inquiries.
4. On the 14 March, 1995, with Detectives VANDERGRAAF, WALKER, CALLANAN and HARDY, I went to Flat [REDACTED], Level 12, [REDACTED], Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills. There we spoke with Mrs Karen FRANKS, Mrs Wendy GRIFFIN and Mr Alan GRIFFIN. A systematic search was then undertaken of the interior of the flat. Certain items of property were located and later stored at the Surry Hills Police Station for further inquiry.
5. A criminal investigation with the operational name 'FIREWEED' was then commenced to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of James William Meek.

Witness: Signature: 

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6. On the 29 March, 1995, with Detective WALKER, I spoke with Mrs Wendy GRIFFIN and Mrs Karen FRANKS at the Surry Hills Police Station. A series of photos were shown to Mrs GRIFFIN and she told us something about a letter photographed on a table inside Flat [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills on the 8th March, 1995.

I PRODUCE THAT PHOTOGRAPH

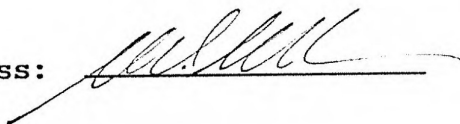
7. About 3pm that day, with Detective WALKER, I went to flat [REDACTED] Level 12, [REDACTED] Northcott Flats, Belvoir Street, Surry Hills. There I saw Mrs Wendy GRIFFIN searching through a large plastic bag on the floor outside the bedroom. After a short time Mrs GRIFFIN removed a letter from that bag and she told me something. The letter was addressed to James MEEK, with the letterhead of 'Daewoo Automotive Australia Pty Ltd'. I noted that scribbling patterns was evident to both sides of the letter. I recognised this letter as being the same letter in the photograph shown to Mrs GRIFFIN at the Surry Hills Police Station earlier that day. I returned to the Surry Hills Police Station where I secured that letter in a cabinet.

I PRODUCE THAT LETTER


8. On the 30 March, 1995 I spoke with Detective SIDGREAVES and gave him certain instructions. I handed him the letter retrieved by Mrs Wendy GRIFFIN from flat [REDACTED] Level 12, [REDACTED], Belvoir Street, Surry Hills on the 29 March, 1995.

9. On the 8 May, 1995 Detective Senior Constable WALKER told me something in relation to information received from Detective Senior Constable EYRES of the Major Crime Unit, Fingerprint Section, Parramatta concerning the letter located at the deceased's flat on the 29 March, 1995.

Witness:



Signature:



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10. On the 21 June, 1995 I travelled to Devonport, Tasmania where I conferred with Detective Constable SIDGREAVES. I also spoke with Acting Inspector GROVES and Detective Sergeant PLUMPTON of the Tasmanian Police Force. I then made a number of inquiries

11. About 3pm on 22 June, 1995 I saw the defendant Michael Alan HEATLEY in the company of Acting Inspector GROVES at the intersection of Stewart and Rooke Streets, Devonport. The defendant was then driven to the Burnie Police Station. During the course of that journey the defendant said,

"Why are we going to Burnie?"

I said,

"The interview room at Devonport Police Station is being used".

He said,

"What's it all about?"

I said,

"We are from Surry Hills Police in Sydney. We are making inquiries about the death of James Meek around the 8 March, 1995. I want you to understand that you are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but whatever you say may later be used in evidence. Do you understand that?"

He said,

"Yes. I don't know anything about it. It's got nothing to do with me."

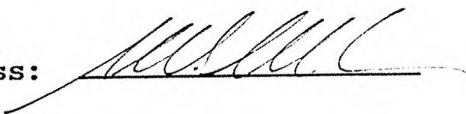
I said,

"I will speak with you further about this matter at Burnie"

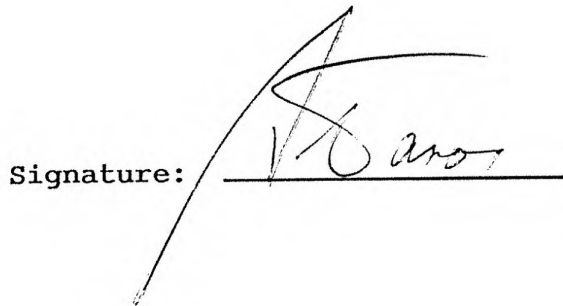
He said,

"Okay, then."

Witness:



Signature:



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Death of James William MEEK
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12. Upon arrival at the Burnie Police the defendant was placed in an office while certain arrangements were made with Sergeant RUSSELL of the Crime Scene Unit to video record an interview with the defendant.

13. A short time later, in the presence of Detective SIDGREAVES, I said to the defendant,

"Detective Sidgreaves and I are making inquiries into the death of James William Meek at Surry Hill on or about the 8th March, 1995. What I propose to do is ask you some questions about this matter. My questions and answers given by you will be electronically recorded as the interview takes place. Do you understand that?"

The defendant said,

"Yes."

I said,

"Arrangements can be made for you to view the video cassette tape of the interview, if required. Do you understand that?"

The defendant said,

"Yes."

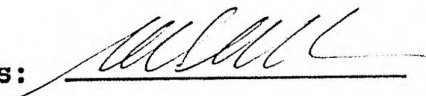
I said,

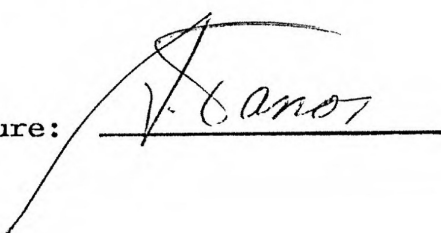
"Do you agree to being electronically interviewed?"

The defendant said,

"Yes."

14. The defendant was then taken to an interview room with video recording facilities. In the presence of Detective SIDGREAVES I asked the defendant a number of questions. Those questions, together with the defendants answers, were electronically recorded as the interview took place. Detective SIDGREAVES also asked the defendant a number of questions.

Witness: 

Signature: 

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Those questions, together with the defendants answers, were electronically recorded as the interview took place. The whole of that interview was electronically recorded by Sergeant RUSSELL.

15. At the conclusion of the interview I completed a 'Register of Persons Interviewed' Form, numbered 0084149. The defendant then accompanied me to another office where I saw Inspector WILLIAMS and said to him,

"This man has been interviewed regarding the death of James William Meek at Surry Hills on 8 March, 1995. The interview was recorded on video. Could you complete the register please?"

Inspector WILLIAMS then asked the defendant a number of questions and recorded his responses on that form.

I PRODUCE THAT FORM, NUMBERED 0084149. *

16. Sergeant RUSSELL then handed me a copy of the video cassette recording of the interview with the defendant.

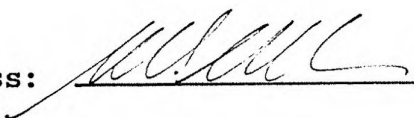
I PRODUCE THAT VIDEO CASSETTE

17. The defendant was later driven to his home at [REDACTED] Clare Court, Devonport. I then attended to other duties at the Devonport Police Station. *

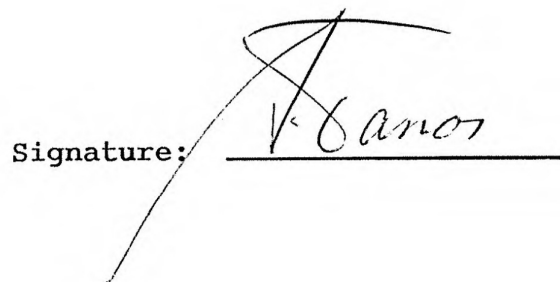
18. During the course of my interview with defendant I showed him a copy of the letter found by Mrs Griffin at the deceased's unit on the 29 March, 1995.

I PRODUCE THAT COPY OF THE LETTER.

Witness:



Signature:

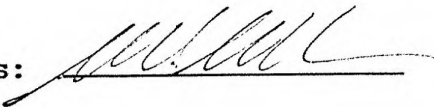


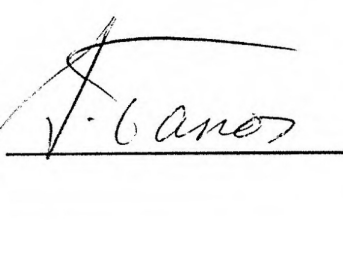
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19. On the 11 July, 1995, with Detective WALKER, I spoke with Brian KANE at the Surry Hills Police Station. I showed him a recording of a number of male persons from a video cassette marked, 'T.F. Fireweed'. He then told me something about the photograph numbered 5 of that recording. Photograph number 5 of the video cassette recording is the defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY. Mr KANE then initialled and dated the spine of that video cassette. I then obtained a statement from Mr KANE.
I PRODUCE THAT VIDEO CASSETTE, MARKED 'T.F. FIREWEED' X

20. On the 14 September, 1995, with Detective WALKER, I spoke with Mr Kevin PLUMB at the Surry Hills Police Station. I showed him a recording of a number of male persons from a video cassette marked, 'T.F. Fireweed'. He then told me something about the photograph numbered 5 of that recording. Photograph number 5 of the video cassette recording is the defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY. Mr PLUMB then initialled and dated the spine of that video cassette. I also showed Mr PLUMB a men's ring recovered from the Kings Loan Office on the 22 June, 1995. He told me something about that ring. I then obtained a statement from Mr PLUMB.
I PRODUCE THAT VIDEO CASSETTE, MARKED 'T.F. FIREWEED'
I IDENTIFY THAT MEN'S RING. *

25/11
21. On the 19 September, 1995, with Detective WALKER, I spoke with Mr Robert GARRATT at the Surry Hills Police Station. I showed him a recording of a number of male persons from a video cassette marked, 'T.F. Fireweed'. He then told me something about the photograph numbered 5 of that recording. Photograph number 5 of the video cassette recording is the defendant, Michael Alan HEATLEY. Mr GARRATT then initialled and dated the

Witness: 

Signature: 

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spine of that video cassette. I also showed Mr GARRATT a men's ring recovered from the Kings Loan Office on the 22 June, 1995. He told me something about that ring. Detective WALKER then obtained a statement from Mr GARRATT.

I PRODUCE THAT VIDEO CASSETTE, MARKED 'T.F. FIREWEED'
 I IDENTIFY THAT MEN'S RING

22. On the Monday the 25 September, 1995, with Detective WALKER, I spoke with Mr Jorge RUA at the Surry Hills Police Station. Detective WALKER then obtained a statement from Mr RUA.

23. About 6.45am on Thursday the 28 September, 1995, with Detectives WALKER, COOPER and WOOLLEY, I went to [REDACTED] Pardoe Street, Devonport where I saw the defendant in the hallway of those premises. Detective COOPER said to him,

"This is Detective TANOS and Detective WALKER from New South Wales"

The defendant said,

"Yeah I know them, anyway him."

Detective COOPER said,

"You are under arrest for the murder of James William MEEK in New South Wales. You are not obliged to answer any questions or make any statement unless you wish to, anything you do say will be recorded and may later be used in evidence. Do you understand that?"

The defendant said,

"Yeah, this is bullshit, I'm not going anywhere with you"

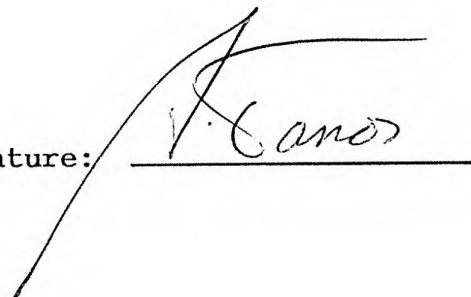
Detective COOPER said,

"It is not bullshit, you're coming with us and do you want to put any clothes on?"

Witness:



Signature:



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The defendant said,

"No I'm right, just let me put my shoes on."

24. The defendant was then taken to the Devonport Police Station and charged with murder by virtue of the first instance warrant. When charged he made no reply.

25. On the 29 September, 1995 the defendant was extradited to New South Wales and charged at the Sydney Police Station. The defendant was then taken to the Clinical Forensic Unit on the 4th Level of the Sydney Police Centre where I spoke with Doctor Stuart ANDERSON. I then said to the defendant,


"We are going take blood from you. We can take it with or without your consent. Do you understand that?"

The defendant said,

"Yes. I know I have to."

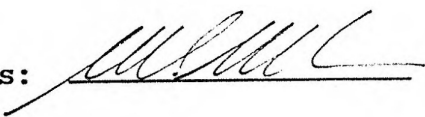
Doctor ANDERSON then completed a consent form which was signed by the defendant. I also signed that form. Doctor ANDERSON then extracted a quantity of blood from the defendant.

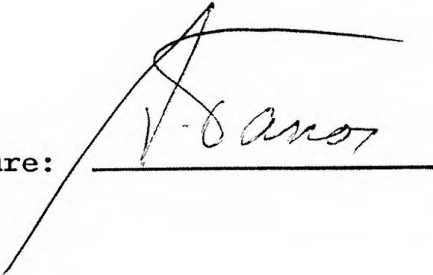
I PRODUCE THAT CONSENT FORM



26. I then took that blood sample to the Physical Evidence Section on the 5th Level of the building where I spoke with Detective COURTNEY. He then made an entry in the 'Physical Evidence Specimen/Item Register, number A12597. I handed him that sample of blood taken from the defendant and was given the original receipt.

I PRODUCE RECEIPT NUMBER A12597

Witness: 

Signature: 

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27. In relation to the electronic interview conducted with the defendant on the 22 June, 1995 at Burnie Police Station, Tasmania I have compared the recording with a transcription made of that interview. That transcription has been correctly recorded.

I PRODUCE THAT TRANSCRIPTION

28. In relation to a post mortem examination on the body of James William MEEK I have received a medical report, number PM 95/04199 (TG), prepared by Doctor Christopher LAWRENCE.

I PRODUCE MEDICAL REPORT NUMBER PM 95/04199 (TG)

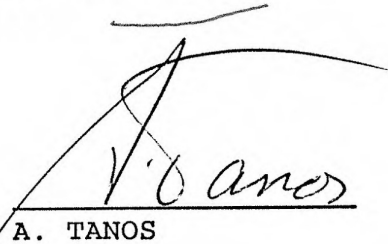
29. In relation to a number of scientific examinations I have received a report, number T 950497, prepared by Mr Rajeev MALHOTRA of the Division of Analytical Laboratories.

I PRODUCE REPORT NUMBERED T 950497

Witness:



Signature:


A. TANOS

Witness: _____

Signature: _____