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Ontario

ORIGINAL

Copy

December 22, 1998

Det. Sgt. P.R. Hall
Ontario Provincial Police
Smiths Falls, Ontario

**Re: Allegations of Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Death Threats
Against Cst. Perry Dunlop and Family**

I have had an opportunity of reviewing the materials provided in connection with the above captioned matter. This complaint involves an allegation that several years ago, Father Charles MacDonald, Malcolm MacDonald and Ken Seguin conspired, or in some fashion discussed the possible removal of Cst. Perry Dunlop and perhaps members of his family. The allegations came to light some time later when the principal witness to the discussions, Ron Leroux disclosed the contents of the conversations. Having reviewed the materials in their entirety, I have come to the conclusion that reasonable and probable grounds do not exist for the laying of any charges related to these discussions and that if grounds were said to exist, it would presently be contrary to the public interest to pursue this matter.

This conclusion is based on the following circumstances:

- 1) Contrary to the indications of various witnesses and references found in various documents including civil pleadings, the witness Ron Leroux never specifically claims to have heard the suspects discuss a planned execution of Perry Dunlop or his family. References such as "the problem would be taken care of" or "would be handled" are found in Mr. Leroux's statements and require a certain amount of extrapolation in order to arrive at the conclusion that the discussions between the three suspects bore on the actual elimination of Mr. Dunlop and members of his family. In fact, in the February 7th, 1997 interview of Leroux by Constables Anthony and Bell, Leroux is asked specifically the contents of the discussions involving the three suspects. Leroux refers to the expression "it'll be taken care of" as meaning that the group is intending on killing Dunlop and members of his family. This is a matter of interpretation by Leroux as nowhere in his statements addressing this conversation specifically does he quote any of the three suspects as referring to the death of Perry Dunlop.

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- 2) The only crown witness to these conversations, Ron Leroux waited several years to report this conversation. A reasonable explanation is necessary for the delays in reporting these conversations. When asked directly, the witness Leroux claims that he did not make an earlier report out of fear for his own safety. Standing alone, that explanation is difficult to understand. Certainly, Leroux would be aware that the three suspects knew of his overhearing the conversations in circumstances where he claims that the suspects urged him to leave the room while the discussions were taking place. Accordingly, the suspects are already aware that Leroux had overheard part of their discussions. The risk to Leroux thereby already exists which would, logically, precipitate an earlier rather than a later report to the police.
- 3) The matter is further complicated by Leroux claiming, upon being asked directly whether he felt the suspects were serious, that in his view these were the rantings and ravings of a group of desperate men. He states specifically that he did not feel that the suspects were capable of conducting or ordering an execution. It is therefore difficult to understand Leroux's apprehensions of going to the police earlier with this report if he feels that the suspects posed no real threat to either the Dunlop family or Leroux himself. In other words, in circumstances where Leroux feels that the threats, if indeed made at all, were idle threats, his explanation that the delays in reporting the threats were motivated by a fear of his own safety is difficult to understand.
- 4) Leroux attributes Ken Seguin's suicide to a desire to escape the pressures associated with a planned execution as organized by the three suspects. While this turn of events is possible, it is generally accepted by all those who have examined this situation carefully that Seguin's suicide was motivated by a fear of exposure of his own activities in relation to young boys in the Cornwall area and threats made by a certain suspect to make the allegations against Seguin public. Ken Seguin's untimely death does therefore not reasonably support the proposition that it was motivated by fears associated with the criminal conspiracy of the three suspects.
- 5) Finally, I am given to understand that with the exception of the evidence provided by Leroux, there exists no other evidence supporting a charge of threats or conspiracy nor have there been in the several intervening years since the conversation any apparent attempt to further the conspiracy or in any way carry out the plan.

As previously mentioned, I do not feel that reasonable and probable grounds can be said to exist in the present case nor can it be said that a reasonable prospect of conviction would exist if charges were laid. In any event, given the nature of the alleged comments, the lapse of time, the demise of Ken Seguin, and the present proceedings, I do not consider the public interest to be served were charges to be laid.

I will be returning the materials provided to me for the purposes of this review and would ask that you do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Pelletier', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Pelletier
A/Director
Crown Operations

RP/lb