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Whangarei Police Station

21/02/2008

hours

Douglas James WEAL states:

That is my full name. I am 56 years of age and my date of birth is 6th November 1951. I live at 25 Hoey Street, Kamo. My contact phone numbers are 09-4356516 and 0272-840044. I am an invalid beneficiary and have been for the past four years.

I am speaking to Detective SMITH about my knowledge of and association with Alan THOMAS and more specifically threats that he has made against the Takapuna Branch of the ACC Corporation.

I was first introduced to Alan Thomas around 1985 or 1986, by a work colleague, Cliff COXHALL who now lives in England. Both Cliff and I worked for BAYER NZ Ltd, a chemical company. I am by trade an Analytical Chemist.

Mr Thomas owned a business which, among its many activities included spraying rigid urethane foams. My work colleague had many discussions with Mr Thomas and his partner about projects they were working on.

In 1987 an overseas technician from our company visited Mr Thomas's company for technical discussions, and I was involved in the debrief of this visit.

I recall a background check being done on Mr Thomas's business and it was discovered it was not legally incorporated, and so Mr Thomas's company was refused an account.

During 1987 / 1988 a large part of my work was taken up keeping tabs on small manufacturing companies, as we were losing about 8 or 9 of our customers every month through bankruptcies.

It is my recollection that in about 1987 Mr Thomas went bankrupt, put into bankruptcy by his ex wife, causing his business to be placed into liquidation and all his assets seized.

The last I heard of Mr Thomas for some time was in 1989 is that he was back at his old trade working as a fitter / toolmaker for Trigon Plastics in Te Rapa, working on a machine that I think Trigon had bought from the receivers.

Mr THOMAS's employment with Trigon Plastics was terminated in 3rd October 1989.

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Early in 2007, when I met up again with Mr Thomas on ACCforum which is a chat line for disgruntled ACC claimants, and spoke with him on the phone, I recounted my recollections of him above, and they were confirmed by Mr Thomas.

When I first met Mr Thomas in 1985 or 86, his dominant and unique character was evident – to the extent he was only ever a business acquaintance, and recall having a good laugh at the report of his wife bankrupting him.

Early in 2007 I was using ACCforum for my research into the activities of Mr Williscroft and Paragon Risk, and contact was made with Mr Thomas. I then agreed to help Mr Thomas with his WINZ benefit problem he appeared to be having.

His problem with WINZ was that his benefit had been suspended because he refused to sign their documents. I agreed to help him with this matter because I had access to the WINZ manual and I was familiar with it's contents.

When I finally obtained from Mr Thomas all the details of his personal circumstances and the benefits he wanted to obtain from WINZ, I told Thomas that, after referring back to my WINZ manual – he was not entitled.

This made Thomas more determined, and he went into long discussions about how he could 're-label' things to qualify, but more importantly, he wanted me to contact WINZ for him – to find out the names and locations of people making decisions with his case. I refused to act as his agent on this occasion because he wasn't entitled to the benefits that he was requesting from WINZ.

During this time he bought up the issues of bombing, and we jokingly talked about bomb making. One of the things we discussed was the London underground bombing where they used japati flour and peroxide. It was a general discussion but I felt that he was trying to get more detail from me which I refused to give. We also discussed the Oklahoma bombing where they used ammonium nitrate (fertiliser) and nitromethane (fuel for drag racing). Both these products are available from commercial suppliers over the counter.

At first I thought that his interest was of a general nature until he continued to phone me every night to discuss this particular theme and his hate of ACC and it's staffmembers. That's when I realised that maybe he was not joking because of his persistence and the nature of his enquiries.

To me he appeared to be motivated solely by getting revenge against ACC and WINZ. Mr Thomas knows that I am an industrial chemist, and have knowledge of such things, so to stop the conversations about bombing and bomb making I told him we could be charged for sedition if we continued talking about it. Even this suggestion did not deter him.

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Mr Thomas has also approached me about the issue isocyanate poisoning. As Mr Thomas knows, during the 1980's one of the activities I was engaged in was compiling all the safety data on the use of isocyanates, in relation to their hazards in use in industry, and subsequent diseases.

Isocyanate is a highly toxic chemical which is used in the manufacture of both soft and rigid foam and paint.

Mr Thomas asked me for all the medical data on isocyanate poisoning and its effects, because he told me of his plans to lodge an ACC claim for a "work related gradual disease or process" as a result of being exposed to this chemical.

I had long conversations with Mr Thomas about the issue of the long term effects of isocyanate exposure, and I understand during 2007 he went to the hospital to have the initial test and report the symptoms.

To my knowledge Mr Thomas has not lodged a claim with ACC for this disease.

In June 2007 I received a call to go to Auckland to "baby-sit" Mr Thomas in his District Court Appeal hearing. During the time of the appeal which lasted two days before it was adjourned, I stayed with Mr Thomas in his flat on Rosecamp Road, Birkenhead. I have his actual address at home and will pass that information to you. I also have his contact phone number as well.

It's a basement flat under a house. The main house from memory is a brownish coloured hardiplank building. The flat consists of a single bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge and separate shower and toilet. At the time Mr Thomas was living at this address on his own. The flat does not have alarms and there is only one access being a ranchslider door. he has two computers in this flat, one being in the lounge and one by his bed. They are both desktop computers. I used the computer in the lounge once for a letter but was unable to search which websites he was visiting but he stood behind me the whole time that I was using it. I also told him that I wanted to look at the computer set up in his bedroom but he stopped me.

The main house is rented separate from the Flat that Mr Thomas rents. He always parks his car, which is a Toyota Celica in the carport just outside his ranchslider doors.

During my stay, Mr Thomas frequently returned to the issue of revenge and bombing, including talking about a few people he was recruiting that would be useful to his plans.

He told me that when he was first charged with fraud from ACC in 2000 that at the time he hatched a plan to hijack a petrol tanker which he was going to drive in to the building at 450 Queen Street. Apparently ACC and Immigration NZ were located in

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this building at that time. He went into great detail of the plans for this attack. By this I mean that he had worked out that the building was located on a hill and if he drove down Queen Street and mounted the curb outside the building the truck would end up inside the first floor of 450 Queen Street. He also claimed that Bob Cheetham had an office located in this same building.

I asked him why he didn't do it – he said that he thought, right up until the day judgement was passed, he was going to get off his fraud charges – and he was going to get revenge that way. He didn't believe that he would get convicted and get sent to jail which was what ultimately happened.

He also talked of his current appeals before the Court against ACC which are ten years old, and of the inevitable suicide if he fails in these appeals. He said that it was pointless for him to die alone and that if he did suicide, he wanted to do it taking out as many people as possible.

Thomas has also talked at great length about Johnny (Manu?)– the guy who stabbed Mrs Pike at the Henderson Office of the ACC. He claims – if he can be believed – to have been involved with Johnny in prison as a mentor, and has talked about getting in contact with him again when he gets out of prison which is due now.

He also talked about another lady he knew who tried to stab an ACC case manager with scissors, and there appears to have been another lady that the police came around and talked to him about. He talks with great delight how he was providing “guidance and motivation” for these people.

His current plan is for an attack on the ACC office in Takapuna, He told me he has done a reconnaissance of the building and apparently the assembly point” in the case of a fire is in a nearby carpark. His plan is to park a van containing explosives and nails next to the assembly point then get someone to go into the ACC office and set off the fire alarm which will cause all the staff to leave the building to the assembly point.

Once the ACC staff has all evacuated the building and are at the assembled point, he intends to blow up the van and it's contents. He thinks one of the best features of this plan is that the person he is seeking to recruit to go into the ACC office and set off the fire alarm would not know about the van; so they would either assembly with the ACC staff and be blown up; or they would run away and become the prime suspect for the bombing.

He discussed this with me because he wanted to know what explosives to use in the van. I didn't contribute to this conversation at all. He did say that he had a contact for the van but I don't know who this person was and don't want to know either.

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Douglas James WEAL further states:

I believe that Mr Thomas is mentally capable of carrying out these threats and he certainly has the motive. There is nothing else that consumes his life except his grievances with ACC and how to get even with them. It is a total obsession with him.

I no longer have anything to do with Mr. Thomas as I regard him as a devious, deranged and dangerous person. He is a terrorist desperately seeking the means to fulfil these plans.

I have no doubt that in the near future Mr Thomas will carry out this plan one way or another. I say this because I have monitored his chat conversations and e-mails for the past four years and have noticed the deterioration of the content of them and I believe that he is delusional.

My only concern is the effect he has on vulnerable people he is attempting to recruit for his cause using the ACCforum

I personally have not seen any physical evidence of plans or bombmaking, but in saying that, If there was, he is devious enough to have kept those things from me anyway.

There are others that have similar feelings to me about Mr Thomas. They are Eric Mclaughlan who was a WINZ advocate for Mr Thomas in 2003. He has recently contacted me voicing his concerns. I have his contact number which I will forward to you. Another person is Dave BUTLER who also helped Mr Thomas in 2006 and 2007 with problems he was having with WINZ. BUTLER lives in Cheviot.

Statement finished at 9.05pm.

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Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

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David Iwingaro Michael SMITH