

Mr Cooper

Amendments
made by
Mr Cooper
at
committal
9.6.09

States:-

1. My full name is ^{Mr Cooper} [REDACTED], I am [REDACTED] years of age.
2. I make this statement in the belief that the information I provide to the police cannot be used against me in any future court proceedings.
3. I have identified to police in another statement my involvement in a lab making amphetamine at [REDACTED] Rye. I am now providing police with a detailed account of my involvement in this lab [REDACTED] and another person I have identified to police as Rimond KACHAB. I am also providing police with details of others involved in this lab through the supply of chemicals. Those other persons I am referring to are Tony, Milad and Kabalan MOKBEL, ^{Mr Thom} ^{Mr Thomas} Jacques EL-HAGE, Carl WILLIAMS, Nicolai RADEV and Willie THOMPSON.
4. As I have previously indicated, I knew of the MOKBEL family growing up from when I was about 14 years old and I had worked at ^{PII} [REDACTED] ^{PII} [REDACTED] in Swanston Street, Melbourne, with Horty MOKBEL.
5. I made amphetamine for the MOKBEL family including Tony, Milad, Kabalan and Horty over an extended period at various locations around Melbourne. I will make detailed statements to police about other labs and chemicals I received to make amphetamine.
6. Not only did I receive chemicals from the MOKBEL family to make ketone but I also received pure ketone from the MOKBEL's in order to make amphetamine. During the making of amphetamine at [REDACTED] Rye, I also received other chemicals such as safrole, sulphuric acid, chloroform, ammonium chloride, formaldehyde and various other chemicals to make amphetamine and ecstasy.

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6.8.06
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(274 pages) ©

7. In May through to July, 2002, I was operating a lab manufacturing amphetamine in Rosebud with [REDACTED] in a premises located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This house was owned by the parents of a friend of mine. My friend was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I managed to rent the house from him for a couple months for \$20,000 whilst his parents were on holidays in Italy.

8. I got access to the house in about May, 2002, and I set up a lab immediately in the garage at the premises. [REDACTED] was involved with me manufacturing amphetamine at this premise. The amphetamine we made at this premise was for the MOKBEL family including Milad, Tony and Kabalan and also another person Nicolai RADEV who was supplying the chemicals through Milad MOKBEL. I will provide police with another statement relating to this lab at another time.

9. During the following 2 months [REDACTED] gave me a lot of grief as I wasn't giving him the money that I had promised him. I don't believe that he had any idea of what we were doing in the garage. I was sick of the grief he was giving me so I decided to source another location to make amphetamine.

10. Some time in the past, I had conversation with a family friend [REDACTED] who said that she had a holiday house in Rye and she wanted to know if I knew a builder or person who could install a new kitchen and bathroom at the premises and contribute renovation works at the property as I was involved in the building industry.

11. [REDACTED] is a family friend who lives at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] North Coburg. I have known [REDACTED] for most of my life as I grew up in [REDACTED] Coburg.

12. I approached [REDACTED] sometime in late May or June 2002 telling her that I wanted to use her house in Rye for accommodation for some employees of mine who were involved in building works in Dromana and that it would be more convenient to drive from Rye to Dromana rather than Melbourne to Dromana on a daily basis. We agreed on a monthly figure of \$5000 which I paid three months in

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advance being \$15,000 initially in cash. I was able to have access to the house at [REDACTED] Rye, immediately. I gave her the money within one week and she gave me the house keys. I didn't move in immediately and remained at [REDACTED] Rosebud in the garage.

13. I went and examined the property at [REDACTED] Rye, about this time and worked out how I would set up the premises for a clan lab a short time after this.

14. In July, 2002, I moved out of the house in [REDACTED] Rosebud. This was because [REDACTED] ^{PII} was still giving me grief about money I promised him for rent and I decided it wasn't worth the hassle and moved my lab out.

15. I moved the glassware and chemicals to [REDACTED] Rye using a budget rent a truck with [REDACTED] and another friend Rimond KACHAB. This occurred on 2 separate occasions sometime between July and September, 2002.

16. About this time I was seeing a lot of Rimond KACHAB. I have known Rimond since [REDACTED] ^{PII} Rimond lived in [REDACTED] Coburg, for the best part of his life. About this time I had just finished renovating his business premises called Café Superbo in Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda and he owed me a substantial amount of money, which I would say was about \$40,000. I enjoyed the restaurant and Rimonds company and started spending a fair bit of time with him socially.

17. During the period of July, 2002, to September, 2002, I also had countless meetings with Jacque EL-HAGE and ^{Mr Thomas} [REDACTED] because we felt safe at this premises because of me knowing Rimond and these meetings had all come about because Jacque knew my situation with the Pascoe Vale lab and was trying to get me involved in making amphetamine with the Carl WILLIAMS crew. At this time Jacque introduced me to ^{Mr Thon} [REDACTED] and indicated to me that they were with the WILLIAMS crew.

18. I have known Jacques El-HAGE for my whole life as he is [REDACTED] ^{Mr Coop} [REDACTED] He is the [REDACTED] ^{Mr Cooper} I had never previously had any

involvement with Jacques EL-HAGE in respect of amphetamine manufacture although I knew he was a connected person as I was the one who introduced him to the MOKBEL family during my days at [REDACTED] His relationship had strengthened in my absence whilst I lived in Italy only for me to come back to find he was seeing them on a daily basis. His knowledge as to my ability to make amphetamine was not known to him until the explosion at Pascoe vale. He seized this opportunity to negotiate with me now knowing my pressure and situation with Nicolai RADEV.

19. It was during this period Jacques also introduced me to ^{Mr Thomas} who was a mediator for Carl WILLIAMS. Jacques told me that he could be trusted and by working with them I would be much better looked after than I ever had been working with the MOKBEL's and RADEV.

20. Jacques also had great animosities towards the MOKBEL family as ^{Mr Thomas} had issues with Milad MOKBEL being a very greedy person.

21. Jacque EL- HAGE also introduced me to a friend of his Ibrahim KURNAZ during this period. I met KURNAZ one night at the Crown Casino where I was playing baccarat with Jacque. Over the following months when I went to Crown Casino on Wednesday nights, I would often see KURNAZ there and have dinner with him and Jacque. After dinner we would play baccarat on the same table in the Mahogany Room. Over this period I got to know KURNAZ fairly well and I got to know him as Ibosh. I was aware that he lived at his mothers at Broadmeadows and that he drove a Mercedes Benz which was silver.

22. On one occasion KURNAZ asked me for a loan of some money and I lent him \$10,000 and a further \$10,000 on the same night to finance his gambling. He lost all of that money and it took quite a while for him to even start paying me back. We discussed this one night at dinner and he asked me if I had a way of helping him to pay his debt back to me.

23. I asked him if he knew anyone who would be interested in purchasing amphetamine. He said he knew of some people in Ivanhoe that would take

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amphetamine. I told him that this could only stay between me and him and that the MOKBEL's could not know. Obviously I had told him at this point that I made amphetamine for the MOKBEL family. He agreed to this and as a result our relationship started to strengthen because he was a good producer of money.

24. Over the following months I would have sold no less than 15 pounds through KURNAZ to his contacts. I sold amphetamine to KURNAZ in pound amounts right from the beginning and occasionally in ounce amounts as there were discrepancies on the weight where he would claim it was under a pound and I would have to make up the difference. This was because I gave him the amphetamine a little wet at times as it had come straight from my lab and as it dries it loses a little weight. I was selling KURNAZ a pound for \$33,000.

25. Generally KURNAZ would contact me when he wanted product and he would arrange to meet me at the Gelo Bar in Brunswick. At the Gelo Bar we would discuss how much amphetamine KURNAZ wanted and I would set up a time and place and he would bring the money and take the product. This was normally done at the top end of Hoddle Street, at Mc Donalds, at Clifton Hill.

26. Occasionally I would call KURNAZ on his phone number and arrange to catch up at Crown Casino and gamble and just see him socially and perhaps collect money he owed me.

27. On one occasion he wanted to get 3 pounds of amphetamine from me in one go but only wanted to pay for 1 pound and pay back the remainder later. This came about because he won \$470,000 at Crown Casino on a poker machine. He had lost all his money and borrowed \$500 from Jacque to play the poker machines with. Then with that \$500 he won \$470,000 on the poker machine. Crown Casino paid him \$400,000 in a cheque and \$70,000 in cash. I laughed at the time because he paid back Jacque the \$500 and not cent more and I could not believe that.

28. Over the months, I lent KURNAZ about \$170,000 in cash for his gambling as he was losing money heavily and he also owed me for product that I had given him on credit. He told me the \$400,000 that he ^{Mr Cooper} won was invested and he

couldn't get it but I suspect that he lost it all gambling. I often lent him \$10,000 to \$20,000 at a time when at Crown Casino which on most occasions he lost.

29. I would say that KURNAZ owes me at least \$170,000 through money lent for gambling and money for product.

30. From July to September, 2002, I did not have any involvement in the manufacture of amphetamine as I was having meeting and negotiations with Jacques EL-HAGE [REDACTED] and ^{Mr Thomas} regarding the supply of precursor chemicals such as P2P which I also know as ketone. EL-HAGE and ^{Mr Thomas} were negotiating to supply unlimited amounts of ketone. I was aware that at this time ^{Mr Thor} and Jacques were supplying me with the ketone on behalf of Carl WILLIAMS. I was aware of this because during my meetings with Jacques during this period he told me that he and ^{Mr Thoma} were receiving the ketone from Carl WILLIAMS. I was to receive from them ketone in 10 litre amounts as I required it.

31. I was also negotiating with Milad MOKBEL for money owed to me for past manufacture of amphetamine and amphetamine I owed him from mistakes I had made with the ketone at the Rosebud lab. These were debts to be paid back to Jason MORAN as Milad discussed with me several times that the ketone supplied was from Jason MORAN.

32. In respect of what was owed to Jason MORAN it was for the supply of ketone in the form of 11 kilograms of amphetamine.

33. The negotiations with Milad were also relating to Nicolai RADEV who had supplied me with phenyl acetic acid at the lab at Pascoe Vale which I lost due to the fire. Nicolai RADEV had supplied 30 kilograms of phenyl acetic acid and about 60 litre of acetic anhydride and 15 kilograms of sodium acetate. I owed Nicolai RADEV \$5 million in amphetamine for the Pascoe Vale lab which I and he both knew was unreasonable. Milad was the mediator between RADEV and I which MILAD used to his advantage.

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