

RCMP's overseer ends Thai review

Case investigator dismisses the allegations of entrapment levelled by a B.C. man now serving a life sentence in a Bangkok jail.

DAVE SMITH **SEP 17 1996**
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A former RCMP deputy commissioner who investigated allegations of police entrapment during a Thai drug-sting operation says the case is closed as far as the RCMP Public Complaints Commission is concerned.

"The acting chair signed the report and that's the end of it," said Bert Giroux, executive director of the Ottawa-based independent commission. "We don't intend to review the report."

However, Giroux also confirmed Monday he and Nanaimo lawyer Paul McEwen investigated complaints from Alain Olivier, a B.C. man now serving a life term in a Bangkok jail, that he was entrapped by Mounties involved in the drug operation.

Giroux also said that before joining the commission, he spent two years working at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and before that spent 37 years in the RCMP, rising to the rank of deputy commissioner for security services.

Did he feel comfortable, as a former Mountie, investigating allegations of RCMP impropriety?

"I was not uncomfortable. No," he said, adding Dr. Richard Gosse, the commission chair, asked him, as executive director of the PCC, to assist McEwen in his investigation.

Giroux said he did not help McEwen prepare his report to the commission, describing the report as "a draft copy, for discussion only."

McEwen's draft report condemned police actions in the case, but the final report signed by acting commission chair Fernand Simard in December, 1991, praised the RCMP officers for their courageous and professional behavior.

A lawyer in Calgary, meanwhile, who was called in by the commission as an independent counsel to complete McEwen's report and prepare a final

version for the chair, said he could find nothing in McEwen's draft report to support a claim of entrapment.

"I didn't find material that supported that view," Nicholas Schultz said.

He also said he drew no connection between the release of the report and McEwen's departure from the commission in June 1992.

Schultz said in the McEwen-Giroux investigation, "a considerable volume of internal [RCMP] material was made available and the gentleman in Thailand was interviewed by Paul and Giroux. Paul began drafting his report but it never reached completion.

"I was asked to take over the draft, which I did. I took all the material and examined it thoroughly and prepared a new draft. I was also in discussions with Paul in this," Schultz said.

He added that in preparing a review of a complex case, it is not unusual to find conflicting viewpoints, or for someone to question the conclusions.

He said he was "disappointed at some of the comments" attributed to McEwen in the press, noting "they don't reflect my view of what transpired."

Last week, McEwen was reported as saying Olivier was entrapped by RCMP into taking part in the operation, then abandoned to serve a life term in jail in Bangkok. His internal report is quoted extensively in an upcoming book by former *Globe and Mail* reporter Victor Malarek.

Giroux said "90 to 95 per cent" of the draft investigation reports submitted to the commission are changed, either by a review committee of lawyers and commission staff or by the chair before they are made public. It is not unusual that the report of Mr. McEwen's was changed," Giroux said.

One of the police officers involved in the case, meanwhile, said McEwen never interviewed him when he was investigating Olivier's allegations.

Last Friday, Reform party justice critic Jack Ramsay called on Solicitor-General Herb Gray to investigate McEwen's allegations to see if there is any substance to them. Gray's office was not able Monday to comment on the issue.

editorial

PROVINCE VANCOUVER, B.C. **SEP 17 1996** **Beat it**
A18

A new RCMP study seems a little too eager to dismiss the potential benefits of community policing. The report says senior members view the idea of police officers walking beats as "soft on crime and overrated." No doubt. They're probably among the 40 per cent the survey found who do not perform foot patrols, preferring to randomly patrol in police cars

until they get a call. These "pockets of resistance," as a senior officer called them, shouldn't be taken as proof that community policing doesn't work — only that it hasn't been properly tried. Fortunately, the force is training new recruits to know their communities. We suspect newer cops will bring more open minds to a concept that makes a lot of sense.

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