

Consecutive Dialogue

Audio recording of the English court interpreting exercise eight, consecutive dialogue. You will hear part of the examination of a witness in court. The exercise is broken up into several segments. After each segment you will have time to reproduce the whole segment in English, in your own words.

Exercise 8

Q. Corporal Baker, I want to take you back to the 19th day of March. I understand that on that date, you had dealings with a certain person who became known to you as Mario Montes; is that correct?

A. That's correct, Your Honour.

Q. Do you see that person present in court today?

A. Yes, Your Honour, he's seated with the black jacket with the number 80 on the left sleeve.

Q. Indicating the accused.

The Court: All right - noting the identification.

Q. Corporal Baker, can you please tell the court the circumstances of how you came to have contact with Mr. Montes?

A: Yes, Your Honour, on the 19th of March, at approximately 2115 hours, 9:15 p.m., I was part of a -- a street crew drug squad undercover operation where Constable Birk was going to be acting in an undercover capacity to attempt to purchase narcotics from persons in the downtown.

While I was waiting across the street on Hastings in what's referred to as the unit block, the address between zero and 99 of East Hastings, I observed Mr. Montes and another older Hispanic male standing together.

I then observed Constable Birk approach these males. She appeared to have some conversation with them and a couple of minutes later, Constable Birk moved away from these two males and Constable Birk then gave a pre-arranged signal that she had purchased narcotics.

At that time, I ran across the street. I had been on the south side of Hastings Street, and I arrested Mr. Montes for trafficking in a narcotic.

Q. Was there another officer involved in the arrest of Mr. Montes?

A. Constable McCall was also with me.

Q. Now, do you recall -- you say there was another gentleman, older Hispanic male with Mr. Montes. Can you tell the court approximately how old that person appeared to be?

A. In my opinion, that other Hispanic male was probably in his mid fifties.

Q. Now, did you make a note of the description of Mr. Montes at the time?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you make a note of the description of Mr. Montes at the time?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And did you record that in your notes?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Are you able to tell the court what the description is that you did record?

A. To the best of my recollection, Mr. Montes was wearing a baseball cap. He had a -- what I would refer to a grey kangaroo type jacket, that being a sweatshirt with a hood and a normally a -- a pouch in the front, and white runners.

Q. And what about the height and weight, did you make a notation of that?

A. I made a notation of it, Your Honour. My description was approximately five foot, nine inches, 160 pounds and probably in the early to mid-thirties.

Q. All right. Now, Constable Baker, did you conduct any search of Mr. Montes once you arrested him?

A. Yes, I did, Your Honour. From his right front jacket pocket, I obtained a quantity of money. Before Constable Birk had gone out she... one of the other members of the team had photocopied the money that Constable Birk was going use to attempt to purchase narcotics.

Constable MacDougall had a photocopy of those bills, which included the serial number. I compared the serial numbers of the bills that I had taken from Mr. Montes pocket. One of the twenty-dollar bills that I seized from the right pocket of Mr. Montes, matched the serial number to one of the serial numbers of the bills that had been pre-recorded and photocopied.

Q. Did you make a notation of that serial number at the time?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And you have that with you today?

A. I have it with me, although I can't remember the serial number.

Q. All right. Was the notation made at the time or shortly after you seized and compared this money to the photocopy?

A. Very shortly after.

Q. And had there been any alterations to your notes since the time of making?

A. No.

Mr. Morris: I ask Your Honour for leave for the officer to refer to his notes.

The Court: Any objection, Ms. Reid?

Ms. Reid: No objection.

The Court: All right. Go ahead, please.

A. Your Honour, the twenty dollar bill that matched the photocopy was serial number E for echo SC 509 4275

Mr. Morris: And do you recall how much money did you seize from the accused?

A. I don't know the exact -- it was approximately six or seven bills.

Q. And it was just the one bill, the serial number that you've given, that matched the buy money that had been given to Constable Birk prior to launching an operation; is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. Now, do you recall at the time you arrested the accused, you and Constable McDougall arrested the accused, do you recall what happened with the other person that was present, the older Hispanic male?

A. He had been initially arrested by Sergeant Williams and approximately one or two minutes later, he was released.

Q. And what caused the release of this other person?

A. It was my recollection, Your Honour, that Constable Birk had driven by both Mr. Montes and the older Hispanic male and that Constable Birk indicated that the elderly Hispanic male was not involved.

Q. Now, to the best of your recollection, what happened after the older male was released?

A. I don't know where he went, but Mr. Montes was -- was chartered -- given his Charter rights by Constable McDougall and he was placed into a Vancouver City Police escort wagon and -- and to the best of my knowledge, taken to the Vancouver City Police jail.

Q. Where in the unit block of West Hastings did this occur?

A. Number 27, which is under the old Army & Navy building.

Q. And that's on the north side of the street; is that correct?

A. That is correct, it's on the north side of the street.

Q. And you were on the south side initially?

A. I was just observing what was going on from the south side of the street.

Q. Now, did you note any transaction of any kind between Constable Birk and Mr. Montes prior to getting the signal that a buy had taken place?

A. I can only say that they appeared to be talking to each other. That's all I can say.

Q. Okay. And do you recall approximately the time that this transaction occurred, or that the buy signal was given by Constable Birk?

A. Approximately 2119, or 9:19 p.m.

Q. And how did you... how were you able to identify the accused as Montes?

A. The accused, Your Honour, had an immigration document on his person with his name and birth date on it.

Q. What were the lighting conditions like in front of the Army and Navy store that night

A. There was... there was some artificial light but it was it was evening... it was evening and the lighting conditions were not good.

Q. Thank you Officer. Ms Reid may have some questions of you.

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