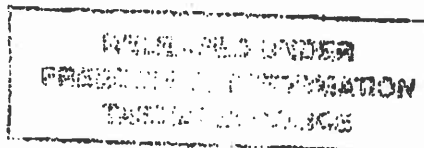


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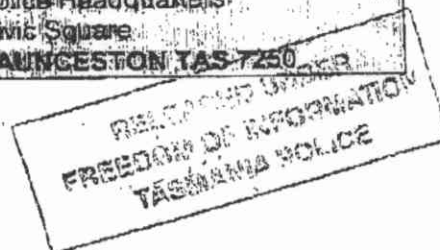


OS-K 553

TASMANIA POLICE

Our Ref: MLO:PMB
Enq: 63 363912

Inspector's Office
Criminal Investigation Branch
Police Headquarters
Civic Square
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



13 July 2001

Commander I DEAN
Northern District
Launceston

**ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT FOXES INTO TASMANIA
AS PER CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING NOTES**

As you are aware, the Task Force was established on 20 June 2001, to operate covertly in an endeavour to establish and verify the contents of the Briefing Note and determine the validity of the information.

Naturally, the "source" of the information required evaluating to determine its veracity.

Initially, there was considerable resistance to disclosure of the informant and eventually on 25 June 2001, the Task Force was advised that an [REDACTED]

On 26 June 2001, Task Force members interviewed the original 'source' at the Oatlands Police Station and a statement obtained.

On 03 July 2001, [REDACTED] was further interviewed by Task Force members concerning his written statement, the Briefing Notes and dot points, allegedly made by [REDACTED]

Confirmation of the written statement to Police on 26 June 2001, [REDACTED] was gained with a complete denial or knowledge of other information contained either in the Briefing Notes or dot points.

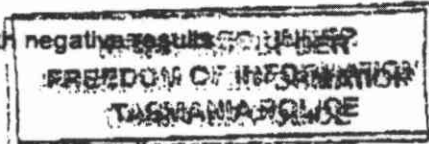
In essence the 'source states' :

After the Carlton/Collingwood game, he was at Allgoods, Main Road, Glenorchy, when an unknown male person stated during a conversation that foxes had been brought into the State by Samba shooters. Two lots of cubs; five (5) in one lot, six (6) in the other, transferred to Tasmania on the T T Line in a vehicle and had been reared in the bush. The Samba shooters from Perth, no names given.

INVESTIGATION

The variance given between the Briefing Notes and [REDACTED] is significant. Notwithstanding this, the Task Force has interviewed [REDACTED] with negative results.

- Search conducted of the property [REDACTED] with negative results.
- Samba hunters within the Perth area



[REDACTED] regular and professional shooter for the Forestry Department - negative.

[REDACTED] well known shooting/hunting family: no knowledge

Numerous landowners, farm employees have no knowledge

With reference to the above group, each person understood the implications as the introduction of foxes upon the Tasmanian environment and its detrimental affect and in turn, would assist Government authorities.

- A [REDACTED] is alleged to have brought a fox pup into Tasmania and interviewed on 04 July 2001 - negative.
- [REDACTED] discovered a possible den after sighting a fox on his property
- Den excavated with Mr Peter MOONEY, National Park co-ordinator, designated to search and locate sightings of foxes - negative.
- With reference to exhibits obtained, there is no evidence to support the existence of a fox.

SUMMARY

The enquiries conducted by the Task Force has concluded that :

- The original source of information cannot be corroborated by any material of fact or evidence
- The Briefing notes cannot be corroborated, other than the existence of the persons mentioned and no corroborative evidence to suggest any involvement in fox conspiracy.
- There is no evidence available from the enquiry that there is an illegal importation of foxes by Samba shooters in the Perth area
- There is no evidence available from the enquiry that there has been illegal importation of foxes by any known group of civilians

- That all civilian sightings in the Hadespen /Carrick region are not corroborated by any scientific evidence and can be explained
- That Mr Peter MOONEY, the search team co-ordinator for the National Parks, has not established that foxes are in Tasmania and nor is there one single piece of evidence to corroborate that assertion

Forwarded for information.


M L OTLEY
Detective Inspector

RELEASED UNDER
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
TASMANIA POLICE