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THIS IS THE STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

Taken by Sergeant S.R. SOLVASON of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Air India Disaster Task Force, Vancouver, British Columbia, at 1200 this 15th day of October, 1995 at [REDACTED].

I am the owner and editor of the Indo-Canadian Times newspaper, which is a Punjabi weekly newspaper that is printed from our head office at Surrey, B.C. and then distributed in Canada, the United States and England. The paper appeals mainly to persons of East Indian origin. I am a naturalized Canadian and a Sikh by religion, having been born and raised in the Punjab area of India. I lived in England for a time before immigrating to Canada in 1970. Some of the editorials and newsworthy items in my paper centre about tensions between the Government of India and Sikhs both in Canada and abroad who promote a separate country status for the Punjab area of India which would be called Khalistan. Reporting on these conflicts, both in Canada and overseas, heightens my awareness of related events, groups and personalities involved. It also, at times, brings me into contact with a number of individuals either directly involved in that conflict or similarly reporting on newsworthy items.

One such individual that I am familiar with is Ajaib Singh BAGRI, who lives at Kamloops, British Columbia. I know BAGRI to be the Canadian leader of the Babbar Khalsa, which is a Sikh fundamentalist group that promotes Khalistan through violent means.

One other individual that I am familiar with is Tarsem Singh PUREWALL, the owner/operator of the Des Pardes Punjabi newspaper at Southall, England. Mr. PUREWALL was a good friend of mine and a fellow newspaperman until his murder at Southall, England in January of this year. Mr. PUREWALL and I often discussed Sikh politics and related events. When in England, I would visit with Mr. PUREWALL and when in Canada, he would visit with me. I was also aware that Mr. PUREWALL was somewhat sympathetic to the Babbar Khalsa and its leaders such as Ajaib Singh BAGRI. As such, he remained on good speaking terms with Mr. BAGRI.

In late 1985 I was in England to attend an International Sikh conference and had occasion to visit my friend Tarsem Singh PUREWALL at his offices of the Des Pardes newspaper, located at # 8 The Crescent in Southall, England - a suburb of London. I am not certain of the dates at this time, but I think it was the latter part of October or the early part of November. Present at this time with Tarsem Singh PUREWALL and myself were employees of the Des Pardes; Avtar Singh JANDIALVI and Pritam Singh SIDHU. A part-time employee of the paper, Manmohan Singh BAJAJ was also there but only for a short time.

All of us were sitting talking when BAGRI showed up by himself later that evening at about 7PM. BAGRI was on his way to Germany

CSB  
[Signature]

where there are a lot of Babbar Khalsa followers. PUREWALL said that he would talk to BAGRI alone because BAGRI did not like non-baptised Sikhs. Then PUREWALL went to speak to BAGRI at one end of the room and the rest of us remained at the other end, divided by office dividers. We could clearly hear the conversation between BAGRI and PUREWALL. BAGRI stayed talking to PUREWALL for about 1 hour during which time the subject of the Air-India Disaster came up. PUREWALL asked BAGRI how he managed to do that. BAGRI replied that they (the Babbar Khalsa) wanted the government of India to come on their knees and give them Khalistan. BAGRI then said that if everything would have gone as planned, the plane would have blown up at Heathrow airport with no passengers on it. But because the flight was a half hour or three quarters of an hour late, it blew up over the ocean. PUREWALL then asked how he managed to have the bomb inside the plane. BAGRI said that when the device was ready, Surjan Singh GILL was supposed to take it to the airport but when it was ready and it was shown to him, he got scared and resigned from the Babbar Khalsa. BAGRI then suggested to Talwinder Singh PARMAR that they should kill Surjan Singh GILL but PARMAR said no because that would bring suspicion on them and so they just warned GILL not to say anything. BAGRI then said that he got someone else to take the bomb inside a suitcase to the Vancouver airport and put it on the plane. Then the talk shifted to other topics regarding Sikh politics in general.

All of us, except perhaps Manmohan Singh BAJAJ, heard BAGRI admit to this. I asked PUREWALL about this afterwards. I asked him why is he a friend of these people who blow up 329 people and he said that they (Babbar Khalsa) are very dangerous people and he has to be careful. He also said that they pay him well and so he prints things that they want.

Mr. PUREWALL and I have discussed this on several occasions and once when I telephoned him a couple of years later, we referred back to previous conversations regarding the Air India Disaster and the Babbar Khalsa. On that occasion, I gave my consent to have Sgt SOLVASON record that conversation when he asked to do so.

I HAVE READ OVER THIS STATEMENT WITH SGT. SOLVASON AND I CERTIFY THAT IT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I AM ALSO AWARE THAT I MAY BE CALLED UPON TO TESTIFY IN COURT AS TO THESE EVENTS AND I AM PREPARED TO DO SO.



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SIGNED: TARA SINGH HAYER



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WITNESSED: S.R. SOLVASON

1145/95 Oct 17