

The following statement was given in the presence of the following named individuals at Rough Point, Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 1966:

Aram Arabian, Esquire; Wesley Fach, Esquire, attorneys for Miss Doris Duke; and Chief Joseph A. Radice and Captain Paul J. Sullivan of the Newport Police Department.

The interrogation is being done by Captain Sullivan.

Q. Miss Duke, what is your full name, age, date of birth and residence?

A. Doris Duke, fifty-three (53), November 22, 1928/²
Rough Point, Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island.

Q. What city were you born in Miss Duke?

A. New York City.

Q. Miss Duke, you have been informed that you do not have to make a statement. You have signed a waiver dated October 9, 1966 which has just been observed by your attorney, Mr. Aram Arabian. Will you now make a statement?

A. Yes

Q. On October 7, 1966 at about 5:00 p.m. were you in a motor vehicle, Rhode Island registration [REDACTED], an Avis rental car?

A. Yes, it was an Avis car but I am not sure of the registration.

Q. Where was this?

A. On my property.

Q. Who was with you?

A. Mr. Eduardo Tirella.

Q. Who was the operator of the vehicle?

A. Mr. Tirella.

Q. Can you describe the area in which this car was operated?

A. From the house to the north gate on Bellevue Avenue.

Q. Was Mr. Tirella operating at this time?

A. Yes

Q. Was the vehicle stopped for any reason?

A. Yes

Q. For what reason?

A. To open the north gate.

Q. How far from the gate was the vehicle stopped?

A. About twelve to fifteen feet.

Q. Who opened the gate? went to

A. Mr. Tirella left the vehicle and/open the gate.

Q. Was this gate locked?

Q. Was
A. Yes

Q. Where were you sitting in the vehicle?

A. In the front seat, passenger side.

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- Q. Can you describe what happened?
A. When he went to the gate I slid over to the driver's seat and I placed my left foot on the brake and I disengaged the gear with my right hand. The car shot ahead.
- Q. Did you shift the gear from parked position?
A. Yes
- Q. What gear did you shift into?
A. Drive.
- Q. You placed your foot on the brake also?
A. Yes.
- Q. The car then moved forward?
A. Yes
- Q. Can you estimate the speed the car went forward?
A. No
- Q. Is there any possibility, Miss Duke, that your foot could have engaged the accelerator pedal?
A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Was the hand brake on when the car was left in parked position?
A. No
- Q. When the car started forward, did you think to pull the hand brake?
A. No, I had no time to do this.
- Q. Is there a possibility that your foot slipped off the brake pedal onto the accelerator pedal?
A. That could have happened, *but I have no recollection of it.* JJ
- Q. Do you have an recollection as to how fast the car was going?
A. It was fast.
- Q. Would you say very fast?
A. From an absolutely dead stop, and it was fast.
- Q. When Mr. Tirella got out of the car was the car ideling fast?
A. I don't know.
- Q. What happened when the car was set in motion?
A. It went ahead through the gate, across Bellevue Avenue to a fence on Bellevue Avenue.
- Q. Did you see Mr. Tirella?
A. Yes, I saw him at the gate.
- Q. Do you recall what happened after the car went into motion?
A. I got out of the car. I could not see him. I looked around. This was not when the car was in motion but when it had stopped against the railing. I ran to the house. I thought he was in the house. I was in a state of shock. I looked around.
- Q. Did you speak to anyone in the house when you came in?
A. No, I didn't open the pantry door. I went back to the street. I saw a woman on the street and she came and was trying to quiet me down. I said not to worry about me. I asked about my friend.

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- Q. What happened after that?
A. I was taken to the Newport Hospital in a police wagon.
- Q. Do you recall who you spoke to on the street?
A. A man and a lady came up to me and the girl was trying to quiet me down.
- Q. When you went to the Newport Hospital, did a police officer speak with you?
A. Yes
- Q. Do you recall who he was?
A. No.
- Q. Did you rent this car yourself?
A. No, one of my employees, Mr. MacFarland, rented the car.
- Q. Had there been any difficulty with this car?
A. No, I drove it twice previously. I went to meet Mr. Tirella at the airport and I had driven it on Friday morning.
- Q. Was it a practice for you to slide over in the front seat of the car when Mr. Tirella would open the gate?
A. Yes, I had done so that morning.
- Q. It was actually the third time you drove the car. Is that correct?
A. Yes
- Q. Would you consider yourself totally familiar with this car after driving it three times?
A. No
- Q. Had you had anything to drinking of an intoxicating nature on that day?
A. No
- Q. How long had you known Mr. Tirella?
A. At least six to eight years.
- Q. How long had he been here visiting?
A. About three weeks.
- Q. Did you have any arguments or misunderstandings with him on that day?
A. No.
- Q. Is there anything else you would like to say about this incident, Miss Duke?
A. No, I have told you every thing.
- Q. Will you please read the questions and answers contained on these three pages of your statement, and after making any corrections you deem necessary, will you please sign your name on all pages and on all carbon copies of your own free will without any promises of reward or immunity having been offered to you.

WITNESSES:

Alan A. Rubin

Doris Duke