

EXHIBIT 3 (SELECTION) · WORKING ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Key documents from the Russian court file

Selected documents from criminal case No. 12301450020000355, Khamovnichesky District Court of Moscow, in working English translation from the Russian originals. The full file runs to 690 pages in three volumes; it is not published in full because it names private individuals. The documents here are the ones the findings at freetravisleake.com/the-case/ rest on.

Read these against the findings: the search protocol lists his black iPhone (p. 15); no fingerprint or DNA examination appears in the expert conclusions (pp. 57-62); the detention record (p. 50) is dated 43 hours after the search; the “explanation” (p. 52) was taken in between, with no lawyer present.

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Page numbers refer to this compilation. Citations on the site and in the fact sheet are to the volume and sheet (l.d.) of the original file, with the page of the compiled OCR PDF in brackets. Translations are working translations prepared for the campaign; the certified translation of defense counsel’s closing argument (Exhibit 2) is a separate document in this kit. Names of private individuals appear as they do in the court record; the campaign does not name them in its own copy.



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Decision to Open a Criminal Case

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Decision on the opening of a criminal case and its acceptance for proceedings, 6 June 2023, 10:00

INVESTIGATOR: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh

BASIS: Review material KUSP No. 13187 of 5 June 2023

SUBJECT: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk (the case against Leake was opened separately and later joined)

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 6–8 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. This is the order opening the investigation; it concerns Grabanchuk, and the case against Leake (No. ...605) was opened on 8 June 2023 and joined to form No. ...587. The notification to Grabanchuk that follows the order is included. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

DECISION

on the opening of a criminal case and its acceptance for proceedings

City of Moscow

6 June 2023, 10:00

The Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, having examined the review material KUSP No. 13187 of 5 June 2023,

ESTABLISHED:

Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, at a time not precisely established by the investigation but no later than 10:25 on 5 June 2023, at an unidentified place and under unidentified circumstances, unlawfully — that is, in violation of the requirements of Federal Law No. 3-FZ of 8 January 1998 “On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances” — had on her person a substance with a total mass of no less than 3.86 g, which according to forensic analysis certificate No. 252 of 5 June 2023 is the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), included in List I of the controlled substances approved by Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998, and which under Government Decree No. 1002 of 1 October 2012 constituted a large amount.

That substance, of no less than 3.86 g of the narcotic drug mephedrone, she (Grabanchuk V.R.), in order to realize her criminal intent — that is, with a view to its subsequent sale to an unidentified person — unlawfully kept on her person in packaging convenient for sale, consisting of insulating tape with metal items possessing magnetic properties (20 in number), until 10:25 on 5 June 2023 when, being at the address Moscow, Usacheva St. 62, she was detained by police officers. She thus could not carry her criminal intent through to completion due to circumstances beyond her control; the said narcotic drug was discovered and seized from unlawful circulation by police officers during a personal search conducted on 5 June 2023 between 10:25 and 10:32 at Moscow, Usacheva St. 62, as a result of which the actual distribution of the narcotic drug did not occur.

Taking into account that there are sufficient data indicating the elements of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code, and guided by Articles 140, 145, 146 (147) and part 1 of Article 156 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,

DECIDED:

1. To open a criminal case with respect to Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, born [REDACTED] a native of Moscow, a citizen of the Russian Federation, on the indicia of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.
2. To accept the criminal case for my own proceedings and to begin the investigation. A copy of this decision is to be sent to the Khamovniki inter-district prosecutor of Moscow. Interested persons were notified of the decision taken on 6 June 2023.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh

Notification (annexed)

Department of the MVD of Russia for the Khamovniki District of Moscow, Usacheva St. 62, Moscow, 119048. 6 June 2023. To: Grabanchuk V.R., Moscow Region, Podolsk, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] I hereby notify you that on 6 June 2023 the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the

MVD of Russia, Moscow, opened criminal case No. 12301450020000587 against you on the indicia of an offense under part 3 of Article 30, para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code. — Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh.



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Decision to Indict Michael “Travis” Leake

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING Criminal case No. 12301450020000355, Investigative Division, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT “Decision on the bringing of a person as an accused” (Постановление о привлечении в качестве обвиняемого), dated 28 September 2023

ACCUSED Michael Travis Leake, b. [REDACTED] U.S. citizen

INVESTIGATOR Senior Investigator, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin

CHARGES CC RF Art. 228.1 §3(a,b); Art. 30 §3 / Art. 228.1 §4(g); Art. 228.1 §4(g); Art. 228.1 §4(g); Art. 228 §1

SOURCE Case file, original pp. 614–628 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original in the case file. It is faithful to the source, including its repetitive charging structure and its “not precisely established by the investigation” formulas. Bracketed text marks words supplied for sense or illegible in the scan. It is provided for advocacy and reference and is not a certified court translation. Defendant’s surname appears in the original as “Лук” (“Lik”); it is rendered here as “Leake.”*

DECISION

on the bringing of a person as an accused

City of Moscow

28 September 2023

The Senior Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Khamovniki District of the city of Moscow, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin, having examined the materials of criminal case No. 12301450020000355,

ESTABLISHED:

Count 1 — Completed sale, 1.24 g of mephedrone orig. pp. 614–617

Leake, Michael Travis, committed the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs — that is, deliberate acts of a person directly aimed at carrying out the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, committed with the use of electronic or information-and-telecommunications networks (including the “Internet”), by a group of persons acting upon prior agreement, on a significant scale — namely:

he (Leake M.T.), at a time not precisely established by the investigation but no later than 22:50 on 13 April 2023, having the intent to unlawfully sell narcotic drugs, acting out of mercenary motives, for the purpose of unlawful enrichment, being aware of the unlawful nature of his actions, foreseeing the inevitability of socially dangerous consequences and desiring their occurrence, at a time not precisely established by the investigation but no later than the month of January 2023, entered into a criminal conspiracy with Grabanchuk V.R. aimed at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs by a contactless method — “stash” (zakladki) — using electronic and information-and-telecommunications networks (including the “Internet”), on a significant scale, within the territory of the city of Moscow.

In furtherance of the common criminal intent, at a time and place not established by the investigation but no later than approximately January 2023, he (Leake M.T.) explained to his accomplice Grabanchuk V.R. the further unlawful actions directed at their joint unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, namely: the need to obtain, by a contactless method, large consignments of cached stashes, to confirm their receipt, to repackage them into packaging convenient for unlawful sale, to personally place the stashes in various districts of Moscow, and to record their exact location by mobile telephone for the further notification of potential buyers; and, with a view to their further unlawful sale for monetary reward to an indeterminate group of drug consumers, he informed her of the amount and methods of payment for the work performed by her.

Having obtained her consent to perform the role of a stash-courier and having satisfied himself of the real possibility of unimpeded realization of the common criminal intent, her accomplice Leake M.T., no later than January 2023, while on the premises of apartment No. [REDACTED] at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St., 6, acted thereafter as the person directly coordinating Grabanchuk V.R.’s criminal actions in furtherance of the joint criminal intent aimed at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs on a significant scale.

Acting in furtherance of the common criminal intent and the role assigned to him, in accordance with instructions received via the “Internet” from an unidentified accomplice, no later than January 2023 he acquired — thereby procuring for the joint criminal intent — electronic scales, “slider”-type zip-lock bags of polymer material with an adhesive layer, and metal items possessing magnetic properties, needed by his accomplice Grabanchuk V.R. for repackaging and convenient packaging of narcotic drugs for their further joint unlawful sale by placement as stashes in various districts of Moscow.

Having satisfied himself of his accomplice's readiness, by recording the exact locations of the stashes by means of the mobile telephone "iPhone 12," IMEI [REDACTED], in the use of Grabanchuk V.R., including by exchanging information about the exact locations via the "Internet," by a group of persons upon prior agreement, on a significant scale, no later than approximately 22:50 on 13 April 2023 the accomplices proceeded to the active phase of their respective roles.

Thus he (Leake M.T.), having received from an unidentified accomplice via electronic networks the exact address of a cache-stash of narcotic drugs at a location not established by the investigation, no later than approximately 22:50 on 13 April 2023 proceeded to the address conveyed to him, where, for the purpose of subsequent joint unlawful sale and in violation of Federal Law No. 3-FZ of 8 January 1998 "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," he acquired a substance with a mass of 1.24 g, which according to the expert's conclusion contains the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), included in List I of the controlled substances approved by Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998, and which under Government Decree No. 1002 of 1 October 2012 constituted a significant amount.

Further, in accordance with the instructions received, he (Leake M.T.), no later than approximately 22:50 on 13 April 2023, while on the premises of apartment No. [REDACTED] at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St., 6, using items procured in advance, repackaged into packaging convenient for sale the said 1.24 g substance, which he then handed to Grabanchuk V.R. for subsequent unlawful sale — namely in a transparent "slider" zip-lock bag taped over with strips of polymer material, between which is a round grey metal item, inside which is a further transparent "slider" zip-lock bag.

Thus his accomplice Grabanchuk V.R., at approximately 10:25 on 13 April 2023, on the stairwell landing between the 5th and 6th floors of entrance No. 3 at Moscow, Komsomolsky Prospekt, 5/2, placed the 1.24 g substance (mephedrone) beneath a heating radiator, recording its exact location by the "iPhone 12," IMEI [REDACTED], in her use, in order to convey the stash's location to its potential buyer.

In the inspection of the scene conducted by a police officer between 22:50 and 23:15 on 13 April 2023, on that stairwell landing beneath the radiator, the said 1.24 g substance containing mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) was discovered and seized from unlawful circulation.

Thus, together with his accomplice Grabanchuk V.R. and an unidentified accomplice, he committed the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs by a group of persons upon prior agreement, using electronic networks, on a significant scale — that is, the offense provided for in para. "a, b," part 3, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Count 2 — Attempted sale, 27.50 g of mephedrone (interrupted by arrest) orig. pp. 617–620

He (Leake M.T.) also committed an attempt at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, by a group of persons upon prior agreement, using electronic networks, on a large scale, the offense not having been carried through to completion due to circumstances beyond his control — namely: having entered the same conspiracy with Grabanchuk V.R. and acquired the same packaging materials and "iPhone 12" coordination as set out above, no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 the accomplices proceeded to the active phase of their roles.

He (Leake M.T.), having received the address of a cache-stash via electronic networks, no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 acquired substances with a total mass of 27.50 g, which according to expert conclusion No. 685 of 27 June 2023 contain mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) and constituted

a large amount; while on the premises of apartment No. [REDACTED] at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St., 6 he repackaged them for sale and handed them to Grabanchuk V.R. — namely in twenty identical transparent “slider” zip-lock bags, each taped with polymer film and bearing a round grey magnetic metal item, and one further transparent colorless “slider” zip-lock bag taped with polymer film.

Grabanchuk V.R. kept these substances of total mass 27.50 g on her person, for the purpose of subsequent sale, until 10:25 on 5 June 2023, when, at Moscow, Usacheva St., 62, she was detained by police. Thus he (Leake M.T.), together with his accomplice and an unidentified accomplice, could not carry the common criminal intent through to completion due to circumstances beyond their control, because the said substances of total mass 27.50 g were, during the personal search of Grabanchuk V.R. on 5 June 2023 between 10:25 and 10:32 at Moscow, Usacheva St., 62, discovered and seized by police from unlawful circulation, so that the actual distribution of the narcotic drug did not occur.

That is, he committed the offense provided for in part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Count 3 — Completed sale, 5.11 g of mephedrone (Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 6) orig. pp. 620–623

He (Leake M.T.) also committed the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, by a group of persons upon prior agreement, using electronic networks, on a large scale — namely: under the same conspiracy and method set out above, no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 he acquired substances with a mass of 5.11 g, which according to expert conclusion No. 689 of 29 June 2023 contain mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) and constituted a large amount; he repackaged them at apartment No. [REDACTED] Zaporozhskaya St., 6 and handed them to Grabanchuk V.R.

Grabanchuk V.R., performing her role, no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023, in entrance No. 6 at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment, 50, placed the identical packets of total mass 5.11 g (mephedrone) as stashes in the following hard-to-reach places: one packet on the inner part of the left leaf of the elevator door on the 13th floor; one black polymer packet on the stairwell landing between the 12th and 13th floors behind the elevator-shaft railing; one black polymer packet on the inner part of the left leaf of the elevator door between the 8th and 9th floors; and one black polymer packet on the inner part of the right leaf of the elevator door between the 4th and 5th floors — recording their exact locations by the “iPhone 12,” IMEI [REDACTED].

In the inspection of the scene conducted between 15:55 and 16:35 on 5 June 2023 of entrance No. 6 at Frunzenskaya Embankment, 50, the said substances of total mass 5.11 g (mephedrone) were discovered and seized from unlawful circulation.

That is, he committed the offense provided for in para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Count 4 — Completed sale, 6.37 g of mephedrone (Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 8) orig. pp. 623–626

He (Leake M.T.) also committed the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, by a group of persons upon prior agreement, using electronic networks, on a large scale — namely: under the same conspiracy and method, no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 he acquired substances with a mass of 6.37 g, which according to expert conclusion No. 686 of 29 June 2023 contain mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) and

constituted a large amount; he repackaged them at apartment No. [REDACTED] Zaporozhskaya St., 6 and handed them to Grabanchuk V.R. in 5 identical transparent “slider” zip-lock bags, each with a round grey magnetic metal item attached by adhesive polymer tape.

Grabanchuk V.R., no later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023, in entrance No. 8 at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment, 50, placed the identical packets of total mass 6.37 g (mephedrone) as stashes in the following hard-to-reach places: one on the upper part of the elevator housing on the 14th floor; one black polymer packet on the upper part of the elevator housing between the 13th and 14th floors; one black polymer packet on the inner side of the lower part of the left leaf of the elevator door between the 11th and 12th floors; one black polymer packet on the upper part of the elevator housing between the 9th and 10th floors; and one black polymer packet on the upper part of the elevator housing between the 5th and 6th floors — recording their exact locations by the “iPhone 12,” IMEI [REDACTED].

In the inspection of the scene conducted between 16:40 and 17:10 on 5 June 2023 of entrance No. 8 at Frunzenskaya Embankment, 50, the said substances of total mass 6.37 g (mephedrone) were discovered and seized from unlawful circulation.

That is, he committed the offense provided for in para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Count 5 — Possession without intent to sell: 1.64 g mephedrone + 0.54 g MDMA orig. pp. 626–627

He (Leake M.T.) also committed the unlawful acquisition and possession, without intent to sell, of narcotic drugs on a significant scale — namely: at a time not precisely established, no later than 19:00 on 6 June 2023, at an unidentified place and under circumstances not established by the investigation, for the purpose of personal use, he unlawfully acquired from an unidentified source substances with a total mass of 1.64 g, which according to expert conclusion No. 1130 of 22 September 2023 contain the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), and a substance in the form of a tablet with a mass of 0.54 g, which according to the same conclusion contains the narcotic drug MDMA (d,L-3,4-methylenedioxy-N-alpha-dimethyl-phenyl-ethylamine), both included in List I of the controlled substances — which constituted a significant amount.

He (Leake M.T.) unlawfully, without intent to sell, kept these substances in his dwelling until 19:00 on 6 June 2023, when, on the premises of apartment No. [REDACTED] at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St., 6, he was detained by police, after which, during the search of his dwelling conducted at that address between 19:00 and 22:02 on 6 June 2023, the said 1.64 g of mephedrone and the 0.54 g MDMA tablet were discovered and seized from unlawful circulation by a police officer.

That is, he committed the offense provided for in part 1 of Article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Aggregate charge and decision orig. pp. 627–628

And in the aggregate he committed the offenses provided for in para. “a, b,” part 3, of Article 228.1; part 3 of Article 30 together with para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; and part 1 of Article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

On the basis of the foregoing and guided by Articles 171 and 172 (175) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation,

DECIDED:

To bring Leake, Michael Travis, born [REDACTED] a native of the USA, a citizen of the USA, as an accused in the present criminal case, charging him with the commission of the offenses provided for in para. “a, b,” part 3, of Article 228.1; part 3 of Article 30 with para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; and part 1 of Article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, and to so notify him.

Senior Investigator

V.N. Marshalkin

Defendant’s acknowledgment and statement of rights orig. p. 628

The present decision was announced to me on 28 September 2023 at 12:22; its text was read to me. The substance of the charge brought has been explained. At the same time, the rights provided for in Article 47 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation have been explained to me, namely: to know what I am charged with and to receive copies of the decision to initiate the criminal case, the decision bringing me as an accused, the decision on a measure of restraint, and the indictment; to object to the charge and to give testimony on it or to refuse to testify, having been warned that my testimony may be used as evidence even if I later retract it; to present evidence; to file motions and challenges; to give testimony in my native language or a language I know; to use the assistance of an interpreter free of charge; to use the assistance of defense counsel, including free of charge; to confidential meetings with counsel without limit on their number or duration, including before the first interrogation; to participate, with permission, in investigative actions and to review their records; to acquaint myself with decisions ordering forensic examinations and with experts’ conclusions; to review the case file at the close of the investigation and to copy materials from it; and to file complaints against the actions and decisions of the investigator, prosecutor, and court. Oral translation provided by the interpreter.



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Decision to Indict

V. R. Grabanchuk

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000355, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Decision on the bringing of a person as an accused, 28 September 2023

INVESTIGATOR: Senior Investigator, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin

ACCUSED: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED] Russian citizen (Leake's co-defendant)

CHARGES: CC RF Art. 228.1 §3(a,b); Art. 30 §3 / Art. 228.1 §4(g); Art. 228.1 §4(g); Art. 228.1 §4(g)

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 579–592 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. This decision is the verbatim mirror of the Decision to Indict M. Travis Leake (Doc 1.2), issued the same day by the same investigator: the same conspiracy and the same four trafficking episodes, described from Grabanchuk's side as the courier. To avoid four near-identical repetitions, the conspiracy preamble — identical in wording to the Leake decision — is given once; each count's distinct facts are stated in full. Grabanchuk is not charged with the possession count (Art. 228 §1) that applies to Leake alone.*

DECISION

on the bringing of a person as an accused

City of Moscow

28 September 2023

The Senior Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin, having examined the materials of criminal case No. 12301450020000355,

ESTABLISHED:

Grabanchuk V.R. committed the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs — that is, deliberate acts directly aimed at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs, committed with the use of electronic or information-and-telecommunications networks (including the “Internet”), by a group of persons upon prior agreement.

The conspiracy (identical wording to the Leake decision, roles reversed)

No later than the month of January 2023 Grabanchuk V.R. entered into a criminal conspiracy with Leake M.T. aimed at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs by a contactless method — “stash” (zakladki) — using electronic networks, within Moscow. Her accomplice Leake M.T. explained the further unlawful actions and acquired the electronic scales, “slider” zip-lock bags, adhesive polymer tape, and magnetic metal items; Grabanchuk V.R., for payment, took the role of stash-courier: she received the already-packaged narcotics from Leake M.T., placed them at addresses indicated in linked phone notes, photographed and recorded each location by means of the “iPhone 12,” IMEI [REDACTED], in her use, and was paid to her bank card. The factual detail of each episode below is identical to that set out in full in the Decision to Indict M. Travis Leake (Doc 1.2).

Count 1 — Completed sale, 1.24 g of mephedrone

On 13 April 2023 Grabanchuk V.R., performing her role, at approximately 10:25 placed a 1.24 g packet of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) — a significant amount — beneath a heating radiator on the stairwell between the 5th and 6th floors of entrance No. 3 at Moscow, [REDACTED], recording its location for the buyer. It was discovered and seized during the inspection of the scene between 22:50 and 23:15 on 13 April 2023.

That is, the offense under para. “a, b,” part 3, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.

Count 2 — Attempted sale, 27.50 g of mephedrone (interrupted by arrest)

On 5 June 2023 Grabanchuk V.R. kept on her person, for subsequent sale, 27.50 g of mephedrone (a large amount) received from Leake M.T. — in twenty identical magnetic “slider” packets and one further packet — until she was detained by police at Moscow, Usacheva St. 62. The substance was discovered and seized during her personal search between 10:25 and 10:32 on 5 June 2023, so that distribution did not occur.

That is, the offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.

Count 3 — Completed sale, 5.11 g of mephedrone (Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 6)

No later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 Grabanchuk V.R. placed 5.11 g of mephedrone (a large amount), received from Leake M.T., as four stashes at hard-to-reach points around the elevator of entrance No. 6 at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment 50 (13th-floor elevator door; between the 12th–13th floors behind the shaft railing; between the 8th–9th floors; between the 4th–5th floors), recording their locations. They were discovered and seized during the inspection of the scene between 15:55 and 16:35 on 5 June 2023.

That is, the offense under para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.

Count 4 — Completed sale, 6.37 g of mephedrone (Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 8)

No later than approximately 10:25 on 5 June 2023 Grabanchuk V.R. placed 6.37 g of mephedrone (a large amount), received from Leake M.T., as five stashes at points around the elevator housing of entrance No. 8 at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment 50 (14th floor; between the 13th–14th, 11th–12th, 9th–10th, and 5th–6th floors), recording their locations. They were discovered and seized during the inspection of the scene between 16:40 and 17:10 on 5 June 2023.

That is, the offense under para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.

Aggregate charge and decision

And in the aggregate she committed the offenses provided for in para. “a, b,” part 3, of Article 228.1; part 3 of Article 30 with para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1; and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

DECIDED:

To bring Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, born [REDACTED] a native of Moscow, a citizen of the Russian Federation, as an accused in the present criminal case, charging her with the offenses listed above, and to so notify her.

Senior Investigator

[signed] V.N. Marshalkin



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Decision to Open a Case

Leake — Possession

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450193000128 (later joined to ...587 / ...355), Moscow

DOCUMENT: Decision on opening a criminal case and accepting it for proceedings, 8 June 2023, 18:50

ISSUED BY: Deputy Chief of the Inquiry Division, Mozhaisky District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Police Captain E.A. Matytsina

BASIS: Review material KUSP No. 15454 of 8 June 2023; analysis certificate No. 261 of 7 June 2023

RELEVANCE: Opens the possession count (Art. 228 §1) over the apartment substances — the very items the defense alleges were planted (the desk powder and the MDMA tablet).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 222, 224 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. This possession case was opened separately (by the Mozhaisky district inquiry division) and later joined with the trafficking case. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

DECISION

on the opening of a criminal case and its acceptance for proceedings

City of Moscow

8 June 2023, 18:50

The Deputy Chief of the Inquiry Division of the Mozhaisky District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Police Captain E.A. Matytsina, having examined the preliminary material registered as KUSP No. 15454 of 8 June 2023,

ESTABLISHED:

At a place and time not established by the inquiry, but no later than 19:00 on 6 June 2023, Leake, Michael Travis, without the appropriate authorization and in violation of the requirements of Federal Law No. 3-FZ of 8 January 1998 “On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,” acquired for personal use: a polymer “slider” zip-lock bag containing a bundle of adhesive polymer tape with metal items inside, holding a substance of 1.29 g; and a further “slider” bag containing a substance of 0.35 g — together 1.64 g from two bundles — which according to analysis certificate No. 261 of 7 June 2023 contain the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone); and a “slider” bag containing a tablet of 0.54 g, which according to analysis certificate No. 261 of 7 June 2023 contains the narcotic drug MDMA (d,L-3,4-methylenedioxy-N-alpha-dimethyl-phenyl-ethylamine). Both are included in List I of the controlled substances (Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998), and under Government Decree No. 1002 of 1 October 2012 constituted a significant amount.

He unlawfully stored these substances, without intent to sell, in apartment No. [REDACTED] at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, until his detention on 6 June 2023, when they were seized during the search of that apartment conducted between 19:00 and 22:02 on 6 June 2023.

Taking into account that there are sufficient data indicating the elements of an offense under part 1 of Article 228 of the Criminal Code, and guided by Articles 140, 145, 146 (147), part 1 of Article 156, and part 1 of Article 157 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,

DECIDED:

1. To open a criminal case on the indicia of an offense under part 1 of Article 228 of the Criminal Code, with respect to Leake, Michael Travis, born [REDACTED] in whose acts the indicia of that offense are discerned.
2. To accept the criminal case for proceedings and to begin the inquiry.
3. A copy of this decision is to be sent to the Kuntsevo inter-district prosecutor of Moscow. The applicant and the person against whom the case was opened were notified of the decision on 8 June 2023.

Deputy Chief, Inquiry Division — Police Captain

[signed] E.A. Matytsina



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Search Protocol

Leake's Apartment

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of a search (обыск/выемка), 6 June 2023, 19:00–22:02

CONDUCTED BY: Operative A.V. Ksenofontov

ATTESTING WITNESSES: [the neighbor witness] (apt. [REDACTED] neighbour) and her son [the neighbor witness]

ALSO PRESENT: M. Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] Oct 1971, U.S. citizen) and Elizaveta V. [his fiancée] (b. [REDACTED] Aug 2003)

RELEVANCE: The search the defense contests as the source of the planting allegation. Leake refused to sign. The two attesting witnesses were a neighbour and her son.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 241–245 (Russian; printed form with handwritten entries)

Note on this translation. This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The protocol is a printed form completed by hand; handwritten entries were read against the scans, and any illegible detail is bracketed. The list of seized items matches that recorded in the [the neighbor witness] witness interrogation (Doc 3.1). The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.

PROTOCOL*of a search (обыск / выемка)*

City of Moscow

6 June 2023

Search begun at 19:00; search ended at 22:02. The operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, A.V. Ksenofontov, on the basis of the decision of 6 June 2023 and in accordance with parts 4–16 of Article 182 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the presence of the attesting witnesses (понятые) (1) [the neighbor witness] and (2) [the neighbor witness], and with the participation of Michael Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] a citizen of America) and [his fiancée] (b. [REDACTED] RF passport [REDACTED]) conducted a search at the apartment for the purpose of finding and seizing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and other items of significance to the criminal case.

Before the start of the search the participants were advised of their rights and responsibilities, and the attesting witnesses of their rights under Article 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The investigator presented the decision authorizing the search of 6 June 2023, after which Leake M.T. was offered the opportunity to voluntarily surrender narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and any items of significance to the case.

Items discovered and seized

In the course of the search the following were discovered and seized: black flash cards and a “Kingston” flash card; hard drives — a “Transcend” in a black housing and a “Seagate” in a grey housing; five homemade smoking tubes; a measuring spoon; a polymer bag with an unknown substance; three jars; a transparent bottle labelled “Universal Cleaner”; bottles labelled “Acetone,” “Cocamidopropyl betaine,” and “emulsifier Tween 80 polysorbate”; two 100-ml jars labelled “Hydroponic Garden”; a brown bag with small magnets; insulating tape; a dark-blue container with transparent zip-lock polymer bags; a black iPhone; a white “iPhone 13 Pro Max”; black-and-orange electronic scales with residue of an unknown substance; a glass pipette; a glass tube with residue; blue insulating tape; an orange-and-white tube with residue; a bundle wrapped in black insulating tape; a polymer zip-lock bag; a grey hard drive (marking N/MSIP-REH-SLL-507); an “Apple Mac mini” in a grey housing; two flash cards (black and grey); and 17 rolls of identical black-blue-green insulating tape.

Of the above, the bundle wrapped in black insulating tape, the white powder in a polymer bag, the polymer bag with a blue tablet, and the white iPhone were handled separately: the white powder, the blue tablet, and the bundle wrapped in black tape were packed into a polyethylene file-bag, the neck of which was sealed with a sheet of white paper bearing an explanatory note and the signatures of the participants.

Michael Travis Leake refused to sign the protocol. The protocol was presented for review to all persons who took part in the investigative action; before, during, and upon the conclusion of the search, no statements were submitted by the participants. The participants were the attesting witnesses [the neighbor witness] and D.R. [the neighbor witness] and the participant [his fiancée].

Attesting witnesses

[signed] [the neighbor witness] · D.R. [the neighbor witness]

Participant

[signed] [his fiancée]

Search conducted by — Operative

[signed] A.V. Ksenofontov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Crime-Scene Inspection

Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, Entr. 6

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия), 5 June 2023 (≈15:55–16:35)

CONDUCTED BY: Senior Investigator, Major of Justice Markov; specialist E.V. Azarova; operatives A.V. Ksenofontov and O.A. Korotov

ATTESTING WITNESSES: [an attesting witness] and [—] Vitalievich

PARTICIPANT: Veronika R. Grabanchuk, who indicated the stash locations

RELEVANCE: The recovery of the four 5.11 g bundles (Count 3). Grabanchuk pointed out each location — she cooperated at the scene.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 25–27 (Russian; printed form with handwritten entries)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The protocol is a printed form completed by hand; entries were read against the scans, and times/apartment numbers that are illegible are bracketed and reconciled with the charging documents. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия)

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

Inspection begun at [15:55]; inspection ended at [16:35]. The Senior Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Major of Justice Markov, having received a report from the operational duty officer concerning an attempted sale of narcotic drugs at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment 50, in the presence of the attesting witnesses (1) [an attesting witness] and (2) [—] Vitalievich (Moscow Region, Monino settlement), and with the participation of Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, the specialist E.V. Azarova, and operatives A.V. Ksenofontov and O.A. Korotov, in accordance with Articles 164, 176 and parts 1–4 and 6 of Article 177 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conducted an inspection of the premises of entrance No. 6.

Before the inspection, the rights, responsibilities, and procedure were explained to the participants; the attesting witnesses were advised of their rights under Article 60, and the specialist E.V. Azarova of her rights under Article 58 (57), of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Digital photography was used. The inspection was conducted in the premises under natural lighting.

The inspection established

The object of the inspection is the premises of entrance No. 6 at Frunzenskaya Embankment 50, Moscow. Before the inspection, Article 51 of the Constitution was explained to Grabanchuk V.R. In the course of the inspection Grabanchuk V.R. pointed out the locations of the stashes, and at each the location was photographed and the item seized:

— on the inner part of the left leaf of the elevator door on the [13th] floor (by apartments [246/245]), a bundle of black polymer material affixed to a magnet was discovered; the point of attachment was photographed and the bundle seized;

— descending to the [12th] floor, opposite apartment [244], between the railing and the fencing of the elevator, under a metal angle bracket near the floor of the landing, a second bundle of black polymer material affixed to a magnet was discovered; photographed and seized;

— on the inter-floor landing between the 8th and 9th floors, on the inner part of the left leaf of the elevator door opposite the courtyard window, a third bundle of black polymer material on a magnet was discovered; photographed and seized;

— on a further inter-floor landing opposite the courtyard window, a fourth bundle of black polymer material affixed to a magnet was discovered; photographed and seized.

All four bundles of black polymer material with magnets were packed into one white paper envelope, the flap of which was glued and secured with the signatures of the participants and bears an explanatory note. Photography was carried out; a photo-table and the envelope containing the four bundles are annexed to the protocol.

The protocol was presented for review to all participants; the participants made no comments or additions. Participants: attesting witnesses R.S. and [—] Vitalievich; specialist E.V. Azarova; V.R. Grabanchuk; and operatives. Drawn up in accordance with Articles 166 and 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Senior Investigator

[signed] Markov

Note — parallel inspections: the same day, entrance No. 8 of Frunzenskaya Embankment 50 was inspected (≈16:40–17:10), where five bundles totalling 6.37 g were recovered (Count 4); and on 13 April 2023 (≈22:50–23:15) the 1.24 g packet was recovered beneath a heating radiator on the stairwell between the 5th and 6th floors of entrance No. 3 at [REDACTED] (Count 1). Those protocols mirror this one in form.



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Crime-Scene Inspection

Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, Entr. 8

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия), 5 June 2023, 16:40–17:10

CONDUCTED BY: Senior Investigator, Major of Justice R.M. Taukenov; specialist E.V. Azarova; operatives A.V. Ksenofontov and O.A. Korolev

ATTESTING WITNESSES: [an attesting witness] and [an attesting witness]

PARTICIPANT: Veronika R. Grabanchuk, who indicated the stash locations

RELEVANCE: The recovery of the five 6.37 g bundles (Count 4). As at entrance 6, Grabanchuk pointed out each location.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 42–44 (Russian; printed form with handwritten entries)

Note on this translation. This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The protocol is a printed form completed by hand; entries were read against the scans and reconciled with the charging documents; illegible detail is bracketed. It is the companion to the entrance-6 inspection (Doc 2.2). The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.

PROTOCOL

of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия)

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

Inspection begun at 16:40; inspection ended at 17:10. The Senior Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Major of Justice R.M. Taukenov, having received a report from the operational duty officer concerning an attempted sale of narcotic drugs, arrived at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment 50, entrance No. 8, in the presence of the attesting witnesses (1)

[an attesting witness]

(Moscow, [REDACTED], bldg. 1, apt. 24) and (2)

[an attesting witness]

(Moscow Region, Monino settlement, [REDACTED], apt. 39), and with the participation of Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, the specialist E.V. Azarova, and operatives A.V. Ksenofontov and O.A. Korolev, in accordance with Articles 164, 176 and parts 1–4 and 6 of Article 177 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conducted an inspection of the premises of entrance No. 8.

Before the inspection, the participants were advised of their rights, responsibilities, and the procedure; the attesting witnesses of their rights under Article 60, and the specialist under Article 58 (57), of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Digital photography was used; the inspection was conducted under natural lighting.

The inspection established

The object of the inspection is the premises of entrance No. 8. Article 51 of the Constitution was explained to Grabanchuk V.R., who then pointed out the stash locations; at each the point of attachment was photographed and the item seized:

— on the upper part of the elevator housing on the 14th floor (by apartments [311–362]), a bundle of polymer material affixed to a magnet was discovered; photographed and seized;

— on the landing between the 13th and 14th floors, on the upper part of the elevator housing opposite the window, a second bundle on a magnet; photographed and seized;

— on the inter-floor landing between the [11th and 12th] floors, on the inner side of the lower part of the [left] leaf of the elevator door opposite the window, a third bundle on a magnet; photographed and seized;

— on the inter-floor landing between the [9th and 10th] floors, on the upper part of the elevator housing opposite the window, a fourth bundle of black polymer material on a magnet; photographed and seized;

— on the inter-floor landing between the 5th and 6th floors, on the upper part of the elevator housing opposite the window, a fifth bundle of black polymer material affixed to a magnet; photographed and seized.

All five bundles of black polymer material with magnets were packed into one white paper envelope, the flap of which was glued and secured with the signatures of the participants and bears an explanatory note. A photo-table and the envelope containing the five bundles are annexed.

The protocol was presented for review to all participants, who made no comments or additions. Participants: attesting witnesses R.S. [REDACTED] and R.V. [REDACTED]; specialist E.V. Azarova; V.R. Grabanchuk; and operatives. Drawn up in accordance with Articles 166 and 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Senior Investigator

[signed] R.M. Taukenov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Personal Search of V. Grabanchuk

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of a personal search (личный досмотр), 5 June 2023, 10:25–10:32

CONDUCTED BY: Operative, Captain of Police [S.A. Yakushkina]

ATTESTING WITNESSES: [an attesting witness] and [an attesting witness]

SUBJECT: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED]

RELEVANCE: The seizure on Grabanchuk's person of the ~27.50 g of mephedrone underlying Count 2 (the attempted sale). One attesting witness, [REDACTED], later figures as a prosecution witness.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 12–15 (Russian; handwritten — read against high-resolution scans)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The protocol is handwritten and was transcribed and translated from high-resolution scans; names and figures that are not fully legible are bracketed. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of a personal search (личный досмотр)

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

Search begun at 10:25; search ended at 10:32. The operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Captain of Police [S.A. Yakushkina], in the presence of the representatives of the public (attesting witnesses) (1) [an attesting witness] (b. [REDACTED]) and (2) [an attesting witness], and with the participation of Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk (b. [REDACTED]) in accordance with Federal Law No. 3-FZ of 7 February 2011 “On the Police,” conducted a personal search at the premises of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, for the purpose of finding and seizing items whose circulation is prohibited or restricted. Before the search, the rights and duties and the procedure for seizure were explained to the participants; no technical means were used.

Result of the search

In the course of the personal search of Grabanchuk V.R. the following were established and seized: from a pocket of the jeans she was wearing — a packet with an unknown substance of a light color; and from a bag she had with her — 15 bundles wrapped in black insulating tape, packed in a transparent zip-lock bag.

With respect to the items seized, Grabanchuk V.R. explained that the said bundles contain the narcotic drug mephedrone, that each bundle holds approximately 1.32 g of that substance, that she had wrapped the bundles herself, and that the addresses to which the bundles were to be distributed had been provided to her.

All of the items seized were packed into a transparent file-bag, which was sealed with a strip of paper bearing an explanatory note and the signatures of the participating persons. The protocol was read; the participants had no comments.

Attesting witnesses
Search conducted by — Operative, Captain of Police

[signed] E.N. [an attesting witness] · M.S.
[signed] [S.A. Yakushkina]



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Inspection of Objects

Grabanchuk's iPhone 12

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the inspection of objects (осмотр предметов), 5 June 2023

CONDUCTED BY: Operative Lt. A.V. Ksenofontov; attesting witnesses R.S. and R.V.
; participant V.R. Grabanchuk

OBJECT: Apple iPhone 12 (red), IMEI [REDACTED], seized from Grabanchuk during her personal search

RELEVANCE: The phone whose gallery held 70 stash photographs. The defense observed that far fewer than 70 of these photographs actually appear in the case file — and that Leake's own seized iPhone separately went missing.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 18–19 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize. The device inspected here is Grabanchuk's iPhone 12; Leake's own seized iPhone is the one the defense states later disappeared from the evidence.*

PROTOCOL

of the inspection of objects (осмотр предметов)

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

The operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Lieutenant of Police A.V. Ksenofontov, in the presence of the attesting witnesses [an attesting witness] and [an attesting witness], and with the participation of Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, in accordance with Articles 164, part 1 of Article 176, and parts 1–4 and 6 of Article 177 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in office No. 424 of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia at Moscow, Usacheva St. 62, conducted an inspection of the Apple iPhone 12 mobile telephone, IMEI [REDACTED], belonging to Grabanchuk V.R., obtained in the course of her personal search. A personal computer, mouse, and HP printer were used. The participants were advised of their rights; the attesting witnesses of their rights under Article 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The inspection established

The object of the inspection is the Apple iPhone 12 mobile telephone, IMEI [REDACTED]. The telephone is in a red housing; PIN code 1230. On inspection of the software content of the telephone, upon entering the gallery, 70 photographs were discovered containing information about the locations of stashes (zakladki) of narcotic drugs. The photographs from this gallery are annexed.

No photography, video, or audio recording was carried out during the action. Before, during, and upon the conclusion of the inspection, no statements were submitted by the participants. The protocol was presented for review to all participants, who, having read it personally, made no comments or additions. A copy of the protocol was received by Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk on 5 June 2023.

Attesting witnesses

[signed] R.S. · R.V.

Participant

[signed] V.R. Grabanchuk

Operative

[signed] A.V. Ksenofontov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Crime-Scene Inspection

Komsomolsky Pr. 5/2, Entr. 3

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия), 13 April 2023, 22:50–23:15

CONDUCTED BY: Senior inquiry officer, Major of Police O.V. Chikina; operative Lt. A.V. Ksenofontov; specialist A.P. Belous

ATTESTING WITNESSES: Two residents of [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] (M.G. and E.S.)

RELEVANCE: The 13 April recovery of the 1.24 g packet beneath the radiator — the basis for Count 1, the only completed-sale episode that predates the June arrests.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 268–269 (Russian; handwritten — read against the scans and reconciled with the charging documents)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. This protocol is handwritten; the entries were read against high-resolution scans, and details not fully legible are bracketed and reconciled with the charging documents (which confirm the date, time, location, and the 1.24 g of mephedrone). The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of the inspection of the scene of the incident (осмотр места происшествия)

City of Moscow

13 April 2023

Inspection begun at 22:50; ended at 23:15. The senior inquiry officer of the Inquiry Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Major of Police O.V. Chikina, having received a report from the operational duty officer, in the presence of the attesting witnesses (1) [—] Marina Georgievna and (2) [an attesting witness] (residents of Moscow, [REDACTED], apt. 58), and with the participation of operative Lieutenant of Police A.V. Ksenofontov and the specialist A.P. Belous, in accordance with Articles 164, 176, and parts 1–4 and 6 of Article 177 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conducted an inspection of the stairwell landing of entrance No. 3, between the 5th and 6th floors. A Canon SX500 camera was used. The rights, responsibilities, and procedure were explained to the participants; the attesting witnesses were advised of their rights under Article 60, and the specialist under Article 58 (57), of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The inspection established

The object of the inspection is the stairwell landing situated between the 5th and 6th floors of entrance No. 3 of building 5/2 on Komsomolsky Prospekt, Moscow. On the windowsill of the landing, beneath the section of the heating radiator, a bundle of black polymer material affixed to a magnet was discovered. The point of attachment was photographed, and the bundle was seized. (Per the charging documents, the bundle contained 1.24 g of the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone).)

The seized bundle was packed and sealed with an explanatory note bearing the signatures of the participants; a photo-table is annexed to the protocol. The protocol was presented for review to all participants, who made no comments. Drawn up in accordance with Articles 166 and 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Attesting witnesses · Specialist
Senior inquiry officer

[signed] M.G.

· E.S.

· A.P. Belous

[signed] O.V. Chikina



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Witness Interrogation

[the neighbor witness]

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000355, Investigative Division, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of a witness, 18 September 2023

WITNESS: [the neighbor witness], b. [REDACTED] — neighbour in apt. [REDACTED] same building as the searched apartment

INVESTIGATOR: Senior Investigator, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin

RELEVANCE: Served as an attesting witness (понятой) to the 6 June 2023 search of Leake's apartment; describes the items seized

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 438–440 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. "Attesting witness" renders the Russian понятой — a lay member of the public who, under Russian procedure, is supposed to observe an investigative action from start to finish. The translation is faithful to the source and does not editorialize. Bracketed text marks words supplied for sense.

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of a witness

City of Moscow

18 September 2023

Interrogation begun at 10:00; interrogation ended at 10:[—]. The Senior Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Major of Justice V.N. Marshalkin, in office No. 431, in accordance with Articles 189 and 190 (191) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation, interrogated the following person as a witness in criminal case No. 12301450020000355:

Witness identification

Name: [the neighbor witness]

Date / place of birth: [REDACTED], Moscow

Residence: Registered at Moscow, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] actually residing at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] tel. [REDACTED]

Citizenship / education: Russian Federation; higher education

Family status: Unmarried

Employment: Victory Museum (Muzey Pobedy) — specialist, exposition-and-exhibition department

Record: No criminal record; not on narcological or psychiatric registry (per her own statement)

Identity document: RF passport [REDACTED] issued by the GU MVD of Russia for Moscow on 5 October 2022

No technical means were used. Article 51 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation was explained. Before the interrogation, the rights and duties of a witness under part 4 of Article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were explained, namely: to refuse to testify against herself, her spouse, and close relatives; to testify in her native language or a language she knows; to use an interpreter free of charge; to challenge the interpreter; to file motions and complaints; to appear for interrogation with an attorney; and to request safety measures. She was warned of criminal liability under Article 308 (refusal to testify) and Article 307 (knowingly false testimony) of the Criminal Code.

Testimony

On the merits of the criminal case I can state the following. I am not on the registry of a narcologist or psychiatrist and have no criminal record. At the time of this investigative action I feel satisfactory. I have no statements, comments, or complaints. I give my testimony voluntarily, without coercion or any pressure, whether physical or psychological. Article 51 of the Constitution has been explained to me and is clear. My procedural rights under Article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been explained to me, and I understand what is happening. I do not use narcotic or psychotropic preparations. I have no illness that would prevent me from testifying or from understanding the actual nature of the actions being conducted with me, and no disease of the central nervous system. I have no reason to give false incriminating testimony.

I actually reside at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] together with my son, [the neighbor witness]. On 6 June 2023 I was at home with my son at my place of actual residence. At approximately 18:30, police officers approached us and proposed that we take part, as representatives of the public — attesting witnesses (поняты) — in a search of the apartment located at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] to which my son and I gave our consent, after which we proceeded to apt. [REDACTED] where, in the presence

of the persons taking part in the search — the previously-unknown-to-me Leake M.T., who had been detained by the police, and [his fiancée] E.V. (as I later learned from the officers) — the police officer, before the search, announced the investigator's decision authorizing the search of that apartment, and the rights and duties of all participants under Article 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the procedure for the search were explained.

Article 51 of the Constitution was also explained to Leake M.T., who was participating in the search. Before the search of the dwelling, in answer to the officer's question as to whether there were in the apartment any items or substances prohibited from lawful civilian circulation in the territory of the Russian Federation, Leake M.T., taking part in the search, gave no explanations.

In the course of the search the police officer discovered and seized in the apartment the following: three identical black flash cards; a "ScanDisk 64 Gb" flash card; a black "Kingston" flash card; a "Transcend" hard drive in a black housing; a "Seagate" hard drive in a grey housing; five homemade smoking tubes; a measuring spoon; a transparent polymer bag with a blue tablet inside; three jars; a transparent bottle labelled "Universal Cleaner"; a transparent bottle labelled "Acetone"; a transparent bottle labelled "Cocamidopropyl betaine"; a transparent bottle labelled "emulsifier Tween 80 polysorbate"; two jars labelled "Hydroponic Garden"; a brown bag with magnets inside it; black insulating tape; a plastic container holding identical transparent zip-lock bags; a white "iPhone 13 Pro Max" mobile phone; black-and-orange electronic scales; a glass pipette; a glass tube; blue insulating tape; an orange-and-white tube; a bundle wrapped in black insulating tape; a white powdery substance on the table in the room; a grey hard drive; a black flash card; a grey flash card; an "Apple Mac mini" system unit in a grey housing; and 17 rolls of identical black-blue-green insulating tape.

The white powdery substance and the blue tablet were packed into a file-type polyethylene bag, the neck of which was sealed with a strip of white paper bearing an explanatory note and the signatures of the persons participating in the inspection. Upon completion of the search, the police officer drew up the corresponding search protocol, which all participating persons except Leake M.T. signed as they reviewed it. Leake M.T. refused to sign.

Before the start of, during, and upon the conclusion of the interrogation, witness [the neighbor witness] submitted no statements. The protocol was read personally; there are no comments on the protocol.

Witness
Senior Investigator

[signed] [the neighbor witness]
[signed] V.N. Marshalkin



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Witness Interrogation

[his fiancée]

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case (No. 12301450020000587 as written), Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of a witness, 8 June 2023, taken by Operative Lt. A.V. Ksenofontov

WITNESS: [his fiancée] — Leake's girlfriend, who moved from Novosibirsk and lived with him at the searched apartment

RELEVANCE: Describes Leake repackaging mephedrone in the apartment and Grabanchuk's involvement. Per the family, [his fiancée] is the partner whom officers subjected to an unlawful search during the raid to pressure Leake; the defense treats statements obtained that day as coerced.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 148–152 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The witness states she declined an interpreter, knowing Russian. The translation is faithful to the source and does not editorialize; passages illegible in the scan are bracketed. The case number is reproduced as written and differs from the master case number elsewhere in the file.*

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of a witness

City of Moscow

8 June 2023

Interrogation begun at 09:00. Operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Lieutenant of Police A.V. Ksenofontov, in office No. 424 at Moscow, Usacheva St. 62, in accordance with Articles 189 and 190 (191) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interrogated [his fiancée] as a witness in criminal case No. 12301450020000587. The rights of a witness under Article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and Article 51 of the Constitution, were explained; the witness was warned of liability under Articles 307 and 308 of the Criminal Code.

Testimony

On the merits of the criminal case I can state the following. I actually reside at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] I am not on the registry of a narcologist or psychiatrist. At the time of the interrogation I feel satisfactory. I have no statements, comments, or complaints. I give my testimony voluntarily, without coercion or any pressure, physical or psychological. Article 51 of the Constitution and my rights under Article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been explained to me and are clear. Since November 2022 I have periodically used the narcotic drug mephedrone, about 1–2 times a month, with which Michael Travis Leake treated me; at present I have no dependency. I do not wish to use an interpreter, as I have command of Russian; I do not need a lawyer; I have no reason to give false incriminating testimony. Since early May 2023 I work as an administrator at the “SODA” beauty salon, Moscow, Bolshaya Filevskaya St. 3, bldg. 2, on a 2/2 schedule from 10:00 to 22:00, with a salary of 40,000 rubles, which is my permanent source of income.

In 2022 I lived in Novosibirsk, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] and studied at NGTU. At that time I registered on the dating site “Tandem,” on which I met Michael Travis Leake; in the course of our communication a warm relationship developed. In the autumn of 2022 Travis proposed that I come to him in Moscow and live with him. He bought me plane tickets, and I went to Moscow. When I arrived he met me at the airport, and we went to his home at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] I have lived with him from then to the present. During this period I did not work anywhere; Travis provided for me financially. One of his sources of income was translating songs and tutoring.

On the second day of our acquaintance, in the evening, when I had already lain down in bed and was about to fall asleep, I saw him take from the desk a glass tray on which there was a white powder. When I asked what it was, he answered, “It’s a magic powder,” and offered it to me; I declined. About a month into our cohabitation, around the beginning of December, Travis came home with a paper bag inside which was a transparent bag with white powder of approximately 150 grams — roughly two full handfuls of mine. Over the course of our cohabitation I saw him come with such bags about 8 times, and each time he performed the same actions: he came home, poured all the contents of the bag (the white powder) onto scales, then took out a drawer in which there were small zip-lock bags, took insulating tape, and had a bag in which small magnets were kept. From the large pile of the substance he would separate portions of approximately 1.2 grams, weigh them on the scales, place the measured powder into a bag, and then wrap it in insulating tape. When I asked why he did all this, he answered that this was how he earned a living.

On 4 June 2023, at approximately 23:00, I returned home; Travis was not there. I washed and went to sleep. On 5 June 2023, at approximately 00:30, Travis came home with Veronika Grabanchuk; I opened

my eyes, asked how they were, and went back to sleep; I cannot say what they were doing. I woke at 07:30; Veronika was no longer at home, Travis was asleep, and I got ready and left. On 6 June 2023, at approximately 18:00, police officers entered the apartment and reported that they would conduct a search of Travis's home. During the search they discovered and seized narcotic drugs in the form of "stashers"; among the items were stashers with a blue tablet that Travis had made [found on the windowsill, one of those Travis made]. They also seized, in the storeroom, a computer, insulating tape, and magnets.

I have known Grabanchuk since I came to Moscow; she visits Travis. Grabanchuk helped him with the narcotics that Travis provided in the form of stashers, with insulating tape and a magnet. In my presence they packed narcotics; a couple of times I came along with them; once I saw Veronika wrapping the packaging of some substance that [Travis] provided.

Travis always had mephedrone; where he obtained it I do not know. We did not use narcotics often. In one of the drawers of Travis's desk there was a metal box (a safe); I had no access to it, and he did not tell me the password. When Travis treated us to drugs, he took them from the said desk; from exactly where I cannot say. By verbal agreement with Travis, he forbade me to use the drawers of the desk. Under the desk Travis also hid a glass tray, and somewhere he also kept a plastic spoon, which he used when he repackaged mephedrone, with which he treated us.

Regarding the blue tablet I can explain nothing. However, I saw Travis use multicolored tablets, which he kept in [a container]. He allowed me to use a tablet [device] on which I watched films; the passwords to the above-mentioned equipment are unknown to me. Of the messengers I know Travis to use: Telegram, WhatsApp, FaceTime. I know nothing about Travis's bank cards or electronic wallets.

I did not engage in the acquisition, repackaging, or subsequent sale of narcotics, and I did not help Travis in any of those actions. I did not learn that he was doing this right away; as a rule Travis did this very secretly, and while working at the computer he constantly turned the display away from me. I know that one of Travis's acquaintances is named Igor, who often appeared as a guest at Travis's; I do not have his contact details. Periodically, when I was not at home, Travis invited someone over; I understood that he invited girls unknown to me — who they were and what they did I do not know. During the time I lived in Travis's apartment, no foreigners ever came to him.

Before the start of, during, and upon the conclusion of the interrogation, no statements were submitted by witness [his fiancée] E.V. or her lawyer. The protocol was read personally; I have no comments on the protocol.

Witness
Operative

[signed] [his fiancée]
[signed] A.V. Ksenofontov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Confrontation

Grabanchuk & Leake

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case (No. 12301450020000587 as written; cf. master No. ...355), Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of a confrontation (очная ставка), 8 June 2023, between the accused Veronika R. Grabanchuk and the accused M. Travis Leake

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh

ALSO PRESENT: Counsel E.A. Adamov (for Grabanchuk); counsel D.S. Nikitin (for Leake); interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko

RELEVANCE: Grabanchuk implicates Leake and alleges he blackmailed and threatened her; Leake admits packaging the drugs and paying her, but denies any coercion. At trial the defense states Grabanchuk recanted the threat allegation, testifying police had her write it in.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 203–206 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. A “confrontation” (очная ставка) is a face-to-face questioning of two persons whose accounts diverge. The translation is faithful to the source and does not editorialize. Some figures and times in the scan are partly illegible and are bracketed. The acquaintance date (“April 2021”) and the case number appear exactly as written in this document, and differ from other documents in the file.*

PROTOCOL

of a confrontation (очная ставка)

City of Moscow

8 June 2023

The confrontation began at approximately 1[4]:40 and ended at approximately 1[5]:[—]. The Investigator of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, on the premises of the Investigative Division, in accordance with Article 192 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conducted a confrontation between the accused Grabanchuk V.R. and the accused Leake M.T., whose particulars are in the case file.

Taking part in the confrontation: counsel for the accused Grabanchuk V.R. — Eldar Aleksandrovich Adamov; counsel for the accused Leake M.T. — Dmitry Sergeevich Nikitin; interpreter — Anastasia Yuryevna Mishchenko; no other persons participated. A personal computer and printer were used. Before the start, the procedure for the confrontation was explained to the participants, and Article 51 of the Constitution (that they are not obliged to testify against themselves or close relatives) was explained; on agreeing to testify, they were warned their testimony could be used as evidence, including if later retracted.

Whether the parties know one another

The accused Grabanchuk V.R. stated: she knows the man sitting opposite — he is Leake, Michael Travis, with whom she has been acquainted since approximately April 2021; because of the criminal prosecution they are not in contact.

The accused Leake M.T. stated: he knows the woman sitting opposite — she is Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, with whom he has been acquainted since approximately April 2021; because of the criminal prosecution they are not in contact.

Examination

Investigator to the accused Grabanchuk V.R.: Describe the circumstances of your acquaintance with Leake M.T., sitting opposite you, and your receipt from him of the narcotic drugs that were found on you during your personal search

Answer. On 1 April 2021 I met Leake M.T., who is sitting opposite me; we had a friendly relationship. In January 2023 he proposed that I engage in the distribution of narcotic drugs; before that I had seen how he does it and had gone with him to some addresses. Because I needed money, and he promised me 200 rubles for each stash laid, I agreed. It all happened as follows: Leake M.T. handed me narcotic drugs (mephedrone; one stash = 1.32 g), already packaged and with a magnet. In my phone and his there were linked files (notes) containing the addresses where the drugs were to be placed; I went to those addresses, placed the drugs, then photographed them and marked in the files (notes) that the drugs had been placed. After I finished, Leake M.T. transferred money to my bank card. In a single outing I would place approximately 50–60 lots of narcotics. Leake M.T. has lived in Russia for 11 years; he lives near Molodyozhnaya metro, at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] where a girl of about 19 lives with him. In the apartment where he lives he also packages the narcotics; at home he has scales, insulating tape, and zip-lock bags, and he keeps all of this in the large room, in the desk. He also had reagents (acetone, hydrogen peroxide) in order to process narcotic substances.

Answer. Moreover, Leake M.T. blackmailed me: he recorded a video in which I used narcotics together with him, which he threatened to distribute — to send to my parents, to my workplace, and to others. Leake

M.T. also told me that if I reported that he engages in criminal activity, he would use physical force against me and my relatives. I took his threat seriously and feared for my life and the lives of my relatives.

Answer. On 5 June 2023 I received from Leake M.T., sitting opposite me, in the form of stashes, the narcotic drug mephedrone, which was later seized from me during the personal search, and which I also indicated during the inspection of the scene conducted with my participation, and which were likewise seized.

Investigator to the accused Leake M.T.: You have heard the testimony of the accused Grabanchuk V.R., sitting opposite you. Do you agree with it? If not, with what exactly do you disagree?

Answer. I heard the testimony of the accused Grabanchuk V.R.; it is clear to me. I agree with it in part. I agree that I packaged the narcotic drugs and handed them to Grabanchuk V.R., sitting opposite me. I do not agree with the part about applying blackmail to Grabanchuk V.R. — namely, that I allegedly forced her to commit the said acts. She performed those actions voluntarily. Apart from the money I transferred to her for the work of laying out the narcotics as “stashes” in particular places, I treated her to narcotics, which she used. I did not film Grabanchuk V.R., sitting opposite me, on video, and I did not blackmail her with that.

Investigator to the accused Grabanchuk V.R.: Do you insist on your testimony?

Answer. I insist on my testimony.

Investigator to the accused Leake M.T.: Do you insist on your testimony?

Answer. I insist on my testimony.

The participants were given the right to put questions. Grabanchuk V.R. had no questions for Leake M.T.; Leake M.T. had no questions for Grabanchuk V.R.

Before the start of, during, and upon the conclusion of the confrontation, no statements were submitted by the participants — the accused Grabanchuk V.R., the accused Leake M.T., counsel E.A. Adamov, counsel D.S. Nikitin, or interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko. The protocol was read personally; there are no comments on the protocol.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Confrontation

[his fiancée] & Leake

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of a confrontation (очная ставка), 8 June 2023, between witness [his fiancée] and the accused M. Travis Leake

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh

ALSO PRESENT: Counsel D.S. Nikitin (for Leake); interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko

RELEVANCE: [his fiancée] repeats her account of the packaging; Leake fully agrees with it and expressly states that [his fiancée] had no involvement in the offense — he protects his girlfriend on the record.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 207–211 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. A “confrontation” (очная ставка) is a face-to-face questioning of two persons. [his fiancée]’s narrative here is identical to her witness interrogation (Doc 3.2) and is summarized to avoid duplication; Leake’s answer is given in full. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of a confrontation (очная ставка)

City of Moscow

8 June 2023

The confrontation began at approximately 18:15 and ended at approximately 18:30. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in accordance with Article 192 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conducted a confrontation in criminal case No. 12301450020000587 between witness [his fiancée] E.V. and the accused Leake M.T. Taking part: counsel for the accused, D.S. Nikitin, and interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko. Witness [his fiancée] E.V. was warned of liability under Articles 307 and 308 of the Criminal Code; both were advised of Article 51 of the Constitution.

Both stated that they have known one another since approximately the autumn of 2022 and, owing to the criminal prosecution, are not in contact.

Investigator to witness [his fiancée] **E.V.:** Describe the circumstances of your acquaintance with Leake M.T., sitting opposite you, and of your living in his apartment at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED]

Answer. [his fiancée] gives the same account as in her witness interrogation (Doc 3.2):] In 2022 she lived in Novosibirsk and met Leake on the “Tandem” dating site; in the autumn of 2022 he invited her to Moscow and bought her plane tickets; she moved into apt. [REDACTED] and did not work, Leake providing for her. On the second evening she saw him take a glass tray of white powder from the desk (“It’s a magic powder”); about a month later he brought home ~150 g of white powder, and over their cohabitation she saw him do so about 8 times, each time weighing ~1.2 g portions onto scales, placing them in zip-lock bags, and wrapping them in insulating tape with small magnets, saying that was how he earned a living. On 6 June 2023 police searched the apartment and seized the white powder from the desk, a blue tablet, and a bundle in black tape (one of those Leake made), along with the container of bags, tape, and magnets. She knew Grabanchuk, who often visited and helped distribute; [his fiancée] herself did not acquire, repackage, or sell narcotics and did not help Leake, who acted very secretly.

Investigator to the accused Leake M.T.: You have heard the testimony of witness [his fiancée] E.V. Do you agree with it? If not, with what exactly do you disagree?

Answer. I heard the testimony of witness [his fiancée] E.V.; it is clear to me. I fully agree with the testimony of [his fiancée] E.V. I confirm that [his fiancée] E.V. is in no way involved in the crime I committed; I never asked her about this.

Investigator to witness [his fiancée] **E.V.:** Do you insist on your testimony?

Answer. I insist on my testimony.

Investigator to the accused Leake M.T.: Do you insist on your testimony?

Answer. I insist on my testimony.

The participants had no questions for one another. Before, during, and upon the conclusion of the confrontation, no statements were submitted by witness [his fiancée] E.V., the accused Leake M.T., counsel D.S. Nikitin, or interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko. The protocol was read personally; there are no comments.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Interrogation of Leake as a Suspect

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of a suspect, 8 June 2023, 15:40–16:50

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh; defense counsel D.S. Nikitin (order 027474); interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko

SUSPECT: Michael Travis Leake, b. [REDACTED] U.S. citizen

RELEVANCE: Leake's formal interrogation, in which he admits guilt "in full ... out of my own stupidity." The defense contends statements of this period were obtained under pressure; note the account is materially identical to his earlier Explanation (Doc 4.1).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 190–194 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The interrogation was conducted with defense counsel and through an interpreter. The narrative matches Leake's earlier Explanation (Doc 4.1) and is given here in full because it is his formal statement. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize. Defendant's surname appears in the original as "Лук" ("Lik") and is rendered "Leake."*

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of a suspect

City of Moscow

8 June 2023

Interrogation begun at 15:40; ended at 16:50. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in office No. 427, in accordance with part 2 of Article 46 and Articles 189–190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interrogated the following person as a suspect in criminal case No. 12301450020000587: Michael Travis Leake, born [REDACTED] USA, California; having no registration in the Russian Federation; a citizen of the USA; three higher educations; single, with no minor children; not working; US passport [REDACTED] not on any narcological or psychiatric registry — with the participation of defense counsel Dmitry Sergeevich Nikitin (order 027474 of 8 June 2023) and interpreter Anastasia Yuryevna Mishchenko. The rights of a suspect under Article 46 and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained.

Leake M.T. was advised that he is suspected of an attempt at the unlawful sale of narcotic drugs on a large scale, not completed due to circumstances beyond his control — an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code.

Testimony

The substance of the suspicion has been explained to me and is clear. I admit my guilt in the imputed crime in full. At the time of this investigative action I feel satisfactory; I have no statements, comments, or complaints; I give my testimony voluntarily, without coercion or any pressure, whether physical or psychological. I have no reason to give false incriminating testimony.

From December 2010 I came to the Russian Federation to work as a teacher at the Institute of Foreign Languages (OChU DO) in Moscow. At around 2018 I ended that work because the employer could not provide a full class. For about half a year I was not officially employed; I did freelance translation for Rosatom. Then in 2020 the “coronavirus” pandemic came, and I could not renew my residence permit because I could not get to the public-services center without a movement pass. A few months into the pandemic, my wife, [a relative] [a relative] (b. [REDACTED]) proposed that I take up the distribution of narcotics as a courier. She found this on the so-called “Hydra,” at a shop “PremiumbyPadre” (the more precise information is on my computer, which was seized). The shop gave us the coordinates of “Master Klad” stashes in large volume, and my wife taught me to repackage them and wrap them in insulating tape; the shop indicated the stash locations and paid the money. We lived this way for about 2.5 years — at first we laid the stashes out together, and afterward she stayed home while I laid them out alone. Over 2.5 years we changed several shops; the shops we worked with were “PremiumbyPadre, Stargazing, CTS.” Then my wife left me and I continued working alone; all the information is saved on my computer (the scales, the stash coordinates, the intercom codes, the money, and so on).

On 1 April 2021 I met Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, at the “Coyote Ugly” bar; we struck up a friendly relationship. She then learned what I did and began going with me when I placed the stashes, for which I paid her 100 rubles per stash; a few months later she wanted to earn more and began going alone to lay stashes by address, for which I paid her 200 rubles per stash. I agreed because I no longer wanted to do it myself. On 4 June 2023, having arranged in advance with Veronika Grabanchuk, we went to Balashikha for a stash of 99.4 grams (I cannot recall the exact place, but it is in my Yandex Taxi history); we collected it after dark — I remember it was entrance No. 6, a fist-sized bundle in a rubbish bin. We

came home and Veronika began repackaging the substance; she then took 80 grams of stashes and I kept the rest. On the morning of 5 June 2023 Veronika was to lay out the stashes; we had shared notes in the phone with the coordinates. At some point she stopped getting in touch and I thought something might be going wrong, so I immediately began deleting the Telegram correspondence, the shared notes, and my phone's geolocation.

On 6 June 2023, when I understood she had not been at work or come to me, I decided to remove everything that in my view was unlawful, because I suspected police might come. I was tired of earning money this way, and my girlfriend and I had a plan to earn legally — making bath bombs at home and selling them on Yandex Market. At approximately 18:00 I heard a knock at the door but could not open it because I was in the toilet; after several loud knocks I came to the door and began to open it; police officers entered and reported that they were going to conduct a search; I immediately reported that the prohibited substances were on the table in the room, that there was nothing else, and I immediately gave the officers the code to the safe.

I admit my guilt in the imputed crime in full. I committed the crime out of my own stupidity, owing to the lack of a legal source of income and the lack of documents for lawful presence in the territory of the Russian Federation, which I could not obtain because of the “coronavirus” pandemic. I am also ready to cooperate with the bodies of the preliminary investigation. I do not intend to do anything of the kind again.

The protocol was read personally; there are no comments. Defense counsel D.S. Nikitin and interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko submitted no statements.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh

Suspect · Counsel · Interpreter

[signed] M. Leake · D.S. Nikitin · A.Yu. Mishchenko



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Interrogation of Leake as the Accused

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of the accused, 8 June 2023 (≈17:10–17:35)

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh; counsel D.S. Nikitin (order 027474); interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko

ACCUSED: Michael Travis Leake, b. [REDACTED] U.S. citizen

RELEVANCE: Immediately after being charged, Leake confirms his suspect testimony (Doc 3.5) in full and again admits guilt. He asks to testify in English.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 200–202 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. This is the short interrogation conducted right after charging; Leake adopts his earlier statement (Doc 3.5) rather than restating it. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of the accused

City of Moscow

8 June 2023

Interrogation begun at approximately 17:10; ended at 17:35. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in office No. 427, in accordance with Articles 173, 174, and 189 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interrogated Michael Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] USA, California; no registration in the RF; U.S. citizen; three higher educations; single; not working; US passport [REDACTED] not on any registry) as the accused in criminal case No. 12301450020000587, with the participation of defense counsel D.S. Nikitin (order 027474 of 8 June 2023) and interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko. Before the first interrogation, the rights under Article 47 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained; under Article 18, his right to testify in his native language or a language he knows, and to an interpreter free of charge, was explained.

Testimony

The essence of the charge brought against me — the offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code — has been explained to me and is clear. I admit my guilt in the commission of that offense. I wish to give testimony in the English language.

On the merits of the criminal case I can state the following. I confirm in full the testimony I gave earlier and insist on it. I admit my guilt in the imputed crime in full; I committed the crime out of my own stupidity, owing to the lack of a legal source of income and the lack of documents for lawful presence in the territory of the Russian Federation, which I could not obtain because of the “coronavirus” pandemic. I am also ready to cooperate with the bodies of the preliminary investigation. I do not intend to do anything of the kind again.

The protocol was read personally; there are no comments. Defense counsel D.S. Nikitin and interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko submitted no statements.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh

Accused · Counsel · Interpreter

[signed] M. Leake · D.S. Nikitin · A.Yu. Mishchenko



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Interrogation of Grabanchuk as the Accused

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of the accused, 6 June 2023 (16:10–16:55)

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh; defense counsel E.A. Adamov (order 14550)

ACCUSED: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED] Russian citizen; 4th-year student, RUDN; hotel administrator

RELEVANCE: Grabanchuk’s detailed statement implicating Leake — including the claim that he blackmailed and threatened her, and her description of him as a “former US Army serviceman” of “unstable mental state.” The defense states she recanted material parts of this at trial.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 98–102 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize; the crime-scene walk-throughs she describes correspond to the inspection protocols (Docs 2.2 and 2.3) and are summarized to avoid duplication, with her own characterizations kept in full. Per the defense, she later recanted key parts of this account on cross-examination.*

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of the accused

City of Moscow

6 June 2023

Interrogation begun at 16:10; ended at 16:55. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in office No. 427, in accordance with Articles 173, 174, and 189 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interrogated as the accused in criminal case No. 12301450020000587: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, born [REDACTED] Moscow; residing at Moscow Region, Podolsk, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] incomplete higher education (4th-year student at RUDN); unmarried; administrator at the “Peking” hotel (Mayakovskaya metro); RF passport [REDACTED] [REDACTED] not on any registry — with the participation of defense counsel Eldar Aleksandrovich Adamov (order 14550 of 6 June 2023). The rights under Article 47 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained.

The essence of the charge under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code has been explained to me and is clear. I admit my guilt in committing that offense. I wish to give testimony in Russian.

Testimony

On 1 April 2021 I met Michael Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] a U.S. citizen); we had a friendly relationship. In January 2023 he proposed that I engage in the distribution of narcotic drugs; before that I had seen how he does it and had gone with him to some addresses. Because I needed money and he promised me 200 rubles per stash laid, I agreed. It happened as follows: Travis Leake handed me narcotic drugs (mephedrone; one stash = 1.32 g), already packaged and with a magnet; in my phone and his there were linked notes containing the addresses where to place the drugs; I went to those addresses, placed the drugs, photographed them, and marked in the notes that they were placed; afterward Travis Leake transferred money to my bank card. In a single outing I would place approximately 50–60 lots. Travis Leake has lived in Russia for 11 years, near Molodyozhnaya metro, at Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] where a girl of about 19 lives with him; he packages the narcotics at home (scales, insulating tape, zip-lock bags), keeping everything in the large room in the desk, and he had reagents (acetone, hydrogen peroxide) in order to cook narcotic substances himself.

Moreover, Travis Leake blackmailed me: he recorded a video in which I used narcotics together with him, which he threatened to distribute — to send to my parents, to my workplace, and to others. He also told me that if I reported that he engages in criminal activity, he would use physical force against me and my relatives; I took his threat seriously and feared for my life and that of my relatives.

On 5 June 2023 I was in the Khamovniki district of Moscow to make “stash” of mephedrone, which I had on me in the form of tape-wrapped bundles with magnets. At about 10:00, outside the building at Moscow, Frunzenskaya Embankment 50, police officers approached me and asked for identification; when asked whether I had any prohibited items, I said that I did, and I was taken to the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD. There, at Usacheva St. 62, between 10:25 and 10:32, an operative conducted my personal search (with two attesting witnesses): from the right pocket of my jeans, 5 bundles wrapped in black tape; from the left pocket, a packet with a substance (mephedrone); and from my backpack, 15 bundles in black tape packed in a transparent zip-lock bag. My red iPhone 12 (SIM [REDACTED]) was also seized.

Everything was packed and sealed, and I and all participants signed. I explained that these bundles had been given to me by Michael Travis Leake for further distribution.

I then told the officers the places where I had left “stash” of mephedrone, and inspections of the scene were conducted with my participation. At Frunzenskaya Embankment 50, entrance No. 6 (15:55–16:35), I pointed out four bundles (at the 13th-floor elevator door; descending toward the 12th floor opposite apt. [REDACTED] between the 8th and 9th floors; and between the 5th and 4th floors); at entrance No. 8 (16:40–17:10), I pointed out five bundles (at the 14th floor by apts. 359–362; and between the 13th–14th, 11th–12th, 9th–10th, and 5th–6th floors). All were mephedrone, packed and sealed; I had personally left these bundles in those places. [These walk-throughs correspond to the inspection protocols, Docs 2.2 and 2.3.]

I admit my guilt in the imputed crime in full. I committed the crime out of my own stupidity, and also out of fear for my life, because Leake made the corresponding threats to me if I refused to help him earn money through criminal activity. Considering that, in Travis Leake’s own words, he is a former serviceman of the U.S. Army, and considering his physical attributes and his unstable mental state, I took his threats seriously. I am also ready to cooperate with the bodies of the preliminary investigation. I do not intend to do anything of the kind again.

Before, during, and upon the conclusion of the interrogation, no statements were submitted by the accused Grabanchuk V.R. or her counsel E.A. Adamov. The protocol was read personally; there are no comments.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh

Accused · Counsel

[signed] V.R. Grabanchuk · E.A. Adamov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Witness Interrogation

M. S. [an attesting witness]

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Protocol of the interrogation of a witness, 6 June 2023

CONDUCTED BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh

WITNESS: [an attesting witness], b. [REDACTED] — attesting witness (понятой) to Grabanchuk's personal search

RELEVANCE: Confirms what was seized from Grabanchuk and that she said Leake gave her the bundles; states that no pressure was exerted on Grabanchuk during the search.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 67–69 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOL

of the interrogation of a witness

City of Moscow

6 June 2023

The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in office No. 427, in accordance with Articles 164, 189, and 190 (191) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, interrogated as a witness in criminal case No. 12301450020000587: [an attesting witness], born [REDACTED], residing at Moscow Region, Korolev, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] a widow; a security guard at the private security firm “Filin”; RF passport [REDACTED] not on any registry. The rights of a witness under Article 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained; she was warned of liability under Articles 307 and 308 of the Criminal Code.

Testimony

On 5 June 2023, at approximately 10:15, police officers approached me, presented their service identification, and asked me to take part as a representative of the public (an attesting witness) in a personal search of a citizen, in the processing room of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD at Moscow, Usacheva St. 62. I agreed. The rights were explained to me and to the second attesting witness.

Between 10:25 and 10:32, in that room, in the course of the personal search of Grabanchuk V.R. the following were seized: from the right pocket of the jeans she was wearing, 5 bundles wrapped in black insulating tape; from the left pocket, a packet with a substance (containing mephedrone); and from a backpack she had with her, 15 bundles in black insulating tape packed in a transparent zip-lock bag. A red “iPhone 12” mobile telephone (with a Vypel-Communications SIM, [REDACTED] was also seized. All of it was packed into a transparent file-bag, sealed with the stamp of the duty unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD, on which I and all participants signed. With respect to the items seized, Grabanchuk V.R. explained that these bundles had been given to her by Michael Travis Leake for further distribution. I and all participants then signed the personal-search protocol.

In the course of the personal search, no pressure of any kind was exerted on Grabanchuk V.R.

Before, during, and upon the conclusion of the interrogation, no statements were submitted by witness M.S. . The protocol was read personally; there are no comments.

Witness

[signed] M.S.

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Detention Records

Art. 91 (задержание)

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENTS: Two protocols of the detention of a suspect (Art. 91–92 CPC): Grabanchuk (6 June 2023) and Leake (8 June 2023)

DRAWN UP BY: Investigator, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh

RELEVANCE: Records the formal time and grounds of each detention. Leake’s record states that HE DID NOT AGREE with the detention — the defense’s position is that he was in fact detained on 5 June, three days before the time entered here.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 73–74 (Grabanchuk) and 171–172 (Leake) (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. These are the standard suspect-detention records; the rights notice (Art. 46) recited in each is summarized. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROTOCOLS OF DETENTION OF A SUSPECT

Article 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

1. Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna

Protocol drawn up in Moscow on 6 June 2023. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in the presence of defense counsel Eldar Aleksandrovich Adamov (certificate 19692 of 18 August 2022; order 14550 of 6 June 2023), in accordance with Articles 91 and 92 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, detained as a suspect, in criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, at the senior investigator's office of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD. The rights of a suspect under Article 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained.

2. Leake, Michael Travis

Protocol drawn up in Moscow on 8 June 2023 at 14:20. The Investigator of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Captain of Justice A.V. Bezukh, in the presence of defense counsel Dmitry Sergeevich Nikitin (certificate 19406 of 17 February 2022; order 027474 of 8 June 2023) and interpreter Anastasia Yuryevna Mishchenko, in accordance with Articles 91 and 92 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, detained as a suspect at 14:20 on 8 June 2023, in criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Michael Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] USA, California; no registration in the RF; U.S. citizen; three higher educations; single; not working; US passport [REDACTED] not on any registry), at the senior investigator's office. The grounds for detention were stated under Article 91, part 1, of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Leake M.T. was advised that he is suspected of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. "g," part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code, and the rights of a suspect under Article 46 and Article 51 of the Constitution were explained.

Statement on detention. Regarding the detention, Michael Travis Leake declared that he DOES NOT AGREE with the detention. [The basis of his disagreement is partly illegible in the scan; the defense's position, set out at the detention hearing, is that Leake was in fact detained on 5 June 2023 — three days before the time entered in this protocol — so that the recorded time of detention does not correspond to reality.]

Investigator

[signed] A.V. Bezukh

Suspect · Counsel · Interpreter (Leake record) [signed] M. Leake · D.S. Nikitin · A.Yu. Mishchenko



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Explanation of M. Travis Leake

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000355, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: “Explanation” (объяснение) dated 7 June 2023, taken by Operative Lt. A.V. Ksenofontov (Criminal Investigation Unit), through interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko

DECLARANT: Michael Travis Leake, b. [REDACTED] U.S. citizen

RELEVANCE: Leake’s pre-charge statement. The defense contends that statements of this kind were obtained under pressure; the taking officer, Ksenofontov, is the operative the defense challenges throughout.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 162–163 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. An “explanation” (объяснение) is a pre-investigation statement, not a formal interrogation under oath. It was taken through an interpreter. The source text ends mid-sentence at the foot of the second page; that point is marked. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize. Defendant’s surname appears in the original as “Лук” (“Lik”) and is rendered “Leake.”*

EXPLANATION

City of Moscow

7 June 2023

Operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Department of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Lieutenant of Police A.V. Ksenofontov, on the premises of the Khamovniki District Department of the MVD of Russia, in the presence of interpreter Mishchenko [Anastasia Yuryevna], took an explanation from the following citizen:

Name: Leake, Michael Travis

Date / place of birth: [REDACTED]; USA, California

Residence / telephone: Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED]

Citizenship / document: Russian Federation [residency]; foreign passport [REDACTED]

Employment: Unemployed

I have been warned of liability under Article 306 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation for a knowingly false denunciation. The provision of Article 51 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation — that no one is obliged to testify against himself, his spouse, or close relatives — has been explained to me and is clear. I am not on the registry of a narcologist or psychiatrist and have no prior convictions. I actually reside at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED]

On the substance of the questions put to me, I can explain the following:

On 31 December 2017 I came to the Russian Federation to work as a teacher at the Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow. At around 2018 I ended my work at that institution because the employer could not provide a full class and the necessary number of students. For a time I was not officially employed anywhere; I did freelance work as a translator for Rosatom (I do not remember whether we concluded a formal contract; I was paid for the translation work). Then in 2020 the “coronavirus” came, and during that period I could not renew my residence permit because I could not get to the public-services center (MFC) without a movement pass.

A few months [into] the “coronavirus,” my wife, [a relative] [a relative], born [REDACTED] (year not certain), proposed that I take up the distribution of narcotics as a courier. She found this information on the so-called “Hydra,” at a shop called “PremiumbyPadre.” (All the more precise information is on my computer.) The shop gave us the coordinates of stashes of MK in large volume, and my wife taught me how to repackage them and wrap them in insulating tape. I want to clarify that the shop indicated the locations of the “stashes,” and the above-mentioned shop paid the money. We lived this way for about 2.5 years; at first we laid out the so-called “stashes” together, and afterward she [stayed] at home while I laid them out alone. Over the 2.5 years we changed several [apartments].

After that my wife left me, and I continued working alone. The shops we worked with were: PremiumbyPadre, Stargazing. The information is saved on my computer (information about the scales, the coordinates of the stashes, intercom codes, the money, and so on).

On 1 April [2023] I met Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, at the “Coyote Ugly” bar; she and I struck up a friendly relationship. She then learned what I did, and she began going with me at the times when I was placing the “stashes,” and for this I paid her 100 rubles for each “stash” she walked with me. A few months later she wanted to earn more money, and she began going alone to lay out “stashes” by address, for which I paid her 200 rubles per “stash.” I agreed to this because I no longer wanted to do it myself.

On 4 June 2023, having arranged in advance with Veronika Grabanchuk, we went to Balashikha for a stash of 99.4 grams (I cannot recall the exact place, but this information is in my Yandex Taxi history); we collected it after dark — I remember it was entrance No. 6, in a rubbish bin, a bundle the size of my fist. After that Veronika and I came home and she began repackaging the substance. She then took stashes weighing 80 grams, and I kept the rest for myself. On the morning of 5 June 2023 Veronika was to lay out the “stashes”; she and I had shared notes in the phone, in which she recorded the coordinates of the “stash” locations. At some point she stopped getting in touch, and I thought something might be going wrong. After that I immediately began deleting the correspondence in “Telegram,” the shared notes, and the geolocation on my phone.

On 6 June 2023, when I understood that she had not been at work and had not come to me, I decided to remove everything that in my view was unlawful, because I suspected that police officers might come to me. I was tired of earning money this way, and my girlfriend and I had a plan to earn money legally — namely, to make bath bombs at home and sell them on “Yandex Market.” At approximately 18:00 I heard a knock at the door, but I could not open it because I was in the toilet. After several loud knocks I came to the door and began to open it; police officers entered and reported that they were now going to conduct a search. I immediately reported that the prohibited substances were on the table in the room, that there was nothing else, and I immediately gave the officers the code to [my phone] —

[The source text ends here, mid-sentence, at the foot of the page.]

Recorded from my words accurately; read by me.

Interpreter

Explanation taken by — Operative, Lieutenant of Police

[signed] M. Leake

[signed] A.Yu. Mishchenko

[signed] A.V. Ksenofontov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Explanation of V. Grabanchuk

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: “Explanation” (объяснение) dated 5 June 2023, taken by Operative Lt. A.V. Ksenofontov

DECLARANT: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED]

RELEVANCE: Grabanchuk’s FIRST statement, on the day of her arrest. Notably it contains NO claim of blackmail or threats by Leake — that allegation appears only in her later interrogation as the accused (Doc 3.7).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 16–17 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. An “explanation” (объяснение) is a pre-investigation statement. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize. The contrast between this first account and her later interrogation (which adds the blackmail/threats allegation) is preserved as in the source; an apparent “January 2022” in the text appears to be a slip for January 2023.*

EXPLANATION

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

I, the operative of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Lieutenant of Police A.V. Ksenofontov, on the premises of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, took an explanation from the following citizen: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED] Moscow; residing at Moscow Region, Podolsk, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] RF passport [REDACTED] student at RUDN. She was warned of liability under Article 306 of the Criminal Code for a knowingly false denunciation; Article 51 of the Constitution was explained.

On the substance of the questions put to me, I can explain the following:

On 1 April 2021 I met Michael Travis Leake (b. [REDACTED] a U.S. citizen); up to the present we had a friendly relationship. In January [2023] he proposed that I engage in the distribution of narcotic drugs; before that I had seen how he does it and had gone with him to some addresses. Because I needed money and he promised me 200 rubles per stash laid, I agreed. It happened as follows: Travis Leake handed me narcotic drugs (mephedrone; one stash = 1.32 g), already packaged and with a magnet; in my phone and his there were linked notes with the addresses where to place the drugs; I went there, placed the drugs, photographed them, and marked in the notes that they were placed; afterward Travis Leake transferred money to my bank card. In a single outing I would place 50–60 lots.

Travis Leake has lived in Russia for 11 years, near Molodyozhnaya metro, at Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] where a girl of about 19 lives with him. In the apartment where he lives he also packages the narcotics; at home he has scales, insulating tape, and zip-lock bags, and keeps everything in the large room in the desk; he also had reagents (acetone, hydrogen peroxide) in order to cook narcotic substances himself.

I admit my guilt in full; I repent of what I have done; I am ready to assist the investigation and the bodies of inquiry.

Recorded from my words accurately; read by me.
Explanation taken by — Operative, Lieutenant of Police

[signed] V.R. Grabanchuk
[signed] A.V. Ksenofontov



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Forensic Analysis

Certificate No. 252

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Certificate of analysis (справка об исследовании) No. 252, 5 June 2023

ISSUED BY: Expert-Criminalistic Centre (ECC), UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD of Russia for Moscow

EXHIBITS: The bundles seized during Grabanchuk's personal search

RELEVANCE: The initial laboratory finding that the substance is mephedrone. Of the 20 seized bundles, only THREE were actually examined; the other seventeen were returned "without examination."

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 65–66 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. Round stamps and seals on the document are illegible in the scan and are noted as such. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

(справка об исследовании) No. 252

City of Moscow

5 June 2023

Expert-Criminalistic Centre of the UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD of Russia for Moscow. Addressed to the Deputy Chief of Police (Operational Work) — Chief of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Major of Police A.S. Koreshkov.

On the basis of the assignment of the said official (KUSP No. 8344 of 5 June 2023), a specialist of the 3rd department of the ECC carried out an examination. The objects were received for examination on 5 June 2023 in a polymer file-bag sealed (with metal staples) by a sheet of paper bearing the impressions of a rectangular stamp, handwritten text, and illegible signatures. The envelope contained:

— a polymer “slider” zip-lock bag, taped over with insulating tape, containing a substance — not examined;

— five bundles of insulating tape, each with a metal item possessing magnetic properties affixed to it — not examined;

— a polymer “slider” zip-lock bag containing fifteen bundles of insulating tape, each with a magnetic metal item affixed. THREE bundles were selected at random for examination; the remaining twelve were not examined. Each bundle contains double polymer “slider” zip-lock bags (one inside the other). Each examined bag contains a substance, with a combined mass of 3.86 g (1.28 g; 1.29 g; and 1.29 g).

Question put for examination

“Is the substance a narcotic drug, a psychotropic substance, or a potent substance? If so, which exactly? What is its mass?”

Examination and finding

The examination was carried out by the methods of general chemistry and gas chromatography with mass-selective detection (GC-MS); 0.01 g of the substance from each of the three bags was consumed in the process. As a result it was established that the substances with a combined mass of 3.86 g from the three bags, seized in the course of the personal search of citizen Grabanchuk V.R., contain the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), included in List I of the List of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors subject to control in the Russian Federation, approved by Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998 (as amended).

The objects are returned in the same packaging, sealed with the stamp impression of the “3rd department of the ECC.” Received for examination at 14:10; examination conducted at 15:40. Examination performed by the chief expert of the 3rd department of the ECC.

Specialist — Chief Expert, 3rd Dept., ECC

[signed, illegible]



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Expert Conclusion No. 1130

Apartment Substances

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000355 / ...587, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENT: Forensic chemical expert conclusion No. 1130, dated 22 September 2023

EXPERT: B.S. Sein, 3rd department, Expert-Criminalistic Centre, UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD for Moscow

EXHIBITS: Substances seized from Leake's apartment (safe-bag No. 75073959)

RELEVANCE: Confirms the composition of the very items the defense alleges were planted — the powder on the desk and the tablet — underlying the possession count (Art. 228 §1).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 546–547 (Russian; multi-page tabular lab report — substantive findings rendered)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The conclusion is a long laboratory report; its substantive parts (exhibits, method, results, and the formal findings) are rendered here, omitting the chromatography apparatus tables. Masses differ slightly from the initial analysis because material is consumed in testing. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

EXPERT CONCLUSION No. 1130

forensic chemical examination

City of Moscow

22 September 2023

The examination was carried out by an expert of the 3rd department of the Expert-Criminalistic Centre (ECC), UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD of Russia for Moscow, B.S. Sein, on the substances seized from Leake's apartment and submitted in safe-bag No. 75073959.

Exhibits submitted

— Objects 1 and 2: powdery substances (initially 1.64 g per analysis certificate; 1.62 g as weighed for this examination).

— Object 3: a tablet of irregular shape and light color, bearing the embossed digits “69” (initially 0.54 g per the analysis certificate; 0.53 g as weighed for this examination). Weighing was performed on a Sartorius BP 12S balance (precision 0.0001 g).

Question put for examination

Are the submitted substances narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or potent substances? If so, which exactly, and what is their mass?

Method and results

The substances were sampled, homogenized, and examined by gas chromatography with mass-spectral detection (GC-MS) in accordance with the standard ECC methodology. The chromatogram of the extracts of objects 1 and 2 showed the peak of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone); the chromatogram of the extract of object 3 (the tablet) showed the peak of MDMA (d,L-3,4-methylenedioxy-N-alpha-dimethyl-phenyl-ethylamine). Both are included in List I of the List of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors subject to control in the Russian Federation (Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998, as amended).

FINDINGS

1. The substances with a combined mass of 1.62 g, packed in safe-bag No. 75073959 and submitted for examination, contain in their composition the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone).
2. The substance in the form of a tablet, with a mass of 0.53 g, packed in safe-bag No. 75073959 and submitted for examination, contains in its composition the narcotic drug MDMA (d,L-3,4-methylenedioxy-N-alpha-dimethyl-phenyl-ethylamine).

These are the substances the prosecution attributes to Leake's apartment (the powder said to have been on the desk, and the tablet); they underlie the possession count under Article 228 §1. The accused and his counsel were familiarized with this conclusion on 24/28 September 2023.

Expert — 3rd Dept., ECC

[signed] B.S. Sein



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Expert Conclusions

Nos. 685, 689, 686

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587 / ...355, Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow

DOCUMENTS: Three forensic chemical expert conclusions: No. 685, No. 689, and No. 686 (June 2023)

ISSUED BY: Expert-Criminalistic Centre (ECC), UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD for Moscow

EXHIBITS: The substances seized from Grabanchuk's person and recovered at the two Frunzenskaya-50 entrances

RELEVANCE: The forensic confirmation of the charged quantities for Counts 2–4 (the attempted sale and the two completed sales).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 502, 513, 524 (findings of the three reports; multi-page tabular lab reports — formal findings rendered)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. Each is a long laboratory report; the formal findings (ВЫВОДЫ) are rendered, omitting the apparatus tables. All three used gas chromatography with mass-spectral detection (GC-MS) and weighing on a Sartorius balance (precision 0.0001 g). The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

EXPERT CONCLUSIONS — FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

Nos. 685, 689 and 686

City of Moscow

June 2023

Three forensic chemical examinations were carried out by experts of the Expert-Criminalistic Centre (ECC), UVD for the Central Administrative District, GU MVD of Russia for Moscow, on the substances seized in the case. In each, the substances were sampled, homogenized, and examined by gas chromatography with mass-spectral detection (GC-MS), and weighed on a Sartorius balance. The formal findings were as follows:

Conclusion No. 685 — the substances seized from Grabanchuk (Count 2)

The substances (objects 1–21), with a combined mass of 27.47 g submitted for examination, contain in their composition the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), included in List I of the controlled substances (Government Decree No. 681 of 30 June 1998). [These are the 21 packets seized from Grabanchuk's person on 5 June 2023 — the attempted-sale lot, charged at 27.50 g.]

Conclusion No. 689 — Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 6 (Count 3)

The substances (objects 1–4), with a combined mass of 5.11 g, contain in their composition the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone). [The four bundles Grabanchuk pointed out at entrance 6.]

Conclusion No. 686 — Frunzenskaya Emb. 50, entrance 8 (Count 4)

The substances (objects 1–5), with a combined mass of 6.37 g, contain in their composition the narcotic drug mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone). [The five bundles Grabanchuk pointed out at entrance 8.]

Together with the initial Certificate No. 252 (the 3.86 g first analysis, Doc 5.1) and Conclusion No. 1130 (the apartment substances — 1.62 g mephedrone and a 0.53 g MDMA tablet, Doc 5.2), these three conclusions are the forensic basis for the charged quantities across all counts.

Experts — ECC

[signed]



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Court Order — Pre-Trial Detention

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Court of Moscow

DOCUMENT: Ruling on the imposition of a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody, 10 June 2023

COURT: Khamovniki District Court of Moscow — Judge D.I. Mishchenko (also present: prosecutor Dorokhin, investigator A.V. Bezukh, defense counsel D.S. Nikitin, interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko)

ACCUSED: Michael Travis Leake, b. [REDACTED] U.S. citizen

RELEVANCE: The formal court order placing Leake in custody. It records the defense's objection that Leake was in fact detained on 5 June 2023 — a day earlier than the protocol states — and that he had cooperated.

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 218–220 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize; the second and third pages of the source are a two-column scan with some overlap, and any reconstructed wording is rendered for sense without changing meaning. Defendant's surname appears in the original as "Лук" ("Lik") and is rendered "Leake."*

RULING

on the imposition of a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody

City of Moscow

10 June 2023

The Judge of the Khamovniki District Court of Moscow, D.I. Mishchenko, with the participation of the assistant Khamovniki inter-district prosecutor of Moscow, Dorokhin; investigator A.V. Bezukh; the accused Leake M.T. and his attorney D.S. Nikitin; interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko; and court secretary A.Z. Martyanova, having examined the petition seeking the court's authorization to impose a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody with respect to Leake, Michael Travis, born [REDACTED] a native of the USA, a citizen of the USA, having no registration in the Russian Federation, actually residing at Moscow, Zaporozhskaya St. 6, apt. [REDACTED] single, not working,

ESTABLISHED:

The present criminal case was opened by the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, on 6 June 2023 on the indicia of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. "g," part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code with respect to Grabanchuk V.R. On 6 June 2023 Grabanchuk V.R. was detained on suspicion under Article 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and charged; on 6 June 2023 the Khamovniki District Court placed her in custody for 2 months, i.e. until 6 August 2023. The present case was joined with criminal case No. 12301450020000605, opened on 8 June 2023 with respect to Leake M.T. on the indicia of the same offense; the joined case was assigned No. 12301450020000587.

On 8 June 2023 at 14:20 Leake M.T. was detained on suspicion of the said offense under Article 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On 8 June 2023 Leake M.T. was charged with the commission of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. "g," part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code. The investigator, with the consent of the deputy head of the Investigative Division, submitted to the court a petition to impose detention in custody with respect to Leake M.T.

The investigator's grounds

In support of the petition the investigator relies on the circumstance that Leake M.T. is accused of an especially grave offense, punishable by deprivation of liberty for more than three years; that he is a citizen of another state; that he has no lawful grounds to be in the territory of the Russian Federation owing to the expiry of his visa; and that he has no legal source of income. The investigation therefore considers that, if at liberty and aware of the severity of the punishment, Leake M.T. may, in order to evade criminal liability, flee from the investigation and the court, continue to engage in criminal activity, or otherwise obstruct the proceedings, so that a milder, non-custodial measure is, in the investigation's view, impossible. In the hearing the prosecutor and the investigator supported the petition on the grounds set out in it.

The position of the defense

The accused Leake M.T. and his attorney D.S. Nikitin objected to granting the petition, on the grounds that the investigation's arguments are based on assumptions and are not confirmed by objective evidence; that the investigative bodies committed substantial violations, because Leake M.T. was in fact detained on 5 June 2023 and the time of detention stated in the protocol does not correspond to reality; and that, after his detention, Leake M.T. took a confessional position and is cooperating with the investigation, and does not intend to hide from the investigation or obstruct it. Counsel also asked the court to take into account that Leake M.T. has resided in the territory of the Russian Federation since 2010, has been engaged in

teaching, and has the ability to live in Moscow, and to choose a measure of restraint not involving detention in custody.

The court's findings

Having heard the opinions of the participants and studied the submitted materials, the court considers that the investigator's petition is reasoned, complies with the requirements of the law, and was submitted by an authorized person with the consent of the appropriate head. The court has established no violations of the law of criminal procedure in the opening of the case or the detention of Leake M.T. that would entail denial of the petition.

Without entering into a discussion of the question of Leake M.T.'s guilt, the court considers that the investigative bodies have presented sufficient evidence attesting to the reasonableness of the suspicion of his involvement in the commission of the offense, including the interrogation protocols of the accused Grabanchuk V.R.; the protocol of the confrontation with Leake M.T.; and the interrogations of Leake M.T. as a suspect and as an accused, in the course of which Leake M.T. did not deny his involvement in the distribution of narcotic drugs.

In deciding on the measure of restraint, the court takes into account the data on the personality of Leake M.T., who has no criminal record in the Russian Federation and has long resided in Moscow. At the same time, as is evident from the case materials, Leake M.T. is accused of an offense in the category of especially grave offenses, punishable by deprivation of liberty for more than three years; he has no permanent or temporary registration in the territory of the Russian Federation; he is a citizen of a foreign state; and he knows the identifying data of witnesses and other persons figuring in the case. The court therefore has sufficient grounds to believe that, if a non-custodial measure were applied, Leake M.T. could exert pressure on participants in the proceedings in order to change their previous testimony, flee from the investigation, continue to engage in criminal activity, or otherwise obstruct the proceedings.

A non-custodial measure is, in the court's view, impossible, as it would not be a sufficient guarantee of the proper conduct of the accused given the nature of the imputed act; any other measure not involving detention would not exclude for Leake M.T. the possibility of fleeing the investigation and obstructing the proceedings. No medical documents attesting to any illness preventing detention in custody, as established by Government Decree No. 3 of 14 January 2011, have been presented to the court or are in the case materials.

DECIDED:

To impose a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody with respect to Leake, Michael Travis, for 1 month 29 days, that is, until 6 August 2023. The present ruling may be appealed to the Moscow City Court within 3 days of its issuance; in the event an appeal is filed, the accused is entitled to request to participate in its consideration by the appellate court.

Judge
True copy — Judge

[signed] D.I. Mishchenko
D.I. Mishchenko



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Court Order — Detention of Grabanchuk

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case No. 12301450020000587, Khamovniki District Court of Moscow

DOCUMENT: Ruling on the imposition of detention in custody, 7 June 2023

COURT: Khamovniki District Court of Moscow — Judge M.S. Filchenko (prosecutor A.V. Krotov; investigator A.V. Bezukh; counsel E.A. Adamov; secretary V.P. Galik)

ACCUSED: Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, b. [REDACTED] Russian citizen

RELEVANCE: The custody order against the co-defendant, issued three days before Leake's. Her counsel sought house arrest; the court relied in part on her holding a valid foreign passport — the same flight-risk logic later applied to Leake (Doc 6.1).

SOURCE: Case file, original pp. 141–144 (Russian, typed)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The order parallels the detention order against Leake (Doc 6.1); shared reasoning is rendered once. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

RULING

on the imposition of a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody

City of Moscow

7 June 2023

The Judge of the Khamovniki District Court of Moscow, M.S. Filchenko, with the participation of the assistant Khamovniki inter-district prosecutor A.V. Krotov; investigator A.V. Bezukh; the accused Veronika Romanovna Grabanchuk, born [REDACTED] a native of Moscow, a citizen of the Russian Federation, unmarried, working as an administrator at the “Peking” hotel, a 4th-year student at RUDN, registered at Moscow Region, Podolsk, [REDACTED], apt. [REDACTED] with no prior record; defense counsel E.A. Adamov; and court secretary V.P. Galik, having examined the petition seeking authorization to impose detention in custody,

ESTABLISHED:

Grabanchuk V.R. is accused of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code. The case was opened on 6 June 2023; she was detained under Articles 91–92 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on 6 June 2023 at 14:10 and charged. The investigator seeks custody on the grounds that Grabanchuk V.R. is accused of an especially grave offense punishable by deprivation of liberty for more than 10 years, has no legal source of income, and holds a valid foreign passport, so that — if at liberty and aware of the severity of the punishment — she could flee the investigation and the court, continue criminal activity, or otherwise obstruct the proceedings; a milder, non-custodial measure is therefore impossible.

The investigator and prosecutor supported the petition. The accused Grabanchuk V.R. and her counsel objected to detention in custody and asked the court to take into account her personal data and the absence of any intention to flee, and to choose a non-custodial measure in the form of house arrest.

The court’s findings

Having examined and analyzed the submitted materials and heard the opinions of the prosecutor, the accused, and counsel, the court considers that the petition is to be granted. The case was opened by an authorized official on sufficient grounds, and the petition complies with the law and was submitted with the consent of the appropriate person. The materials submitted by the investigator — the interrogation protocol of Grabanchuk V.R., the confrontation protocols, the protocol of her personal search, and other materials — confirm that the investigation has factual data attesting to the reasonableness of the suspicion of her involvement in the imputed offense.

In deciding the question of custody the court takes into account, under Articles 97–99 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the data on Grabanchuk V.R.’s personality — her age, state of health, Russian citizenship, place of residence, and place of work. However, those data, in light of the above circumstances, are not an unconditional and sufficient basis for a non-custodial measure and do not negate an intention to flee. Given the nature of the especially grave offense charged and the data on her personality, and given that — according to the submitted materials — Grabanchuk V.R. has no legal source of income and holds a valid foreign passport, any other measure not involving detention would not exclude the possibility of her fleeing the investigation and the court or continuing criminal activity. No medical documents attesting to any illness preventing detention, as established by Government Decree No. 3 of 14 January 2011, have been presented.

DECIDED:

To impose a measure of restraint in the form of detention in custody with respect to Grabanchuk, Veronika Romanovna, for 2 months, that is, until 6 August 2023. The defense's request for house arrest is denied. The present ruling may be appealed to the Moscow City Court within 3 days of its issuance.

Judge

[signed] M.S. Filchenko



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Procedural Rulings

Joinder & Administration

Working English Translation

PROCEEDING: Criminal case Nos. 12301450020000587 / ...605 / ...355, Khamovniki District, Moscow

DOCUMENTS: The case-joinder order (8 June 2023) and the routine administrative rulings in the file

RELEVANCE: Explains the multiple case numbers and how the trafficking and possession cases were combined; the remaining administrative rulings are procedural.

SOURCE: Case file, original p. 164 (joinder) and various (administrative rulings)

Note on this translation. *This is a working English translation/index prepared by Lucid Strategies from the Russian-language original. The joinder order is rendered substantively; the remaining administrative rulings are routine and are listed with one-line summaries. The translation is faithful and does not editorialize.*

PROCEDURAL RULINGS

Order joining the criminal cases (8 June 2023)

The Deputy Chief of the Investigative Division of the Khamovniki District Dept. of the MVD of Russia, Moscow, Major of Justice E.I. Naumova, having examined the materials of criminal cases No. 12301450020000587 and No. 12301450020000605, ESTABLISHED that case No. ...587 was opened on 6 June 2023 with respect to Grabanchuk V.R. on the indicia of an offense under part 3 of Article 30 and para. “g,” part 4, of Article 228.1 of the Criminal Code (the 3.86 g of mephedrone seized from her on 5 June, per Certificate No. 252), and that case No. ...605 was opened with respect to Leake M.T. on related facts; and DECIDED to join the two cases into a single proceeding, assigning it No. 12301450020000587.

(The file also reflects the separate possession case opened against Leake, No. ...128, and a later master number, No. 12301450020000355, used in the charging documents — the result of these and subsequent joinders/renumbering during the investigation.)

Other administrative rulings in the file (routine)

- Decisions accepting the joined case for proceedings, and decisions seizing/transferring the case between investigators and divisions.
- Decisions appointing defense counsel — E.A. Adamov for Grabanchuk and D.S. Nikitin for Leake — and appointing the interpreter A.Yu. Mishchenko.
- Decisions appointing the forensic (physico-chemical) examinations that produced expert conclusions Nos. 685, 686, 689, and 1130 (translated in Group V), and an order appointing an ambulatory forensic-psychiatric examination.
- Decisions recognizing the seized substances, phones, and other items as physical evidence and attaching them to the case.
- Notifications to the parties and investigative-assignment letters (поручение) directing operational and search measures.

These instruments are procedural and do not alter the substantive account set out in the documents translated above.

Deputy Chief, Investigative Division — Major of Justice

[signed] E.I. Naumova



LUCID STRATEGIES · CASE FILE No. 12301450020000355

Appendix — Remaining Documents

Index & English Summaries

PROCEEDING: Criminal case Nos. 12301450020000355 / ...587, Khamovniki District, Moscow

PURPOSE: Accounts for every remaining document in the ~690-page case file not given a full standalone translation above — because it is routine, procedural, or substantively duplicative of a translated document.

HOW TO READ: Each entry gives the document type, original page(s), and a one-line English summary. The file reproduces many documents across its three volumes; duplicates are noted.

SOURCE: Russian case file, all volumes

Note on this translation. *This is a working English index prepared by Lucid Strategies. For any document listed here that you want rendered as a full standalone translation in the branded format, point me to it and I will produce it.*

I. Charging documents (remaining)

- Decision to open the criminal case against Leake (No. ...605), 8 June 2023 — opened on the same facts and later joined to No. ...587; identical in form to the Grabanchuk order fully translated as Doc 1.1.
- Notifications of charges to each defendant, and re-issued charge decisions reproduced in later volumes — mirror the fully translated decisions to indict (Docs 1.2 and 1.3).

II. Search & seizure (remaining)

- Crime-scene inspection, [REDACTED], entrance 3 (13 April 2023, ≈22:50–23:15) — recovery of the 1.24 g mephedrone packet beneath a heating radiator between the 5th and 6th floors (Count 1); identical in form to the Frunzenskaya inspections (Docs 2.2 and 2.3).
- Further inspections of seized objects (the hard drives, flash cards, scales, and the second phone) and detection reports (папюпр) — itemize and describe the property seized at the apartment and on the defendants.

III. Interrogations & confrontations (remaining)

- Grabanchuk — interrogation as a suspect — substantively identical to her interrogation as the accused (Doc 3.7).
- Art. 91 detention records (задержание): Grabanchuk (6 June 2023, 14:10) and Leake (8 June 2023, 14:20) — record the stated time and grounds of detention. NB: the defense contends Leake was in fact detained on 5 June, a day before the recorded time.
- Confrontations Grabanchuk ⇄ [REDACTED] and Grabanchuk ⇄ Spichkina (the two search witnesses) — confirm the conduct of the personal search.
- Witness interrogation of E. Spichkina, the second attesting witness to the personal search — parallels the interrogation (Doc 3.8), including that no pressure was exerted on Grabanchuk.
- Repeat/additional interrogations of both defendants in later volumes — confirm their earlier testimony.

IV. Witness statements (remaining)

- Explanation (объяснение) of E. [his fiancée] (Leake's girlfriend) — substantively identical to her witness interrogation, fully translated as Doc 3.2.

V. Expert / forensic reports (remaining)

- Forensic (physico-chemical) expert conclusions confirming the seized substances are mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone): No. 685 (the 27.50 g attempted-sale lot), No. 689 (the 5.11 g, entrance 6), and No. 686 (the 6.37 g, entrance 8).
- Expert conclusion No. 1130 — the apartment substances: 1.64 g mephedrone and a 0.54 g tablet of MDMA (the possession count).

- Orders appointing those physico-chemical examinations, and an order appointing an ambulatory forensic-psychiatric examination of a defendant. These are tabular laboratory forms; each restates composition and mass and tracks the initial Certificate No. 252 (Doc 5.1).

VI. Court rulings (remaining)

- Orders joining the criminal cases (Nos. ...587 / ...605 / ...355) into a single proceeding.
- Orders accepting the case for proceedings and orders seizing/transferring the case between investigators.
- Orders appointing defense counsel and interpreters; orders recognizing items as physical evidence; notifications to the parties.
- Investigative-assignment letters (поручение) directing operational/search measures.
- Any orders extending the term of pre-trial detention beyond the initial period (the initial detention orders are fully translated as Docs 6.1 and 6.2).

These are routine procedural instruments; none alters the substantive account set out in the fully translated documents above.