



**Summary of Gist of Interview of William Kaplan  
Interview held on March 3, 2009**

For Mr. Kaplan: Peter Jacobsen

For the Commission: Richard Wolson  
Nancy Brooks

Reference was made during the interview to the brief of documents ("Brief") submitted by Mr. Kaplan. The Brief has been disclosed to the parties pursuant to confidentiality undertakings.

At the outset of the interview, Mr. Kaplan protested that he is being forced by subpoena to assist in an inquiry, which he, as a journalist and historian, is opposed to doing.

Mr. Kaplan stated that the notes contained in the Brief are an accurate account of his conversations with Brian Mulroney. He was sensitive to the importance of having his notes reflect the discussions accurately. For the majority of the interviews in the Brief, he dictated notes of the conversations soon after each one, and his assistant typed them. For the remaining entries, he typed them himself soon after the conversation in question. The documents included in the Brief are those from his collection that are relevant to the Inquiry.

Tab 1, December 2, 1997 records a meeting at Mr. Mulroney's house in Montreal where Mr. Mulroney told Mr. Kaplan that he "knew Schreiber in a peripheral way". This was Mr. Kaplan's third meeting with Mr. Mulroney.

Tab 21 contains notes of the interview with Luc Lavoie on January 4, 2002 when they talked about Mr. Mulroney being paid money by Karlheinz Schreiber. Mr. Lavoie denied Mr. Mulroney had misled Mr. Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan was not surprised to be called by Mr. Mulroney soon afterwards, on January 9, 2002 (Tab 2). In conversations, Mr. Mulroney acknowledged to Mr. Kaplan that he had been paid money by Mr. Schreiber but Mr. Mulroney did not give any details.

Mr. Kaplan was determined that he would publish the facts as he came to know them in 2002 and 2003, although he was being pressured by Mr. Mulroney to stay quiet. There were many calls by Mr. Mulroney to try to persuade Mr. Kaplan not to write about the payments by Mr. Schreiber. Mr. Kaplan's last interview with Mr. Mulroney was on November 9, 2003. This was the first time in all of his many interviews that Mr. Mulroney said the conversation was to be off the record. Mr. Kaplan could not locate the notes of this interview, but it is reported at p. 137 of *A Secret Trial*. The article about the payments to Mr. Mulroney appeared in *The Globe and Mail* the next day.

On page 19 of *A Secret Trial*, there is a description of a conversation between Luc Lavoie and Brian Mulroney that starts, "Before entering the courtroom, Mulroney turned

to Lavoie and said, "Luc, do you know what [chief government lawyer Claude-Armand] Sheppard's problem is going to be today?" and ends, "He is going to ask me questions and he expects me to answer them." Mr. Kaplan stated that it was Luc Lavoie who told him about this conversation.

In relation to the \$300,000 figure that is referred to in *The Secret Trial* as the amount Mr. Schreiber says he paid to Mr. Mulroney, Mr. Kaplan stated that Mr. Schreiber has been consistent that it is \$300,000 and the Britan account documents backed him up. Mr. Mulroney never named a figure, but it was Mr. Kaplan's impression that he disagreed with the \$300,000 figure. Mr. Kaplan believed \$300,000 was the correct figure and he considered the statements of a smaller amount that were put forward by Mr. Lavoie and Mr. MacAdam to be "spin".

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