




RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE



INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

July 29, 2003

TO: The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

FROM: 
Colonel Steven M. Paré
Superintendent

SUBJECT: *Narragansett Indian Tribe Smoke Shop*

Pursuant to your request on July 15, 2003, I have conducted an internal review regarding the investigation of the Narragansett Indian Tribe selling untaxed tobacco products.

On Saturday, July 12th and Sunday, July 13th, I engaged in several conference calls between members of the Governor's Office and the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. During those conversations, it was clear that we would not jeopardize the personal safety of the tribal members, Rhode Island State Police Troopers, or civilian customers as a result of executing a search warrant.

The State Police were prepared to withdraw from the site, if the State Police were confronted with resistance that would cause personal injury or potential death to anyone. The State Police would have enough personnel to execute the search warrant and quell any disruption that may erupt. Safety was a vital objective in this plan, and the option to retreat and reassess our strategy in executing the search warrant would always be a consideration.

Another important factor was the information that was relayed on Sunday, July 13th that the tribal members would not resort to violence or deadly force, but that they would be uncooperative and make it difficult unless there was a federal court order.

Based upon the aforementioned, I instructed the Field Operations Major that we didn't want anyone hurt over the issue of untaxed cigarettes. We wanted to execute the search warrant peacefully without arresting anyone for the criminal tax violations.

The following information was redacted from documents appended to the internal review of the Narragansett Tribe "Smoke Shop" Incident, based on the understanding that the documents may be released to the public:

In Appendix B, specific signals used between law enforcement personnel were redacted from the Operational Plan, based on the concern that this information could disclose law enforcement techniques and procedures or guidelines and could endanger the life or safety of law enforcement personnel, if the signals were publicized.

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri

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These redactions are consistent with the parameters set forth in Rhode Island General Laws § 38-2-2(1) (4)(i)(D) and § 38-2-2(1) (4)(i)(L), balancing the public interest and the privacy concerns surrounding this matter.

Should you need anything additional, please let me know.

SMP/bjt