

CC: S. Trahey March, 3, 1990

1018-90
MAR 07 REC'D

Brian Lamb,

You made a comment
several weeks ago on the
Friday morning program
that callers keep calling
in re John Hull and no
reporters are able to com-
ment on his situation.

See enclosed material.
Perhaps they do not wish
to since these articles
are not from the alternative
press.

You are great. Keep
doing what you are
doing.

Sincerely,

Cincinnati, OH
45248

AROUND THE AMERICAS

Costa Rican prosecutor links two Americans to fatal bombing

By JOHN McPHAIL
Special to The Herald

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — A Costa Rican prosecutor has recommended that two Americans be charged with murder in the 1984 assassination attempt against Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora, a bombing that only wounded its intended victim, but killed three journalists and maimed several more.

A preliminary report on the judicial investigation of the bombing named John Hull, identified as a CIA operative who helped supply the contras from his northern Costa Rican farm, and Felipe Vidal, a shadowy Cuban American contra figure, as planners of the La Penca bombing, named for the site of a Pastora press conference where it took place.

The report connects Hull, Vidal, anti-Castro Cubans and Manuel Antonio Noriega in a broad-ranging conspiracy that combined contra arms flights and cocaine runs through northern Costa Rica.

Hull fled Costa Rica last year, jumping bail on charges of neutrality violations and drug trafficking. The trafficking charges were later dropped. Vidal's whereabouts are unknown.

Pastora's refusal to accept participation of Miami-based anti-Castro Cubans in the effort to oust the Sandinistas, his refusal to accept the help of arms pilots who doubled as drug runners, and his refusal to join



Hull

Pastora

forces with U.S.-backed contras were cited as possible motives for the bombing.

The report marks the first time that a Costa Rican authority has confirmed the obvious by identifying the bomber as a man posing as a Danish photojournalist named Per Anker Hansen.

The suspected bomber vanished the day after the assassination attempt.

The report alleges that initial investigations into the incident were stymied in part by local police officials with close ties to the U.S. Embassy. The report also describes in detail the infiltration of Costa Rican security services by the United States.

Per Anker Hansen accompanied 23 journalists to a hastily arranged press conference at Pastora's stronghold in the small border hamlet of La Penca on the Nicaraguan

side of the San Juan River.

According to the report, shortly after the early evening press conference began in a small shack, the bomber left the room and remotely detonated a plastic explosive contained in the camera case he guarded during an all-day car and canoe trip to the rebel outpost.

Pastora escaped the explosion with burns and shrapnel wounds. A U.S. journalist, Linda Frazier of the Costa Rican English language weekly *The Tico Times*, Costa Rican cameraman Jorge Quiros and his assistant Evelio Sequeira of local Channel 6 were killed in the bombing. At least one rebel at the press conference also died.

According to the report, a group of Cuban Americans from various Miami-based anti-Castro groups formed the "307 Commandos" to fight on the contra war's southern front with the idea of overthrowing the Sandinista government and then using Nicaragua as a base to overthrow Fidel Castro, a plan that was foiled by Pastora's refusal to include the Cubans in his fighting force.

Noriega was connected to the investigation through Floyd Carlton Caceres, a Panamanian pilot who worked for Noriega and who was extradited to United States from Costa Rica in December 1986. The case against Noriega in U.S. federal court in Miami is built largely on testimony provided by Carlton Caceres.

Cincinnati, Ohio

2A Friday, March 2, 1990

The Post

Nation / World

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Costa Rica to ask U.S. to extradite Indiana man

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rica will ask the United States to extradite an Indiana man for the 1984 bombing of a news conference in which four people were killed, a Foreign Ministry source said.

The source, who did not want to be identified by name, said the Costa Rican Embassy in Washington will present the extradition request Monday for John Hull, who skipped bond and fled to the United States last July after living 20 years in Costa Rica.

In an interview Thursday from his home in Patoka, Ind., Hull said the charge of planning the bombing is "completely false and it's completely politically motivated." He said the Costa Rican government objects to his ties to an American religious organization.

Hull, who owned a ranch near the Nicaraguan border, was accused of supplying weapons to the U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

Hull was jailed last year in Costa Rica, accused of drug trafficking to help the rebels.

Special report

HOSPITAL MERGER

NEW CONCERNS



In Sports, Section C

BIG BUCKS

THAT'S WHAT

NEW PITCH

REVENUE



SCRIPPS HOWARD

The O

Final

Boy, 4,
stabbed;
2 charged

