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To Brian Lamb, Host, C-SPAN Call-In  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I must confess to utter amazement that on one of your recent programs, neither you nor the journalists present had a working knowledge of the John Hull case.

To bring you up to date, I enclose a recent clipping from the N.Y. Times on this individual - an individual who, on a Bill Moyers' special documentary - portrayed himself as a simple, super-patriot in no way tied to the CIA.

It is, assuredly, one of the more odious examples of how far afield this nation has strayed in order to impose its "military solutions" on the hapless people of Central America.

Thank you for many good programs that I do benefit from.

Sincerely,

Minneapolis, MN 55419

P.S. Why not ask Sara Nelson of The Christic Institute to appear on your show some day soon? There have been other important developments in their lawsuit your listeners could benefit from knowing - that is, if any of us really care about protecting the Constitution and the rule of law - both U.S. and international.

cc: s. frahern

# Costa Rica Is Asking U.S. to Extradite Rancher Tied to '84 Bombing That Killed 4

By LINDSEY GRUSON

Special to The New York Times

SAN SALVADOR, Feb. 26 — A Costa Rican judge has signed an order seeking the extradition from the United States of a fugitive American-born rancher linked to the 1984 bombing of a news conference given by Nicaraguan rebels in which four people were killed.

The rancher, John Hull, a conservative who had ties to the Reagan White House, fled Costa Rica for the United States last year after being charged with drug trafficking and with violating the country's neutrality laws while working with the contras.

In a telephone interview, the Costa Rican judge, Máximo Esquivel, said he signed the order early in February on a prosecutor's recommendation that Mr. Hull, a 69-year-old naturalized Costa Rican, be charged with first-degree murder in the bombing.

The bombing occurred on May 30, 1984, at a news conference in La Penca, a Nicaraguan hamlet near the border with Costa Rica. Its presumed target was Edén Pastora Gómez, a contra commander who clashed with United States strategy in the guerrilla war.

## Three Journalists Killed

He was wounded by the blast. Three journalists — an American and two Costa Ricans — and a Nicaraguan rebel were killed when the bomb, hidden in a camera case by a man posing as a photographer and traveling with a stolen Dutch passport, ripped through the hut where the group had gathered. About a dozen other people were wounded with Mr. Pastora.

The prosecutor, Jorge Chavarria, said Mr. Hull and a Cuban exile, Felipe Vidal, led a conspiracy to murder Mr. Pastora, who as Commander Zero earned international fame during the Sandinista struggle against the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua but broke power with the Sandinistas after they came to power to mount an insurgency based in Costa Rica.

In a report on the bombing, the prosecutor said Mr. Pastora, who first accepted help from the Central Intelligence Agency but then rejected it, was marked for assassination because he refused to coordinate his forces with rebels based in Honduras or to cooperate with drug smugglers using the insurgent arms pipeline. The whereabouts of Mr. Vidal and the man who

placed the bomb, identified as Amac Galil, remains unknown.

The report, the most thorough investigation of the bombing to date by any Costa Rican official or agency, provides the first official assertions of deep penetration of the Costa Rican Government by American intelligence agencies. The report, made public in December during the United States invasion of Panama, found that a C.I.A. agent, Dimitrios Papas, established a group of 15 Costa Rican agents called the Babes within the intelligence directorate of the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry.

## 'An Invention,' Envoy Charges

The report said the group was used to spy on senior Costa Rican Government officials and set up a system of telephone surveillance in violation of Costa Rican law. The prosecutor also accused the C.I.A. of using the group to plant false leads to sidetrack the investigation of the bombing at La Penca. Deane R. Hinton, the United States Ambassador to Costa Rica when the report was made public, has called it "an invention."

The report, which the prosecutor said is part of a continuing investigation, is largely based on testimony by Costa Rican officials, the Iran-contra hearings, related trials and a United

## Edén Pastora, a contra chief who snubbed the U.S., seemed a target.

States Senate subcommittee investigation into drug trafficking.

Among its major findings are that two contra leaders, Marcos Aguado and Octaviano César, claiming C.I.A. connections, met with George Morales, a drug runner, and offered him United States Government cooperation in defending himself against pending United States narcotics trafficking charges if he would finance arms flights, which would be allowed to return to the United States loaded with drugs. Mr. Morales was later convicted of drug smuggling and is now in a United States prison.

## First Arms, Then Cocaine

Citing testimony to a Senate subcommittee, the report says the first flight loaded with weapons took off from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in July 1984. It says that Mr. Hull and several assistants met the flight when it landed on his ranch and that the arms were exchanged for a load of cocaine.

Mr. Pastora identified Mr. Hull as a C.I.A. operator controlled by Philip Holtz, the second secretary of the economic section of the United States Em-

## Was there a deal to use arms flights to smuggle drugs?

bassy in Costa Rica, the report says. It says the two men worked together setting up safe houses used by, among others, Lieut. Col. Oliver North and Robert Owen, at the time secretary to Dan Quayle, then a Senator from Indiana.

The report says that Mr. Owen summoned Mr. Hull to a safe house in San José and that they were meeting with a group of pilots from Mr. Pastora's network when the bomb exploded at La Penca. Shortly afterward, Mr. Hull called an associate to instruct him not to lend his small plane to evacuate anyone wounded in the explosion, the report says. It says a group of Pastora loyalists who arrived at Mr. Hull's ranch that night were denied permission to use the plane to fly out the wounded.

Jack Terrell, a mercenary in the service of the rebels, said he met in December 1984 with several contra leaders and Mr. Hull, Mr. Owen, Mr. Vidal and Amac Galil, the suspected bomber. The group was discussing the continuing need to kill Mr. Pastora when Mr. Vidal told Mr. Hull that the attempt at La Penca had failed because "the bomb was denominated ahead of time," the report says.

## Charging of 22 Recommended

In addition to accusing Mr. Hull and Mr. Vidal of murder, the report also recommends filing charges of violating Costa Rica's neutrality laws against the 2 men and 20 others. They include Colonel North; his courier, Mr. Owen; and the former C.I.A. station chief in Costa Rica, Mr. Holtz.

The report expands on an account of the bombing published in a book, "Out of Control" by Leslie Cockburn, and on accounts by other journalists, including Martha Honey and Tony Avirgan. Mr. Hull lost a lawsuit charging Ms. Honey and Mr. Avirgan, who was wounded in the bombing, with criminal libel for linking him to the bombing. The Christic Institute, a Washington-based public interest law firm, countersued Mr. Hull and 28 others. A few days before the case was to begin in 1988, it was dismissed by a Miami judge who ruled that it was not proved that Mr. Galil had planted the bomb.

Mr. Hull said he had not seen the report. But in a telephone interview this month from his Indiana home, where he fled while free on bail on drug charges, he dismissed it as being based on "false testimony, lies and innuendo" and denied any involvement in the bombing.

Mr. Hull vowed to fight all attempts to return him to Costa Rica under the extradition treaty between Costa Rica and the United States, but he welcomed the judge's order. He said it paves the way for him to show in a United States court that the charges have no merit and that he is the victim of "legal terrorism" by "corrupt" Costa Rican officials bribed by Sandinista sympathizers and American Communists.