

12-9-1987

U.S. To Reopen Drug Enforcement Administration Office In Honduras

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "U.S. To Reopen Drug Enforcement Administration Office In Honduras." (1987).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/1152>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

U.S. To Reopen Drug Enforcement Administration Office In Honduras

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, December 9, 1987

According to a Dec. 7 report by the Washington Post, US officials have announced that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will reopen an office in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, that was closed in 1981. Honduras has become an important transshipment point for drugs from Colombia. Recently, the Honduran government ordered the recall of its military attache, Army Col. William Said Speer, from Colombia. Said Speer was linked to Colombian cocaine trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa who was arrested Nov. 21 in Bogota while driving the colonel's 1987 Porsche. In the words of Wilson Ring (Post, 12/07/87), "There was no immediate explanation of how Said Speer, who earns about \$30,000 a year as an Army colonel, came to possess a car estimated to cost more than \$100,000 in Colombia." Said Speer arrived in Bogota in 1986. Earlier he was implicated in a scheme in which Honduran military officers reportedly obtained large profits from US humanitarian aid to the contras. Ochoa is wanted by US authorities on narcotics trafficking charges, but the Colombian government says he cannot be extradited under current law. Next, Ochoa is reportedly serving a 20-month jail term in Colombia on a charge of illegally importing bulls. The decision to reopen the DEA office in Honduras was made public a week after US authorities in Florida seized more than 8,000 pounds of cocaine packed in a shipment of hollow furniture. The confiscated cocaine with an estimated street value of \$1.4 billion marked the largest such drug bust ever recorded in the United States. The furniture was reportedly packed at a Honduran factory.

-- End --