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Costa Rica: Suit Against John Hull Transferred To San Carlos

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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On Feb. 1, the Costa Rican Attorney General's suit against John Hull on charges of drug trafficking and violations of Costa Rican national security was transferred to the court in San Carlos, according to his attorney Eldao Zuniga. Hull, 69, a US citizen who obtained Costa Rican citizenship 20 years ago, has admitted providing assistance to the Nicaraguan contras. His ranch, located close to San Carlos, some 168 km. north of San Jose, was allegedly used as a landing and take-off site for planes carrying drugs and weapons, and for training of contra fighters. Zuniga said that after he requested his client's release on bail, the judge in San Carlos set the bail at \$12,500. On Feb. 6, he added, the bail amount will be finalized in a decision by the Superior Court in Alajuela province. Hull, who suffered a heart attack last week, is hospitalized. Doctors said he would recuperate. According to Zuniga, the allegations against Hull were a clear case of political persecution. He said that the alleged crimes took place prior to 1987. In May 1987, the Costa Rican legislature approved an anti-drug law which included stiff sentences for drug trafficking. Zuniga said the law specifies that penalties cannot be applied to a person accused of crimes that took place before 1987. (Basic data from AP, 02/01/89)

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