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## **San Jose's Ambassador To U.S. Calls On John Hull To Return To Costa Rica For Trial**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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At a news conference in Washington on March 5, Costa Rican ambassador to the US, Danilo Hernandez, said John Hull "should be tried by the courts of Costa Rica, not by the press or by his friends...Mr. Hull is a (naturalized) Costa Rican citizen and therefore he is subject to Costa Rican law. He has been accused; the investigation has been carried out." Hull faces charges ranging from aiding the Nicaraguan contras to involvement in the May 1984 bombing of a news conference being held by Eden Pastora. The conference took place in La Penca, a Nicaraguan hamlet located close to the Costa Rican border. Four people were killed (a US journalist, two Costa Rican journalists, and a Nicaraguan contra fighter), and Pastora and about a dozen other persons were injured. The news conference in Washington was called by Hull's friends to announce plans to sue people Hull asserts have fabricated the evidence on which the Costa Rican charges are based. Hull, 70, had intended to appear at the news conference. His associates said Hull was seriously ill and recovering from recent heart surgery in Indiana. Hernandez said a request for Hull's extradition to Costa Rica is moving through that nation's legal system. In a recent telephone interview with the New York Times (03/01/90), Costa Rican Judge Maximo Esquivel, who signed an order seeking Hull's extradition, said he did so early in February on a prosecutor's recommendation that Hull be charged with first-degree murder in the La Penca bombing. Prosecutor Jorge Chavarria said Hull and Cuban exile Felipe Vidal headed a conspiracy to murder Pastora, who as Commander Zero earned international fame during the struggle in Nicaragua to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship. Pastora later broke with the Sandinistas, and organized an insurgency based in Costa Rica. The prosecutor said in a report on the 1984 incident that Pastora was fingered for assassination because he rejected CIA tutelage, would not coordinate his forces with the contras based in Honduras, and refused to cooperate with drug smugglers using the contra arms pipeline. (See CAU 03/09/90 for more on Costa Rican report which also encompasses US spying of Costa Rican officials, and the contra gun- and drug-running organization.) The whereabouts of Vidal, and the man who placed the bomb at La Penca, identified as Amac Galil, remain unknown. (Basic data from AP, 03/05/90; New York Times, 03/01/90)

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