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Clarification on June 9 Article

by LADB Staff

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In its June 9 article, "Drug controversy is again top issue in U.S.-Mexico summit," SourceMex incorrectly reported that Mexican businessman Carlos Hank Gonzalez gained control of the ocean shipping company Transportes Maritimos Mexicanos (TMM) through privatizations in the 1980s and then used the company to transport drugs. The company is actually a publicly held operation with 15,000 investors.

TMM was founded in the 1940s by Serrano Segovia and is currently under the control of his sons, Jose and Ramon Serrano. TMM sources said the Hank family has never owned stock in the company nor has it had any influence in its management or operations. The only connection of the Hank family to TMM, the sources said, is that Carlos Hank Rohn served on the company's board of directors for five years in the early 1990s. The sources said TMM has cooperated extensively with Mexican and US authorities to combat drug trafficking, contrary to allegations in the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) report, which said the Hank family had used the shipping giant to coordinate drug shipments.

TMM's transportation partners include several US and Canadian companies, none of which are known or believed to be engaged in drug trafficking or money laundering, the sources said. The information in the SourceMex article was based on a June 2 article in The Washington Post, which quoted a confidential report produced by the NDIC. The Post has since issued a clarification correcting information in its article.

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