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Costa Rica: Congressional Commission To Investigate Drug Trafficker Influence In Political Parties

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 19, the local media reported that a congressional commission comprised of deputies from the ruling Christian Social Unity Party and the National Liberation Party will investigate infiltration of drug traffickers in political party financing. The commission is the third in two years to examine increasing connections between drug traffickers and money laundering operations on the one hand, and government officials and politicians on the other. The commission will also investigate the use of private and clandestine airstrips in Costa Rica. During a recent drug bust operation, police discovered a plan developed by the Cali (Colombia) drug ring in which large quantities of cocaine destined for Miami were to be routed through Costa Rica. The plan included the use of clandestine airstrips in Limon department, and real estate purchases in other locations of the country considered appropriate sites for additional airstrips. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/19/90) The plan was discovered in the course of a drug bust involving 150 kg. of cocaine in a shop in San Jose, and the detention in Miami of 10 members of the drug ring, including six Colombians, two Costa Ricans, and two US citizens.

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