

5-15-1991

Eden Pastora Tells Costa Rican Legislative Commission C.i.a. & Oliver North Ordered La Penca Bombing

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Eden Pastora Tells Costa Rican Legislative Commission C.i.a. & Oliver North Ordered La Penca Bombing." (1991). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/5484>

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.

Eden Pastora Tells Costa Rican Legislative Commission C.i.a. & Oliver North Ordered La Penca Bombing

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, May 15, 1991

On May 10, former Nicaraguan contra leader Eden Pastora told a Costa Rican legislative investigatory commission that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Oliver North ordered the 1985 La Penca bombing. Pastora said that other persons in Costa Rica, including naturalized Costa Rican citizen John Hull, were also involved. [During a press conference at La Penca on May 30, 1985, a bomb exploded, killing a US reporter, and two Costa Rican photographers. In addition, several journalists were severely wounded.] Hull was arrested and imprisoned in 1989 on charges of "hostile acts" against the Costa Rican government. He jumped bail and fled to the US. San Jose requested his extradition in April 1990. Following Hull's escape, a Costa Rican legislative commission investigating drug trafficking identified the fugitive as a CIA collaborator associated with the illegal contra aid network led by North. Both the network and a drug smuggling organization connected with former de facto Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega used the same pilots and airstrip in Costa Rica. According to a report by the commission, between October 1984 and December 1985, the drug organization transported at least 10 shipments of cocaine to Mexico and the US with the assistance of Costa Rican authorities. A new investigation into the La Penca bombing began in 1990 at the request of Costa Rican journalists who denounced the impunity of the perpetrators. A commission spokesperson told reporters that Hull would be questioned May 13 at an undisclosed location. (Basic data from AFP, 05/10/91)

-- End --