

12-6-1991

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Panama: U.S. Bases Reportedly Used To Smuggle Gold & Archeological Artifacts." (1991).
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Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, December 6, 1991

On Nov. 25, the Agence France-Presse cited an unidentified government source as saying that US military bases in Panama were being used to smuggle gold and pre- Colombian artifacts out of the country. According to the source, the contraband network is directed by a "Panamanian mafia" which extracted most of the archeological items from Chiriqui department and the "Juan Diaz hill" in Los Santos department. US buyers then reportedly had the artifacts shipped out of the country via air bases under the US Southern Command. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/25/91)

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