1-24-1992

Summary: Anti-drug Trade & Related Developments In Central America, November 30 - January 8

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

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.
Summary: Anti-drug Trade & Related Developments In Central America, November 30 - January 8

by Deborah Tyroler
Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, January 24, 1992

Nov. 30: According to a Guatemalan police communique, drug traffickers set fire to an airplane in Chiquimulilla, Santa Rosa department. Local residents told officers that cocaine was offloaded from the plane to four trucks. Dec. 12: Panamanian customs officials arrested US nationals Robert Knight, Jr. and Maria Loretta Richard on cocaine smuggling charges at Tocumen International Airport. A package of cocaine valued at nearly US$1 million was confiscated. Panamanian government spokespersons reported that during the first 10 months of 1991, Special Narcotics Forces agents seized 1,133 kg. of cocaine, 16 kg. of marijuana, and 700 g. of crack cocaine. The drugs were worth US$7 million. Dec. 17: Guatemalan police reported that the body of Jose Arnoldo Garcia was found in a hotel room in Guatemala City. The following statement was written on a wall in the victim's blood: "Don't toy with drugs" ("con la droga no se juega"). A police spokesperson stated that "cocaine, business cards, cash, a brush used to paint the slogan, and a military bayonet used to kill Garcia were found in the room." Dec. 25: According to a report by the Guatemalan National Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (CNPAD), 80,000 Guatemalans use cocaine and marijuana. Of the total, 46% are between 18 and 35 years of age. Dec. 28: Costa Rican Interior Minister Luis Fishman reported that in 1991 over 1 million marijuana plants were destroyed, and 260 persons arrested on marijuana possession charges. During the same period, 400 kg. of cocaine were confiscated, and 1,135 traffickers arrested. Jan. 8: Guatemalan Treasury Police reported the arrest of US nationals Thomas Allan Byrd and John Walter on the Pan American Highway for possession of 63.3 kg. of marijuana, valued at US$10,000. Guatemalan National Police reported the arrest of French national Corine Criset Maurel and Guatemalan national Sonia Estela Escobar. The two were attempting to transport an unspecified quantity of cocaine and marijuana. Nicaraguan Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado reported 445 drug-related crimes during 1991. Hurtado said that in 1992, the government will step up collaboration with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Jan. 15: Guatemalan Treasury Police chief Marco Antonio Castellanos reported the arrest of 802 drug trafficking suspects in 1991. In addition, authorities seized 5,872 kg. of cocaine, and destroyed 4.4 million poppy plants, and several marijuana plots. The confiscated and destroyed drugs were valued at US$134.9 million, US$14.7 million, and US$77 million, respectively. (Basic data from ACANEFE, 11/18/91, 11/22/91, 11/30/91, 12/17/91, 12/25/91, 01/08/92, 01/15/92; Notimex, 12/12/91, 12/28/91, 01/08/92; Spanish news service EFE, 11/18/91)

-- End --