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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

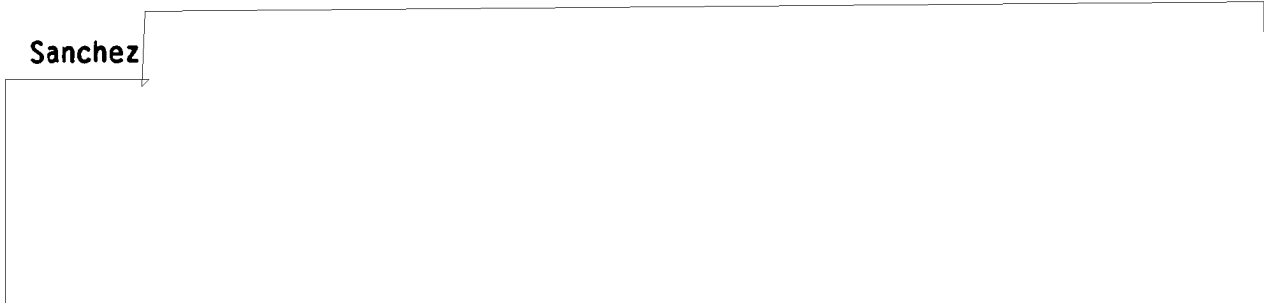
National Intelligence Council

NIC-04344-85
3 September 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Counterterrorist Group, CPN/DO
FROM: Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism and
Narcotics
SUBJECT: FBIS Excerpts

Attached for your information are FBIS excerpts on the arrest last June
in Venezuela of Luis Ramirez Sanchez, brother of Carlos Illich Ramirez

Sanchez



25X1


Charles E. Allen

Attachment:
As Stated



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VENEZUELA

ARMS, DRUG TRAFFICKING LINKED WITH TERRORISTS

Drug "Tsar's" Capture Detailed

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Article by Usbaldo Arrieta]

[Text] With Lizardo Marquez Perez and Francisco Ocando Paz out of the country, the title of "drug tsar of Venezuela" went to Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina. At least that is what he was called by the attorney general at a press conference called to announce his capture.

Hector Serpa Arcas gave newsmen an account of the events leading to Martinez Marquina's capture. A warrant had been issued for his arrest for drug trafficking and the illegal carrying of war weapons. The charges were also filed against Edgar Alirio Diaz, named as the tsar's partner. Also being held is American Rick John Kaminsky, pilot of the luxury Lear Jet, bearing the initials N85 DC and owned by Martinez Marquina, which was seized at the Barcelona airport in the state of Anzoategui on 19 May. That day marked the beginning of the final stage in a process that began over a year ago.

Less Than 1 Kilo

Attorney General Hector Serpa Arcas held the press conference accompanied by officials from his office, Luis Gregorio Gandica, Rosita Silva de Larrazabal and Iselean Calderon de Sisco. These officials were active in the investigation that led to the capture of Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina. The latter is said to be very wealthy and specifically the owner of the Servipeca enterprise in Ciudad Ojeda, a company responsible for contracting services in the oil area.

Serpa Arcas emphasized that the capture of the so-called drug tsar is the result of the combined efforts of the Attorney General's Office and DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services]. The relevance of the fact lies in Martinez Marquina's link with international drug trafficking, particularly in Colombia, in the person of the famous Carlos Leder.

It was on 26 February 1984 when Serpa Arcas was informed of the capture of small aircraft in national territory. He issued instructions for a secret

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investigation, which produced a further investigation into routes and connections of the illegal trafficking in narcotics and war weapons.

On 19 May, the small plane belonging to Martinez Marquina was seized in Barcelona. The aircraft was found to contain compartments added to the original structure and investigators discovered 64.5 grams of a white powder in one of them. The powder turned out to be cocaine. The drug was scattered around, leading investigators to believe that what they were dealing with was traces of a load previously transported.

Kaminsky, the pilot, was detained and it was immediately learned that the owner of the Lear jet was Martinez Marquina. The investigation continued and raids were staged in Caracas and several cities in the interior. These operations made it possible to make the seizure in Merida of war weapons, some of them of a sophisticated nature and some with original accessories attached such as silencers. The capture of the tsar and Edgar Alirio Diaz came in Puerto La Cruz on 28 May.

The type of weapons seized is noteworthy. The sophisticated nature of some of them, such as the Ingram submachine guns with silencers attached, along with one Uzi and another with no make on it, easier to handle and all without serial numbers, differs from conventional weapons used by guerrilla groups. This was noted by the attorney general, who indicated that the link between weapons trafficking and guerrillas is no longer as real as the one that can be established between weapons trafficking and drug trafficking.

Penalties

An arrest warrant was issued for Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina and Edgar Alirio Diaz for their involvement in crimes outlined in Articles 31 and 44 of the Organic Law on Narcotics and Mind-Altering Substances, which carry a maximum penalty of 25 to 30 years in prison. The penalty for illegal carrying of weapons varies between 2 and 5 years imprisonment. American Rick Kaminsky will be subject to Article 31 of the Antidrug Law, with a penalty of from 10 to 20 years.

Luis Ramirez Sanchez Detained

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 15 Jun 85 p 4-32

[Article by Carlos Castillo]

[Text] Luis Ramirez Sanchez, director general of Servipreca, which operates in Ciudad Ojeda in the state of Zulia, was arrested yesterday. Ramirez Sanchez is linked by authorities with the group of narcotics traffickers recently denounced by Minister of Justice Jose Manzo Gonzalez.

The news was confirmed here in Caracas by the deputy director of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ), Dr Mauro Yanez Pasarela, who added that the arrest was made by DISIP in the city of San Cristobal, Tachira.

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The PTJ also learned that through Interpol, American authorities have reported the capture of Colombian William Zing, owner of a Sabra aircraft and suspected of involvement in international drug trafficking. Zing is a partner of Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina in Aero Internacional, one of whose Leader [sic] jets MCD-85 was seized in Barcelona, Anzoategui, carrying a load of cocaine.

Zing was arrested in Houston based on information from Venezuelan authorities.

Police have information according to which the Leader jet MCD was to be used by the drug ring in order to get Carlos Lehder out of the country. Lehder is involved in a criminal conspiracy aimed at Minister of Justice Jose Manza Gonzalez and also Attorney General Luis Gregorio Gandica, along with deputies David Morales Bello, Wladimir Gessen and Carlos Tablante.

Manzo Gonzalez himself confirmed that Lehder was part of the group planning an attack on him in Miami when the government of the United States invited him to discuss matters related to narcotics trafficking affecting that country as well as our own.

Deputy Carlos Tablante, another of the targets, held a long interview with the deputy director of the PTJ, Mauro Yanez Pasarela.

The meeting between the deputy and police chief began at 1600 hours.

Further on Ramirez Sanchez

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Jun 85 p D-32

[Article by H. A.]

X [Text] Luis Ramirez Sanchez, brother of Carlos Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as "El Chacal" [the Jackal] for his terrorist activities, was arrested yesterday by security officials in San Antonio del Tachira.

The information confirmed by a high police spokesman notes that DISIP officials have been engaged in an intense investigation of a group of narcotics traffickers planning to make an attempt on the lives of the minister of justice, a number of deputies and political leaders.

The affair began in Puerto La Cruz on 28 May, when Edgard Diaz and Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina, known as the "drug tsar," were arrested. An airplane carrying drugs and a shipment of weapons was seized.

→ Martinez Marquina is the owner of Petroleum Services Company (SERVIPECA), which operates in Ciudad Ojeda in the state of Zulia, where Edgard Diaz also works.

→ Luis Ramirez Sanchez is the general manager of the company, which is linked to and has connections with international drug trafficking, especially with mafia leaders in Bogota, Colombia.

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DISIP officials arrested Ramirez Sanchez following a methodical investigation that led them to San Antonio del Tachira, where the arrest took place. The brother of El Chacal will be brought to Caracas soon, it was learned.

Tachira Plane Explosion

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Jun 85 p D-32

[Text] The small plane with Colombian registration that crashed along the Saravena-Cucuta route in Venezuelan territory Thursday was carrying drugs and weapons.

The blue-and-white Piper 28 Cherokee, bearing initials HK-2202-P, was carrying four persons, pilot Rafael Perez Montilla and attendants Miriam Leal Silva, Raul Amezquita and Lizardo Vera. All were of Colombian nationality and presumed to be members of the terrorist group M-19. They all perished in the accident.

The plane crashed in the Macanilla sector in the so-called Chorro El Indio gorge, located in the Cardenas district of the state of Tachira, some 20 kilometers from San Cristobal. However, it takes 8 hours on foot to reach the rugged mountains area.

It was reported that the army transmitter system in San Cristobal picked up the conversation between the aircraft occupants and another plane concerning drugs and weapons.

State security forces and military personnel left for the crash site for the purpose of bringing back the bodies and carrying out an inspection to verify the existence of drugs and weapons.

In Caracas, officials were awaiting communications from San Cristobal so that police might be informed and provide data on the incident.

Subversive Plan Found

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 13 Jun 85 p 64

[Article by Diana Ramon Vilarasau]

[Text] Following the raid on Servipeco in Ciudad Ojeda, belonging to Ciro Antonio Martinez Marquina, nicknamed the new "drug tsar in Venezuela," state security agencies are investigating the connection of international drug trafficking with a plan to "eliminate" Venezuelan authorities who in one way or another have participated in the fight against drugs.

On 19 May, a Lear jet belonging to Martinez Marquina, bearing initials N85DC and piloted by American Rick John Kaminsky (arrested), was seized. Found on the aircraft were 64.5 grams of cocaine, scattered, leading authorities to believe that they were traces from a much larger load already carried.

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In a combined action of the Office of Attorney General and DISIP, officials later seized war weapons, several of a sophisticated nature and with special accessories such as silencers. They included Ingram submachine guns with silencers, one Uzi and others with no make and said to "differ from the conventional type used by guerrilla groups."

On 28 May, the owner of the plane, Martinez Marquina, was captured in Puerto La Cruz, along with his partner, Edgar Alirio Diaz, charged with illegal trafficking in arms and drugs.

Semi-official sources report that SERVIPECA, belonging to Martinez Marquina and responsible for contracting services in the oil area, was recently raided. The company is said to have served as a front for the real activities of the group involved in trafficking.

Through subsequent investigations and based on results of different raids made, it is presumed that this local branch of international drug trafficking was planning to eliminate -- based on documents and photographs found in the places raided -- Minister of Justice Jose Manzo Gonzalez, victim of an assassination attempt in Miami last year, deputies David Morales Bello, Vladimir Gessen, Carlos Tablante and Luis Gregorio Gandica, an official in the Ministry of Justice active in several drug cases, including that of Martinez Marquina.

Officials found at SERVIPECA, among other things, a card belonging to Luis Ramirez Sanchez, brother of Carlos Illich Ramirez, identifying him as director general of the enterprise, as a result of which they are investigating the possible link between this plan and "El Chacal" and seeking two Colombians, one of them nicknamed "El Chopo," confidence men of the drug chieftain in Colombia, Carlos Lehder. The two may have been the men hired to carry out the plan in which the weapons found would be used.

These facts also fit in with a meeting of drug trafficking chieftains that it is believed was to occur in the eastern region and in which Lehder and Martinez Marquina were to participate.

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VENEZUELA

NEW DRUG TRAFFICKING CENTER IN EASTERN REGION

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 13, 14 Jun 85

[Article by Francisco Olivares]

[13 Jun 85 p 9]

[Excerpt] For several months now, drugs have been seized coming from Colombia, crossing the central Valencia-Maracay route and from there, moving to Cumana or Carupano. The National Guard, police, politicians and the people in general wondered how the drugs could be moved so far overland without detection at any point. According to statistics, only 10 percent of the drugs circulating in our country are detected.

Everything indicates that the new epicenter of drug trafficking is in Maturin, the Delta area, Cumana, Barcelona, Carupano and Puerto Santo, and that in addition, Rio Caribe, Mejillones, Mocuro and other points on the Paria Peninsula are used.

The means used to carry the drugs to the Caribbean islands is boats with double high-powered engines whose speed takes them out of the reach of the craft used by the National Guard. Furthermore, they are practically invisible at night because they navigate skirting the coast where the Guard vessels drawing 2 meters of water cannot venture. In addition, the inlets and coves provide refuge in times of danger.

The boats used by traffickers travel on the water with their floatation line practically submerged.

The load being moved to world distribution centers, including Trinidad, ^{St. Vincent} San Vicent and other islands, rarely exceeds from 4 to 5 kilograms per boat. One kilo of cocaine taken to Trinidad is worth over 10,000 bolivars.

This eastern area with a long tradition of smuggling was forced, following "Black Friday," to change its habits. Smuggling goods into Venezuela no longer produces dividends. Instead, supplying a bridge for cocaine has become a good operation for the prosperous eastern merchants, who were once respectable smugglers!

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[14 Jun 85 p 10]

[Excerpts] The eastern region reports that international drug trafficking figures have recently been spotted there, as a result of which the Unified Police Command of Cumana and Carupano have planned action seeking trails that would lead it to drug chieftains. Officials of the Regional Unified Command say that they are at a disadvantage due to the vast resources used by the traffickers, who have large sums of money to "soften up" any terrain.

The recent arrest of the so-called "drug czar" in Anzoategui confirms the intensification of operations in the eastern region of the country. Weapons and photographs were seized, along with the records of Parliament and Cabinet members active in the fight against narcotics trafficking. This leads one to assume that the traffickers are trying to develop activities in the region and eliminate those who get in the way of their operations.

Trinidad is one of the most important centers for the reception of cocaine and marijuana. According to information we have obtained, one Adela Moses, better known as "the queen of cocaine," operates there. Her center of activity is in Puerto Espana, where she owns a number of stores. Those who have seen her describe her as a very elegant woman.

Trinidad receives the goods from Venezuela. From there, the drugs are transported to the 30 million consumers that exist in the United States or to the equally large European market.

Those who once smuggled in liquor and other goods switched to coca after the Venezuelan devaluation. The cocaine turned into a better option, for it can be carried to the Caribbean in small quantities and at little risk and obtain huge profits.

In the state of Sucre, there is a high percentage of unemployment. Prostitution and gambling and betting are growing in its cities. There is every possible type of "easy business" directed by persons from other cities.

This situation is new to the peaceful region, once devoted to fishing and tourism.

According to reports by Deputy Carlos Tablante as a result of a tour of the region, over 50 persons are now being investigated by security agencies. Most of them are "mules," meaning that they only carry the goods to the distribution center. Most of them have businesses in Cumana and Carupano or engage in operations related to the fishing industry. However, behind this apparent commercial activity are relations with high drug figures. They use their vehicles and boats to transport and distribute the product, which is marketed clandestinely.

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VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

ACETONE DRUMS SEIZED--Puerto Ayacucho, 14 Jun--A total of 36 drums of acetone have been seized from a barge on the Orinoco River near Puerto Ayacucho, in the Amazon Federal Territory. The seizure was made by the National Guard on Santa Maria Island, where there is an inspection station to control goods taken from Ciudad Bolivar to the Amazon Federal Territory. It was the second such seizure made by the National Guard in the region in less than 2 months. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Jun 85 p D-32] 11,464

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