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Fast Track - 10/24/97

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Vetting Sheet



Official _____

Political _____

Date Received: 12/24/97

Event Staff Contact: Laura Graham

Extension: _____

Event: Fast Track Event

Date: 10/31/97

Where:

Type:

In White House Complex _____

Clutch:

Outside White House Complex ☒

Meeting:

Other:

Cleared by _____

Date: _____

Quick run-through _____

Extensive vet _____

Notes:

TROPICAL SHIPPING

PALM BEACH, FL

5 ARTICLES

NICOR - PARENT COMPANY
NEEDA CHECKED + YOUNG CHECKED
AND YOUNG OK. *JK*

O'KEEFE
CALLED
10/28/97
7:00PM

**LAURA A.
GRAHAM**

10/24/97 07:54:25 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Thomas D. Janenda/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Florida Site Options

The site options fro the fast track event in Florida next week 10/31 are the following which are under consideration:

(thousands of stars) Pratt Whitney, a unit of United Technologies, based in Connecticut, makes aircraft engines.

ok 3h story B-E Aerospace - makes seats and other internatl products for jetliners, some of which are exported, amkes airbags, based in Wellington Community, FLA

? Port of West Palm Beach — Record cocaine arrest in 86 at the port

Let me know, we are also vetting thru labor and the NEC for various other things, thanks.

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The New York Times

October 30, 1986, Thursday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section A; Page 17, Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 572 words

HEADLINE: 4,620 POUNDS OF COCAINE IS CONFISCATED IN FLORIDA

BYLINE: By GEORGE VOLSKY, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: MIAMI, Oct. 29

BODY:

The seizure of 4,620 pounds of cocaine, which Federal agents described as the largest confiscation of that drug in the United States, was disclosed today.

Diogenes K. Galanos, who is in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's office here, said that the cocaine had been concealed in false compartments in two 40-foot shipping containers on board the freighter Malargo
The New York Times, October 30, 1986

I, which arrived Oct. 9 in the Port of West Palm Beach.

The containers, which also carried furniture, were shipped to the United States from the Port of La Guaira, Venezuela.

Mr. Galanos said that disclosure of the seizure was delayed because of the continuing investigation. He said no arrests had been made. Multimillion Dollar Seizure He estimated that the wholesale value of the cocaine seized was more than \$41 million. He said the current wholesale price of cocaine was \$20,000 a kilo, 2.2 pounds. Experts in the drug trade say that cocaine on the street, mixed with other substances, is sold at 10 times the wholesale price, which would put the value at more than \$400 million.

The cargo was first inspected by the United States Customs Service at West Palm Beach. A number of empty concealed compartments were discovered, according to George Heavey, regional commissioner of the Customs Service. Mr. Heavey said that inspectors drilled holes in the walls of two metal containers, extracting traces of a white powder that turned out to be cocaine.

Mr. Galanos said, "It was a very sophisticated concealment, difficult to find even by most experienced agents."

The New York Times, October 30, 1986

The previous record seizure of cocaine was 3,940 pounds on March 9, 1982. It was aboard a Tampa Colombia Airlines cargo aircraft at the Miami International Airport.

Mr. Galanos said the Malargo I left West Palm Beach before the cocaine was discovered. He said that Federal agents were trying to determine the shippers and the recipients of the cargo.

'At Least a Change of Routes'

Federal agents said that the seizure was also significant because it was the first confiscation of such a large shipment of cocaine from Venezuela.

"It could be Colombian, or Bolivian cocaine, but it also could be cocaine grown in Venezuela," said Jack Hook, a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Miami. "It indicates at least a change of routes which cocaine is being said to enter this country."

In the past, most of large seizures of cocaine in south Florida were shipped originally from Colombia and Bolivia, with stopovers in the Bahamas or Panama.

The New York Times, October 30, 1986

"This indicates that the pressure that is now is being applied on drug traffickers in Bolivia and Colombia is being effective," Mr. Hook said.

He said the drug agency had a "very active" office in Venezuela, with agents collaborating with the authorities of that country in efforts to halt drug shipments to the United States.

Mr. Galanos said that in the 1986 Federal fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, more than 52,000 pounds of cocaine were seized in south Florida.

Asked about the impact of the West Palm Beach seizure, he said, "As far as the national availability of cocaine is concerned, this will have no significant impact. It will affect the organization that was involved in that shipment."

Underscoring the growing availability of cocaine in south Florida, the officials said that the wholesale price of cocaine about a year ago was \$35,000 a kilo, \$15,000 more than the current price.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH