

Around the Nation

Ricord Guilty Of Drug Charge

NEW YORK—Auguste Joseph Ricord, alleged "Latin American connection" in a multi-million-dollar international heroin smuggling ring, was convicted yesterday of conspiracy in the smuggling of 94 pounds of heroin into the United States in 1970.

A federal jury of seven men and five women returned with the verdict against the 62-year-old Argentine national after three hours of deliberation.

Judge John Cannella scheduled Jan. 29 for sentencing and directed that Ricord continued to be held on \$1.5 million bail.

Ricord, who owns homes in Buenos Aires and in Asuncion, Paraguay, faces five to 20 years in prison. He took the verdict without any visible signs of emotion.

Defense Attorney Herbert Handman claimed the government's case was built on the lies of its three key witnesses, Cesar Bianchi, Felix Becker and Pierre Gahou, all co-conspirators who he said wanted to win reduced prison sentences.