

Heroin Ring in France

General Held in Drug Case

PARIS — (UPI) — An internationally known horseman, who also is a general in the Mexican Army, was among eight persons arrested by agents who smashed an international drug ring and confiscated 132 pounds of pure heroin at a Paris apartment, police said today.

The heroin, destined for the United States, would have sold for \$26 million on the streets there, police said.

The Mexican general was identified as Humberto Marlies Cortes, an equestrian who as a member of Mexico's team in the 1948 Olympics in London and won an individual gold medal. He rode in international equestrian events for years.

Left Bank

French narcotics agents, working with aid and tips from U.S. investigators, arrested Marlies Cortes, another Mexican, an Uruguayan and five Frenchmen in a raid Saturday on a Left Bank apartment.

Among the five Frenchmen, they said, were two alleged "top-ranking international narcotics traffickers," identified as Rachid Gharbi, 31, and Marcel Mouchighian, 41.

Other Frenchmen nabbed in the roundup were Jean - Claude Flerschinger, 32, Jean - Claude Migozzi, 27, and Jacques Cassandri. The

other Mexican was identified as Rivera Castillo. The eighth suspect was identified as Miguel Descargues, alias Montalvo, an Uruguyan.

Celebrated Dealer

Since February 1971, French and U.S. narcotics agents have been out to catch a celebrated international dealer known as Mario Denis - Fernandez, who they said is in reality French stick - up man Andre Condemine.

While seeking Condemine, they came upon Mouchighian and Gharbi, who police

said are lieutenants of Condemine. Acting on a tip from the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, French agents put the two under strict surveillance during many trips between Marseilles and Paris over the past 10 days.

Police said the heroin haul was brought from Marseilles and was destined to be transported to Mexico by Cortes and Castillo. They held airplane tickets for a departure scheduled to take off only hours after police arrested them.