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CIA AT VAN NUYS AIRPORT

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For several years, Van Nuys Airport has been the takeoff point for high and low aerial reconnaissance missions over Latin America and Africa operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.

This information was made public two weeks ago by a former pilot for Mark Hurd Airways, who does not wish his identity to be revealed. According to this man, Mark Hurd Airways is a CIA front operating under the guise of a corporation which works under contract to the Department of Agriculture making aerial maps.

One of the major tasks Hurd has undertaken in the past years has been to compile an extremely detailed topographical map of the Bolivian highlands, using infrared photography and electronic instruments. This map was responsible for the CIA being able to pinpoint Che Guevara's guerrilla band and finger him for assassination.

Hurd was busted from Bolivia in 1968, one year after Guevara's death, when its secret base was discovered by the Bolivian government, but this fact went largely unnoticed in the newspapers.

Mark Hurd Airways has its

main office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and its west coast office in Goleta at 5760 Dawson Avenue, phone number (805)967-1261.

Staff members at the Valley Peace Center, which is located near Van Nuys Airport, have been aware of suspicious-looking unmarked aircraft taking off from there for a long time.

"Hurd's office is located behind the National Air Guard, and they have all sorts of barricades and sentries," commented a Peace Center spokesman. "Every now and then a strange, unmarked jet will take off and land, and sometimes we see U-2s, which are big, black things."

Valley Peace Center conducted leafleting of the National Air Guard offices last week, and have tried to make the story public, but although reporters appeared and took copious notes, not a word of the news has appeared in the press.