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3 Iran-Contra Charges Against George Dropped

Associated Press

A federal judge yesterday dismissed three of the 10 Iran-contra charges against former senior CIA official Clair E. George, a month after prosecutors agreed they should be dropped.

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth denied a defense request to dismiss four other counts against George, the former CIA deputy director for operations.

George is accused of lying to House and Senate committees about former White House aide Oliver L. North's Nicaraguan contra resupply network, the diversion of Iran arms sale money to the contras and the October 1986 downing of a plane that was part of the resupply network. His trial is scheduled for July 13.

George had argued in court papers that three obstruction of justice charges should be dismissed because a federal appeals court ruled last fall in former national security adviser John M. Poindexter's Iran-contra case that the obstruction law was too vague to prohibit lying to Congress.

Independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh agreed to drop the counts in the face of that ruling, but said he would seek to reinstate two of the charges with a new indictment. The new counts would charge George with inducing others to lie to Congress, Walsh said last month.