

HEROIN IS SHOWN AT RICORD TRIAL

U.S. Says Defendant Sent
in 42 Kilograms of Drug
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By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

The Government spread a pile of plastic bags containing \$9-million worth of heroin before a jury yesterday as part of its case against Auguste Joseph Ricord.

He is alleged to have been responsible for half the six to 10 tons of heroin estimated to have been smuggled into the United States in the last five years.

In Federal District Court in Manhattan, Customs agents wearing plastic gloves displayed 42 kilograms of narcotics, some of which had been wrapped as "holiday gifts."

The heroin was seized in a private plane near Miami in October, 1970. The pilot of the plane, Cesar Bianchi, testified Wednesday that he had received three suitcases containing the shipment from Ricord at the latter's motel-restaurant near Asuncion, Paraguay.

Ricord, who was born in Marseilles, France, and had spent the years since World War II in South America, is charged with conspiracy to smuggle narcotics. The 62-year-old man, who had never been in the United States until his extradition from Paraguay in September, would face a maximum prison term of 20 years of conviction.

Federal Bureau of Customs chemist testified yesterday that samples from each of the 80 bags making up the 42 kilograms had proved to be heroin hydrochloride of about 91 per cent purity.

Heroin on its importation into the United States usually brings \$10,000 to \$12,000 a kilogram. After it is adulterated and re-adulterated by middlemen, its purity goes to between 2 and 12 per cent, and the street value of a kilogram of

the pure substance is valued at between \$200,000 and \$220,000.

At one point in yesterday's proceedings Ricord's attorney, Herbert I. Handman, asked two customs agents who had seized the heroin to replace the 80 bags in the three suitcases to see if they would fit. The suitcases were powdered with flour, which had been substituted for the heroin after the 1970 seizure in an attempt to complete delivery of the shipment in New York under surveillance.

The two agents, Stephen C. Csukas and Richard J. Hopkins, spread the bags and the suitcases on the table in front of Ricord and his counsel and began the repacking. Assistant United States Attorneys Walter M. Phillips Jr. and Eugene Bannigan watched curiously from one side.

Soon the defense table was powdered with flour and, apparently, some heroin from a bag that had split. Ricord and Mr. Handman backed away, as did the Customs agents.

"I hope this is flour," Mr. Handman said.

"It is not, Mr. Handman," said District Judge John M. Cannella. "It is heroin."

The split bag was taped up and the repacking was completed. Ricord's table was wiped down with paper towels before the trial went on.

At the beginning of the day's proceedings, Judge Cannella again warned the jury not to read or listen to accounts of the trial.

"We want to have a trial by jury, not by newspaper," he said. "The defense cannot cross-examine the newspapers as to the truth of what they say."