

Post 91572
**Paraguay
Extradites
Wanted Man**

ASUNCION, Paraguay, Aug. 14 (AP)—A three-judge appeals court approved today a U.S. government request for the extradition of Auguste Joseph Ricord, accused of being one of the world's leading heroin smugglers.

Ricord, 61, a Frenchman, was expected to be flown to New York this week to stand trial in federal district court on charges of conspiring to smuggle heroin into the United States.

He owns a hotel here and restaurants in Buenos Aires. He was arrested in March 1971 at the request of the U.S. government.

The delay in granting extradition led to published charges that the government of President Alfredo Stroessner was reluctant to act because government officials were involved in narcotics smuggling.

The U.S. government expressed its disappointment and concern in December, when Judge Luis Alberto Bedoya rejected the extradition request. The judge ruled that the Paraguayan-American extradition treaty, signed in 1913, did not mention narcotics of extradition of a person who had never visited the United States.

The appeals court reversed Bedoya, upholding the U.S. claim that Ricord was covered by the spirit of the treaty, if not the letter.

Ricord went to Argentina in the 1940s and went into the restaurant business. He moved to Paraguay in 1968.

Two Paraguayan pilots, Cesar Bianchi and Penato Balestra, provided the testimony which led to the indictment of Ricord in March 1971 by a federal grand jury in New York. The two pilots decided to cooperate with U.S. Narcotics agents after 93 pounds of pure heroin was found in the single-engine plane they had flown to Miami from Paraguay in October 1970.

The delay in extraditing Ricord threatened to damage U.S. diplomatic relations with the Stroessner's government. Three U.S. congressmen touring South America early this year described Paraguay as the crossroads of heroin smuggling in Latin America and Ricord as the kingpin of the smuggling trade.