

PANEL TOLD GENERAL ASKED GUN RECEIPTS' DESTRUCTION

(Companion story by Robert M. Smith, "Chicago Official Testifies," pasted separately.)

Filed Misc II - Arms Caches

Arms Linked to 'Agency'

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FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Oct. 12—Two men familiar with a five-ton cache of war supplies seized here last June, a cache that has figured in Senate testimony concerning Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, assert that the supplies had been stockpiled and shipped with the knowledge and cooperation of a "Federal agency."

Without specifically saying so, the two men, Earl V. Redick Sr., a gun dealer, and Carl A. Barrington Jr., his attorney, broadly hinted that the "Federal agency" was the Central Intelligence Agency and that Mr. Redick's farm home had been used as a way station for weapons being shipped out of the country.

It is not known whether General Turner had any idea that a Federal agency would have anything to do with weapons that he sold and were later found in the cache.

Philip R. Manuel, an investigator for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, told the panel last week that the seized weapons had been headed for revolutionaries in Haiti.

It has been brought out at the hearings that the cache was seized by the United States Bureau of Customs in a raid on Mr. Redick's farm. Ac-

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ording to Mr. Manuel's testimony, the cache included several guns that had been given to General Turner by the police departments of Kansas City, Mo., and Chicago.

The raid on the farm was staged June 25. Two days later Mr. Redick's gun shop here was searched and 65 other guns were seized. Mr. Manuel testified that 23 guns — 7 found at Mr. Redick's farm and 16 found at the shop—were traced to General Turner.

No charges have been filed against anyone in connection with the raid on the farm.

General Turner, the former Provost Marshall-General of the Army, took possession of a number of rifles and pistols at Chicago last November after he had retired from active duty, according to testimony at the hearings. Previously, while still in the Army, he got other weapons in Kansas City. The general signed a document in Chicago saying that the guns were to go to the Army for training purposes.

Lawyer Charges Lie

Mr. Barrington said that his client, Mr. Redick, had been "maligned" and that General Turner had been "lied about" in testimony that the retired general had got the guns for personal profit. Mr. Manuel had testified that General Turner had sold Mr. Redick weapons given the general for the use of the Army.

Mr. Barrington also denied that the weapons had been headed for Haiti. The attorney said that a "mystery" man who headed the operation had said the guns were to go to the African Republic of Chad.

Although the raid on Mr. Redick's farm 10 miles west of here was made in June, the matter has not yet been presented to a grand jury. The United States Attorney in Raleigh said he had no plans to present it to the October grand jury.

Evidence that Mr. Redick kept incomplete records and had illegal automatic weapons at his gun store, the Pine State Gun Shop, also has not been presented to a grand jury.

Neither Mr. Barrington nor Mr. Redick would name the "Federal agency" that they said had cleared the guns, but Mr. Barrington said, "You can figure it out."

The attorney said that the "certain Federal agency" was not the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Bureau of Customs or the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury.

Asked if it was the C.I.A., Mr. Barrington said, "No comment."

'I Wish I Could Tell'

"I wish I could tell the whole story," Mr. Barrington said. "The nation deserves to know it, but I must protect my client."

Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Redick had rented a cinder block building on his farm to a Yonkers, N. Y., gun dealer, George DeMeo. There is no record of a Yonkers gun dealer named George DeMeo.

However, in July of 1965 a man identified by the police as George de Meo, 31 years old, was arrested with two others on charges of having amassed an illegal arms cache in Brooklyn for shipment to anti-Castro forces in Cuba.

All of the men were formally charged with illegal possession of weapons and conspiracy and released on \$2,500 bond each. Information concerning the disposition of the case was not immediately available.

According to sources in Fayetteville, Mr. DeMeo also was a weapons importer and exporter and had been supplying weapons to the Republic of Chad with State Department approval.

The sale was said to have been arranged by Henry Vixamar, a shadowy figure accused last year by Haiti of plotting to overthrow her Government.

A third and final shipment of war materials for Chad was to be stored pending instructions, the Fayetteville sources say.

In June, 1968, the Haitian Government accused Mr. Vixamar and 11 other men of "collecting" for an unsuccessful invasion attempt on May 20 of that year.

The allegation was made during the trial of 10 prisoners who were said to have been among 35 foreign mercenaries who tried to invade Haiti after air raids on the cities of Port-au-Prince, the capital, and Cap-Haitien.

Mrs. Redick, interviewed while she was cleaning her car outside the Redick residence, said that General Turner was an old family friend. She said the general "always kisses me" when he arrives to talk with Mr. Redick.

General Turner has been a licensed gun dealer, and he testified before the Senate subcommittee that he considered the weapons given to him by the Chicago and Kansas City police departments to be his to dispose of as he saw fit.

The general said that he had not originally listed money from the sale of the weapons on his income tax returns but had since amended them to reflect any such profits.

He said his weapons records book, which he is required by law to keep as a gun dealer, had been lost or stolen.

Customs agents seized 58 .30-caliber M-1 Garand rifles, 10 .30-caliber M-1 carbines, five .45-caliber automatic pistols, one Browning automatic rifle, one M-2 carbine, one Cevars Faktori automatic rifle, 71,817 rounds of ammunition, 305 skeet targets, 12 mess kits, 48 empty bullet bandoliers, 53 pairs of black boots, 25 jungle coveralls, 42 cartridge belts, 12 water canteens, 18 rifle slings, 30 M-1 rifle clips, mine blocks of C-4 explosives, 75 feet of primer cord and a number of miscellaneous items.

The ammunition included machine-gun bullets and tracer bullets.

Regarding the fact that no charges were filed against Mr. Redick or Mr. Demio in connection with the weapons and ammunition found at Mr. Redick's home, Mr. Barrington said: "They had finally got around to checking and they found out that Mr. Demio had the proper papers and licenses for these weapons."

On June 27, Mr. Bouras got a warrant to search the gun shop and agents of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, on charges of having incomplete records and possessing automatic weapons and parts of automatic weapons at his gun shop, "in violation of the Gun Control Act of 1968." Mr. Redick was released under \$5,000 bond on his own recognizance by United States Commissioner C. Wallace Jackson.

Mr. Barrington said that the "customs and alcohol tax boys are very red-faced" over the raid at Mr. Redick's home and that he had insisted three times that the Government bring Mr. Redick to trial in connection with that raid.

'A Lame Duck'

The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Robert H. Cowen, said it would be unethical for him to discuss the details of the case. He said he could not do so in any event since he got a file on it from Customs agents only last week and had not yet had a chance to read it.

He added that he was "a lame duck" and that he would leave the case to his successor. Last June, Mr. Bowen, the customs agent, was quoted as saying that the five tons of arms, ammunition and equipment seized at Mr. Redick's home had been destined for Haiti.

"I think the Government just pulled the name of Haiti out of the air," said Mr. Barrington. The attorney said that Mr. Vixamar, whom he referred to as "Henri," had never mentioned Haiti, only the Republic of Chad.

The five tons of material was brought to Fayetteville by truck and stored in Mr. Redick's outbuilding behind his green frame residence on U. S. Highway 41, the sources report.

In June, they continue, Mr. Demio was told to deliver the weapons to an isolated Forestry Service airport near Wilmington, N. C., after midnight on June 27.

After receiving these orders, the sources say, Mr. Demio and Mr. Redick reported these instructions to the "certain Federal agency in Washington" on June 22.

On June 23, Mr. Demio and Mr. Redick were visited by a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lacy M. Walthall Jr.

In an affidavit filed with an application for a warrant to search the Redick home, Mr. Walthall said:

"On June 23, 1969, George Demio stated to me that he had sold approximately five tons of arms, ammunition, and camouflage uniforms to Henry Vixamar in New York and transported them to Earl V. Redick Sr.'s residence, Highway 401 South, Fayetteville, N. C., for delivery to Vixamar. I personally observed the above munitions on Mr. Redick's premises at about 2 P.M. on June 23, 1969, at the invitation of, and in the presence of, George Demio and Earl V. Redick Sr."

That same day or the next day, the sources here say, Mr. Demio was told by Mr. Vixamar or by an associate of his not to take the weapons to Wilmington but to bring them to Florida.

On June 24, the customs agents in Wilmington heard agents in Wilmington heard about some weapons transactions.

In another affidavit filed with the application for a search warrant, Phillip R. Bowen, the customs agent in charge at Wilmington, said: "On June 24, 1969, I received reliable information from a source that had been reliable in the past, that Henry Vixamar of Miami, Fla., and New York, N. Y., had purchased a quantity of five-arms, ammunition, and military uniforms, from George Demio in New York, N. Y., which he intended to export illegally."

On June 25, Johnny Bouras, a special investigator for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, came to the Pine State Gun Shop.

Mr. Bouras made an inventory of the more than 2,500 guns in the store and found several that were not listed on the gun shop records. The inventory took three days.

It was on June 25 that Mr. Bowen, the customs agent, applied for and got the warrant to search Mr. Redick's home and the outbuilding where the five tons of supplies was stored.