

French Urged Surveillance of Model in Drug Case

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Three months before a Syracuse businessman accused his estranged young wife of using her worldwide modeling assignments to become an international narcotics trafficker, she was cited by the French police for living on the Caribbean island of St. Martin with a convicted smuggler believed to be dealing in narcotics, a State Senate hearing was told yesterday.

A subsequent report prepared in 1973 by the French police for United States drug enforcement officials—and presented at the hearing—concluded that “the participation of Patricia Richardson [the accused wife] in drug trafficking seems possible,” and recommended that “surveillance of the activities of Patricia Richardson in the United States would be desirable.”

But state and Federal drug officials testified yesterday that no such surveillance had ever been conducted, that few suspects had been interviewed and that the investigation had generally been given short shrift

because her principal accuser, her husband, was considered “unstable” and produced no substantiation.

The two French documents and the testimony were presented at joint hearings into the charges and alleged cover-up conducted by the State Senate Crime Committee and United States Senator James L. Buckley, New York Conservative-Republican. The 28-year-old model who is now Mrs. Patricia Richardson Martinson, has categorically denied the charges made by her husband, William Spector.

In the first document, a 10-page report written in 1971, she is cited as “living in concubinage” with Henri Helle, who is described as “well-known . . . as a smuggler of stock certificates, cigarettes and narcotics.”

Mr. Helle also was described as previous employer of Marcel Boucan, who was arrested seven months later as captain of a Marseilles shrimp boat on which French custom agents had found almost half a ton of pure heroin.

The report also found that “a network of drug traffickers is believed to exist in the Dutch zone of St. Martin, which is directed toward the United States from France via Philipsburg, St. Martin.”

“I’ve never seen this document,” said Jacques Kiere, who helped conduct the original investigation for the Federal drug agency and now works in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s El Paso, Tex., office.

Asked About Document

“Is it fair to say that if you had seen that document you would have had a different attitude toward William Spector’s complaint?” asked Jeremiah McKenna, counsel to the State Senate committee.

“I’ll have to read the document,” Mr. Kiere replied.

However, Stephen H. McClintic, a former Federal drug official who testified on Monday, said after the hearing yesterday that he had seen the document but had dismissed it because it merely referred to a living arrangement.

He noted that Mr. Boucan was not arrested until Feb. 10, 1972, 10 months after the report was prepared, so that he did not attach special importance to it at the time it was issued.

Mr. Spector had taken his charges, without success, to the local police, the state police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Customs Bureau, the Watergate special prosecutor and the Drug Enforcement Administration. None conducted a thorough investigation, according to witnesses from the various agencies who had testified at the hearings.

Mr. Kiere testified that his agency had reopened the investigation solely as a result of publicity that resulted from Mr. Spector’s going to the media.

“There is still no hope of making a narcotics case out,” he said.

“We have been unable to substantiate any allegations,” Mr. Kiere said, “and have found that others are simply not true.”

Among the allegations disproved Mr. Diere said, was Mr. Spector’s charge that his wife’s child was born addicted, and another charge that heroin had been found in the basement of his Ogdensburg, N.Y., home.

Another witness, Mary Jo LaCarrubba, testified that in 1972, when she was 18 years old, she accompanied Mrs. Martinson to St. Martin to work as a baby sitter for Mrs. Martinson’s children.

“She packed all of my clothes with her clothes, in her luggage,” Mrs. LaCarrubba said, noting that she found this somewhat unusual.