

## **EIR** Investigation

# Does U.S. run guns to the drug cartel?

by Carlos Wesley

On June 19, Colombian police reported that during a single week in June, 640 people died violent deaths, the majority of them victims of drug cartel terrorism. Responsibility for their deaths rests in large part with the United States government.

U.S. government agents, and private persons working on their behalf, have been supplying weapons to the drug armies. In this article, we will follow the trail of one Yair Klein, a reserve colonel in the Israeli Army, who purchased a cache of weapons discovered earlier this year at a ranch owned by Medellín cocaine cartel kingpin José Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha. In early 1989, when Klein got the weapons that were later found in the hands of the Colombian drug lord, Klein was employed in a U.S. government-sanctioned project, training mercenaries employed by the U.S. government to overthrow the head of the Panamanian Defense Forces, Gen. Manuel Noriega. Klein was also employed in the training of Nicaraguan Contras, according to reports published in Colombia.

We will follow Klein as he moves from indoctrinating assassins for the cocaine cartels in the jungles of Colombia, to the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda, where the CIA supported his attempts to set up a school for mercenaries recruited by Washington to topple General Noriega. The trail will take us to Panama, to the drug cartel-linked government installed by the U.S. invasion of last Dec. 20, and to Col. Eduardo Herrera, a CIA agent installed by the United States as chief of police after Noriega's ouster. It was to Herrera that Klein says he sent the weapons found in the hands of the drug cartel.

The trail will lead us back to Washington, to the State Department, where former Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams gave \$1 million of Panamanian government money seized by the U.S. Treasury to

Klein's project. That money helped pay for the cartel's weapons.

The trail will also take us directly to the White House, to the Oval Office, and to the networks responsible for the drugs-for-arms-for-hostages Iran-Contra scandal.

Lawrence Walsh, special prosecutor for the Iran-Contra affair, has been meeting since May with a second grand jury, to deal with still-unanswered questions, such as the extent of the involvement of former President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush in the scandal. So far, Walsh has not made public his investigations into the drugs-for-weapons aspects of the affair.

The Klein affair is by no means an exceptional case. Rather, it is part of the ongoing pattern of collaboration between U.S. intelligence agencies—particularly the CIA—and the drug cartels, that characterized the whole Iran-Contra operation. For example, according to reports published this year, the CIA protected the murderers of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena, because they were collaborating with the CIA in the Nicaraguan Contra resupply effort (see box, p. 53).

With very few exceptions, the full extent of U.S. government involvement in the arming of Colombia's deadly drug gangs, a story which goes to the heart of the Iran-Contra scandal, is being kept from the American public.

### **Finding the weapons**

On Jan. 24, the Colombian Army raided a ranch, the "Fredy 2," in the town of Guaduas in the western part of Colombia. At the ranch, owned by Medellín Cartel capo José Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, the soldiers found several brand-new Israeli-made weapons, including 40 Galil rifles. Four days later, on Jan. 28, the Army raided another one of Rodríguez Gacha's properties, "Finca Veracruz," and found

another 100 Galil rifles and other weapons.

Rodríguez Gacha had been killed in a shootout with Colombian police the previous month, on Dec. 15. When the police moved in on the town of Pacho, the drug trafficker's lair, they also found caches of Israeli-made weapons, including Uzi machine guns, infrared nightscopes, R-15 rifles, and other armaments.

Following these discoveries, the Colombian government submitted a formal request to the government of Israel: Could Israel please explain how the weapons got into drug kingpin Rodríguez Gacha's hands? The Israeli government replied that it had sold the arms to the tiny Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda—named for the two islands in the Lesser Antilles that constitute its territory—for use by its 90-member security forces. The weapons, Israel claimed, were ordered by Antigua's "minister of national security"—a nonexistent post—and that the purchase was arranged through Maurice Sarfati, an Israeli living in Antigua who claimed to be a representative of the Antigua government.

### **CIA role is uncovered**

While Israeli officials still insist that the weapons were sold to Antigua, no one believes them. For one thing, there was no end-user certificate for the weapons. Antigua denies ordering them. And, according to the Reuters news agency May 9, one unidentified Israeli official has admitted, "The weapons were shipped to Panamanian exiles who had links with [Rodríguez] Gacha, and they sent the weapons to Colombia."

Two days later, on May 11, Colombia tore up a long standing free-travel agreement with Israel, and announced that it would henceforth require visas from Israeli citizens traveling to Colombia. Colombia's Foreign Ministry said it was breaking the agreement in protest against Israel's supplying weapons and mercenaries to the drug traffickers.

By then it had become known that the weapons were obtained by Klein for a group of CIA-sponsored anti-Noriega mercenaries led by Col. Eduardo Herrera, now chief of police of the U.S.-installed government of Panama. Several newspaper stories appeared reporting on the Panama connection, noting that it raised questions about U.S. government involvement. But then, the State Department clamped down, and the press began to limit its coverage to the Israel-Colombia-Antigua aspects of the story, leaving out references to the Panamanians and their CIA sponsors, for the most part.

In 1988, Colonel Herrera was Panama's ambassador to Israel. In April of that year, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams sent State Department official William Walker to Tel Aviv to recruit Herrera to run an operation against Noriega. In an account published in the *New York Times* on Oct. 29, 1989, Herrera said he was told by Walker, "We have a problem with Noriega and we want to fly you to the United States to discuss things, to see what can be done."

Herrera came to the U.S. and met with officials at the White House, the Pentagon, and the CIA, and then returned to Tel Aviv.

### **Recruiting the Panamanian 'Contras'**

One month later, having been fired by General Noriega, Herrera moved from Israel to the United States, where the CIA put him on the payroll at a monthly salary of \$4,500, using Panamanian funds impounded by the U.S. administration. The plan, he said, was to enter Panama with force, and stage a coup against Noriega. "We would have seized him, arrested him, maybe burned him," he said. To finance the operation, he requested American approval for the release of several million dollars in Panamanian government funds illegally impounded by the U.S. as part of the Reagan and Bush administrations' economic warfare measures against Panama.

Abrams released at least \$1 million of the funds. According to a report from the U.S. General Accounting Office, the "disbursement for \$1 million appears to be outside the scope" of the allowable uses for the Panamanian money. But the U.S. Treasury "certified payment based on assurances by the then Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs"—Elliott Abrams—"that the Department of State would assume responsibility for the decision."

Herrera said he began to work on CIA "psychological operations" against Noriega, but eventually drew up his own plan for a military strike.

In fact, the military plan was developed together with Colonel Klein, who was brought in to assist in the training of Herrera's CIA-sponsored Panamanian "Contra" force.

### **High-powered Republicans**

Among those who arranged to bring the Israelis in on the operation was John Zagame, a former aide to New York's Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, probably the most rabid Noriega-hater in the U.S. Senate. Zagame had set up a consulting firm and hired himself out as an adviser to the Panamanians, to the tune of \$15,000 per month, plus expenses—all paid out of the same impounded Panamanian funds used to finance Herrera. These funds were conduited by the U.S. government through a fictitious "government of Panama," nominally headed by former Panamanian President Eric Delvalle and run out of a luxurious condominium in Coconut Grove, Florida.

At the time Zagame was hired in early 1989, he was sharing an office at 1001 Prince Street in Alexandria, Virginia with Bond Donatelli, another consulting firm owned by cronies of the administration. Bond Donatelli was also on the "Panamanian" payroll—\$10,000 per month, plus expenses. Partner Richard Bond was Vice President George Bush's deputy chief of staff and former deputy chairman of the Republican National Committee, while Frank Donatelli was the political director of the Reagan White House.

In an interview with the *Washington Times* published on Jan. 23, Zagame said that for a "significant" amount of money, the Israeli government provided a consultant for Herrera. "What we got was a very detailed intelligence-military-political blueprint on what to do to destabilize Noriega," Zagame said. Zagame did not return calls from this author.

According to an article in the *Miami Herald* on May 14, Klein and Herrera met several times in Miami in 1988 and 1989 to plan the anti-Noriega operations. Toward the latter part of 1988, Klein traveled to Antigua to negotiate the establishment of a school, which he told authorities would train "VIP security guards." In truth, the proposed school would be used to train Herrera's mercenaries and other hitmen. It would be modeled on the one operated by Klein's Hod Hahanit ("Spearhead, Ltd.") in Colombia since the latter part of 1987, and which the government of Colombia says was a training center for the killer squads of the drug cartels, specifically for Rodríguez Gacha's people.

Authorities say that graduates from Klein's Spearhead mercenary school in Colombia were involved in the bombing of an Avianca jet last November, in which 117 people were killed, and in the murder of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán in August of last year.

This was the man the U.S. government hired to train the anti-Noriega mercenaries that were to be led by Col. Eduardo Herrera.

### **Middlemen: Sarfati and Rappaport**

Klein was introduced to Antigua officials in early 1989 by an Israeli named Maurice Sarfati. Sarfati, who would eventually become the middleman for the arms deal, operated a melon farm in Antigua, initially established in 1981 with financing from Swiss-American Bank of Antigua. That institution was owned by Bruce Rappaport, a golfing partner of the late William Casey, the former director of the CIA. Rappaport played a role in the Iran-Contra scandal by helping to set up a shipment of U.S. weapons from Israel to Iran, which led to the release in 1985 of the Rev. Benjamin Weir, an American hostage held in Lebanon. Among the many companies controlled by Rappaport, is his oil refinery in Antigua, which, according to sources in Antigua, has not refined a barrel of oil in several years. Intelligence sources in the United States say that the primary purpose of Rappaport's refinery is to provide cover to various intelligence agents from the CIA and the Israeli Mossad.

In March 1985, Sarfati's melon farm, Roydan Ltd., was approved for a \$700,000 foreign aid loan from the U.S. State Department's AID program. He made one interest payment, and U.S. AID gave him yet another loan in 1986 for \$600,000, which was guaranteed by the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC). Sarfati did not make any further payments on the \$1.3 million he owed the U.S. government, so OPIC sued him in 1988. However, it turned out that Rappaport's Swiss-American Bank had first lien on the

melon farm, meaning that the loans were unsecured and that American taxpayers are out \$1.3 million. Who in the U.S. government approved the loan to Sarfati, and why?

### **'Spearhead is all right'**

Being a small nation with limited intelligence resources, Antigua requested the help of the United States to determine if it should approve the "VIP security guards" school being proposed by Klein and Sarfati. Col. Clyde Walker, former commander of Antigua's defense forces, said in a report published in Antigua on April 13 this year, that in January 1989, he met with Colonel Klein to discuss the proposed school. "About two weeks after this meeting I prepared an intelligence report on Colonel Klein and all the other names in the pamphlets with their complete CVs [curriculum vitae]

## **Camarena case shows CIA's ties to drugs**

One of the more dramatic cases of links between the CIA and drug traffickers emerged around the 1985 case of the kidnaping and murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Enrique Camarena, in Mexico. On March 2, 1990, *EIR* published an exposé of CIA connections to José Antonio Zorrilla Pérez, the former head of Mexico's now-disbanded Directorate of Federal Security (DFS), a domestic intelligence unit which has been accused of extensive involvement in Mexican drug trafficking and specifically in the Camarena killing. That article revealed that Zorrilla had been repeatedly fingered by the DEA office in Mexico as an accomplice of Camarena's drug-trafficking assassins, but that he had been protected by his close association with the CIA.

In an earlier, July 28, 1989 story, *EIR* reported that the Mexican Attorney General's office announced possession of undeniable proof that DFS credentials had been provided to drug traffickers, and that those credentials bore Zorrilla's signature. Among the traffickers who carried such credentials were Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo and Rafael Caro Quintero, both ultimately arrested and jailed for their role in the Camarena kidnaping and murder.

The March 2 *EIR* story reported that the U.S. Justice Department issued a Feb. 2, 1990 indictment against Miguel Aldana Ibarra, a former Mexican police official, for complicity in the Camarena assassination. However, the indictment failed to mention the fact that Aldana was Zorrilla's right-hand man during much of his tenure as

and I gave the report to United States CIA agent Robert Hogan,” said Colonel Walker. Walker said he requested from both Hogan and Hogan’s superior, CIA station chief for the Eastern Caribbean Robert Kenning, stationed at the U.S. embassy in Barbados, an “investigation into Spearhead Ltd. and the colonel [Klein] and his trainers.”

The CIA vouched for Klein and his operation. According to Walker, he was told by CIA station chief Kenning, “Spearhead appears to be all right.”

Despite the CIA endorsement, Antigua turned down the school’s application in March 1989. But the weapons were already aboard the Danish ship *Else TH* of the Swenborg Enterprises-Dinamarca lines. (Danish ships were the preferred transport for Ollie North’s Contra resupply operation. In 1986, General Noriega’s forces captured the Danish ship

*Pia Vesta* with a cargo of Soviet bloc weapons purchased by the Iran-Contra group for use in Central America. The capture of the *Pia Vesta* was another reason Washington wanted Noriega’s removal.)

The *Else TH* illegally offloaded the weapons in Antigua on April 24, 1989, where they were transferred to the Panamanian-registered *Sea Point*, which delivered them to Rodríguez Gacha in Colombia.

In a recent statement obtained by *EIR*, Colonel Klein said he had obtained the weapons for Panamanian Col. Eduardo Herrera and his CIA-recruited forces, which were to undergo training in the proposed school in Antigua. Klein claims his partner Sarfati was not aware of the intended use of the weapons.

“The understanding between myself and the Panamani-

DFS director. According to documents in the possession of the Mexican Attorney General’s office and released to the public in July 1989, Aldana had given Zorrilla approximately \$10 million *per month* to protect drug shipments coming into Mexico from Colombia.

Also, according to *EIR* sources, Mexican authorities had repeatedly tried to arrest Aldana for his criminal ties to Zorrilla, but had been blocked by open interference of the CIA on Aldana’s behalf. Zorrilla was finally arrested on June 13, 1989, for the assassination of prominent journalist Manuel Buendía, who had been preparing to reveal Zorrilla’s links, among others, to the drug traffickers. Zorrilla was also formally accused of running protection for drug smugglers.

On March 25, 1990, the *New York Times* ran a feature on CIA ties to drug running. The *Times* noted that Francis M. Mullen, head of the DEA until 1985, became enraged at the CIA office in Mexico City when, during his investigation of the Camarena case, he was taken by his CIA colleagues to Zorrilla, “who might be involved in the whole thing—his guys were actually involved.”

### **The Contra connection**

The *New York Times* even hints that CIA involvement with the drug traffickers might have had something to do with the Nicaraguan Contras: “A 1987 Drug Enforcement Agency report on the Camarena case indicates that Miguel Angel Félix Gallardo, described in the indictment as a top drug trafficker and principal in the kidnaping, supported the CIA-backed Nicaraguan contras by smuggling arms and providing them money, according to court records.”

In fact, according to a DEA investigative report from September 1989 which recently fell into the hands of Mexico’s Notimex news agency, the CIA “had promoted drug-trafficking operations in Mexico throughout the past de-

cade, to provide weapons to the Nicaraguan contras.” The report cites DEA informant Lawrence Victor Harrison, a longstanding confidant of the Mexican drug traffickers, who told the DEA that CIA officials “promoted corruption among Mexican and U.S. officials to carry out drug-trafficking operations in Mexico,” and that sanctioned CIA pilots were used to fly weapons for the Contras into Mexico and to fly drugs back into the United States. Harrison further

the Camarena case investigations of those individuals primarily responsible for the kidnaping and murder. During June of this year, Harrison testified at the ongoing Los Angeles grand jury investigation of the Camarena case.

### **Link to Matta Ballesteros**

Also testifying at Los Angeles federal court on June 19 was an FBI expert who revealed that hair fibers discovered in the house where Camarena was murdered matched those of Juan Ramón Matta Ballesteros, the Honduras-born drug trafficker considered a key liaison between the Mexican and Colombian drug cartels. Matta Ballesteros is another glaring example of the CIA’s drug connections. Matta’s defense lawyer told the court of the existence of “a 1987 DEA report stating that Félix [Gallardo] and Matta had arranged with U.S. officials to engage in arms smuggling and drug smuggling in aid of U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Contras.”

According to a report of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Narcotics and Terrorism, chaired by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Matta Ballesteros ran his weapons-for-drugs smuggling operation from Honduras under the company name SETCO. More than \$100,000 was paid to Matta from Oliver North’s secret Contra funds *after* Matta had been declared a wanted fugitive by the DEA.

ans was that absolutely nobody should be aware of this information except CIA, who, I was told, gave its blessing and approval," Klein said. He added: "When I was informed that the training school was not approved, I was most disappointed and shocked and had no other alternative but to divert the equipment to the Panamanian entity who paid for it and decided on its final destination."

While the Panamanians paid for the guns with the funds stolen by the U.S. government from Panama, the financing for the weapons was arranged through Bank Hapoalim, an Israeli bank in New York.

The CIA's involvement would never have come to light, had it not been for Antiguan officials who made public everything they knew, as soon the Colombians told them that the Israeli government said it had sold the weapons to Antigua. Publication of Colonel Walker's report, which identified the local CIA agents by name, forced the "U.S. government to remove every CIA agent in the area, from Guyana in South America, to Key West," said one official. U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Roger Gamble finally told Antigua's Governor General Wilfred Jacobs that publicity about the case "was embarrassing the American government," and it should stop, says one source.

### The coverup continues

The State Department's favorite Antiguan official, Foreign Minister Lester Bird, who is also the deputy prime minister, announced on April 10 the hiring as special investigator of Washington Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella. But in a preliminary report submitted to the Antiguan government, Barcella omitted any mention of the Panama connection, or that of the CIA.

Barcella, a senior attorney with the Washington law firm of Laxalt, Washington, Perito and Dubuc, is a former prosecutor with a lot of involvement in intelligence-related cases. He is most famous for his role in the Wilson-Terpil investigation. He was also the Justice Department's lead prosecutor in such cases as the hijacking of TWA Flight 847, the bombing of TWA flight 840, the *Achille Lauro* hijacking, and the assassination of former Chilean official Orlando Letelier.

Besides his legal work, Barcella is a partner in a security company, CounterTerrorism Consultants, L.P., which includes among its associates "a former senior level CIA operations officer" and former intelligence official Gerald Walker, who "spent 10 years in Panama, Colombia, and El Salvador," according to company brochures.

This raises the strong possibility of conflict of interest. Worse, Barcella's law firm handled some of the legal work related to the consulting arrangements between the fictitious "Panamanian government of Eric Delvalle" and Bond Donatelli and John Zagame, who played such a key role in getting the Israelis involved in Colonel Herrera's operations.

The Antiguan government also named British lawyer Louis Blom-Cooper to conduct an investigation and hold

hearings on the arms shipments. Those hearings, which are scheduled to take place in July, could provide answers to a number of unresolved questions about the case.

### An unsolved murder

Finally, there is the question of Arik Afek, another one of Klein's associates. In April 1989, as the weapons were being delivered to Rodríguez Gacha, Afek warned Klein that Colombian authorities were getting ready to shut down his terrorist training center in that country, and to arrest him. Afek helped Klein escape from Colombia. According to an Interpol wire dated Oct. 19, 1989, Afek had been placed under surveillance by U.S. authorities in Florida, where he ran a flower business.

But, on Jan. 24 of this year, the same day that Colombian authorities were uncovering the Galil rifles at Rodríguez Gacha's ranch, Afek's bullet-riddled body was found in the trunk of his car at Miami's International Airport. The Israeli daily *Yeduit Aharanot* reported that U.S. authorities suspected Sarfati was involved in the murder of Afek, "who knew about the Klein-Sarfati deal." The question is, why didn't his American watchdogs prevent Afek's murder?

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## Documentation

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### 'The CIA gave its blessing and approval'

*Excerpts from the following affidavit submitted by Israeli Lt. Col. Yair Klein (ret.) to Antiguan investigators, were first published by Antigua's The Nation on May 4, 1990.*

. . . I negotiated with a group of Panamanian exiles headed by Mr. Eduardo [Herrera], the present Defense Minister of Panama, who at the time was interested in training his own forces in the intended school in Antigua. *The funds for the purchase of the material was provided by the Panamanian organizations.* This information was held and known only by myself and was not shared with anybody, neither the Antiguan authorities nor Mr. Maurice Sarfati, since the understanding between myself and the Panamanians was that absolutely nobody should be aware of this information *except CIA, who I was told, gave its blessing and approval.*

Therefore, when I was informed that the project of the training school was not approved I was most disappointed and shocked and had no other alternative but to divert the equipment to the Panamanian entity who paid for it and decided on its final destination, which to my understanding was a *bona fide* one. For the sake of clarity, the equipment consisted

only of 200 Uzi and 200 Galil rifles which initially were intended for the Antigua Training School and were shipped to Panama. All costs for the transshipment were paid by us from the Panamanian funds.

### The 'Spearhead' case

*Excerpts from the affidavit submitted by Col. Clyde Walker, former commander of Antigua's Defense Forces. The affidavit was first published by Antigua's The Nation on April 13, 1990.*

Between October and December 1988, the Hon. Vere Bird, Jr. gave me three (3) sets of reading materials headed *Spearhead Ltd.* Personal Security and Anti-Terror Units. The Minister asked me to read them and that I should advise him if the proposed training school would be beneficial to Antigua.

... I studied the materials and at first thought that the training would be good for both the Defense Force, the Police Force, and tourism in general.

Sometime early in January the Minister told me that the owner of Spearhead Ltd. will be coming to Antigua to discuss the setting up of the training school providing the Antigua Cabinet approves their application.

Later the same month one Col. Yair Cal Klein and another Israeli who was never identified to me came to my office where the minister and I had a meeting with them.

The proposed training school was discussed at length. ... Colonel Klein drew our attention to pages 7 and 8 of the course—*V.I.P. Security Guards*—pamphlet and said to Minister Bird that if the Cabinet approves the setting up of the training school they would have to approve the weapon list on those two pages (7 and 8) but they could be kept either at the Police Station or the Defense Force and when the students are being taught weapons training they could be drawn and returned after use. ...

About two (2) weeks after this meeting I prepared an intelligence report on Colonel Klein and all the other names in the pamphlets with their complete CVs and I gave the report to United States CIA agent Robert Hogan in his hotel room at St. James Club and I requested of him some investigation into 'Spearhead Ltd.' and the Colonel and his trainers. I had also discussed Spearhead Ltd. and Colonel Klein with Chief of the CIA Eastern Caribbean Mr. George Kenning, Barbados embassy, in my office, and also in the VIP lounge at Grantley Adams Airport.

Some months passed and I didn't hear anything about Spearhead Ltd. or the Colonel from the CIA, so I contacted George Kenning and he told me Spearhead Ltd. appears to be all right. ...

Sometime in April 1989, Minister Vere Bird Jr. told me that he discussed the matter with the Deputy Prime Minister at Cabinet and that the Deputy told him not to bring it up in Cabinet because Israel still has a South African connection

## The Toliver case: 'It stinks to high heaven'

In April of this year, the U.S. government settled a civil suit—to which it was not a party—for considerably more than the loss claimed by the plaintiffs. This strange occurrence took place in the Wichita, Kansas court of Federal Judge Patrick Kelly in the case of *Midland National Bank v. Puritan Insurance Co.* The government rushed to settle after Judge Kelly ordered Attorney General Richard Thornburgh into his courtroom to explain the government's conduct in the case. Judge Kelly accused the U.S. government of engaging in "criminal conduct." This case "stinks to high heaven," he said. "It involves the transport of drugs by agents of the United States, or with the acquiescence of the United States."

The case involved an aircraft leased by the U.S. government from a Kansas businessman. In 1983, the plane crashed off the Cayman Islands while returning with a cargo of drugs from Colombia. Pilot Michael Toliver, a convicted smuggler, said he had been hired to deliver weapons to the Nicaraguan Contras and he often brought back drugs on the return flight. Toliver once testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism and Narcotics, that at one point he had flown 20 tons of marijuana to Homestead Air Force Base in Florida in exchange for weapons for the Contras.

The Wichita civil suit was brought by Midland National, which financed the plane, against the insurance company, Puritan, when the latter refused to cover the loss of the crashed aircraft, claiming that it was not used for the purposes stated in the policy.

and he doesn't think other Cabinet members would support it.

The Minister then communicated this to Colonel Klein by telephone in my presence. ...

At no time did the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, which is under my command, give Colonel Klein or Spearhead Ltd. permission to send weapons to Antigua. ...

At no time did I or any member of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force collect any weapons or ammunition from any boat or vessel on behalf of the force or anyone. The first time I heard of a boat coming here with weapons on it was yesterday, Thursday 5th April 1990, when the Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Lester Bird told me so.