

The Mexican police are aggrieved by U.S. investigators luring Mexican bankers to America for arrest and are infuriated that American lawmen worked undercover on Mexican territory without the Mexican government's approval. U.S. authorities say they didn't want to tip off the subjects of their probe.

As a precaution, the DEA has withdrawn all agents from a joint U.S.-Mexico task force in Tijuana, the home city of the Arellano Felix brothers, who control Mexico's second-largest drug cartel. The retreat will disrupt investigations and jeopardize special operations against the traffickers, say DEA and U.S. Customs sources.

"We are basically facing a breakdown on the border," says a senior California-based DEA agent. "We have right now some big operations going on against the Arellano Felixes—last week we intercepted \$4 million of their cash—and against a Tijuana family who control amphetamine smuggling. Those ops are endangered now."

The alert was issued when the El Paso Intelligence Center, the federal law-enforcement intelligence clearing house, noticed an abrupt rise in reports from various federal agents of hostility from their Mexican counterparts. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) later verified the danger.

The official warning sent by the Justice Department to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service cautions, "The Mexican Federal Judicial Police may seek retaliation against U.S. law-enforcement" because of Casablanca.

The warning goes on to say, "Reliable information received by the Los Angeles [ATF office] also indicates that Mexican law enforcement intends to seek revenge . . . by ensuring that any American law enforcement officer caught committing any sort of infraction will be given 'No Slack,' and they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible under Mexican law."

INS intelligence also suggests that bitterness over Operation Casablanca may not be limited to the Mexican police. "Feelings of injustice may manifest itself into the Mexican military as well."

An INS spokesman refused to confirm or deny the authenticity of the memo.

Frustrated U.S. lawmen point to the hostility of their Mexican counterparts as proof that DEA and Customs Service agents should be allowed to carry their sidearms when traveling south of the border on official business. Mexican authorities won't allow it, and the U.S. and Mexican governments have been locked in a fierce behind-the-scenes diplomatic dispute over the issue for more than a year.

The Mexicans have refused to budge. President Clinton's antidrug chief, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, recently sided with the Mexicans on the issue, infuriating Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman, New York Republican and chairman of the House International Relations Committee, by suggesting that U.S. lawmen should be satisfied with Mexican police protection.

In May, Mr. Gilman slammed Gen. McCaffrey, arguing that DEA agents couldn't entrust their lives to their Mexican counterparts because drug cartels are growing more violent and there is "proven massive corruption among Mexican law enforcement agencies."

A veteran DEA agent says he hasn't encountered such hostility from Mexican police since the fallout from the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena by narcotics traffickers in 1985. Some U.S. sources believe Mr. Camarena was killed with the collusion of corrupt Mexican officials and police officers.

Mexican law enforcement officials reacted very badly later when undercover DEA agents snatched a doctor in Mexico who had been involved in torturing Mr. Camarena before his murder.

HONORING KAVANAUGH'S FURNITURE FOR THEIR 125 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to have the opportunity to acknowledge and honor Kavanaugh Furniture of Springfield, Massachusetts for its 125th year of business.

In 1873, Mr. Dennis Nelen opened his establishment as a "wholesaler and retailer in elegant furniture, hair and husk mattresses" and before 1900 he partnered with Mr. William Kavanaugh. Today, Kavanaugh's is the largest furniture store in Western Massachusetts and has three sister stores with a fourth on the way. It is Springfield's oldest family owned business still in existence and one of the oldest operating furniture stores in the entire United States.

In an era where retailers often sacrifice quality service for quantity sold, Kavanaugh's has remained a testament to the beauty of the family business. In their establishment, quality service is a trait passed down through the generations. Mr. Jack Nelen, who became Kavanaugh's president in 1965 and is the grandson of the original founder, began making deliveries for the store when he was just a teenager. The success of a family business can be measured, in part, by the duration of its existence. Kavanaugh Furniture has survived and flourished through two world wars, the Great Depression, and several other fluctuations in the economy. They were also able to last during the recession of the early 90s even though furniture was considered a luxury by many. Perhaps more impressive has been Kavanaugh's ability to survive the local "big chain" competition, while located in an area not supported by mega-mall traffic. In this regard, the Nelen family business can be considered a huge success and a strong example for other family businesses.

Only 1 out of 30,000 retail stores makes it to be 100 years old, and Kavanaugh's has now reached its 125th year in the business. Not only has Kavanaugh's created lasting personal success for its owners and employees, it has been an enormous asset to the community and neighborhood as well. Its list of civil activities and commitments includes being a catalyst for and taking part in fund raisers for The Children's Miracle Network, Shriners' Hospital, the Red Cross, and the United Way. Kavanaugh's once even held a free picnic for over 2,500 city kids.

The Kavanaugh Furniture store is an anchor for the community. It has taken care of its customers and has been rewarded with 125 years of business. I wish the Nelen family and all of the folks at Kavanaugh's success in continuing a great tradition of excellent service to their customers and the community at large as they embark on the 21st century and another 125 years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 120: DISAPPROVING THE EXTENSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S WAIVER OF JACKSON-VANIK CRITERIA FOR VIETNAM

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a Joint Resolution, co-sponsored by my good friends, BEN GILMAN, Chairman of the International Relations Committee and CHRIS SMITH, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, in partnership with Senator BOB SMITH and Senator JESSE HELMS, to require Vietnam to provide freedom of emigration for its people, under the provisions of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, before tax dollars from American citizens are used to insure or otherwise further trade with the communist regime in Vietnam.

Vietnam remains among the world's last Marxist-Leninist governments, where corrupt cronyism and an absence of credible courts have driven away foreign investors. The freedoms of speech, religion and assembly are denied to average citizens, as well as the freedom of emigration. As a result, Vietnam's economy is lagging, investor disenchantment is growing and, despite continued arrest and persecution of dissidents and religious leaders, protest movements have taken root in northern and southern provinces. It is both unconscionable and unsound for President Clinton to issue waivers in order to permit U.S. financing guarantees and credits to investors through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank.

In addition to H.J. Res. 120, I have also introduced H.R. 3158 to prevent the President from granting waivers for Ex-Im and OPIC credits and financing guarantees in the absence of true democratic reform, release of all political prisoners, humane working conditions, as well as the Jackson-Vanik emigration criteria.

A critical lesson we should learn from the economic collapse of the so-called "Asian Tigers" such as Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand is that the U.S. Government should not put tax dollars at risk to subsidize unsound private business deals with corrupt regimes. The Heritage Foundation's *1998 Index of Economic Freedom* ranks Vietnam among the six worst economic environments in the world. It would be appalling to make American taxpayers guarantee private business investments before real democratic political reform is in place. We should stand with the people of Vietnam who crave for freedom, and abide firmly by America's principles and laws to require the despotic regime in Hanoi to respect international standards of human rights and labor before giving the Vietnamese regime the benefit of our taxpayer-backed institutions.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW JERSEY NETWORK'S IMAGES/IMAGENES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Jersey Network's Images/