

Ted Shackley denies Contra, drug link

The following letter addressed to Criton Zoakos, editor-in-chief, was received by Executive Intelligence Review from the Washington, D.C. law firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge.

January 30, 1987

Dear Mr. Zoakos:

I wish to call your attention to a significant error in fact on page 65 of your January 16, 1987 issue in an article titled "Irrigate Gambits Wrecking Mossad's Fifth Column." The author of this article is Webster G. Tarply [sic]. The article

states: "One witness has seen bags of cocaine loaded on board a plane owned by Ted Shackley's Southern Air Transport on a Colombian airstrip, and the plane turned out to be the same one shot down in Nicaragua on Oct. 5 with Eugene Hasenfus among the crew." This statement is factually wrong and libelous.

Our client, Mr. Shackley, has asked me to advise you that he does not own nor has he ever held any stock or other ownership interest in Southern Air Transport. Mr. Shackley has not been involved in Contra matters either as a fundraiser or supplier of material of any kind and has not been involved in any transaction relating to illegal drugs. It is a disservice, therefore, to my client to publish such material.

Please note this is not the first instance of such erroneous data appearing in your publication. The January 9, 1987 edition of *EIR* on page 61 says "Southern Air Transport (SAT) a company with former CIA connections and possibly partly owned by former CIA official Theodore G. Shackley."

I ask you to correct these errors in your next publication so that further action on our part will not be necessary.

Sincerely,
(signed)
Jack McKay

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