

Hashish oil ring smashed

By John Harris
Herald Examiner staff writer

A major international drug trafficking operation involving smuggled Pakistani hashish oil has been broken by a combined force of Orange County and federal officers, it was reported yesterday.

The operation was in the "multimillion-dollar class," a law enforcement official said. He declined to be more specific, but said the operation was "one of the biggest ever discovered in this area."

Eleven men, 10 of whom are or have been members of the Hare Krishna church, were named in a indictment charging violations of federal laws pertaining to narcotics trafficking and income-tax offenses.

Although the indictment did not include any reference to the Hare Krishna church, 10 of the 11 were identified by both their given and adopted Krishna names. A spokesman for the Hare Krishna sect in Los Angeles said that some of the men were former members of the church, but that they were "only peripheral members of the congregation" and were not presently involved in any way. The spokesman said their members are prohibited from using any intoxicants.

The U.S. attorney charged that defendants in the indictment smuggled hashish oil — a resin of the marijuana plant — into the United States from Pakistan in the linings of typewriter cases while posing as businessmen.

The hashish oil was obtained from a prearranged supplier, the charges said, who delivered the oil only on presentation of a photograph of one of the defendants.

The defendants named, along with their aliases, were:

Joseph Shelton Davis, 30, "Dritavrata"; Roy Christopher Richard, 30, "Rsavdeva Das"; Joseph Gabriel Fedorowski, 28, "Gupta Das"; Dean Allan Greenberg, 28, "Shrinjaya"; Robert Leonard Carreras, 36, "Ugadarma"; Patrick William Kenealy, 30, "Uddhavar-eta"; Lawrence Dana Montgomery, 30, "Somvatsara"; Douglas Hart Snyder, 26, "Dumrakesa"; Gary Gene Roberts, 29, "Gopta"; Jack Carreras, 32, "Janaka Rsi"; and Robert Shea, 40.

Davis, convicted last year in an Orange County kidnapping case, was arraigned yesterday and is being held on \$300,000 bail.

Held on \$50,000 bail each were Kenealy and Snyder. Authorities said yesterday the other eight had not yet been arrested.