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### Headline News

#### Fake US dollars seized by :AP, Jose Aravilla 3/10/00

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested two men carrying \$2.3 billion in fake US federal reserve notes, NBI Director Federico Opinion said yesterday.

**Bac**

The suspects identified as Rafael Poblete, a businessman, and Manuel Maga, an engineer, were arrested by NBI agents Wednesday.

According to an informer, Poblete and Maga were to trade the notes with other members of a counterfeit syndicate, but only the two men showed up at a bakeshop in Makati, Opinion said.

Poblete denied involvement in the syndicate and said the notes belonged to a Japanese business client who left them with him during a previous meeting.

Opinion said US Secret Service officers at the US Embassy confirmed the notes were fake. He gave no other details of the arrest.

The two men will be charged with forgery.

In January, police and central bank agents arrested three Filipinos and seized more than \$60 billion in fake US bills, treasury notes and bonds in raids in Cagayan de Oro.

Police said the certificates, notes and bills were of good quality but were found to be fake by central bank experts. The fake certificates and bills were apparently being smuggled out of the southern Philippines for sale in undetermined foreign countries, he said.

A month earlier, police and US Secret Service agents seized more than \$50 billion in fake US dollars and treasury notes in a raid in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.



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### Opinion

## Is it true the scandal in fake dollars and Fed notes has soared \$300billion?

2/14/00



by Max Sollven

That scandal involving the seizure of counterfeit US dollars, Federal Reserve notes, treasury certificates, Liberty bonds and bullion certificates seized in Mindanao has reportedly escalated to amount to almost US\$300 billion. If that's true, it will be a black mark on the Philippines and possibly lead to the US Federal Reserve Board demonetizing certain "notes" later in the year to prevent some big syndicate from flooding the marketplace with such fake bills and certificates.

Bac

The latest seizures took place last January 25 on the strength of a search warrant issued by the Hon. Editho Lucagbo, Executive Judge of Branch 43, Regional Trial Court, 10th Judicial Region, in Gingoog City.

It was a large haul, indeed, that was recovered at about 3 p.m. when police agents and representatives of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) intercepted a red Safari van (license plate ADC-711) which was parked in front of a residence along Cabilto Extension in Gingoog.

What's interesting is that it seems the judges in Gingoog City became so "worried," they raffled off the cases to several courts.

One informant intimated that any judge handed such a "hot potato" might end up like the late Cebu Judge Martin Ocampo. What does this mean? It's still a widespread belief in the Visayas and Mindanao that, contrary to the official report, the unfortunate Judge Ocampo didn't really commit suicide in the room in which he was found in the Mactan Airport "Waterfront" Hotel, but was allegedly done in by a hired gun from a syndicate boss in Cebu.

Who can blame prosecutors, judges, and investigators for growing anxious and antsy when such an immense amount of counterfeit bills can only be handled by a powerful syndicate which boasts not merely domestic but international ties?

Government agents have just compiled a top secret report which points to several places in which the operation was being conducted outside of Gingoog, such as Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon and Zamboanga.

There's much "pressure" reputedly being put on the Gingoog and other Mindanao cases from "upstairs", but nobody's talking. That's how grave the situation is.

\* \* \*

The Gingoog "bust" discovered three pieces of Federal reserve certificates amounting to -- would you believe? -- US \$100 million *each*; 10 pieces of Federal Reserve notes amounting to \$100 million each; one bullion certificate amounting to \$500 million; one treasury certificate amounting to \$100 million; one Liberty bond insurance certificate amounting to \$500 million; another treasury certificate amounting to \$500 million; a *Banco Sentral de l'Argentina* certificate of P500,000 (equivalent to US\$500,000); sundry dollar bonds, US bonds, and certificates of deposit in varying amounts, etc.

After the suspects, the driver of the red Safari and the owner of the house were arrested and charged, there was a determined effort to secure bail and a motion to quash the information and warrant of arrest on the ground that the search warrant had allegedly been "illegal." Lawyers from Manila have been "coming and going" to monitor the cases.

American intelligence agents, naturally, are also in play in the investigation of this racket which is not seen to be confined to Mindanao, since the printers and machinists are not local people -- but their names can't be revealed as yet. And what about the suspicion that security paper and watermarked paper identical to those huge stacks of paper consumed in the two recent fires at the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* mint and vault in Quezon City were utilized in the counterfeiting caper? Samples are already being checked in laboratories abroad.

The whole scenario reads like one of those international crime thrillers, but there's only one ending which can already be glimpsed -- whatever the outcome, our government can only be embarrassed by the fall-out.

The police operatives and BSP agents involved can only be commended. However, as the case widens, more than low-level agents and cops will have to be fielded by

low-level agents and cops will have to be fielded by Malacañang. Otherwise, the agents "on the ground" down south won't be able to cope.

\* \* \*

Saturday, 6 November 1999

## **Fake US notes seized; 8 arrested**

By JERRY T. UY

**Agents of the United States Secret Service and the Cagayan de Oro City police arrested the alleged ring leader and seven members of an international counterfeit syndicate identified as the Cabillar Group.**

This group is allegedly responsible for the manufacture of counterfeit US federal reserve notes amounting to more than \$222 billion and \$155 million worth of US treasury bonds which were found in their possession at Talisay Beach, sitio Punta, barangay Bonbon, this city yesterday.

According to Supt. Cesar Quano, Jr., Cagayan de Oro City police director, the ring leader was identified as Elmer Cabillar, 40, businessman, while its members are: Nelson Nueva, 36, businessman and former owner of Nueva Tracking; Rustico Cabillar, 43; Noli Tejera, 24, a media practitioner; a certain Perez, 28; Reygen Roca, 17 and Andres Roca, 34.

Confiscated from their possession were 500 pieces of Liberty bonds, 1,457 pieces of US federal reserve notes, two pieces Federal Reserve Certificates, 10 pieces US treasury Certificates, two pieces of genuine P1,000 bills, two pieces of counterfeit dollars, 513 pieces of defaced genuine P10 bills, 3 pieces of Yugoslavian Insurance Certificates, 84 pieces of Argentine money, one piece of Imperial Government of Japan Insurance Certificate, five pieces of Yugoslavian Certificate of Deposit, one .38 caliber Squires Bingham revolver, one .38 caliber Colt revolver, one Smith and Wesson revolver, and computer sets with scanner.

The US Secret Service agents, in coordination with the Cagayan de Oro City police led by Quano, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Investigation Staff and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency led by Regional Director Manuel Gabut, swooped down on the hideout of the syndicate with a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Maximo Paderanga of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Misamis Oriental, 10th Judicial Region, Cagayan de Oro City.

In a report submitted by Quano to the regional office, it was disclosed that the ring leader was spotted yesterday noon upon arriving from Davao City on board a newly purchased L-300 and was proceeding to his main hideout at Talisay Beach when the raiding party pounced on him.

A agent said the syndicate was responsible for the manufacture of hundreds of fake treasury notes.

The victims who found out that the papers were worthless complained to the US embassy and this triggered the operation in the Philippines.

Thursday, 9 November 2000

## **\$84-B fake US notes, gold bars seized; 6 arrested**

By RICO C. NAVARRO

**Two hundred eighty-seven pieces of counterfeit United States federal reserve notes with a face value of over \$84 billion were seized by a special task force of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Monday in Makati City, Interior and Local Government Secretary Alfredo Lim said yesterday.**

Aside from the fake US notes, Lim said the DILG special task force also confiscated two fake gold bars priced at P1.3 million and arrested six suspected members of a syndicate engaged in the sale of bogus US dollars and gold bars.

Lim said the seizure could be considered the biggest haul in Southeast Asia in recent years.

In a press briefing, DILG special task force chief, Senior Supt. Carlos Baltazar, identified the suspects as Cresencio Roxas, 48, of San Fernando, Pampanga; Adelino Ortiz, 38, of General Santos City; Ernesto Villanueva, 39, of Balibago, Angeles City; Jesus Lacson, 36, of San Fernando, Pampanga; Edward Diaz, 36, of Sta. Maria, Bulacan; and Basi Estomato, 24, of Intramuros, Manila.

The syndicate was discovered after Marciana Lao complained to DILG Undersecretary Rafaelito Garayblas that the group had gypped her of \$53,000.

Garayblas immediately referred the case to Baltazar, who formed a seven-man team composed of Chief Insp. Nelson Yabut, team leader; SPO3 Danilo Salonga, SPO2 Adolfo de Ramos, SPO1 Juanito Singson, SPO1 Roberto Mangune, PO3 Renato Gregorio, and PO1 Angelo Nicolas, to arrest the suspects.

The six suspect were arrested in an entrapment on Nov. 6 evening inside the Little Caesar's Pizza house in Pasong Tamo, Makati.

The special task force also confiscated three pieces of facsimile microfilms of Federal bonds and notes wrapped in a paper.

Baltazar said the syndicate has victimized a number of persons and corporations, including Citybank, Philtecs Metals, M.P. Montano Trading Corp., Infratech Management Corporation, a Taiwanese senator, and former DILG official Nora Petines who was defrauded of P250,000.

He said the confiscated counterfeit Federal notes, bonds, and gold bars were submitted to the Central Bank for evaluation.

The suspects will be charged with forging treasury notes and illegal possession and use of false treasury notes and other instruments of credit.

Thursday, 23 December 1999

## **Fake dollars, bonds seized**

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - A team of Filipino and American Secret Service lawmen and agents of the Philippine National Police(PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) confiscated many fake US dollar bills, US treasury bond certificates, and Japanese liberty bonds in a raid last Tuesday on a house in Malaybalay City in Bukidnon.**

CIDG Region 10 chief, Supt. Henry F. Tomas, said in a report to Chief Supt. Lucas Managuelod, CIDG director at Camp Crame, Quezon City, that the agents rmed with two dearch warrants, raided a house in Lot 5, Block II, Grema Subdivision, Malaybalay City, and nabbed its occupant, Jacobo Colegio, at dawn last Tuesday.

Tomas said \$193, 263 in fake US dollars in various denominations, P49,227,158,150 worth of fake US treasury bonds, and fake Japanese bonds worth 2,700,000,000 yen were confiscated from Colegio.

Tomas, who supervised the raid, also seized from Colegio severl guns, bullets, a holster, and magazine, along with 25 negative films, 25 plastic bottles of textile ink of different colors, and a silk screen.

Tomas said the suspect was charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition last Tuesday and is detained at the Malaybalay City Hall.

Tomas said other charges for violation of Article No. 166 of the Revised Penal Code in connection with the seizure of counterfeit US dollars, treasury bond certificates, and Japanese liberty bonds, were already filed against the suspect in court. (Gerry Daomilas)