

Bahamian smuggling suspect extradited

Lawyer flown in to Ft. Lauderdale

Associated Press

A Bahamian lawyer who allegedly helped to smuggle millions of dollars of Colombian cocaine into South Florida was extradited to the United States today through Fort Lauderdale, authorities said.

Frederick Nigel Bowe, 53, was taken from Fox Hill Prison in Nassau, Bahamas, amid tight government security and transported to Paradise Island Airport. He was put aboard Merv Griffin's Paradise Island Airways flight 708 to Fort Lauderdale Monday evening.

Robert Pastula, duty supervisor for the U.S. Marshal's Service in Miami, said Monday night that Bowe was being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in South Dade.

Bowe's extradition marked the end of seven years of legal wrangling set off by his indictment in 1985 in Miami on federal drug charges. Bowe was listed in 13 counts of conspiracy to import cocaine and distribution of cocaine from 1982 to 1985.

If convicted on all counts, Bowe could face up to life in prison and fines of up to \$1 million.

Bahamian officials, who asked not to be identified, said Bowe was taken from the prison, where he had been held since surrendering to authorities July 22. Bowe gave himself up after The Privy Council in London refused his appeal of an earlier Bahamian order permitting his extradition

PLEASE SEE BOWE, 3B

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BOWE, FROM 1B

to the United States.

The Bahamas, which became independent of Britain in 1973, remains a member of the British Commonwealth. The Privy Council remains the highest court of appeal for all commonwealth member states.

Bowe was indicted on Sept. 18, 1985, along with Colombian nationals Jose A. Cabrera Sarmiento, Severo Escobar and Alberto Aquedelo-Rodriguez.

The four were charged with conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States and distribution of cocaine in Colombia

Frederick Nigel Bowe, 53, was indicted in 1985 in Miami on federal drug charges.

and the Bahamas for importation into the United States as part of a criminal enterprise, according to the indictment.

Before he was killed in New Orleans by Colombian hit men, drug pilot Barry Seal testified that drug smugglers had to pay Bowe if they wanted to operate in the Bahamas.

"If you want to do anything down there in the Bahamas," Seal testified, "you've got to go through Nigel . . . he's the man."

U.S. authorities charge that Bowe, a confidant of Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling, acted as a bagman for Bahamian police. Those police officials, in turn, allegedly permitted drug traffickers to transship cocaine from Colombia and on to Florida through airstrips on isolated Bahamian islands such as Noman's Key and Great Exuma Island.

The U.S. Attorney's Office also claimed that Bowe accepted a \$1 million payment for his role in smuggling operations.