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ine's Beach —
artist Ed Gray,
on page 21.

Commission did receive drug trafficking report, confirms lawyer Hector

'I saw it going into the chairman's briefcase'

AN adviser at last year's Serious Crimes Commission Inquiry stepped forward last night to acknowledge receiving a controversial submission about a police investigation into a major drug-trafficking case.

The report subsequently went missing and both the chairman of the Commission and Government House — which maintains overall responsibility for Bermuda's internal security — denied knowledge of the submission.

Counsel for the Serious Crimes Commission Inquiry, lawyer Richard Hector, QC, said last night he saw the submission from a former senior police officer "going into the (Commission) chairman's briefcase."

The submission detailed the collapse of a 1990s Bermuda police investigation into an international money-laundering and drug-trafficking ring operating out of the island.

The case involved drug trafficking, the laundering of drugs proceeds, a local lawyer, several local and international companies and US death row inmates Marcus Cohab and Hugo Mata, members of an American drug cartel that smuggled narcotics into Bermuda aboard cruise ships.

Cohab and Mata were convicted of drug-related killings. Local authorities were working in conjunction with the American Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in

Manhattan, Interpol and a number of other law enforcement agencies to break up the ring.

The retired police officer alleges that his report into the 1990s investigation — which failed to result in any local prosecutions — may have been brushed under the carpet because last year Bermuda was battling to keep its name off several international money-laundering blacklists.

"I certainly don't deny having seen the submission," said Mr. Hector. "While I was counsel to the Commission on serious crimes I received a number of submissions including one from a former senior police officer."

"It was addressed to the chairman of the Crimes Commission. If it had been addressed to me, I would have acknowledged its receipt. I gave that letter to the chairman, Stanley Moore."

"When I gave it to him it was in the presence and hearing of the other two members, local lawyer Shirley Simons and United Kingdom crime expert Don Donovan. My recollection is the chairman said after having read it, he would pass it on to Governor Thorold Masfield."

But when the *Mid-Ocean News* spoke with Justice Stanley Moore in the Bahamas on Wednesday he had no recollection of the submission.

"That name doesn't ring a bell," he said. "This was over a year ago. We received hundreds of submissions. We made reference to all of these. To suggest that we would suppress a report, that would be rubbish."

Justice Moore said the commission strove to be open



Commission counsel Richard Hector, "I certainly don't deny having seen the submission"

EXCLUSIVE

by Jessie Moniz

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Sir John raps parties for a lack of vision

by PATRICIA CALNAN



