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24Jun89 CUBA: MILITARY COURT WILL REVIEW CASE OF ACCUSED CUBAN GENERAL.

By **Liam Martin**

HAVANA, June 24, *Reuter* - A high-level military court will meet on Sunday to recommend charges in the case of General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, who is accused of corruption and involvement in drug trafficking, a Cuban official said on Saturday.

The Cuban government also announced its forces will shoot down any planes that fly over its territory illegally and refuse orders to land in a bid to stop overflights by drug traffickers.

A court to be made up of "the highest hierarchy of our Revolutionary Armed Forces," will recommend "the next steps to be taken in view of the seriousness of the charges against General Ochoa," the official newspaper *Granma* said.

The front-page article carried the name of all fifty officers to attend the session, including 45 generals and two admirals.

A Cuban official who requested anonymity later told *Reuters* the court will recommend the official charges to be brought against the general and whether he should be tried before a military or civilian court.

Ochoa, a hero of the Cuban revolution, was detained earlier this month along with six accomplices on corruption charges. The government later disclosed alleged links between the group and Colombia's notorious Medellin Cartel drug trafficking ring.

The revelations, made by the Cuban government itself, have been highly embarrassing to Cuban President Fidel Castro, who has consistently denied charges that Cuban officials have been involved in drug trafficking.

Granma gave details on Thursday of a series of cocaine smuggling deals it said had involved Ochoa and his accomplices.

Sources close to his family have quoted Ochoa's daughter Yanina as saying he might be executed by firing squad.

A Cuban Defence Ministry statement published in *Granma* on Saturday said: "On many occasions, private planes violate Cuban air space and refuse to land even after repeated warnings.

"Such irregular flights and the subsequent conduct of the law breakers can only be linked to drug trafficking activities."

"...We will be forced to fire, as disagreeable as it might be, against any plane that incurs in that type of violation and refuses to obey the order to land and be inspected," the statement said.

Cuba has three air corridors over which foreign planes are permitted to fly after approval by Cuban authorities.

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