December 9, 1994

To: P. Holloway  
From: Michael Finneran  
Thru: A.G. Price  
Subject: 757 contraband

Public Affairs received an inquiry from the Daily Press late on Friday, December 9. The reporter, Mark DiVincenzo, said his photographer had heard during the 757 unveiling that cocaine had been found on it, and was it true?

If it was true they would possible print a small story. If it wasn’t true they might still print a “rumor” piece in Radar, according to DiVincenzo.

Public Affairs faxed the Daily Press a small story (attached) that appeared in the Greenville, S.C., paper in March. We filled in additional detail about where the contraband was found, and added that NASA did not own the plane at the time.

The Daily Press reporter responded that it didn’t appear to be big news because it was old and had already been printed in another paper. It appears the Daily Press will low-key whatever they print.

Public Affairs is handling the issue in order to minimize it. However, if the Daily Press wishes to speak to someone else, Harry Verstynen is the first choice and J. Creedon the second. Both are aware of the inquiry.

We will monitor the Daily Press over the next several days.

Michael Finneran / 48150

cc: L. Beach, S. Pauls, J. Creedon, K. Hessenius, H. Verstynen, J. Becker-Welts
Cocaine found on jet

Employees of Lockheed Aeronautical Center in Greenville found five kilos, or more than 10 pounds, of cocaine concealed in an airplane on Friday, Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Sam Simmons said.

The Eastern Airlines plane arrived Wednesday from Las Vegas and is being refitted and overhauled to prepare it for sale, Simmons said.

The plane has been parked for three years and Simmons said it is likely the drugs have been concealed since the airline went bankrupt.

"We don't think they were trying to smuggle it to Lockheed," he said. "It's more likely that whoever was smuggling the drugs was interrupted when the airline went bankrupt and the plane got sidelined by the bankruptcy."

No arrests have been made and the incident is still under investigation, Simmons said.