

## 2 Are Convicted in Weapons case

By Thomas M. Burton

Former Devon businessman Bradley F. Bryant and a co-defendant were convicted on firearms charges last night in Philadelphia federal court. Bryant and his co-defendant, Rodger D. Barnard, were convicted on two counts each of possession of an unregistered silencer and could face up to 10 years in federal prison. Both now live in Kentucky. Law-enforcement sources said that the U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia plan to seek the men's cooperation in a continuing investigation into gun running, drug-smuggling, bankruptcy fraud, theft of military hardware and other crimes in which Bryant or his associates are alleged to play a role .

Bryant and Barnard's cooperation or track of cooperation with the government can figure in their sentencing according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Wehner, who along with Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Welsh prosecuted the case. Wehner termed the conviction "very satisfying." T

This was the first conviction for both men who acquitted on charges related to possession of anti-aircraft weapons and machine guns in Lexington, KY last year. The pair surfaced, along with Bryant's cousin, Larry earl Bryant, when they were arrested by Philadelphia police on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 080 at the Sheraton Airport Inn with a cache of semi-automatic weapons, the sophisticated silencer, daggers, ski masks and variety of documents- such as one entitled "Top-secret Radio Frequencies of the United States Government"

Larry Bryant was acquitted of a charge of possession of a silencer in Philadelphia last year. At his trial, A. Charles Peruto Jr., his lawyer referred to the confiscated weapons as an "assassination kit". Law-enforcement sources believe Bradley Bryant is involved in gun-running and that an associate of his in Kentucky manufactures automatic weapons. Several law-enforcement officials say they believe the men are involved in international espionage, but they are perplexed about the details. They hope last night's conviction will lead to more information.

The Bulletin published articles in December reporting that federal sources name Bryant as a high rank associate in a major group of gun-running and drug-smuggling mercenaries known to its members as "the Company."