

Accused drug ringleader indicted

Ralph (Plukey) Duke, 20 others named by grand jury

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Accused Twin Cities drug ringleader Ralph (Plukey) Duke and 20 others have been indicted by a federal grand jury for dozens of drug-related charges, including the charge that they participated in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

The indictment was unsealed Wednesday in St. Paul after authorities arrested several of the suspects named in the indictment.

Duke and five other people had been arrested May 17 after police said they tried to buy 20 kilos of cocaine worth \$140,000 from undercover agents.

The U.S. attorney's office describes Duke as the organizer of one of the

most extensive drug operations in Minnesota. His arrest was the culmination of an investigation involving 14 law-enforcement agencies, they said.

U.S. Attorney Jerry Arnold said in a prepared statement that yesterday's indictment was one of Minnesota's largest drug arrests. He said the organization included a network of drug wholesalers and drug dealers that operated in Minnesota, Iowa, California and Texas. Arnold said the arrests have immobilized "a group that was responsible for multiple kilos of cocaine on the street."

Duke, 44, has been charged with organizing and operating a "continual criminal enterprise," a charge that carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison. He also was

charged on 12 other counts, including possession of firearms. An Uzi semiautomatic gun and silencer were seized by authorities in May, and Duke was charged with several counts of using a firearm during a drug felony.

Two of the alleged conspirators were indicted for traveling from Minnesota to Los Angeles with the intent of distributing thousands of dollars derived from drug sales.

Ralph LaMont Nunn, 19, was charged with one count of racketeering travel for flying from Minnesota to California carrying \$22,000. Nunn, who is Duke's son, also was charged on three other counts related to distributing cocaine. He has been detained without bail.

Doris Jean Admon, 41, was charged with racketeering travel for flying from Minneapolis to Los Angeles with \$35,403 in cash. Admon had not been arrested as of yesterday afternoon, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Raymon Michael Hutchinson, also known as Ramon Jamal Hutchinson, 21, was indicted on charges of shipping a package containing \$79,000 in cash to California in March 1989. Hutchinson, also charged on two other drug-related counts, is in federal custody.

Arnold said the investigation is continuing and that evidence involving other suspects is expected to be presented to a grand jury.

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Others named in the indictment for drug-related and other charges are Loren Eugene Duke, 23, who was released on bond yesterday after being charged with three counts of drug-related offenses; Larry Africanus Hutchinson, 18, who has been charged with three counts and was released; Anthony David Turner, 20, released yesterday after being charged with two counts of drug-related offenses;

Serena Denise Nunn, 20, who was detained after being charged with three counts, including possession of cocaine for distribution; Kim Allen Willis, 19, who had not been arrested yesterday afternoon and has been indicted with two counts; Shawn Quinton Regan, 21, charged with five counts and released;

April Victoria Willis, 19, who had not been arrested and was indicted for two counts; Theryl Marcel Dugas, 19, charged with two counts and now in jail on state charges; Walter Leslie Hughes, 43, charged with 10 counts, including use of a firearm during a

drug felony and released; Sandra Faye Jefferson, 22, detained after being charged with one count of cocaine conspiracy;

Joseph Aaron Ballard, 23, who has been charged with three counts and released; Sterling Warren Duke, 62, charged with one count of cocaine conspiracy and released; Kevin Lynn Beal, 22, in custody after being charged with one count; Vicki Lou Hammer, 34, who has been indicted for one count but had not been arrested; David Edward Youman, 22, in custody after being charged on three counts;

Terry LaMont Shaw, 19, released after being charged with one count, and Dionne Nichole Barry, 19, released and charged with a count of cocaine conspiracy. Most of those indicted were from Minneapolis or St. Paul except for 43-year-old Hughes, a Maplewood resident. They are expected to enter their pleas in federal court today.