



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 17, 2006

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
HEATHER TASKER, BRIDGET KELLY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. CONVICTS REGGAE MUSIC CEO OF TRAFFICKING IN
ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF MARIJUANA**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that a federal jury convicted HORATIO HAMILTON, a/k/a "Tony Dumars," a/k/a "Desmond Hamilton," a/k/a "Romie Robertson," today of conspiring to traffic in over a ton of marijuana a week for approximately seven years. According to the trial evidence, HAMILTON is the President and C.E.O. of L.O.Y. ("Lords of Yard"), Inc., a production company specializing in reggae music, which participated in the production of "Chi-Chi Man," the hit song by the reggae group T.O.K. HAMILTON is also the creator and producer of Sashi, an annual three-day reggae concert event in Jamaica.

The evidence at trial revealed the HAMILTON and his co-conspirators were responsible for shipping over a ton of marijuana a week from California to the New York area, beginning in 1997, until HAMILTON's arrest in January 2005. In its special verdict, the jury rejected HAMILTON's argument that he withdrew from the marijuana-trafficking business after his arrest with nearly two tons of marijuana at Los Angeles International Airport in 1999. At that time, the evidence showed, HAMILTON jumped bail, adopted a new alias, and continued to operate his marijuana-trafficking business as his role in the reggae music world grew.

HAMILTON now faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and -- since he had previously been convicted of a narcotics-related felony -- HAMILTON faces a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty years in prison. HAMILTON is scheduled to be sentenced on April 24, 2006, at 4:00 p.m., by the Honorable Denny

Chin, United States District Judge.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts and cooperation of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELIZABETH CARPENTER and JACOB BUCHDAHL are in charge of the prosecution.

06-10

###