

Third suspect pleads guilty

By KEVIN CLAFFEY

A Worthington man admitted yesterday in U.S. District Court, Springfield, that he helped a South Hadley pilot smuggle cocaine from the Bahamas to Western Massachusetts.

Jeffrey Hartmann, 43, of Bashen Hill Road, pleaded guilty to charges that he conspired to import cocaine from August 1986 to January 1987 and that on Oct. 16, 1986, he helped import a kilogram or 2.2 pounds.

He faces maximum penalties of 60 years in prison and fines totaling \$2.25 million. Chief U.S. District Judge Frank H. Freedman set sentencing for July 26.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dina M. Chaitowitz said Hartmann had agreed to testify against two others charged in the case, the pilot, Robert Silvain, 43, and Wilson Cartwright of Freeport, the Bahamas, if an importation charge was dismissed and the prosecution did not recommend a sentence for Hartmann.

His testimony was not needed, however, because Silvain and

Cartwright pleaded guilty to charges against them and both were sentenced earlier this month. Silvain is to begin serving a four-year sentence on July 11 while Cartwright is serving a two-year sentence.

Chaitowitz said Hartmann flew to Florida and then the Bahamas with Silvain on Aug. 24, 1986, Oct. 16, 1986 and Jan. 18, 1987 to help import the cocaine. She said Hartmann admitted to an agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration that he received \$2,500 for the January trip.

After Silvain purchased the cocaine, Hartmann would fly back to Port St. Lucie Airport and position himself at the end of the runway. Silvain would fly over in a plane he owned and drop a duffle bag containing the cocaine.

Hartmann would take the cocaine to a motel room while the plane was inspected by U.S. Customs Service agents. Once cleared, Silvain and Hartmann would board the plane with the cocaine and return to Northampton Airport.