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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 14, 2002**

### **Yuma Agents Seize Marijuana and Vehicle in River Area** *Suspect vehicle catapults into river attempting to flee*

Border Patrol Agents from the Yuma Sector seized nearly 243 pounds of marijuana and a vehicle near the Colorado River yesterday afternoon. The marijuana was valued at \$194,160.00. The suspects attempted to flee from the agents, and drove their vehicle into the river.

At 2:40, agents patrolling near County 9<sup>th</sup> Street and the river observed a suspicious vehicle leaving the area. The agents followed the vehicle, a maroon Oldsmobile sedan, driving on County 9<sup>th</sup> towards Somerton Avenue. The suspect vehicle suddenly turned and bolted back towards the levee road and headed north in an attempt to flee from the agents. The vehicle turned west on County 7½ towards the river. When the vehicle reached the river, it headed west on a boat ramp and plunged into the river at a high rate of speed, landing about 30 yards from the shoreline. The two suspects exited the vehicle upon impact with the water and swam to the opposite shore, in Mexico. As the two suspects reached the shoreline, Mexican authorities promptly arrested them.

The first concern was the possibility of people remaining in the vehicle. The agents contacted divers from the Border Patrol and Yuma County Sheriff's Department to locate the vehicle in the river. The Border Patrol tow truck was also contacted. The divers found the vehicle upside down in 10-12 feet of water and the main compartment appeared empty. The vehicle was towed to shore where large bundles of marijuana were discovered in the trunk.

The marijuana and the vehicle were turned over to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation. The two suspects, believed to be U.S. Citizens, remained in Mexico while procedures to transfer their custody to U.S. authorities were underway.

**-USBP-**

For additional information contact Yuma Border Patrol Public Information Officer Michael McGlasson at (928) 782-9548.