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27 April 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 296

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BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED IN MYITKYINA--Myitkyina 24 March--Inspector U Hla Win and Sub-inspector U Soe Thein of the intelligence unit of Myitkyina Township people's police commander office, accompanied by ward councillors U Tin Myint and U Peter of Shwenyaungbin Ward as witnesses, searched the residence of Ma Khin Khin Win at No 1 Shwenyaungbin Ward at 1200 yesterday and seized 32 penicillin bottles of heroin in a plastic bag worth about 10,000 kyat. Charges have been filed at police station No 2 against Ma Khin Khin Win and her guest, Ma Yan Kun, alias Kyaung Yin Kun, under Sections 6 (B) and 10 (B) [of the narcotic drugs law]. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU HEZIN in Burmese 1 Apr 77 p 7 BK]

TWO HEROIN HAULS--Rangoon 1 April--Acting on a tip, members of the crime prevention unit of the Rangoon division people's police force searched a Mazda Familia car with license plate H-2115 in front of the cooperative barber shop on Latha Street this morning. They seized 5 grams of heroin in 15 packages worth 7,500 kyat from Aung Khin of Sunlungu Monastery Road. The police have taken action against Aung Khin and his companions--Maung Maung of Party Street, Mingala-u Ward, Taunggyi, and Pe Maung Thaik of Goodlife House, Yangin--under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B), and 11 [of the narcotic drugs law]. On the same morning, members of the crime prevention unit seized five packages of heroin worth 500 kyat each from Ma Khin Nyunt of Ward No 9, South Okkalapa Township, in front of Suhtoopan movie theater. Action has been taken by the police against her. [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 2 Apr 77 p 7 BK]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

HONG KONG RANKS THIRD IN ADDICTION

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Feb.77 p 6

[Text] Hong Kong rates third in the level of drug addiction in the region, behind Thailand and Malaysia, according to the Undersecretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Evan Luard.

Mr Luard stated that the number of drug addicts in Hong Kong is estimated at between 80,000 and 100,000, while statistics for Korea, Japan and the Philippines are not immediately available.

But he said that the estimates of addicts are 50,000 in Laos, 18,000 in Singapore and 12,000 (officially registered) in Burma.

Topping the list is Thailand with 500,000 addicts, followed by Malaysia with 150,000.

Replying to questions from a Labour Member of Parliament, Mr Frank Hooley, during a recent session of Parliament, Mr Luard said there is no evidence to suggest that the number of addicts in Hong Kong is increasing.

In fact, he said, there is encouraging evidence that the proportion of young people taking dangerous drugs has been decreasing.

"Thus, the proportion of inmates under the age of 21 in the Prisons Department's drug addiction treatment centres has dropped from 15 percent in 1969 to 9 percent in 1976, the proportion of male patients under the age of 19 admitted for voluntary treatment by the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts has declined from 13 percent in 1969 to 4 percent in 1976, and the number of persons under the age of 21 currently registered at Medical and Health Department's methadone maintenance and detoxification clinics represents only 2.5 percent of all those registered."

The Hong Kong Government, he said, is currently spending approximately \$27 million annually for the treatment of drug addicts.

Replying to another question by Mr Hooley, the Undersecretary for Home Affairs, Dr Shirley Summerskill, said that there is no evidence to suggest that any significant amount of heroin or other drugs specifically now came from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom.

"The bulk of the heroin circulating illicitly in the United Kingdom is believed to originate from Southeast Asia," she said.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUG FIGHT SHOWS HOPE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 25 Feb 77 p 6

[Text] The dwindling supply of dangerous drugs together with more methadone centres have reduced by half the number of addicts seeking treatment on Shek Kwu Chau in the past 2 years.

According to the work therapy officer of the centre, Mr Peter Wu, there are at present 292 patients being helped by the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts (SARDA).

There were 584 patients in October 1974 and 420 in October last year.

Mr Wu said the drastic reduction is the result of two main factors:

The successful operations by anti-drug agents, and

The establishment of methadone maintenance and detoxification centres in urban areas.

He also said that in line with developments in drug rehabilitation, the withdrawal period for patients in the centre has been reduced from 2 weeks to 3 days.

"The addict's problem is more mental than physical," he explained.

Therefore, he said, emphasis is placed on work therapy to keep addicts busy so they will not think of drugs.

"Out of the average 5 months an addict spends here, he is occupied by work--except for the first 3 days when he is kept in the hospital to kick the habit," Mr Wu said.

He also said there has been a change in the centre's policy--patients can leave anytime they want without completing the 5-month rehabilitation period.

"Most patients," he continued, "came voluntarily and if a patient wants to leave, we can only urge him against it.

"Our maximum penalty for a patient here is to expel him--but that has not happened in the past couple of years."

Mr Wu said that as the society has only "persuasive" powers, it can not stop the patients who leave the centre--about 60 percent of the total--without completing the 5-month period.

"And as high as 75 percent go back to drugs."

To counter this problem of quitting halfway, he said, it is considered necessary to inject a sense of "solemn responsibility" into the patient.

"Patients arriving next month may be required to attend a swearing-in ceremony that they are obligated to take the rehabilitation seriously.

"We hope it will lead them to take this place more seriously--not as a place where they can come and go as they like."

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS CHARGED

Officers, Salesman and Merchant in Drug Conspiracy

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 5 Mar 77 p 6

[Text] Two Preventive Service officers, a salesman and a merchant were yesterday remanded in custody for another week on a charge of conspiracy to traffic in \$180,000 worth of No 3 heroin.

Brought again before Mr Paul Corfe at Central Court were Tong Chi-ming (53), salesman; Pang Kam-chuen (35), assistant revenue officer; Yip Kwong-wai (37), revenue officer, and Lam Kam-yee (56), merchant.

They are jointly charged with conspiring with others in custody to traffic in dangerous drugs between 1 January and 23 February.

Tong and Pang are also charged with possessing a quantity of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking outside 419S Queen's Road West on 23 February.

Tong is further accused of possessing a quantity of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking on the same day.

Detective Senior Inspector Chow Keng-kan told Mr Corfe the Crown may ask to have the case tried in a higher court.

Officer and Salesman Pleaded Not Guilty

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Mar 77 p 8

[Text] A salesman and an assistant revenue officer yesterday pleaded not guilty in Victoria District Court to a charge of possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking.

The salesman, Tong Chi-ming (53), and Pang Kam-chuen (35), are charged with possessing 419.5 grams of a mixture containing 124.5 grams of salts of esters of morphine outside a building in Queen's Road West on 23 February.

Tong is further charged with possession of 965 grams of a mixture containing 314 grams of salts of esters of morphine.

Judge Collier set hearing for next Thursday. Both defendants were remanded in custody.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR INSISTS ON DRUGS TRIAL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Mar 77 p 7

[Excerpt] The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Ross Penlington, said in the High Court yesterday he would consider an application for an Order of Mandamus with the Court of Appeal if Mr Commissioner Collier put a further stay of proceedings against two men charged with possessing dangerous drugs worth \$2 million for unlawful trafficking.

Mr Penlington was seeking to remove the order imposed by the judge who refused an application by the Crown for a retrial after he discharged a jury trying the case in October last year.

It was the second time in a month that Mr Commissioner Collier discharged the jury trying three defendants Wong Sau-ling (50), housewife, Cheng Chong-ho (54), a printer and Cheung King-fu (45), unemployed, for possessing dangerous drugs, for unlawful trafficking, because the Crown prosecutor had mistakenly introduced matters which should not have been put before the jury at all.

The drugs in question were allegedly found in a flat in Ko Shan Road, Hunghom, on 11 February last year.

Wong's husband, Chow Chui-shing (52), had been sentenced to 12 years in jail by Mr Commissioner Collier after he pleaded guilty to the drug charge.

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HONG KONG

COMMISSIONER OF NARCOTICS COMMENTS ON DRUG PROBLEM

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Mar 77 pp 1, 24

[Article by Dinah Lee]

[Text] The international drug problem is worsening and drug fighters from all over the world are growing more concerned about ways of containing it.

This was stated yesterday by the Commissioner of Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, who attended the 27th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Geneva.

In an exclusive interview, Mr Lee said that in his address to the 30 member delegations, 30 observer delegations and 25 special agency representatives, he reported that Hong Kong heroin seizures last year were 8 percent lower than in 1975.

"This is because of the success of the traffickers in dealing in smaller quantities and stocking and distributing on a more diversified basis in order to minimise losses," he said.

During the 3-week long conference--without doubt the most important on the problem of narcotics to take place throughout the year--delegates came to the following conclusions about the world drug situation:

There is an alarming upward trend in the use of heroin.

There is widespread use of cannabis (marihuana) and a considerable increase in the number of offences.

There is an increase in the use of cocaine in the Americas and Europe.

There is an increase in the abuse of psychotropic substances such as amphetamines, sedatives and hypnotics.

There is continuing abuse of methaqualone and amphetamines, particularly among the young.

There is a common pattern of multi-drug abuse.

The use of traditional drugs (opium in Southeast Asia, cannabis in the Americas and Africa, and cocoa leaf in South America) persists.

In countries where opium has been traditionally used by the middle-aged and the old, the situation is being further complicated by the growing abuse of heroin by the young in urban areas, (e.g., Iran, where about 150,000 addicts receive government-grown opium, now suffers a destabilisation of the situation by the illegal importation of heroin and opium from Afghanistan for new addicts).

Mr Lee told the international body that last year Hong Kong law enforcement officers seized 162 kilograms of heroin.

He added that they seized 3,550 kilograms of opium and morphine, 230 kilograms of crude morphine, 11 clandestine processing laboratories, and 51 litres of acetic anhydride, now ruled illegal in Hong Kong.

He said that seizures of opium went up 900 percent over the previous year because of attempts to reestablish illegal traffic by Thai trawlers during May, June and July of last year.

"They tried to re-establish the route, but we believe that a large part of that traffic was seized by the police," said Mr Lee.

He said other major features to be noted include a change in the kinds of drugs being imported into Hong Kong.

"Before, the traffic was 50 percent opium and 50 percent heroin, but since the curtailment of the Thai trawler traffic there has been a switch over to 93 percent heroin."

Recently, he said, there was a significant increase in imports of prepared opium and heroin, and a decrease in the import of raw opium or morphine.

"Also, Thai heroin was at first not popular because of its bitter flavour. Because of police action, many Hong Kong chemists fled to Thailand and trained chemists there.

"The result has been an improvement in the quality of Thai-prepared heroin, judging by the increased number of seizures of high-grade No 3 Thai heroin last year."

He told the delegates that Hong Kong has girded itself for the possibility that heroin and opium traffickers, discouraged by the increased law enforcement vigilance, and addicts, feeling the pinch of increased prices, might turn to the two types of synthetic drugs, methaqualone and amphetamines.

In January this year, the illegal possession of these two types of synthetics became not only an offence under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (with a maximum penalty of 12 months in prison and a fine of \$10,000) but also an offence under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine up to \$5 million).

"We have the powers to deal with traffickers in these two types of synthetics in the same way we deal with heroin and opium traffickers," said Mr Lee yesterday.

"These are powers to be held in reserve," he emphasised.

But with the price of No 3 heroin at \$55,000 a kilogram, four times its price 2 years ago and twice its price in January last year, this switch is a possibility.

Mr Lee said that the UN Commission is watching the use of Scandinavia as a new international drug trafficking route, with recent arrests in Finland, Sweden and Norway.

"This has been evident particularly in the past 6 months," said the commissioner.

This new attempt is the result of well-publicised arrests in the Soviet Union earlier this year, he said.

"But we must emphasise that they are always on the lookout for new routes," he added.

Mr Lee said he has noted good cooperation from the Soviet Union on this matter, and noted that the chairman of this year's session in Switzerland was Russia's President of the Permanent Committee on Narcotic Drugs, Dr E. Babaian.

Cooperation has also increased among Southeast Asian countries and between Southeast Asia and the rest of the world, he said.

Mr Lee also reported that the Interpol representative to the conference reported an increase of seizure of No 3 and No 4 heroin in northern Thailand, indicating the setting up of laboratories closer to the poppy-growing areas.

The Europeans at the conference also reported an increase in the flow of drugs from Bangkok to Amsterdam, an increase in the number of seizures of amphetamines and stimulants and a decrease in the seizures of hallucinogens, indicating a possible demise of their popularity.

Mr Lee saw as "very important" a notice given by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) to Thailand that funds for their substitution crop programme would be reduced gradually starting from February next year.

This would mean if Thailand seriously wants to make use of research on crops that can be substituted for poppy in their 700 or so heroin-producing villages, they must find alternate sources of funding.

"Over the past 4 years they have been extremely successful in research on alternative crops," said Mr Lee.

"What they need now is the money to extend the lessons learnt during this pilot period to the hillside areas, to build main roads into the mountain areas and connecting feeder roads, to institute a major training programme for agriculture extension workers, to set up a viable marketing organisation for the resulting produce and to insure transport to the ports and marketing overseas," he said.

"This is a major task and it will need considerable international help. I hope they get that help. It will be very important in the context of stopping the flow of drugs to countries and territories, including Hong Kong, outside Thailand," Mr Lee said.

He said Hong Kong may offer a special training course lasting about 2 weeks for anti-narcotics officers from round the world in November this year, but plans have not yet been finalised.

"The UN agencies expressed their appreciation to Hong Kong for their use of our training facilities over the past few years," said Mr Lee.

This included Hong Kong's sharing with other governments the story of our successes and failures in rehabilitation, treatment and preventive education.

In addition, the U.S. Institute on Drug Abuse has decided to grant US\$100,000 (about HK\$500,000) to Hong Kong this year for further research in the use of acupuncture with electrical stimulus for the treatment of drug addiction.

"They are very interested in this research," he said.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER IS BELIEVED TO DEAL IN DRUGS

Police Seize Man From Amsterdam

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Mar 77 p 1

[Text] Police investigating a 1973 gang murder last night arrested a man at Kai Tak airport who had just returned from Amsterdam.

The man, was said to be a triad boss and early today he was still being questioned about the killing at a Causeway Bay apartment house.

The proprietor was hacked to death and five others were hurt.

The arrested man (40), a 426 "red pole" or fighter of the 14K triad society, fled to the Netherlands after the murder.

He is believed to have been operating a gambling and drug trafficking syndicate there with another 14K boss.

He was detained by the authorities in Amsterdam about 4 weeks ago, and was eventually put on a direct flight to Hong Kong.

About 20 other Hong Kong people, who had overstayed in Holland, were also on the plane.

After the apartment murder a youth, Leung Wing-sang, "surrendered" to the police. He was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death. The sentence was later commuted to 20 years' imprisonment.

But a commission of inquiry reported that he was given \$10,000 to plead guilty by police officers.

Two officers, Detective Station Sergeant Lau Cheong-wah and Detective Sergeant Yip Yin, were charged with conspiracy to prevent the course of justice and perjury.

Lau jumped bail but was sentenced to 7 years' jail in his absence.

Yip was sentenced to 4 years. He lodged an appeal against conviction this month.

Returnee From Amsterdam Charged With Murder

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 13 Mar 77 p 7

[Text] A 42-year-old unemployed man was yesterday charged before Mr C.K.E. Tung at Causeway Bay Court with the murder of a man in the Cactus Apartment House nearly 4 years ago.

Yick Chung, alias Yick Kaw, was arrested at Kai Tak Airport on Friday night immediately after he returned from Amsterdam.

He is accused of having murdered Lau Wa, alias Lau Wa-hing, at the Cactus Apartment House, Leighton Road, on 19 July 1973.

It is alleged that he committed the offence together with Leung Wang, alias Leung Wing-sang; Tang Chi-keung, alias Sam Tai, alias Tang Hoi-ying, alias Tang Sam-tai; Yip Kwok-wah, alias Ah Tung; Wong Yick-nin, alias Yick Chai; Law Ming-tak, alias Law Tak, Kwok Cheung, alias Hak Shun Fung; Chong Man, alias Chong Ming-man; Wong Hon-pong, alias Wong Hon-kuen, alias Ah Hon and other persons unknown.

He is also charged, together with Leung, Tang, Yip, Wong, Law, Kwok, Chong, Wong Hon-pong and other persons unknown, with unlawfully and maliciously wounding Lau Wa, Sin Kwai-tong, Cheung Noi, Mok Kwok-chuen, Ho Yu-ming and Ho Hoi with intent to do them grievous bodily harm.

Yick was remanded in jail custody until Friday, pending legal advice.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

HEROIN WORTH HK\$720,000 SEIZED

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 16 Mar 77 p 1

[Excerpts] Preventive Service officers yesterday seized 12 lbs of No 3 heroin worth \$720,000 found hidden in the boot of a car in Wong Tai Sin. A man was arrested.

It was the biggest seizure by the Preventive Service in recent months.

The heroin was found packed in half-ounce and five-ounce bags and was believed to be for distribution to drug peddlars in Kowloon, sources said.

Preventive Service officers believe the seizure could result in an increase in the street price of heroin. It is now about \$4,000 an ounce.

There are indications that the heroin had been imported recently from Thailand, sources said.

The arrest of the man resulted from information which the Preventive Service received about a week ago.

The informer, sources said, gave the number of a car and the description of the person who would be driving it in Hammer Hill Road near Fung Wong Sun Tsun at a particular time.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

NINE MEN CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Mar 77 p 6

[Text] A woman told a High Court judge and jury yesterday that her husband gave her \$100 to \$150 every time "white powder" was packaged in their home.

Chow Cheuk-wah was giving evidence in the trial of nine men who have denied a charge of conspiring to traffick in dangerous drugs.

The defendants are Ma Ding-ket (31), Ng Kwong-yan (25), Au Chi-keung (39), Chan Chiu-chung (39), Chung Kwok-hing (25), Choi Chi-kwong (27), Chow Kee-foo (30), Ching Shing (40) and Li Kin-wah (33).

Ng and Choi are further charged with possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking. Both deny the charge.

Another man, Chan Man-chiu (42), had at an earlier hearing, pleaded guilty to conspiring to traffic in dangerous drugs. Sentencing was deferred until the completion of the trial of the other defendants.

Chow's husband, Patrick Joseph Locke, had earlier told the court about renting his home in Nathan Road to several men to pack dangerous drugs.

Chow said that on 24 February last year her husband told her he wanted to let their flat to some people.

Later that day, Chan Man-chiu, Choi Chi-kwong, Ng Kwong-yan and two other men came to the flat.

"At that time, I knew they were going to do some packing. As it was the first time and as my husband felt I might not be able to get used to it, he told me to leave the flat.

"I went downstairs and stayed there for about an hour. When I returned, Chan Man-chiu's wife was also there.

"They were tidying up the place and I saw Chan's wife wrapping something up.

"They then left the premises separately," she said.

Chow said that later that day, her husband gave her \$100, saying that he got the money by letting out the place. He also told her the people were packing "white powder."

Since then, her home had been used 12 times to pack dangerous drugs and on each occasion her husband gave her \$100 to \$150.

Mr A. M. Niamatullah appears for the defence, on the instructions of the Director of Legal Aid.

Crown Counsel Andrew Hodge is for the prosecution. Hearing continues on Monday.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

DRUGS FOUND IN SAFE DEPOSIT BOX--Packets of dangerous drugs were found in a bank's safe deposit box following the arrest of a suspected drug manufacturer, the High Court was told yesterday. The suspect, Cheng Chung-kan (34), is being tried before Mr Justice Morley-John and a jury on charges of manufacturing dangerous drugs and possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking. According to the prosecution, Cheng was arrested in a flat in Sands Street, Western, when police raided it on 20 August last year. Police also found apparatus on the premises fit for manufacturing dangerous drugs and a key to a safe deposit box, registered in the name of Cheng's wife, at a bank in Kennedy Town. In the box were eight packets of morphine mixture worth about \$15,000. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 23 Feb 77 p 6]

ANOTHER PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICER ARRESTED--Another Preventive Service officer has been arrested by the police's Narcotics Bureau in connection with an investigation into a drug trafficking racket. An assistant revenue officer appeared in court on Friday charged with possessing \$180,000 worth of heroin for unlawful trafficking. A spokesman for the Narcotics Bureau declined to comment on the case yesterday. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Feb 77 p 7]

DRUG ARRESTS IN JANUARY--More than 5,300 raids on drug dens, vice and illegal gambling establishments were carried out by the police on both sides of the harbour last month, police reported yesterday. In the raids, 3,400 people were arrested for offences ranging from smoking or trafficking in dangerous drugs, keeping or aiding and abetting brothels to operating or gambling in illegal gambling establishments. On the narcotics front, police seized 667 grams of opium, 71 grams of heroin, 322 tablets of codeine phosphate, 9 methadone pills and 10 methaqualone tablets. A total of 1,885 operations--1,278 on the Island and 607 in Kowloon--led to the arrest of 612 people, charged with either smoking or trafficking in dangerous drugs. [Excerpts] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Feb 77 p 7]

HEROIN FOUND IN HELMET--A motorcyclist with a pound of suspected heroin concealed in his helmet and two pounds in a carrying case, was arrested early today in Des Voeux Road West following a long chase. [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 24 Feb 77 p 22]

JAPAN

BRIEFS

SMUGGLERS FROM HONG KONG--Tokyo, Mar 11. Three people from Hongkong have been arrested on charges of smuggling into Japan stimulant drugs worth 6.6 billion yen (about HK\$108 million), police said today. According to police, the three confessed that they had smuggled 16 kilograms of stimulant drugs into Japan in several trips since last September. Police suspect that the total amount brought into Japan by the three may reach 22 kilograms. They said that the three, two of whom are employed by an airline, arrived in Tokyo by plane on January 28, at which time customs officials alerted by the strange behaviour of one of the men found two kilograms of highly refined stimulant powder taped to his body and legs. Police set a watch on the other two and let them pass through customs. They were arrested the next day when they tried to leave Japan after allegedly selling some of the drugs to a man at a Tokyo hotel where they were staying. [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Mar 77 p 17]

CSO: 5300

DRUG TRAIL FROM DARRA, PAKISTAN

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Mar 77 p 13

[Article by Barry Shlachter in Darra]

[Text]

BEHIND Zar Mohammad Afridi's cramped gun shop, across a dry river bed and up a steep bank, lies a field of thriving but illegally cultivated poppy flowers from which opium-based narcotics are derived.

U.S. drug officials fear these narcotics may make their way from the dusty roads of Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal area to the broad avenues of New York City as soon as the main foreign source for U.S. addicts, Mexico, is disconnected.

Already, morphine sulphate tablets produced from the region's "haphim," or opium in the local dialect, have turned up in large quantities in West Europe.

"And despite improved international co-operation, (smuggling of the narcotic to Europe) continues unabated," according to sources in Interpol, the international police organisation.

What makes it so difficult to stem the flow is that the opium originates in rugged, isolated pockets near the Afghan border where the Pakistani Government has little or no control and where cultivation of opium, smuggling and firearms manufacture are the

inhabitants' traditional livelihoods.

The people of the tribal area are Pathans, the fiercely proud and independent descendants of warriors who long controlled the Khyber Pass, the historic passageway to Asia.

Never completely subdued, the Pathans today pay as little heed to Pakistani authorities as their forebears did to officials of the Imperial British Raj which struggled to pacify their desolate homeland in the 19th century.

Adding to the U.S. drug officials' disquiet, local producers have found it highly profitable to convert their opium into morphine sulphate which, odourless and pressed into small tablets, can be transported in much smaller bulk than raw opium.

Conversion of opium into morphine tablets has "ominous potential," Interpol sources said. "And the establishment of clandestine laboratories on the tribal territory poses a problem of severe dimension for the entire international effort to control the illegal traffic in narcotics."

U.S. drug enforcement administration officials, based in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad 110 miles from

here, believe the opiate derivative could catch on readily in the United States as the "number one alternative to heroin" if efforts to close down Mexico as a drug source are successful.

And they think these efforts will be. "We're here a little before the dam breaks," said one of the U.S. drug officials, a former detective with the Los Angeles Police Department. "The potential is certainly here."

America's estimated 450,000 addicts require an annual supply of two tons of heroin, of which some 80 per cent now comes from Mexico and the remainder from the so-called "golden triangle" in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, he said.

Pakistan presently produces enough opium — some 200 tons — to satisfy domestic illegal and legal demand and end up with a 20 to 30 tons surplus for "export."

Since July 1975, Government agents raided four clandestine laboratories, three of them in tribal areas. U.S. officials here said this showed Pakistan was making an honest effort to control illegal drug production.

"The Prime Minister is

personally concerned with the problem," said a Government spokesman in Islamabad.

If true, this is in spite of a potentially explosive political issue for Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose ruling party has made headway in Northwest Frontier province only in recent years, sources said.

But with exception, every Pathan interviewed in Darra and elsewhere declared nothing would stop them from growing opium or any other cash crop.

Zar Mohammad Afridi, adjusting his bandolier and shoulder holster containing a working replica of a .32-calibre Webley revolver manufactured in the neighbourhood, said: "We will certainly find some way to grow haphim."

The logical way, the 28-year-old Pathan added, was just to go further away from paved roads and into the hills.

A resident of Marian Zai, several miles from Darra and near the former U.S. Air Force communications base at Badber where U2 pilots stayed over between flights over the Soviet Union, said most farmers in the area grow opium for both sale to the Government — the legal

manner and to blackmarket dealers.

About half the crop goes to Government agents for roughly 150 rupees (HK\$77.5) a pound and the remaining half is sold on the blackmarket for twice the amount, he said. (Converted into morphine sulphate, it fetches HK\$25 to \$30 per 35 gram tablet in Copenhagen, U.S. drug officials said.)

On the same plot of land, "the money we make is as much as what we can get for growing sugar cane," the farmer said. "But haphim is much easier to transport to market."

A farmer in neighbouring Mattani said he has stopped growing opium because the price of wheat has gone up, but would return to cultivating poppies when the wheat price drops. "But just about everyone else grows it," he said. In his town, which is just outside the tribal area, he said Government agents take half the opium crop as a "tax" and the remaining share is paid for in cash.

"In the tribal area, though, the Government doesn't get any of the opium," he added. And U.S. officials fear that in one form or other, American addicts will.

— AP.

CSO: 5300

FAR EAST NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Feb 77 p 6

[Text]

International drug syndicates are increasingly using commercial "front" organisations in their smuggling activities.

This is one of several new drug smuggling trends confirmed at a recent conference of Far East region operational heads of the national narcotics law enforcement agencies in Manila.

The conference found that drug trafficking syndicates were becoming more elusive and harder to identify and penetrate.

The traffickers were constantly changing the routes used by heroin couriers travelling to Europe.

The drug fighters said the ultimate destinations in Europe were the same, but the couriers were changing their routes in order to pass through cities where control was more lax and passenger surveillance less strict.

Asian exporters and European illicit drug importers also were becoming harder to detect. Meeting places to discuss deals were frequently changed and generally held in "neutral territory."

The finer details were handled by local representatives who travelled within the region to complete arrangements with suppliers

and couriers.

A United Nations Economic and Social Council report which showed an increase in drug detection in Pacific islands suggested greater use was being made of this sub-region as a transit area for drugs bound for Australia and New Zealand.

Several Far East and Australasian narcotics experts reported an increase in the use of the postal services to smuggle drugs and a new technique involving airline and airport staff.

The drug parcels were hidden on aircraft by the ground crew. The air crew did not handle the drugs but acted as guardians to ensure safe delivery at the destination where ground crew would take the parcel off.

The use of private planes, fishing trawlers and small private vessels continued to concern the law enforcement agencies.

The conference agreed to circulate details of craft known or believed to be involved in drug trafficking.

The narcotics agencies also re-emphasised the need for meaningful enforcement relations at all levels between drug supplying and receiving countries.

Without such co-operation, drug traffickers would be encouraged and gains in the fight against them would be limited.

The conference, attended by representatives from Hongkong, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, confirmed that ethnic Chinese residents in Asian and European countries are playing a vital role in international drug running.

The smugglers also were becoming more sophisticated. There has been an increase in the amount of acetylated morphine being smuggled within the region. This enables the couriers to carry 20 per cent more potential heroin in the same space than before.

The drug fighters correspondingly underlined the need for stricter control over acetic anhydride and other acetylating chemicals that could be used in manufacturing heroin.

One of three recommendations passed unanimously by the meeting called on all governments that had not already done so to enact legislation to control acetylating substances.

The other motions called for continued and enhanced financial support for the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and requested that the Commission for Narcotic

Drugs allow observers from countries outside the region involved in combatting illicit drug traffic to participate in discussions.

Hongkong was represented at the meeting by the Narcotics Bureau head, Chief Superintendent Jack Johnston, and former Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr Peter Law, who presently is Counsellor for Hongkong Affairs at the British Embassy in Bangkok.

SRI LANKA

MEASURES TO STOP DRUG TOURISTS SUGGESTED

Colombo CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 16 Apr 77 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "Drug Trafficking"]

[Text] Police, narcotics, immigration and exchange control authorities have shown equal concern about the activities of certain types of foreigners who come here mainly in the guise of simple-living, plainly garbed tourists in search of a cheap holiday. They are no different from the many young persons who come here to sun and sea bathe, are not affluent tourists, stay in the cheaper guest houses, don local attire of an exotic flavour and wander about barefoot eating pineapples. Despite what their compatriots may think of them, many of these are harmless travellers hitch-hiking their way through many countries. But not everybody. The police and the narcotics authorities have found that some of these persons are carriers of hard drugs such as cocaine, hashish, opium and LSD. During this year 16 such persons have been caught, fined and deported.

As it is, Interpol has good reason to believe that Colombo is one point on the drug run and the cooperation of the police and the narcotics authorities has been sought to keep a tab on carriers and their method of operation. We do not know whether these are couriers for the big rings, but the police and the narcotics authorities have found that the drugs are sold on the local market both to foreigners and local inhabitants. A recent raid in Hikkaduwa proved that some of these visitors had large quantities of drugs in their possession. These were found to be for sale. Two aspects arise from these entries of dangerous drugs. Since there seems to be evidence that these carriers are bringing in the drugs for sale and not merely for personal use, to which they may have got addicted, it follows that we are allowing an increase of the total amount of these drugs in the country. We have to remember that we are producers ourselves of ganja. Quite apart from this, there is the possibility that the many young persons who would inevitably associate with these visitors would be introduced to a fashionable 'pull' at first and then find themselves addicted in the end.

At this point exchange control comes into the picture. It has now been discovered that these persons live on the monies they realise after the sale of drugs, thus defrauding the country of foreign exchange, which is in fact the reason why they are allowed to come here. They are now required to bring in sufficient exchange into the country and spend at least 3 dollars per day. Customs and immigration authorities have been unusually lax and rightly so with tourists. They are put through the most cursory of searches at the airport and at Talaimannar and are allowed in with the minimum of formalities. This is as it should be as we are committed to encourage tourists.

But we are still faced with the problem of these persons who do take advantage of the relaxed attitude towards tourists. The usual rule is for them to be fined and deported. Interpol has put them on a black list which marks them for special surveillance and prevents them from entering any other country. Stricter measures are now being contemplated under the dangerous drugs ordinance which makes possible the imposition of heavy jail sentences. Stern deterrent measures seem to be necessary to check the present trend. It is quite possible that our seemingly tolerant attitude encourages these persons. The fear of jail sentences will probably frighten them away with their wares. This will eventually have to be resorted to.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

U.S. ASSISTANCE IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT PRAISED

THAI PAPER PRAISES DEA WORK IN THAILAND

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 5 Apr 77 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Drug Suppression Must Not Slacken"]

[Text] Ever since this government took over there has been a distinct change in the attitude to narcotics--suppression of drug trafficking has been stepped up so much that almost every day we read in the newspapers about one or more persons being caught either trying to sell drugs or trying to smuggle them out of the country.

Previous governments took rather an easy attitude to the whole business of drug trafficking because they did not seem to think that it could affect our youth--it was mainly considered a problem of Americans and Europeans; but the present government has realized that if the situation is not controlled now, Thailand would be stuck with as big a drug problem as any other country. The urine test administered to students trying to enter universities is a case in point.

In the days when Thailand was not so severe against trafficking in narcotics, the United States, mainly for its own interests, established within its diplomatic mission personnel from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA]. These Americans worked closely with the Thai Police, and their presence here was extremely necessary, in that the number of American troops here was large and many of them indulged in drug abuse or in smuggling.

But the Americans of the DEA also helped a lot in the training of the Thai antinarcotics squad, so much so it has become an efficient force against trafficking and smuggling. The current flap is over the DEA closing its branch office in Songkhla and moving its three men to Bangkok.

The clarification for this move says that it will increase the efficiency of the DEA personnel by operating from Bangkok, and the assurance has also been given there will be no reduction on the part of the U.S. in the budget allocated for DEA operations or any thinning out of personnel.

At the present time some European countries have also shown interest in helping Thailand stamp out the drug trade and it will be the wrong time for the U.S.--and we are sure that the Americans are aware of the problem--to show any lack of interest in the suppression of narcotics. At present Thai Police, customs officials, and everyone concerned have shown commendable interest in eradicating drug traffic and, if this pressure is kept up over a period of time, there should be extremely beneficial results.

We doubt that a heroin refining plant will be set up in the south as the police seem to fear. It will not be easy for the dealers in drugs to transport opium in bulk from the golden triangle to the south for refining. Possibly the fear stems from the fact that the Burmese troops are strongly moving against the opium refiners in Burma where most of the refineries are situated, and the Burmese operations are a boon to Thailand because this means a two-pronged attack in the suppression drive.

The report that 18 U.S. senators will be participating in an antinarcotics conference here in Bangkok makes it quite clear that American interest in the suppression of drugs in Thailand will definitely continue.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

U.S. URGED TO REVIEW DECISION ON DEA BRANCH

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 6 Apr 77 pp 1, 12 BK

[Text] Director of the Narcotics Suppression Centre, Pol Maj Gen Phao Sarasin, suggested that the American authorities should reconsider their decision to close down the branch office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), in the Thai southern province of Songkhla.

Pol Maj Gen Phao contended that the DEA Songkhla office should not be closed because the south of Thailand, particularly in Hat Yai District of Songkhla, has become an active narcotics trading and smuggling area.

He said that several Malaysians who were arrested for smuggling narcotics into Europe recently had got the drug from the south of Thailand.

The DEA Songkhla office is in a strategic location to stem the flow of the narcotics smuggling in the southern region, he added.

The U.S. Embassy on Monday issued a statement saying that the DEA Songkhla office would be closed and its three personnel transferred to Bangkok, but the closure of the branch office did not represent any reduction of narcotics control efforts of the DEA, the U.S. Embassy said.

However, Pol Maj Gen Phao said the Police Department has not yet been officially notified of the pending closure of the DEA Songkhla office.

He expected that the DEA office in Bangkok would wait for final instruction from Washington before going ahead with the closure, "And we earnestly hope that Washington will reverse the decision," Pol Maj Gen Phao said.

The DEA office in Bangkok is part of the DEA Region 16 which is responsible for narcotics control in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore as well as Thailand.

The DEA office in Bangkok has helped train Thai narcotics authorities and provided them with vehicles and communication equipment; recently, it handed over five helicopters to the Thai side.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

OFFICIALS ON ANTIDRUG LAW AMENDMENTS, DRUG PRICES

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 8 Apr 77 p 3 BK

[Text] The Narcotics Control Board will propose amendments in the anti-narcotics law to plug all loopholes through which many leading drug dealers have evaded punishment, said Mr Likhit Thoetsathirasak, deputy secretary general of the board.

He said amending the laws will be one of the top priorities after the board settles all of its administration problems.

Another top priority, he said, is narcotics suppression, of which the board has already joined forces with the Police Department.

The joint efforts resulted in over 10 arrests of major narcotics suspects and a general slump in the drug smuggling in Thailand, Mr Likhit said.

The board has also planned to open its branches in Chiang Mai and Songkhla to boost narcotics control in the north and the south respectively, he said.

Meanwhile, Pol Lt Col Phairot Thong-In, chief of the Narcotics Control Section of the Crime Suppression Division, reported that his men could hardly "bait" any drug dealers in Bangkok lately because of shortage of the drug supply.

Drug dealers are lying low apparently to wait and see how the absolute power of the Prime Minister vested in him by the article 21 of the Interim Constitution will be used against narcotics suspects, Pol Lt Col Phairot said.

The prices of narcotics are more or less the same as last year though they represent a jump of 100 percent in some cases when compared with that in 1974 as shown in the following table compiled by Pol Lt Col Phairot's men:

Types of narcotics	Weight	Current Prices in baht	March 1976 Prices in baht	March 1974 Prices in baht
New raw opium	1 kilo	2,500-2,600	2,600	1,300
Old raw opium	1.6 kilo	3,600	3,500	2,400
New cooked opium	1 kilo	4,300	4,300	2,500
Old cooked opium	1 kilo	4,600	4,600	3,500
Morphine	1 pound	16,300	16,200	9,500
Heroin No. 4	700 grammes	54,000	55,000	45,000
Heroin No. 4	1 gramme	80-120	100-120	-
Heroin No. 3	1 kilo	7,000	7,500	3,500

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

EDITORIAL PONDERES CLOSING OF U.S. DEA OFFICE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Plugging the Loophole"]

[Text] The regional director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Daniel J. Addario, has confirmed reports that the DEA will close down its office in Songkhla, although DEA personnel in Thailand will not be reduced.

In view of the fact that a sizable quantity of narcotic drugs is believed to be flowing from the Golden Triangle area via Songkhla Province to Malaysia and Singapore en route to Western markets, the closure of the DEA Songkhla office is to be viewed with regret and must be regarded as a setback in drug enforcement efforts.

In saying this we are not implying that Thai drug enforcement officers are not able to function without American help and co-operation. But few people will deny that so far the DEA has been helpful and has played a key role in the capture of several suspects, particularly large international operators, who after all are the most dangerous and elusive people on the drug scene.

The DEA has also helped equip the Thai police force with valuable helicopters and communications equipment.

The most obvious reason for the closing down of the Songkhla office must be that it has not been effective and thus did not warrant the expenditure which might be better spent elsewhere.

The DEA is operating in Thailand under very difficult conditions. It has no legal standing as an enforcement body, and naturally cannot arrest anyone in Thailand under any circumstances. It can, therefore, only gather information regarding drug movements and supply the information to the Thai police who must carry out the actual raid and arrest.

Thus, the success of a joint DEA/Thai police operation does depend on the effectiveness and integrity of both parties. A failure on the part of either party will guarantee the failure of that operation.

Now clearly, the joint drug enforcement effort in the south has not been a particularly successful venture. There has been no notable arrest or seizure while narcotic drugs still find their way into Malaysia and beyond.

In view of the present government's declared commitment on drug suppression policy, it might be appropriate to look into the reasons behind the withdrawal decision which undoubtedly will affect the drug suppression effort in the south.

A probe should be made by the government into the affair to find out whether anyone is at fault, or whether the failure of the operation had been due to circumstances beyond our control. Appropriate steps should be taken to rectify the shortcomings and plug a drug loophole.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

HEROIN ARREST IN CHIANG MAI

Bangkok DAILY TIME in Thai 12 Apr 77 p 16 BK

[Text] Upon learning that there were heroin traffickers staying at Setthakit Hotel on Rot Fai Road, Tambon Chang Khlan, Muang District of Chiang Mai Province, Deputy Police Superintendent Pol Maj Col Nirandon Witthayutthikun sent an agent to approach the traffickers in order to purchase the drug from them. The police agent successfully made an appointment with the traffickers for the front of Saneng Tawan Theater at 1600 on 11 April, where the purchase was supposed to take place.

The deputy police superintendent and a narcotics suppression team, comprising Pol Sgt Bunpluk Plianplaek, Pol Private Sane Piang-Utha, Pol Private Chirachai Mahawan and Pol Cpl Amphon Khwankhum went to the theater to wait for the traffickers.

At the time designated, two men appeared, carrying the heroin intended for the waiting police agent. The police team members rushed out to arrest them, but they fled into room No 314 of the hotel. The policemen followed them and found that two other persons were in that room. They were all arrested with 350 grams of heroin worth 3 million baht, later turned over to Pol Lt Sitthisak, the police officer on duty in Muang District. The four were identified as Nimit Thawanwong, Prasoet Chayanan, Kham-Unadaeng and Kasem Chaimaniwong. They confessed that they had been engaged in heroin trafficking for a long time. At present, they are being detained pending further investigation.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

COUPLE ARRESTED TRAFFICKING HEROIN--A couple were arrested by police at their house on Sukhumvit Road in Phra Khanong District yesterday afternoon for drug trafficking. They were identified as Kim Sun Sae Chu and Mrs Sai Lung. Both had been previously arrested twice and were recently released. Pol Col Bamrung Kiao-Urai, deputy chief of the antinarcotics unit of the metropolitan police, posing as a potential customer approached Kim Sun at his house on Soi 36, Sukhumvit Road for some heroin. When Kim Sun handed over the drug, the police officer immediately made the arrest. A subsequent search of the house revealed 24 capsules of No. 4 heroin valued at 140 baht each. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Apr 77 p 3 BK]

TRUCK HAULING MARIHUANA STOPPED--A truck loaded with 978 kilograms of marihuana, packed in 47 solid bars, was stopped at Ban Don Chiang Ban check point, in Tambon Chiang Khri, Sakonnakorn provincial town, by a police team led by Sakon Nakorn governor, Mr Somphon Klinpongsa, and Sakon Nakorn provincial police deputy chief, Pol Lt Col Pairoi Phochai, reports said. The truck's owner was identified as Mr Khongchai Sukkun and driver was Sawai Bunma. Both were detained at the town police station for interrogation. The source said that Sakon Nakorn is one of the famous marihuana producing areas in Thailand. The marihuana planting and trafficking racket is backed by an influential group which is the owner of an international air-transport company, with cooperation from some provincial officers. This powerful marihuana business group also has close relationship with some Don Muang based high ranking customs officers who help them send the contraband goods abroad. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 13 Apr 77 p 3 BK]

STUDENTS' DRUG-DETECTING TESTS--University students from the second year upwards will undergo drug-detecting tests beginning next year, informed sources in the National Narcotics Control and Prevention Board reported yesterday. Names of university students found with drug habits will, however, be kept confidential while treatment will be offered. The new step is a follow-up on the decision to require all applicants for university seats to undergo urine drug tests. About 60,000 applicants will have to be tested this year under the scheme. Applicants are not automatically disqualified if the urine tests prove positive. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 9 Apr 77 p 3 BK]

OTTAWA, B.C. JOIN TO COMBAT HEROIN PROBLEM

Committee Formed

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 24 Mar 77 pp 1, 2

[Text] Sun Ottawa Bureau--Ottawa--A federal-provincial committee of senior officials has been established to find new ways of solving B.C.'s heroin problem.

Justice Minister Ron Basford and B.C. Attorney-General Garde Gardom announced at a joint news conference today they have given a six-member panel until the end of May to recommend methods of solving narcotic abuse in Canada, with particular reference to B.C.

The committee will focus on ways of controlling the use of heroin through the treatment of present addicts.

"We have reached the conclusion that law enforcement isn't the only answer," Gardom said.

However, both ministers virtually ruled out the possibility of legalizing the use of heroin.

"Of Canada's roughly 19,000 heroin addicts, we have 10,000 in B.C.," Gardom said. "We estimate there is a cost of about \$255 million per year to sustain those addicts, which would make heroin the fifth largest industry in the province."

The B.C. minister said Health Minister Bob McClelland is currently developing a presentation to the provincial cabinet on medical treatment for addicts.

Basford said B.C. already has five small treatment centres and the committee will study them.

"We want to assess how effective those centres are and what can be done with them, and how that sort of treatment facility can be expanded," Basford said.

The committee was established as a result of talks Wednesday between Gardom and McClelland and three federal cabinet ministers, Basford, Solicitor-General Francis Fox and Health Minister Marc Lalonde.

The committee consists of: Dr. Malcolm Matheson of the co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit; Herbert Hoskin, chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Commission; Supt. W. J. Neil of the RCMP, criminal investigation branch; L. P. Landry, assistant deputy minister of justice; Robin Bourne, assistant deputy minister to the solicitor- [as published] of the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Directorate of the Department National Health and Welfare.

"There is a sense of frustration," Gardom said when explaining why B.C. asked for the committee at this time. "The methods we have been using in B.C. have not been doing the job, and rather than sit idly by we wanted to do something different."

Heroin Probers 'Optimistic'

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 25 Mar 77 p 25

[Text] Local members of a newly established federal-provincial committee to find solutions to B.C.'s heroin problem say they are optimistic that the group can accomplish its task by the end of May.

"People have been working at both the federal and provincial level on this and I'm quite sure there is sufficient time to come up with the information," Herbert Hoskin, chairman of the Alcohol and Drug Commission, said in an interview Thursday.

Hoskin and Malcolm Matheson of the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit said they were extremely pleased with the response of federal authorities, who agreed to set up the joint strategy committee within hours of a presentation by their organizations.

Justice Minister Ron Basford and B.C. Attorney-General Garde Gardom announced establishment of the committee at an Ottawa news conference Thursday.

They have given the six-member panel until the end of May to recommend methods of solving narcotic abuse in Canada, with particular reference to B.C.

"The two ministers have taken the initiative to do something," Matheson said. "It's great."

"The concept of the committee is to look at the problem in its entire complexity, in terms of supply reduction--that means law enforcement--and demand reduction--that's prevention and treatment," he said.

The two said it is too early to comment on what methods the committee will be studying. However, both Matheson and Hoskin are considered heroin hard-liners.

Both have in the past recommended some sort of compulsory treatment and "quarantining" for addicts and stepped-up action against trafficking.

CSO: 5320

\$2 MILLION TRIAL SHOWS COST OF FIGHTING DRUG EPIDEMIC

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 31 Mar 77 p 15

[Article by Nicholas Hills, Southam News Services]

[Text] Vancouver--On May 2, one of the longest and most expensive trials in Canadian legal history will enter its second phase here in Vancouver.

The case, involving 18 persons accused of narcotics conspiracy, has already consumed nine months of time in its preliminary stages--at the horrendous cost of \$10,000 a day.

By the time it is finally concluded before Judge William Trainor probably around this time next year, the total bill for this little piece of justice will be some \$2 million. The legal aid bill alone will have come to around \$250,000 out of a total provincial budget of less than \$7 million.

Nothing else in recent years has quite told the public what British Columbia's fifth largest industry--drugs--is doing to this province in both economic and human terms.

For when the trial is finally over and the verdicts in, little basically will have changed. There will still be, according to police authorities, 12,000 heroin addicts in British Columbia paying up to \$350 a day to the unrelenting traffickers to support their habit.

During the next 10 days, summonses will be served on as many as 1,600 citizens from whom 12 will be selected as jurors for the trial. Court officers and deputy sheriffs are now compiling a list of names as required by the Jury Act. A separate telephone line is being set up to deal with inquiries from people summonsed to serve on this drug-case jury.

Jurors will be paid \$10 a day for the first 10 days of the trial and \$20 for each day after that--plus bus fare of 70 cents.

The jury panel is the largest in memory. Court officials expect to close down all Supreme Court rooms and use them for holding the massive numbers of jurors, pending selection or rejection.

The reason for the incredible size of the panel is that each of the 18 accused in the conspiracy case is entitled to 12 challenges for a total of 216. The Crown is then entitled to four challenges, and to stand aside another 48 jurors who can be recalled for selection if the entire panel is processed without 12 persons being selected.

Judge Trainor has been conducting an exhaustive pre-trial conference with lawyers representing the Crown and the accused; but it still looks as though the hearing could go on for a year.

If the trial does run this long, and sits for the 200 available court days, the cost will be close to \$2 million.

Employing six legal aid lawyers, appointed as defence counsel, will alone come to \$1,200 a day. Some of the lawyers have one client each at \$100 a day, and those with more than one client will receive \$100 for the first and \$50 for each of the others.

With Crown counsel's daily fees estimated at \$500--plus those jury fees, costs of transcripts and salaries for court officials--the total daily bill is again expected to hit \$10,000.

These mindboggling costs, now fully exposed in public, have once again begun to generate debate over whether something other than law enforcement shouldn't be tried to deal with a crime epidemic that is consuming society.

It regularly costs \$10,000 to defend an accused in a drug conspiracy trial; and this amount of money could normally be used to defend 100 other people charged with minor offences.

In Vancouver alone, more than 120 RCMP and city police are continuously engaged in drug investigative work, battling to contain the drug rings and tracking leads in Amsterdam, Hong Kong and South America.

Yet as soon as one drug ring is broken--as soon as one conspiracy trial is ended--other rings spring up, other conspiracies are hatched.

"We are now seeing the limits of enforcement," one police officer said. It is a chilling thought.

Today, while the police hold their lines but make no real advances, heroin addicts are paying \$35 a cap in Vancouver and as much as \$50 in remoter places such as Prince George.

In western Canada, at least half the men in prison are there as a result of drug-related crimes ranging from theft, bank robbery to murder.

Vancouver police say that in the last 10 years there have been 50 drug-related homicides, many of them gangland executions.

Recently, Isabel McNeill, the former director of Kingston Prison for Women, told a special Commons subcommittee on prison violence that Canada might solve a lot of its crime problems by simply prescribing heroin to addicts through state-run clinics.

She gave as an example a woman who had turned to prostitution in Canada, then moved to England and now has a job and "lives a normal life on seven grains of heroin a day."

The heroin is prescribed to addicts under British law.

Back in 1973, the Le Dain commission suggested that provincial or regional clinics be set up in this country to treat addicts on a maintenance basis.

The Le Dain report was widely praised abroad--and is now apparently being closely studied by the Carter administration in Washington. But here, its most far-reaching recommendations have been left on the shelf.

Clearly, it is now time for both provincial and federal authorities to take their courage in their hands and look at such things as heroin-maintenance clinics in a new attempt to wrench a \$500 million market away from the traffickers who run this wretched industry.

CSO: 5320

TESTIMONY OFFERED IN TRIAL OF HASHISH-IMPORTING SUSPECT

Crown Witness Testifies

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 1 Apr 77 p 3

[Text] Brampton--Four days after confessing before two federal Crown prosecutors about transporting drugs to Canada, a charge of importing drugs laid against him in 1974 was dropped, a Mississauga man told a Peel County Court jury yesterday.

David Cripps, 30, was testifying against Robert Rowbotham, 26, formerly of Beeton. Rowbotham is being tried on a charge of conspiring to import a ton of hashish into Canada.

Cripps and three others were arrested on the same day as Rowbotham on January 8, 1974. Cripps and the three others pleaded guilty in October, 1976, to the lesser offence of conspiracy to traffic in drugs and were sentenced to varying jail terms.

Cripps said he was sentenced to seven years in penitentiary.

He testified that when he began giving his evidence for the prosecution on Monday he thought that the charge of importing and other charges had been kept in limbo and was unaware that they had been dropped minutes before he took the witness stand.

He said he discussed either getting released from prison or getting parole for testifying against Rowbotham, but got no assurances from the RCMP or the Justice Department.

"In that respect, the National Parole Board is God," he said.

Cripps said he discussed his testimony against Rowbotham with federal Crown prosecutors last Friday. His involvement in the importing was made known to them then.

Earlier this week, Cripps implicated Rowbotham and a boutique owner from Yonge Street, Toronto, as the brains behind the smuggling operation. The boutique owner wasn't arrested or charged.

Cripps also testified that he agreed to help Rowbotham so he could pay back a \$30,000 loan he had gotten from Rowbotham to help save his mother's nursing home in Brampton.

He said under cross-examination by defence lawyer Moishe Reiter that he had never told anybody before giving his testimony that Rowbotham was the boss of the operation. He said he did not mention it to police after his arrest in 1974, even after he was taken by the RCMP to the Mississauga police station and "kicked in the chest."

He said he first mentioned his evidence while discussing early release from prison in return for his testimony with prosecutors Patrick Duffy and Paul Kennedy and members of the RCMP.

Cripps said he was the best drug transporter in Canada, and made several trips over the border from 1972 to 1974 to fetch the drugs.

He also testified that on one such trip to California he picked up a prostitute, flew her to Toronto to have dinner, spent the night in a hotel and then flew to Las Vegas spending between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

He said he got the money from his expense account, which he also used for several \$200 dinners.

However, Cripps insisted that the only reason he was transporting drugs was to pay back the loan, even when the defence counsel pointed out to him that he appeared to be simply adding to his loan instead of paying it back.

Cripps said he wrote a letter to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau about letting him serve in the army and doing something useful for Canada rather than serving time in Kingston Penitentiary.

In the letter, which was obtained by the defence lawyer from a girl friend he sent it to, Cripps tells the Prime Minister that he committed the crime because he had been threatened with death by his creditors.

The letter, along with another one in which he asked the Prime Minister to have him executed rather than let him waste his time in prison, weren't sent, he said.

Earlier in the cross-examination, Cripps said that both he and Rowbotham followed a philosophy of non-violence.

He also said that after the arrest and charges, while all five were on bail, he approached Rowbotham and asked him for some money to invest in a business. He denied that he demanded the money from Rowbotham.

The trial continues.

Rowbotham Begins Defense

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 6 Apr 77 p 3

[Text] Brampton--Robert Rowbotham, on trial on a charge of conspiracy to import a ton of hashish, was described by a defence witness yesterday as a marijuana distributor for Rochdale College and the city of Toronto in the early 1970s.

Mr. Rowbotham, 26, formerly of Beeton, began his defence in the lengthy trial yesterday by calling a deserter from the U.S. Army who lived rent-free in Rochdale College next to Mr. Rowbotham's apartment.

Robert Anderer, 27, from Atlantic City, N.J., who was known as Bob the Goof in Rochdale, said that "Rowbotham distributed marijuana throughout the building and throughout the city, but he wasn't into any other kinds of drugs."

He said Mr. Rowbotham, a non-violent vegetarian, was also on the eviction council at Rochdale, had helped in drafting the rule that no hard drugs were to be allowed into the building and had evicted people who had taken in drugs such as heroin and speed.

Mr. Anderer said hashish entered the building only through private couriers who had smuggled it into Canada from Europe.

He emphasized that Mr. Rowbotham was not involved with any drug other than marijuana.

Before Mr. Anderer entered the witness box, Mr. Rowbotham's lawyer, Moishe Reiter, told the jury in his address that the defence would show that the accused had nothing to do with 16 crates of hashish smuggled into Canada, because he dealt exclusively in marijuana.

He was arrested at his Beeton farm on January 8, 1974, a few hours after David Cripps, 30, of Mississauga and three others were arrested at the Mississauga home where the hashish was seized.

The others pleaded guilty last October to a charge of conspiracy to traffic in drugs. Mr. Cripps was sentenced to seven years after being named the principal, and the others were given shorter terms.

Last week, Mr. Cripps testified for the prosecution that Mr. Rowbotham and a boutique owner from Yonge Street, Toronto, had organized the hashish-buying operation.

Mr. Reiter said the defence would also explain RCMP wiretap recordings of telephone conversations, one of which was alleged to have been made by Mr. Rowbotham to Mr. Cripps shortly after the hashish was picked up from Toronto International Airport.

A voice on the tape, said to be Mr. Rowbotham's, asks Mr. Cripps whether all 16 people showed up at the party and whether somebody could bring him a taste of wine immediately.

Mr. Reiter told the jury that the defence will also explain the large sum of money found at Mr. Rowbotham's farm. RCMP officers testified that \$73,000 was seized from a baby's crib.

The trial, which began early in February, continues today.

CSO: 5320

DOCTOR SAYS COCAINE 'NOT AS DANGEROUS AS SOME THINK'

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 5 Apr 77 p 22

[Text] Montreal (CP)--A nationally prominent psychiatrist who has dealt for years with drug-related problems says current arguments over the effects of cocaine may become "the great marijuana debate revisited."

Dr. John Unwin, who has been called to testify as an expert witness at narcotics trials, said a widespread increase in the use of cocaine has resulted in authorities reassessing ideas about the drug.

"If coke is such a dangerous drug, where the hell are the casualties?" he said. "We're not seeing them medically."

Unwin, a member of a Canadian Medical Association committee studying cocaine use, confirms reports of malnutrition among habitual users of cocaine, as well as hallucinations, convulsions, heart failure, respiratory problems, violence and formication--a sensation that insects are crawling over the skin.

But he said doctors are puzzled over the lack of serious adverse reactions among occasional users of cocaine.

The doctor said he has had only one cocaine user as a patient but that his problems were not caused or worsened by taking cocaine.

"When it gets down to hard facts based on first-hand knowledge of significant numbers of casual, recreational users, we seem to be more and more in the situation that we were in during the 1970s in regard to marijuana and hashish," Unwin said.

Drug enforcement authorities tend to associate cocaine with the sinister elements of society, he said, while users insist it is a harmless drug and doctors warn that prolonged use can lead to violence and paranoid psychosis.

"There is a pronounced tendency, primarily among non-professional writers but also among professional experts, to report and stress findings which

support their own particular bias--which is, more often than not, based on their own value system and life-style.

"Even when all the myths are put aside, it comes down to values.... Up until the mid-1960s it was taken as valid that drugs of any nature equalled addiction...equalled depravity."

Cocaine, the alkaloid of the cocoa leaf chewed by South American Indians for centuries to increase strength and ward off fatigue and hunger, was first isolated about 1860 in Europe.

In the late 1800s such prominent physicians as Sigmund Freud tried cocaine and praised it.

The drug quickly became popular and was sold widely as a cure-all.

It was consumed in a variety of products including wine and chewing gum.

The use of cocaine in soft drinks was banned in the United States under the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Law.

Passage of the Harrison Narcotic Act, the first U.S. federal anti-drug law, banned the use of cocaine, opiates and heroin. In Canada cocaine was outlawed under the 1929 Narcotics Control Act.

Not a Narcotic

"The current concepts are that cocaine is not a narcotic and like marijuana has no business being in the Narcotics Control Act," Unwin said.

He added that cocaine is a central nervous system stimulant and is not addictive. Nor does it develop tolerance in the user or cause painful withdrawal symptoms.

However, drug researchers seem to agree that prolonged cocaine use can create psychological dependence.

Unwin said virtually everyone he has talked to about the drug has mentioned the depression that accompanies even mild use. Euphoria and feelings of added strength might turn into insomnia and paranoia with prolonged use.

CSO: 5320

SURVEY AT LAW SCHOOL SHOWS 70 PERCENT HAVE SMOKED MARIHUANA

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 6 Apr 77 pp 1, 2

[Article by Arnold Bruner]

[Text] More than 70 per cent of the students responding to a student-run survey at Osgoode Hall law school say they have smoked marijuana or hashish and nearly 60 per cent intend to go on using the illegal drugs.

The highest proportion of users is among third-year students, who will graduate this June. More than 80 per cent of the graduating students surveyed said they have smoked the drugs and 75 per cent said they "anticipate" using them in future.

More than a third of the student body--307 of about 800--responded to a questionnaire drawn up by a self-appointed committee of eight students who say the survey supports their contention that "the present marijuana laws and the (federal) Government's proposal for change are both oppressive and purposeless."

The questionnaires were handed out at the beginning of classes with the "assistance of a number of professors."

Professor Harry Arthurs, dean of the law school, on the Finch Avenue campus of York University, was shown the results on Monday.

"I assume it's accurate," he said yesterday in an interview. "There is a general problem for all sectors of society in having a law which is obviously not respected or obeyed by a substantial part of the population."

The survey showed 86 per cent of students think the present laws dealing with marijuana are too harsh. Eleven per cent believe they are acceptable and 3 per cent consider them too lenient. Among third-year students, 93 per cent see the laws as too harsh, 7 per cent find them acceptable and none said they were too lenient.

The questionnaires were answered by 136 first-year, 105 second-year and 66 third-year students. They were also asked, in two separate questions,

if they favored decriminalization of marijuana offences--making them minor ones on the level of traffic violations--and if they favored legalization.

Ninety per cent of the future lawyers favored decriminalization and 87 per cent favored legalization.

Possession of marijuana is a criminal offence under the Narcotic Control Act. On summary conviction the maximum penalty is \$1,000 or six months for a first offence and double that on subsequent convictions. The maximum is seven years for conviction on indictment.

"The number of questionnaires completed," the survey workers said, "is of more than sufficient significance to allow extrapolation of the results to the whole student body.

"The present state of the law does little more than to encourage disrespect for our system of criminal justice."

"When lawyers, who make up a conservative group, are flaunting a law," Jonathan Rudin, one of the survey workers, said, "that ought to support that it can't be effectively enforced."

The federal Government has suggested that marijuana be moved to the Food and Drugs Act, which would reduce the penalties, but would leave possession of marijuana a criminal offence.

The eight students, in a text with the survey results, say, "The time for change is now. At the very least, let us totally decriminalize possession of marijuana immediately."

They said millions of dollars were being wasted in prosecuting what is mainly a "victimless" crime.

"We're not advocating the use of marijuana," Neil Boyd, another survey worker said, "we're just saying the issue is individual freedom."

Dean Arthurs said he believed that a similar survey on marijuana use conducted among other student groups would produce similar results. The fact that Osgoode's student body is made up of law students was not especially significant.

"Lawyers don't have any more or less obligation to keep the law than other citizens do," he said.

The survey workers said they were not implying that "a majority of lawyers are out there using marijuana." Nor did they feel that students who use marijuana will dedicate themselves as a group to changing the laws when they go into practice two years after graduation.

"We can probably expect that there will not be a strong lobby of lawyers who oppose changes," Patricia Lane, one of the survey workers, said.

BRIEFS

NEW TRIAL GRANTED--Two men convicted of heroin trafficking were released on bail Wednesday following the B.C. Court of Appeal's decision to grant them a new trial. John Ko and Willy Yip were granted bail of \$50,000 each in a hearing before Mr. Justice P. D. Seaton. Ko and Yip were granted a new trial Tuesday by Mr. Justice W. R. McIntyre on the grounds that, during an earlier trial, a letter from Crown counsel to defence lawyers was inadvertently given to the jury. In that trial two years ago, each was convicted and sentenced to 14 years. Mr. Justice McIntyre found that the contents of the letter would be "highly prejudicial to the accused" and that "much of its contents was probably inadmissible." [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 24 Mar 77 p 21]

DRUG CONVICTION REVERSED--The B.C. Court of Appeal upset a drug conviction Thursday because the Crown failed to prove the admissibility of wiretap evidence. In a unanimous decision, the court directed a verdict of acquittal for Keith Curtis Baker, 38, charged in December, 1975, with possession of small quantities of cocaine and heroin. Mr. Justice A. B. B. Carrothers said the document authorizing the wiretap was admitted without the Crown calling as a witness either the judge who signed it or the person who applied for it and witnessed the judge's signature. He said such a procedure is prohibited by Section 30 of the Canada Evidence Act and without the authorization there would have been no evidence. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 25 Mar 77 p 31]

LAWYER FACES DRUG CHARGES--Montreal (CP)--Lawyer Denis Pontbriand was committed to trial Wednesday on 10 charges involving trafficking in heroin, cocaine, and opium in 1973 and 1975. The 31-year-old lawyer was arrested last August but had been freed on \$10,000 bail. The charges against him involved 3.2 pounds of cocaine, 15 pounds of opium, and an unspecified amount of heroin. Pontbriand exercised his right at preliminary hearing to demand a no-publication order. [Text] [Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 31 Mar 77 p 5]

CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGE--Two men were convicted in county court today on a drug conspiracy charge involving 8 1/2 pounds of heroin brought into Canada in the cells of lantern batteries. Former Oakalla guard William

Louis Reisig, 35, and Clifford Fook Hing Jung, 44, were found guilty by Judge W. A. McClellan of conspiring to traffic in the drug between January 1, 1974, and March 28, 1975. He remanded both men in custody until April 27 and ordered a presentence report. Reisig was convicted earlier of possessing the drug for the purpose of trafficking and was also found guilty today of importing the narcotic. Judge McClellan acquitted both men of another count of conspiracy to import the drug. Reisig was charged after police bugged a shipment of batteries which had been tested by customs officers and failed to get a spark. The batteries had arrived by ship from Hong Kong. Judge McClellan was told that the estimated street value of the heroin was \$10.5 million. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 31 Mar 77 p 16]

HEARING ADJOURNED--The preliminary hearing of cocaine possession charges against Army and Navy department store heir Jeffrey Cohen was adjourned Wednesday for a second time because the co-accused could not appear. Provincial court Judge Kerry Smith was told that Linda Adeline Fox, 29, is in hospital and unable to appear. Prosecutor Maria Giardini told the court that the Crown feels its case would be weakened if it proceeded against Cohen alone and asked for the adjournment. Judge Smith adjourned the hearing to April 13 after being told that another member of the Crown counsel staff had already dismissed the scheduled witnesses. "That is a very cavalier way of dealing with cases, simply cancelling witnesses without telling me," Judge Smith said. "There are people in custody who cannot get a trial." He said the hearing had been set for the entire day and that the day, for the court, had been wasted. Cohen, 25, and Fox are charged with possession of 25 grams of cocaine. Cohen is free on \$25,000 bail and Fox on \$10,000 bail. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 31 Mar 77 p 40]

CSO: 5320

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS--Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--Personnel of the drug department of the Federal Police, who were investigating the introduction of LSD-25 into our country in violation of the Federal Narcotics Law, carried out a number of raids in swamp areas located at the banks of the Samborombon Bay, Buenos Aires Province. During the operation, the police seized more than 1,600 kilos of mushrooms to produce erogotamine tartrate [cornezuelo] ready to be shipped abroad where the dangerous drug is prepared. According to the police report, unscrupulous businessmen were using the services of many laborers of the area, who living under extreme subhuman conditions worked in collecting the mushrooms for shipment abroad. The report emphasized that the mushrooms seized had an approximate value of 23 million pesos, not to mention their astronomical value after preparation and later distribution as LSD. During the operation, seven persons, who were in charge of collecting the merchandise, were arrested. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2000 GMT 12 Apr 77 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED--Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--Members of the Federal Police arrested Hector Osvaldo Antonio Jurnet, who was carrying over 2 kg of pure cocaine, at Ezeiza International Airport yesterday. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0600 GMT 12 Apr 77 PY]

COCA LEAVES SEIZED--The National Gendarmerie in several raids in the provinces of Salta and Jujuy has seized 305 kilos of coca leaves. Marciana Vazquez, Antonio Lopez, Nestor S. Lezcano, Argentines and Isabel Puca de Valdivieso and Emiliano Calderon Ayala, Bolivians, were arrested. [Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 1 Apr 77 p 9 PY]

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

PUBLIC DIALOGS--The "Dialogs Between Generations" will start again today with the participation of teachers, parents, students and policemen with the aim of reporting and informing on the illegal traffic, processing and consumption of drugs in general. This education plan is part of the various programs of the National Board for Control of Dangerous Drugs. These dialogs--which were planned for over 18 schools last year--will now be held according to the cooperation and interest shown by those private and state schools.
[Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Apr 77 p 3 PY]

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

COCAINE LABORATORY UNCOVERED IN MATO GROSSO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 77 p 22

[Text] The arrest last Friday of 3 persons in downtown Sao Paulo by the Narcotics Division of DEIC [Department of Criminal Investigation] ended in the seizure of a kilo of cocaine and in locating the laboratory which produced the drug in Mato Grosso. Police said that this laboratory had been operating for many years, selling merchandise mainly in the State of Rio de Janeiro, but they did not want to reveal its exact location, claiming that the Federal police, who had already been informed, were ready to "smash the place." The kilo of cocaine seized was wrapped in packages looking like salt and was valued at 400,000 cruzeiros. According to Carlos Ferreira Castro, Director of the Narcotics Division of DEIC, the Mato Grosso laboratory has a production capacity of 15 kilos of cocaine a month.

The drug seizure and arrest of the 3 persons working in the laboratory, whose names were not revealed--in compliance with the new drug law--was possible only because one of them, who had been recently employed, had discovered the value of the merchandise being produced and had stolen a kilo with the intention of reselling it in Rio de Janeiro. However, since he was an unknown person on the market, he was unable to sell the cocaine. On the other hand, the laboratory was informed of the theft and sent 2 individuals to recover the merchandise. Upon learning this, the thief fled to Sao Paulo, where he attempted to repeat the exploit. In the meantime, before his companions in the laboratory could find him, the police arrested him. Later on, using him as bait, the police managed to catch the other two. The cocaine had been in the safe deposit box of the Hotel Hilton, where the individual was staying who had made possible the discovery of the laboratory.

6244

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

TRAFFICKER ARRESTED IN RIO WITH PARAGUAYAN COCAINE

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Mar 77 p 15

[text] The man responsible for supplying cocaine to sales points in Tijuca, Grajau and Sao Cristovao districts was arrested yesterday morning by police from the 25th precinct, who had been investigating the drug business in the area for 20 days. Heliodir Molina, 39, was caught with 92,000 cruzeiros obtained from the sale of cocaine. He had been buying the drug in the City of Pedro Caballero in Paraguay for 70,000 cruzeiros a kilo and selling it to Rio de Janeiro traffickers for 150,000 cruzeiros. A Volkswagon in his possession, on which the motor and chassis numbers had been changed was seized, which led police to ascertain that Molina had been taking stolen cars to Paraguay and exchanging them for cocaine.

Commissioner Arnaldo Campana, chief of the 25th police precinct, reported that Luis Carlos Damasceno de Jesus, 21, known as "Zorba;" Joel Pinto da Fonseca, Jr., or "Canary," and Julio da Coneicao de Sousa, or "Mack," had been arrested nearly a month ago. The three revealed that they had been receiving 2,000 cruzeiros a month for selling cocaine on Cachoeirinha hill, and they named Adilson Caetano da Silva as the owner of the selling establishment.

Watchmen

For several days police had been going up Cachoeirinha hill, which was accessible by Dona Francisca Street and by Grajau-Jacarepagua Road, to try to catch Sabara. Meantime, the latter was paying several minors 100 cruzeiros a week to act as a "lookout" (to stand at strategic points on the hill to report the arrival of police).

Day before yesterday, police from the 25th precinct learned that Sabara was hiding in Bangu in the Fumace residential area, where he was caught.

The trafficker revealed that the sales point on Cachoeirinha hill was providing him an income of 100,000 cruzeiros a day on the weekends. From Monday to Friday the income was 40,000 cruzeiros a day, each packet (one gram) being sold for 100 cruzeiros.

Two months ago, he bought his house, No. 5 Arthur Embacy Street in Panha, for 350,000 cruzeiros cash. The house was completely furnished and the police found several bottles of Scotch whiskey, wine and French champagne in it. He also bought a Corcel and a taxi, a 4-door Volkswagon, aside from having 200,000 cruzeiros deposited in a savings account. But Sabara also had a shack up on Cachoeirinha hill, where police seized 75,000 cruzeiros, 2 revolvers, 379 packets of cocaine, cameras, jewels valued at more than 100,000 cruzeiros and a rifle. He said the jewels and other items seized belonged to addicts who had left them as security or had simply exchanged them for cocaine.

Sabara's police record shows that he is being tried for homicide, larceny, drug trafficking, assault, receiving stolen goods, in addition to being sentenced to 2 years for marihuana trafficking.

Sabara, who has a 3-year old son, said that he bought the house in Panha and that he was still engaged in drug traffic solely in order to give his son a better education.

"I don't want him to be brought up on the hill, nor do I want him to start on the road to crime. My son will be a fine, learned man and not an illiterate like his father."

The Supplier

Upon being interrogated concerning the origin of the drug seized from him, Sabara named Heliudir Molina, or "Nininho," and reported that once a week he turned up on the hill and that he sold him a kilo of powder for 150,000 cruseiros.

Yesterday morning, police caught Molina in Rosa dos Ventos in Nova Iguacu. In his house were found 92,000 cruzeiros, 2 preceision scales used for weighing cocaine, 12 tape recorders, a .38-cal revolver, one 44 [sic] rifle, a Kombi EH-1230, and a Volkswagon ES-1509 with false documentation and false factory numbers.

The trafficker has already spent 450,000 cruzeiros on the house, which has several rooms, and is in the final stage of construction. He bought the land 6 months ago and there is a trap door in his room leading to an unfinished tunnel which has an outlet leading to a vacant lot in the rear.

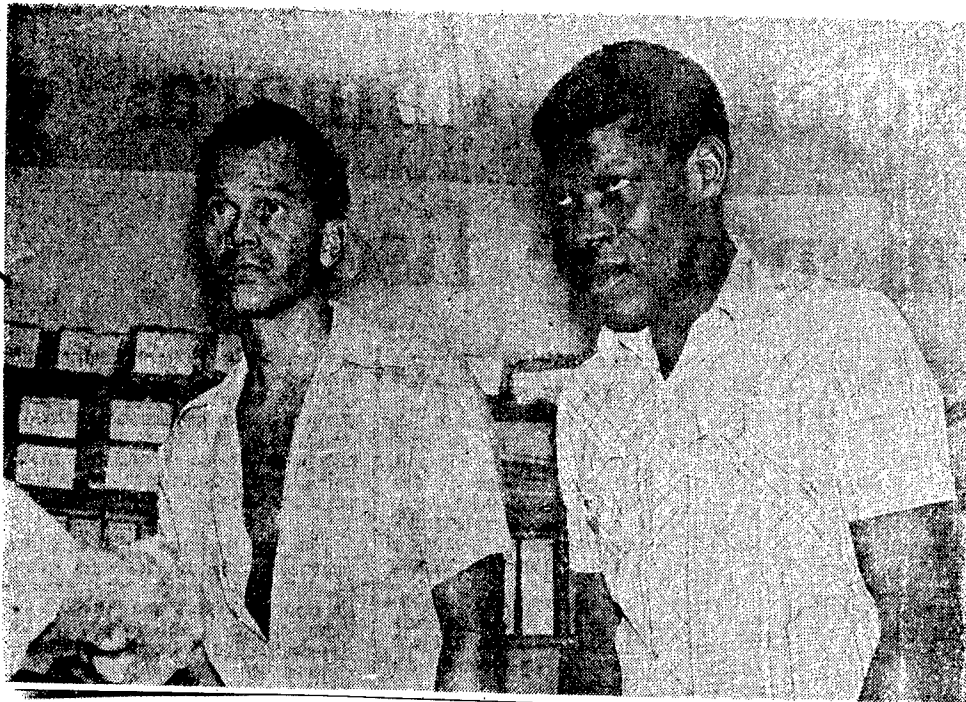
He recently bought a farm in Itaguai for 200,000 cruzeiros from drug sales.

When he was arrested the trafficker identified himself as a policeman, showing papers as an agent for the Judicial Police. Then he attempted to convince police by showing a navy lieutenant's identity card, a journalist's card and other documents which he later confessed had been stolen by addicts and exchanged for drugs.

The trafficker said he had been arrested in Belo Horizonte in 1974 with a portion of cocaine.

"I was held in jail for 6 months, but my sentence was cut short. Then I came to Rio and started to make the Rio-Pedro Juan Caballero run, where I used to buy a kilo of cocaine for 70,000 cruzeiros."

On carnival eve Molina was in Paraguay, where he bought 5 kilos of cocaine which were sold in Rio. Three days ago he returned from one of those trips and offered a half kilo of drugs to trafficker Sabara, who ended by reporting him.



Heliudir (left and "Sabara" were confronted at the precinct.

6244

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

DESTRUCTION OF DRUGS--Yesterday a ton of marihuana and drugs was burned in Belo Horizonte. The narcotics were seized by the Narcotics Division of the Metropolitan Police during the arrest of traffickers and addicts. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 77 p 20] 6244

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS TRY TO FREE IMPOUNDED AIRCRAFT BY FORCE

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 4 Mar 77 p 1

[Text] Santa Marta, 3 Mar. Ten completely hooded persons armed with sub-machine guns attacked the Simon Bolivar International Airport in this city early this morning.

This incident, the first of its kind ever to occur in the country, took place at 0200 hours when individuals alleged to be drug traffickers made a surprise attack on the airport installations and pointed their automatic weapons at Civil Aeronautic watchmen Jose Gutierrez and Eusebio Martinez, as well as at an AVIANCA watchman and a customs agent, relieving them of their firearms in a rapid action.

Later, they bound and gagged [their captives] and put them in a restroom on the second floor of the airport [terminal].

"Don't leave this room until we tell you to," they were ordered.

Minutes later, two masked men started a twin-engine Beechcraft light plane which had been impounded by customs authorities of the airport more than a month ago.

Everything indicates that the pilot who started the engine was rather inexperienced in such activities. The plane had barely lifted off when it took a nosedive, destroying the front part of the aircraft.

Confronted by the failure of their operation, the drug traffickers fled.

In the morning hours, the four persons who had been tied up were found and gave their account of the incident to the authorities.

This is the first time in the history of the country that an attack of this kind has been made upon an airport. Because of this, the Civil Aeronautics [office] requested greater police surveillance and asked that the number of watchmen be increased.

It should be noted that the authorities found marihuana seeds in the light plane. They stated that the attackers possibly had committed their assault with a view to the movement of a shipment of marihuana and later were returning with the aircraft when it crashed a few moments before touching down. However, no traces of blood were found in the plane.

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA FOR EXPORT SEIZED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 77 p 7-B



Santa Marta. Police authorities are carrying out an intensive campaign against marihuana traffickers and growers. In the process of the campaign, 128 sacks of marihuana were confiscated recently. The marihuana was to have been sent abroad. The police operation took place at a site called "Rio Otribio." (EL TIEMPO photo by Franco Barros)

8143
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

SUPREME COURT FINDS DRUG 'KING' LEGALLY RELEASED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 77 p 16-A

[Article by Ismael E. Arenas]

[Text] Ruling for the first time on a writ of habeas corpus action yesterday, the Supreme Court of Justice declared entirely legal the action of the judge who released a man who is considered the "king of cocaine" in Colombia.

The judge had been accused personally by Attorney General Jaime Serrano Rueda and his office had maintained right up to the final moment a charge of misfeasance against this official who had to resign from his position and was harassed and persecuted because of that incident which occurred at the beginning of last year.

The decision of the Court, which was written by Magistrate Jose Maria Velasco Guerrero, establishes the precise time limitations within which preliminary statements are to be accepted and the legal status of prisoners and persons incommunicado beyond which imprisonment is determined to be arbitrary, without any exception whatever based upon the personality or dangerousness of the individual involved.

The military criminal court was outraged by the fact that the 2d Municipal Criminal Judge of Cali, Dario Leon Lopez Perez, had granted a writ of habeas corpus to Benjamin Herrera Zuleta, an individual much sought in the country as one of the most notorious drug traffickers.

This action induced Attorney General Jaime Serrano Rueda to travel to Cali personally and, after the pertinent investigations, initiated criminal action against the judge on a charge of possible misfeasance.

Herrera Zuleta had been arrested on 20 February, along with seven other persons, all of whom were turned over to the 48th Military Criminal Judge of Cali. On 27 February, attorneys for Herrera Zuleta petitioned the 2d Municipal Criminal Judge on behalf of the latter to grant a writ of habeas corpus in consideration of the fact that he was being held incommunicado, whereas the time limitations had been exceeded.

The official handling the Habeas corpus writ went to the military judge to determine the status of the prisoner; however, he was unable to obtain an answer of any kind.

On 1 March, when all of the time limitations accorded by criminal law procedures for the acceptance of preliminary statements and definition of the accused's status had expired, the judge granted habeas corpus to Herrera Zuleta and released him. As may be imagined, the accused promptly disappeared.

The investigation into the charge made by the attorney general was carried out at the order of the Superior Tribunal of Cali and once the findings had been drawn up, the court ruled definitively that the charge against the accused judge was without foundation, in that he is considered to have acted with strict adherence to the law. Had he done otherwise he would have abetted an arbitrary detention.

On an appeal by the office of the attorney general, this matter came before the criminal chamber of the Supreme Court. Yesterday, the latter confirmed in their entirety the findings of the Cali Tribunal.

Thus, the Criminal Court had the opportunity for the first time to make a decision respecting a writ of habeas corpus and was able to establish the precise time limitations within which examining magistrates must accept preliminary statements and define the status of prisoners, after which municipal judges are obliged to release persons deprived of their liberty. Should they fail to do so, they would be faced with an arbitrary detention situation.



Benjamín Herrera Zuleta

8143
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA FORCING OUT LEGITIMATE CROPS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 77 p 8-A

[Article by Walter Martinez]

[Text] Santa Marta, 7 Mar. Mayor Francisco Davila Ricciardi spoke on the subject of "The Cultivation of Marihuana in the Sierra Nevada and Its Negative Impact Upon the Agricultural Industry of this Region" during the installation of the eco-development workshop which started sessions today in the "Torcamar" Center in Rodadero.

The mayor said that "the growing of marihuana is much more profitable than any of the traditional staple crops, and not only has it displaced agricultural production destined for the markets of Santa Marta, Barranquilla and other neighboring cities but it has also complicated and will complicate to a very large extent the work of institutes such as INDERENA [Institute for Development of Renewable Natural Resources] and any other beneficial effort on behalf of the development they say today--of an eco-development [program]."

The eco-development workshop was instituted and developed by CICA, International Center for Environmental Sciences Information and INDERENA. Attending this workshop are the most notable scientists in the field from Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile and other countries.

This workshop will analyze all of the information existing on the subject of the representative environment of the Andean and Latin American coastal regions in the search for a better standard of living for human beings through harmonic development, utilizing rationally the natural resources which make up the ecological system, on the basis of the experiences supplied by the inhabitants of each region, following the guidelines of the studies made by the scientists.

During the inauguration of the seminar, the speech by the Santa Marta mayor was considered significant, particularly his reference to the fact that the Sierra Nevada is almost totally covered with marihuana fields.

The mayor said that many of the marihuana growers are not criminals but rather are simple peasant farmers who have seen their desires to be integrated into the development [program] frustrated for lack of sufficient attention on the part of institutions and other organizations in the agricultural-livestock sector, in questions of technical and financial assistance.

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

DRUGS CONFISCATED--During the last few hours, national police confiscated 16,000 pounds of marihuana and 200 kilos of cocaine paste and equipment to process it, valued at several million pesos. These operations took place in different parts of the country. The names of the persons arrested in connection with the raids are: Valentin Meneses Hoyos, Jose Antonio Carvajal, and Jose Meneses Hoyos in Cauca; Rufino Eiquaran Apuiyu in Paicao; Ernesto Gil Samper and Enrique Eulogio Gimenez in Barranquilla; and Manuel Redondo Toro and Lorenzo Rafael Mejia in Rio Hacha. In addition, a light plane reportedly transporting drugs was confiscated at a clandestine airport in La Guajira. [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 77 PA]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Villavicencio, Colombia 11 Apr--Three narcotics traffickers were arrested here tonight while in possession of cocaine valued at \$700,000. The band was headed by Aurelio Parra, who is presumably a member of an international band operating in Panama and the United States. The cocaine was hidden in the chassis of a private automobile which was to be shipped to Bogota. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0447 GMT 12 Apr 77 PA]

DRUG ARRESTS--F-2 agents today confiscated several pounds of 90-percent pure cocaine paste from a van on the highway to Popayan in Bolivar Department. The drug, with an estimated value of 2 million pesos, had been obtained in Cartagena and was ultimately destined for shipment to the United States. Both the driver, Gilberto Idrobo, and a passenger, Marlene Gomez Perez, were arrested. [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 77 PA]

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Bogota 5 Apr--The Colombian secret police (F-2) tonight captured an international gang of drug traffickers as it was taking a cocaine shipment worth \$1.5 million from a house in southern Bogota to a downtown hotel. The gang was composed of two men and three Costa Rican women. It was led by Jesus Alfredo Tapias and Maria de los Angeles Munoz. The cocaine was to be sold on the U.S. market. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0429 GMT 6 Apr 77 PA]

MARIHUANA SEIZURE IN BOLIVAR--Yesterday, as the result of a skillful investigation by the F-2 of the National Police, a total of 5,338 kilos of marihuana was confiscated. The marihuana was being transported in two trucks and was destined for the departmental capital of Bolivar, presumably for shipment to the United States. The marihuana confiscation took place in the jurisdiction of the municipality of San Jacinto where a patrol of secret agents stopped a truck with license plate number SK-15-52 in which 3,755 kilos of marihuana were being transported. Fernando de Jesus Canas Tobon and Javeir [sic] de Jesus Zapata Rodriguez were riding in the vehicle. During the same police action, another F-2 patrol stopped a truck with license plate number SN-72-45 near the town of Turbaco and found 1,583 kilos of marihuana. On this occasion Adolfo Herrera Torres, Carlos Alberto Cuellar Romero and Hernan Romero Bolivar were arrested. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Mar 77 p 3] 8143

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

POLICE SEIZE 2 TONS OF MARIHUANA FROM EJIDO

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 2 Mar 77 p 8-A

[Text] State Judicial Police agents and local police officers armed with rifles and submachine guns yesterday seized nearly 2 tons of marihuana bricks and arrested the two men who were guarding it on the La Sierrita communal farm 80 kilometers west of here.

The law enforcement officers were under the command of Police Inspector Ignacio Escobedo Quintero, State Judicial Police Group Chief Jesus Rodriguez Gonzalez and Chiefs Oscar Villarreal and Roman Lopez Azocar of the local and rural police forces, respectively. The police agents found the marihuana in 49 istle sacks on ejido owner Alfredo Gonzalez Lazo's plot of land. Gonzalo and his stepfather Pedro Herrera Vega were arrested while they were guarding the marihuana.

The marihuana does not belong to either one of them, according to the men's statements. It is owned by Texan Oscar Garcia Valero who asked Alfredo Gonzalez Lazo, a relative, to watch it for him.

According to a preliminary estimate by Matamoros State Judicial Police Chief Jesus Rodriguez Gonzalez, the marihuana after it is "kileada" [weighed] would bring 3 million pesos on the black market.

The police also illegally seized a 1963 Ford stake bed truck and a 1971 Ford truck belonging to the La Sierrita ejido association No 2. According to Alfredo Gonzalez the police used the vehicles to "transport the 49 sacks of marihuana to Matamoros police headquarters."

The vehicles were taken from Alfredo Gonzalez Lazo's home although the marihuana was found on his plot of land and neither of the two trucks were involved in any criminal action because they were not used to transport or house the marihuana.

The two men have admitted their part in the operation. They said that they "did know that the shipment they were asked to watch until their relative, Oscar Garcia Valero, returned from Edimburg, Texas, contained marihuana."

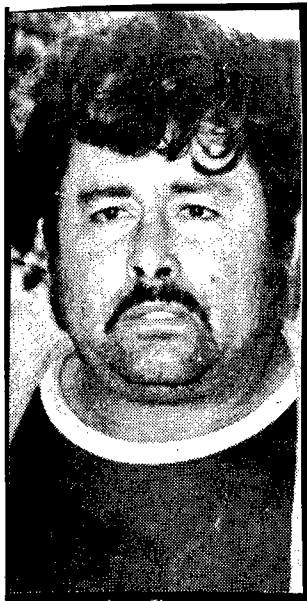
Alfredo Gonzalez Lazo, 32, was to receive \$200 and Pedro Herrera Vega "a fee" (no sum was specified) after Garcia Valero sold the marihuana. The two men said that the marihuana was delivered to Gonzalez' plot on Friday night by an unidentified man who was driving a 1974 Dodge truck. The two men in custody said that the driver of the Dodge truck demanded that the marihuana be unloaded immediately on the night it was delivered. The driver left once the marihuana was unloaded and no one has seen him since.

Oscar Garcia Valero is still at large. However, Alfredo Gonzalez and Pedro Herrera said that Garcia visits Matamoros and Reynosa often. The owner of the marihuana lived in Matamoros for many years but he has lived in Edimburg, Texas, for several years now.

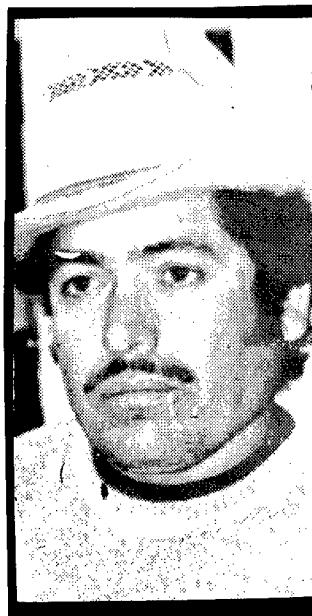
"He asked us to watch the marihuana for a few hours until he returned with a vehicle so that he could smuggle it into the United States," the two men said apparently resigned to their fate. They added: "However, the days passed and we became quite concerned waiting for him until the police arrived and found the marihuana hidden on the plot of land."

The marihuana, the two men and the two trucks will be turned over today to federal prosecutor Fernando Edgardo Velazquez once the local police and the State Judicial Police file their report with the Federal Public Ministry's assistant prosecutor, Raul Garza Trevino.

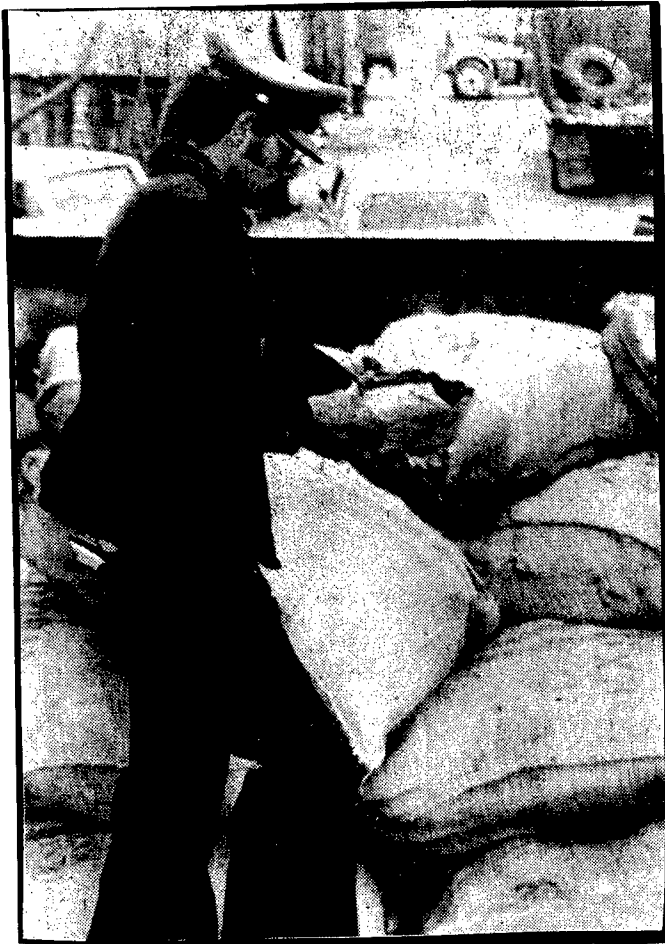
Alfredo Gonzalez Lazo said: "I thought it would be easy to do a favor for my cousin and now look at what happened." Pedro Herrera Vega painfully expressed the same sentiments but he added that he had done it to get money to pay the many debts that he has.



Pedro Herrera Vega was arrested by the State Judicial Police after he was found guarding a marihuana shipment on a plot of land.



Alfonso Gonzalez Lazo was also arrested yesterday in connection with the marihuana shipment seized by the State Judicial Police.



The police are checking the marihuana bricks found inside jute sacks hidden at the La Sierrita Ejido.



Police agents count the jute sacks containing marihuana bricks that were seized from two peasants on the La Sierrita Ejido.

MEXICO

LARGE MARIHUANA SHIPMENT SEIZED IN CIUDAD MIER

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Mar 77 p 11-B

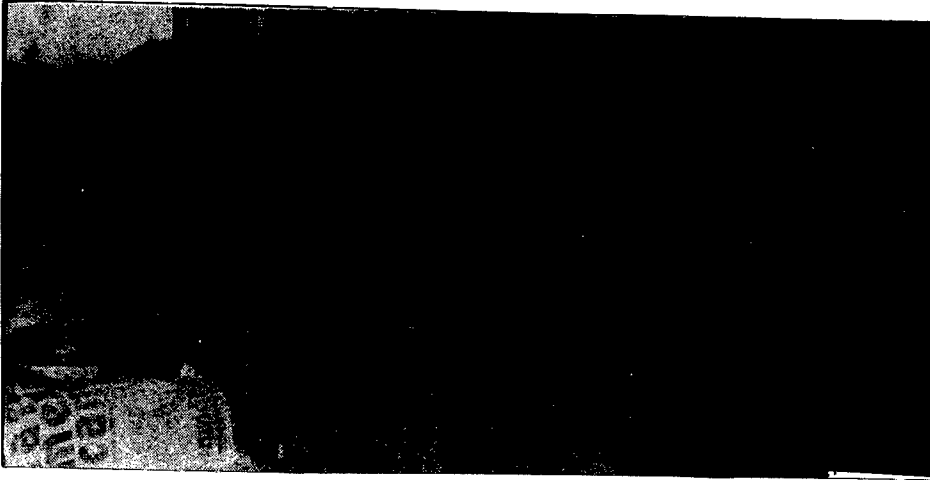
Excerpts A 12-ton marihuana shipment was seized by the Federal Judicial Police in Ciudad Mier and brought here by Army troops. The shipment is worth an estimated 12 million pesos.

A group of local Federal Judicial Police agents yesterday dealt the drug traffic a serious blow with the seizure of a 12-ton shipment of marihuana in Ciudad Mier. The marihuana was found abandoned in a private home and the owners of the marihuana have still not been found.

Federal Judicial Police Chief Rodolfo Lopez Herrera said that no arrests have been made in connection with the seizure of the 12-ton shipment and that the police have no clues which could lead to the arrest of the owners of this shipment whose value on the black market is estimated to be 12 million pesos.

Marihuana Transferred by Army

It was also reported that Garrison Commander Gen Salvador Lopez Matamoros ordered a platoon of soldiers to help the Federal Judicial Police to transfer the marihuana shipment which arrived here at 2000 hours under the required security guard. The marihuana was placed in the basement of the Palacio under military and Federal Judicial Police guard so that the Federal Public Ministry can prepare its case.



A 12-ton marihuana shipment seized by the Federal Police in Ciudad Mier. No arrests were made. The shipment is estimated to be worth 12 million pesos.

8599
CSO: 5330

COCAINE CONFISCATION SCORE SINCE JANUARY

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Mar 77 p 4

[Text] Since January this year, the Federal Judicial Police on duty at this capital's international airport have seized from drug dealers 12 kilograms of pure cocaine that, according to the reports of the authorities themselves, have a street value of 20 million pesos.

Isaias Esquivel, of the commander's headquarters office, said that this is the result of investigations and the campaign against the narcotics traffic that is being carried out at the airways entrance to Mexico City.

The employee of the Federal Judicial Police office indicated that it is administrative and police policy to carefully search the contents of the suitcases and belongings of tourists arriving in Mexico City from Central and South America. "All indications are," he pointed out, "that the bulk of the traffic in drugs -- cocaine in this case -- originates in Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru."

Isaias Esquivel reported in this respect that the office of the Federal Judicial Police at the airport has uncovered five cases of contraband cocaine since the beginning of the year.

He went on to say that a United States narcotics dealer was arrested yesterday in the international arrivals section of the air terminal in this capital when he tried to bring a kilogram of pure cocaine into the country.

Aero-Peru flight 622 arrived from Lima at 0545 hours. Traveling on it was Edward Thomas Salomon, 43, of North American nationality, who was bringing with him a plastic bag containing three cartons of "Ducal," "Belmont," and "Latino" cigarettes.

The Federal agents on detail at the air terminal became suspicious when Thomas Salomon descended from the aircraft carrying a plastic bag and made his way towards the international customs inspection station. The agents asked to inspect the plastic bag and, on comparing the weight of the cartons of cigarettes, noticed that one of them weighed more than was normal. Opening it, the cocaine was discovered.

The Federal Judicial Police agents seized from the narcotics trafficker 10 packs of "Ducal" cigarettes, 1 of "Belmont," and 10 of "Latino" in addition to those that contained the drug (11 packs of "Ducals" and 9 of "Belmonts") making 41 packs in all.

Thomas Salomon was immediately arrested and taken to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. He is a native of Los Angeles, California, and used to be a sergeant in the United States Air Force.

11532

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

'CONDOR' SCORE: 195 TRAFFICKERS, 145 KILOS OF COCAINE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Mar 77 p 27-A

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Consuelo L. De Avalos]

[Text] Tijuana, B.C., 14 March--The battle against the drug traffic being waged by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic in the northeast of the country has made possible the capture in 2 months time of 195 narcotics traffickers (including 10 United States citizens) and the confiscation of large quantities of narcotics, weapons, light aircraft, and vehicles amounting to millions of pesos.

Antonio Garcia Torres, coordinator of the campaign against the drug traffic here, furnished the following information:

From December last year to 24 February, 195 narcotics traffickers, who were operating on the border and had contacts in Sinaloa, South America, and the United States, were arrested, and 145 kilos of pure cocaine, 22 of heroin, 4 of hashish, 11.5 tons of marihuana, high-powered weapons, 2 small planes, vehicles, and money were confiscated.

Additionally, Federal Judicial Police agents in Sonoyta seized several lots of solid gold jewelry, valued at 3 million pesos, coming from Nayarit that were to be exchanged for weapons in the United States.

The heaviest blow to the narcotics traffic -- considered so by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic itself -- was dealt last 12 February when 139 kilos of pure cocaine originating in Culiacan, Sinaloa, were seized from 10 drug dealers upon their arrest at the airport.

Among other arrests made were those of the drug dealer Juan Siqueiros, from whom 6 kilos of cocaine were seized, and of several persons in the luggage department of the "Transportes de Sonora" who were found to be in possession of 6 kilos of heroin.

11532
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DRUG ADDICTION AMONG SUBURBAN STUDENTS IS HIGH

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Mar 77 p 18

[Text] Dr Carmen Zamorano de Ramirez, president of the State Private Medical Services, stated that 40 percent of students in secondary, vocational, and preparatory schools on the periphery of the Federal District are addicted to drugs to some degree or another, using substances such as paint thinner, "cemento" [an inhalant], barbiturates, and marihuana.

She added that a large proportion of this percentage runs the risk in the future of using drugs having greater effects and danger.

Dr Zamorano de Ramirez explained that the terrible danger of drugs stems from the fact that they produce irreversible lesions in the neurons or nerve cells, leading to lesions in the brain.

She pointed out that drugs such as LSD cause anomalies in the chromosomes, injuries that are susceptible of being passed on to children -- in other words, in addition to causing hereditary defects, they cause a predisposition to drug addiction.

Dr Carmen Zamorano believes that drug addiction is found most frequently among children of the middle and upper classes, due to emotional disturbances arising among close family members.

These conflicts, the director of the State Private Medical Services of Mexico State concluded by saying, cause the young person to seek refuge or "escape" in drugs, on which he increasingly depends, and the harm they cause has, accordingly, major repercussions on his present and future life.

11532
GS0: 5300

MEXICO

TRAFFICKER, TERRORIST ESCAPE FROM JAIL

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 22 Mar 77 p 12-A

[Article by Sergio Gomez Padilla]

[Text] The Cuban Gaspar Eugenio Jimenez Escobedo and the Colombian Carlos Estrado Ortiz escaped from Oriente Prison yesterday morning, presumably with the complicity of the assistant security chief and a guard.

They left by the main gate at 0645 hours in one of the security service jeeps, disguised in the clothing worn by guards. Investigators claimed that they transferred from the jeep to a brown Ford LTD in the El Vergel housing development.

According to the preliminary inquiries, they proceeded to a village near Puebla where a secret landing strip was found some months ago.

The security officer Jose Ramiro Bazan Lanza and the guard Miguel Angel Reyes, the alleged accomplices, also left the prison in the same vehicle.

For the prison director, Fernando Garcia Cordero, there are two hypotheses as to what happened: one, that the criminals forced the guards to take them out of the penitentiary under the threat of death, and two, that the guards were bribed.

The police went to the homes of the guards, as it was rumored that other accomplices of the fugitive criminals had kidnapped their relatives in order to force them to cooperate in the escape.

The family of Miguel Angel Reyes was located at Avenida Tezontle, in block 5, group 1, apartment 6 of the Picos de Iztacalco unit, but the results of the questioning are not known.

Gaspar Eugenio, a Cuban, shot and killed Alfredo Diaz, the driver for the Cuban consul in Merida, Yucatan, in March 1976 when, acting with other individuals, he attempted to kidnap the diplomat.

He confessed on being apprehended that he was planning to commit a series of terrorist acts in Mexico City and, specifically, to place a bomb in the Cuban

Embassy. He insisted that the murder of Consul Daniel Ferret in Merida had been done by others whose identity he did not know.

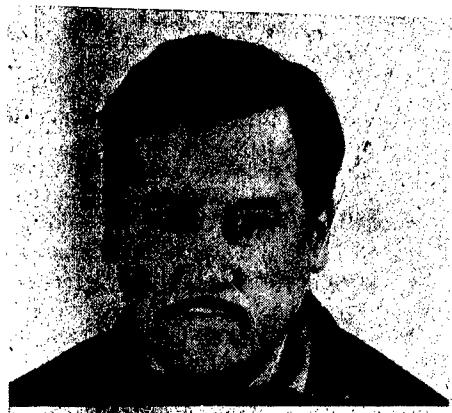
Additionally, Gaspar Eugenio, 41, entered the jail on 21 March 1976 and remained at the disposal of the criminal judge of the third district for the crimes of homicide, attempted homicide, and other offenses.

Estrada [sic] Ortiz, a native of Cali, Colombia, was arrested on 12 July 1975 at the Fiesta Palace Hotel together with the powerful narcotics dealers Alfredo Sicilia Falcon, Jose Zuccoli, Ricardo de la Garza, and Enrique Egozi Bejar, at which time they had 100 kilograms of cocaine worth 400 million pesos in their possession.

He also was at the disposal of the judge mentioned above for the crimes of criminal association and trafficking in drugs.



Gaspar Eugenio Jimenez Escobedo



Carlos Estrada Ortiz

11532
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA, POPPY FIELDS--As part of the permanent campaign to combat the planting, cultivation and harvesting of poppies and marihuana throughout the nation, in February the Federal Judicial Police destroyed 11,490 poppy fields and 853 marihuana fields. The plants covered an area over 26,000 square meters in size. The operations were conducted in different towns in Sinaloa, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Durango and Jalisco. Federal Public Ministry agents were notified of each operation. /Text/ /Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 5 Mar 77 p 4/ 8599

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Culiacan, 4 March--Nine drug dealers were arrested at a house in Las Veinte Onzas, El Salado township, Culiacan, Sinaloa. The men had 512 sacks of marihuana weighing 7 tons. The Federal Judicial Police with the assistance of a platoon of soldiers arrested Fulgencio Corrales Ochoa, Ampelio Angulo Perez, Luciano Lopez Ibarra, Loreto Maduenas Espinoza, Marcelino Corrales Zepeda, Luis Gala Cicairos, Jose Angel Ramirez Felix, Jose Meza Landeros and Pedro Ramirez Felix. Two of the men were armed with a .30 caliber M-1 rifle and a .38 caliber Super pistol. The men, marihuana and weapons were taken to Culiacan and placed in the Federal Public Ministry's custody. Also, yesterday a ton of marihuana bricks was found abandoned in Mexicali, Baja California. /Text/ /Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 5 Mar 77 p 4/ 8599

MARIHUANA DESTROYED--Yesterday at 1000 hours on the ground of the military garrison 2 tons 148 kilos of marihuana were burned. The marihuana was seized in this city and in the region by the Federal Judicial Police under the command of Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz. Federal Public Ministry agent in Nogales, Pedro Mireles Malpica, told DIARIO DE NOGALES that a sack of unprocessed marihuana, 48 sacks of alfalfa and 37 sacks of fodder were also burned. These items, Mireles Malpica said, were part of large shipments of marihuana seized by the Federal Judicial Police. The drug dealers, he explained, play the game of the U.S. nationals who sometimes make their payments in counterfeit money so the dealers mix bricks of fodder or alfalfa in with the marihuana bricks. /Excerpts/ /Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 4 Mar 77 pp 4,2/ 8599

NEW AGENT--Juchitan, Oaxaca, 7 March--Alejandro Salvador Ramos Robles was recently appointed Federal Public Ministry agent in this city to replace the despot Don Pachó who made enemies of everyone he dealt with during the short time he was in office. The new agent was previously working in Ocotlán, Oaxaca. /Text/ /Salina Cruz EL IMPARCIAL DEL ISTMO in Spanish 8 Mar 77 p 1/ 8599

FEDERAL POLICE REINFORCEMENTS--To strengthen the anti-drug campaign here along the border, the Mexican Attorney General's Office on 8 March assigned five new agents to the Federal Judicial Police under the command of Rodolfo Lopez Herrera, according to an announcement made by Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe. The new agents who assumed their duties yesterday were identified as Antonio Macias Guevara, Benjamin Cardenas Villarreal, Jose Fukumara Contreras, Noe Gonzalez Tellez and Francisco Fernandez Marin. Francisco Fernandez Marin worked here previously under Chief Heliodoro Valencia Gama but he was transferred to Piedras Negras, Coahuila. Noe Gonzalez Tellez was Federal Judicial Police group chief in Reynosa, Tamaulipas for many years. /Excerpts/ /Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 11 Mar 77 p 3-B/ 8599

DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED--Roel Flores Trevino and Oscar Solis Garcia were engaged in the illegal distribution of drugs for a time but their criminal "career" was disrupted by the Federal Judicial Police and they were sentenced yesterday. Jose Maria de Leon Quiroga, a spokesman for the 2nd District Court, reported that the two men were found guilty of the health crime charges brought against them by the Federal Public Ministry prosecutor. Flores Trevino was sentenced to 6 years in prison and fined 5,018 pesos for selling heroin while Oscar Solis Garcia was sentenced to 7 years 6 months in jail and fined 5,628 pesos or an additional 120 days in jail for possession and sale of heroin. Both men were arrested in Reynosa, Tamaulipas on 12 June 1975. They were taken into custody following the arrest of two U.S. nationals, Dennis Raz Dierlam and Shaw Allen Murphy, who had a hypodermic needle with heroin residues and a moderate amount of marihuana in their possession. The two U.S. nationals identified Oscar Solis Garcia as their supplier. Following his arrest, Solis Garcia admitted that he had some heroin at his home and he confessed that Roel Flores Trevino was his supplier. Roel Flores Trevino, for his part, had several condoms containing several ounces of heroin at his home. /Text/ /Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 4 Mar 77 p 3-B/ 8599

TRAFFICKERS, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN SONORA--Hermosillo, Sonora, 17 March--Federal agents on duty in Sonora have seized 7 tons of marihuana having a street value of more than 17 million pesos, weapons, and arrested eight narcotics traffickers. In addition to the drugs and weapons, 350 grams of cocaine, 10 grams of pure heroin, and toxic pills were also confiscated. The narcotics traffickers arrested in the sierra of Sonora, Guaymas, Hermosillo, and Nogales by the Federal Judicial Police are Victor Manuel Granados Zamora, Alfonso de la Vega Sanchez, Victor Barragan, Francisco Calles Bustamante, Ignacio Espinosa Cordova, Esteban Vargas Canas, Manuel Reinaldo Perez Martinez, and Agustin Ramirez Grijalba. It was said that most of the drugs confiscated came from Mazatlan and were being taken to the Baja California border. /Text/ /Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 31-A/ 11532

AMERICAN COCAINE TRAFFICKER SEIZED AT AIRPORT--Edward Thomas Salomon, 43, a native of Los Angeles, California, and a former sergeant in the United States Air Force, was arrested at the airport here when attempting to bring in a kilo of pure cocaine with which he had refilled the cigarettes contained in three cartons of "Ducals," "Belmonts," and "Latinos." The drug that replaced the tobacco is of excellent quality, according to the experts of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, and would have a value of 3 million pesos on the black market. Thomas Salomon was arrested on his arrival from Lima, Peru, on board an Aero-Peru airplane. The only baggage he was bringing was a suitcase and plastic bag hanging from his shoulder in which he was carrying the cartons that apparently contained cigarettes. /Text/ /Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Mar 77 p 12-A/ 11532

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

COCAINE CONFISCATED, INTERNATIONAL RINGLEADER ARRESTED

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Jan 77 p 28

[Article by Freddy Urbina]

[Text] A powerful international cocaine trafficker, accused of leading a ring that operated in the eastern part of the city for the distribution of "snow," as it is known among addicts of the drug, was arrested in an operation that was maintained in effect for 72 hours. He attempted to get away, unaware that the operation would prevent him from escaping the circle drawn around him, and the seizure was made of 80 vials containing cocaine that were found in his possession and which he was transporting in a luxurious station wagon that he himself had purchased. Because of its purity in its present state, the cocaine was valued at more than 200,000 bolivars.

The international drug dealer was identified as Jose Alberto De Lucca Vicioso, 36, a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was arrested by Group "G" detectives assigned to the General Antinarcotics Division of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], directed by police inspector Pedro Miguel Hurtado Carvallo, the chief of the division mentioned, who reported that 80 vials containing the drug were confiscated from the prisoner. Subjected to expert laboratory analysis, the cocaine was found to have a 96.7 percent degree of purity, and the dealers and members of the ring responsible for its distribution would have obtained no small sum following its adulteration.

The spokesman reporting added that the prisoner took off along a stretch of Avenida Libertador in a luxurious late-model Galaxie station wagon in which he tried to escape from the clutches of the secret police following him. He was unaware that the operation had been in effect for several hours and that it would be difficult to escape from the encircled area. He was finally captured, and found inside the vehicle he was driving was a quantity of cocaine that turned out, when tested, to have a high degree of purity, as the traffickers had not been given time to put it through the process of adulteration, as is customary among them for the purpose of augmenting the original amount and deriving the greatest profit possible from its sale among addicts.

The police spokesman said in conclusion that the arrested man is being subjected to questioning, as the record book he was carrying was seized and the attempt is being made to identify the other members of the ring, together with their international contacts, in order to send them to prison. The records in the case are being processed, in the meantime, for submission to the courts of justice.



Jose Alberto De Lucca Vicioso, the Puerto Rican arrested by the PTJ and accused of being the head of an international ring of narcotics dealers, from whom the seizure was made of 80 vials of cocaine that were found to have a high degree of purity. (Photo by Guillermo)

11532
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

ALCOHOL SURPASSES DRUGS IN NATIONAL CONSUMPTION--By Ricardo Marquez--The consumption of alcohol has displaced the consumption of drugs in Venezuela, according to the findings of the first inter-American seminar on alcohol and alcoholism held recently in Caracas. Fifty-two experts from the U.S. and Venezuela participated in the event, with the attendance of representatives from the SAS [Health and Social Welfare] and Commission on Drug Abuse. Emphasis was given the fact that it has been confirmed at the Concepcion Palacios Maternity Hospital and medical centers in the U.S. that alcohol, when consumed in excessive quantities by women in their first 3 months of pregnancy, can be the cause of mental retardation and psychological and emotional problems in the child, a condition commonly known as the "fetal alcoholic syndrome." Prominent among the recommendations from the meeting is one to implement, introduce, and expedite the discussion in the Congress of the Republic of a law on the control of production, importation, advertising, sale, and abuse in the consumption of alcohol and on the diagnosis and early treatment of alcoholism. [Text] [Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Mar 77 p 22]

CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

ARREST OF SMUGGLERS--The police narcotics administration announced that administration officials have succeeded in arresting nine hashish, heroin, and opium distributors in various points in Teheran and Hamadan. The names of those arrested were announced as follows: Davod 'Atefi, 44 years old; 'Abbas Za'edi, 42 years old; Morteza Hoseyni, 32 years old; Morteza Mowsavi, 30 years old; and Naser Tabari, 21 years old. Also, administration officials, who awhile ago planned the arrest of several Hamadani heroin pushers, succeeded, through the use of plainclothes, in entering in to a transaction with Naser Bakhtiari and 'Ali Samavat, smugglers from Hamadan. The officials bought 1.9 kg of heroin from the two smugglers and then closed the trap. Others arrested and jailed with them were Haji Ma'sum and Asghar Lashan. Shiraz Police narcotics officials confiscated 110 centigrams of heroin from Samad Abolqasem Hezhad, also known as 'Ali Naranji. [Excerpts] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Apr 77 p 22]

CSO: 5300

CYPRUS

BRIEFS

FAMAGUSTA NARCOTICS SEIZURE--Based upon information which was received on 15 March 77 the Turkish Cypriot State Security Police searched the premises of Tavit Bosnakoglu, the inhabitant of 1 Korkut Street, Lower Maras and confiscated 15 bricks (parca) of powdered hashish which was found in the bathroom. A small amount of hashish was also taken from both a friend, Ali, and a guest at the same house, Kadriye Akkaya. All three were taken into custody. In addition, two others, Halil Akkaya and Huseyin Engin Ibrahim were arrested. Tavit Bosnakoglu and Ali Akkaya confessed to the possession of narcotics and surrendered two caches of hashish hidden in separate locations in the garden. [Text] [Nicosia HALKIN SESI in Turkish 22 Mar p 4]

CSO: 5300

FINLAND

DRUG RUNNING NETS JAIL SENTENCE FOR TWO

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Mar 77 p 24

[Text] Helsinki, Mar 7--Two brothers from Singapore received jail sentences totalling 19 years here today for trying to smuggle a large amount of heroin into Finland.

The court, which also sentenced the wives of the two men to 5 1/2 years' jail each, said customs officials had seized 41 lbs of the drug worth millions of dollars on the black market.

The two couples arrived here on separate flights from the Far East last December.

Customs officials found nearly 26 lbs of heroin in the luggage of 34-year-old Yong Bin Kow and his 25-year-old wife.

Five days later they found 15 lbs of the drug in the luggage of Yong Kam Koh (38) and his 36-year-old common-law wife.

Yong Kam Koh, who was jailed for nine years, told the court he was taking the heroin from Hongkong to Amsterdam. His brother received a 10-year sentence.

--French police today said they had arrested five traffickers on their way from Thailand to the United States with enough pure heroin to make US\$3 million (HK\$15 million) worth of black market deals.

Those arrested here and in the northwestern port of Le Havre included American Frank Catino (39), said to be a member of the mafia.

Narcotics control officials said the 3.8 lbs of heroin seized would have made 66 lbs of saleable drugs.

In Sofia Bulgarian customs men have found 4,180 lbs of hashish loaded on a West German lorry at Kalotino, on the Yugoslav border, Bulgarian television reported last night.

The two drivers, whose names were not given, said they did not know that the drug was in the lorry.

One of them added that normally the sealed vehicle carried secret material for NATO forces stationed at Izmir, Turkey, the television report said.--
REUTER and AFP.

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

PARIS HOLDS HONG KONG POLICEMAN

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 17 Mar 77 p 1

[Text]

Paris, Mar 16.

A Hongkong policeman was arrested at Charles de Gaulle airport on Sunday, allegedly while trying to smuggle 4.4 lbs of heroin into France.

According to French customs officials today, the policeman was carrying the heroin in an adulterated form known as "brown sugar." Six other people were arrested in connection with the seizure.

Officials said the suspect arrived from Singapore and was met by four Hongkong people - three men and a woman - who came by road from the Netherlands.

Two taxi drivers who were to have driven the group to Amsterdam were also arrested, they added.

The seven are to appear in court today.

The cache is worth about US\$180,000 (about HK\$900,000) on the Amsterdam black market. - AFP.

● Police sources in Hongkong said the suspect is a 25-year-old constable attached to the Uniformed Branch.

He is on leave at present.

The heroin is believed to have originated from either Singapore or Bangkok.

Hongkong police are assisting the French authorities in investigations.

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

NANCY DRUG ADDICTS QUESTIONED--On Friday, 8 April, the Nancy drug brigade and special customs section interrogated 8 youth ranging in age from 20 to 24 years who were having a drug party in an apartment on the outskirts of Nancy. Three of them had just taken a shot of heroin. A search warrant enabled the police to confiscate some syringes, 5 grams of white heroin, an envelope of morphine derivative and 35 grams of cannabis. The youths admitted having been addicted to such drugs as cannabis and amphetamines for several months. According to the police, the heroin was said to have been bought recently in Paris. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Apr 77 p 9]

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

LARGE HEROIN SEIZURE IN ROTTERDAM DISCUSSED

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 5 Mar 77 p 3

[Text] Thanks to a tip from the Dutch Embassy in the Thai capital, Bangkok, the Rotterdam police, in cooperation with customs, has been able to intercept 126.9 kilos of heroin and 5.5 kilos of opium. At stake is the largest seizure ever made outside of Southeast Asia, as reported yesterday.

The tip arrived last December.

The drugs had been shipped to Rotterdam with the American freighter Alliance, together with a batch of elastics. The container contained 280 boxes, seven of which were filled with small bags of heroin and opium. The 273 boxes of elastics have a market value of around 12,000 guilders and the drugs around 12 million guilders.

The shipment of elastics was intended for the firm F. in Slachthuis Street in North Rotterdam. In the interest of the investigation, the police do not wish to give further information regarding this firm.

The batch was registered with customs on 1 March last and searched by the police. After the discovery of the heroin and opium, the container was picked up by a shipping agent, a normal procedure, only this time the truck was manned by a policeman. After delivery yesterday morning two men turned up, the 42-year old Rotterdam porter Van S. and the 32-year old Chinese Y.F.Y. The Rotterdam police arrested both men, who are still being questioned but who say they know nothing about the batch of drugs.

The porter was unknown by the police; he has a clean record. The police did not yet wish to give any further information on the Chinese arrestee.

8700

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

PROPOSED LEGAL HEROIN DISTRIBUTION PROTESTED

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 9 Mar 77 p 2

[Text] The Hague, 9 March--The discussions about the legal supplying of heroin to addicts have caused great concern among the people concerned with the drug-free kick-off programs. On Thursday afternoon, aides, former users, their nearest family members, friends and other concerned people in the drug-free therapeutic communities--an expected number of 400--will go into the street in order to attract attention to "their solution" for the problem of drug addiction.

The people concerned are connected with, amongst others, the therapeutic communities Emiliehoeve, De Essenlaan, Breegweestee and Hooghullen.

The plan is to leave around 5 o'clock in the afternoon from Emiliehoeve in The Hague in order to offer a statement to Chairman of the Chamber Vondeling around 7 o'clock. In it the demonstrators call the legal supplying an "easy and cheap" solution, which "does not really get to the real problem" and in which the government takes the position that no "real solution exists for addiction."

"Therein one contents oneself with phantom solutions which are only an abatement of the symptoms. In the Netherlands the people, including groups which call themselves radical, are so asleep that they are satisfied with the abatement of symptoms and a number of marginal signs. It seems that until now it has been impossible to look at the real issue and to find methods for a real solution," according to the statement.

Steps to abolish addiction, in the opinion of the signers, "therefore cannot just concern treatment of the addict, but also must have a bearing on all of society."

Phantom Solution

In the statement which will be offered to Vondeling it says that the drug-free programs in the Netherlands (numbering four) have a method which tackles not only the symptom--the addiction--but the entire problem.

"Addiction exists," according to the statement, "because we all tend to think up easy or phantom solutions for our problems. For every little discomfort there is always a pill on the market. We see that as a fundamental disease of our society."

Finally an appeal is made to the government not to "allow a phantom solution any longer," such as the supplying of methadone or distribution of heroin, but to support and expand the drug-free programs in all areas.

8700

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

RECORD HEROIN HAUL--Rotterdam--Customs men today seized a massive shipment of 120 kilos of heroin concealed inside a freight container in Rotterdam harbour. The seizure, believed to be Holland's biggest-ever haul of smuggled hard drugs, would have been worth several million pounds on the black market. Police said the container came from Bangkok and two men were detained. REUTER [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 4 Mar 77 p 28]

SWEDISH NARCOTICS SMUGGLER--Simpelveld, 11 March--38-year old Kalle Pauksch, who at the end of last year escaped from a prison in Sweden, was arrested last night in Simpelveld, Limburg. In Sweden, where he is considered to be the leader of an international group of narcotics smugglers, Pauksch was condemned to 8 years in prison, of which he still has 4 to serve, for the smuggling of soft drugs. Pauksch was spotted by two inhabitants of Simpelveld, who notified the police. Thereupon 24 policemen raided a cafe where Pauksch was discovered, with the aid of a police dog, in a cellar crawlspace. Pauksch surrendered unarmed and without resistance. In the Netherlands Pauksch has been declared an undesirable alien. On that ground he can be sentenced to at most half a year. It is expected that after trial in the Netherlands and after serving a possible prison term, he will be extradited to Sweden. At the time, he was able to escape when he was allowed to shop under surveillance at Christmas. In a restaurant he threw pepper in the eyes of his guards and fled. He is not willing to tell how he was able subsequently to reach the Netherlands, according to the police. ANP [Dutch Press Agency] [Text] [Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 11 Mar 77 p 2] 8700

CSO: 5300

SWITZERLAND

BRIEFS

DRUGS RING BROKEN--REUTER--Police in Lugano, Switzerland, have broken an international drug-smuggling ring and arrested 10 Swiss and 16 Italians in the last two months, it was announced yesterday. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Mar 77 p 4]

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

CANNABIS SALE IN SHOPS REJECTED

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Apr 77 p 12

[Text] A Labour MP's suggestion that cannabis should be sold by tobacconists got short shrift from the Government in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Marcus Lipton (Lambeth Central) said the law relating to cannabis was in a mess, and the sooner it was repealed and cannabis was allowed to be sold in tobacconists shops on the same licence as tobacco the better it would be for everyone.

They would take a lot of money, and it would save the police a lot of work.

'Extreme of Argument'

Dr Shirley Summerskill, under-secretary, Home Office, noted what Mr Lipton had said but thought he had gone to the extreme of the argument.

Replying to Mr Robert McCrindle (C. Brentwood and Ongar), said that under proposed amendments to the Criminal Law Bill, now before the Lords, the period of imprisonment for the possession or use of cannabis would be reduced to three months and the fine increased to 500 pounds.

At the moment, on summary conviction, there was a maximum period of imprisonment of six months or a maximum fine of 400 pounds.

The Government was now seriously considering the argument for removing the power of imprisonment in the case of a first offence, and was taking the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

RAID ARRESTS RISE TO 100--London--The number of arrests rose to 100 yesterday as police rounded out Britain's largest anti-drug ring operation. The ring was said to have manufactured and marketed the hallucinatory drug LSD, almost certainly a source for European LSD users. Press reports said the ring supplied LSD tablets as far away as Australia and their appearance in the United States may have prompted the two-year investigation. Scotland Yard drugs squad is believed to have noted two years ago that huge amounts of LSD tablets were being marketed around Piccadilly and Soho, central London's "junkie" districts. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 28 Mar 77 p 4]

MORE HELD IN DRUGS SWOOP--Police said yesterday that six more men and a woman had been arrested in Wales in Operation Julie, the nationwide drugs investigation which began at the weekend. They were taken overnight to the control headquarters in Swindon. A man was remanded in custody until today at a special court in Swindon yesterday on a charge of conspiring with others to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act. He was the 24th person to appear there. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Apr 77 p 2]

CSO: 5320

END