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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 292

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AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT SEMINAR REPORTS FIGURES ON MARIHUANA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Feb 77 p 5

[Text] Sydney--Almost half a million Australians smoked marijuana at least once a month, a NSW Government seminar on victimless crime was told at the weekend.

Professor Neal Blewett, of Flinders University, South Australia, told the seminar that of these users a disproportionate number of young people were charged with smoking and possessing the drug.

"Between 400,000 and 500,000 people use marijuana at least once a month," Professor Blewett said.

There were about 5,000 convictions a year in Australian courts for smoking marijuana.

Smokers of the drug were not only young people but were also middle aged, middle class people.

They were otherwise law abiding citizens. Smoking the drug was victimless.

However, Professor Blewett said that while marijuana was a victimless crime on its own it often had disastrous effects when a user got behind the wheel of a car.

The ability to drive was impaired by the drug.

"There is evidence that the combined use of alcohol and marijuana would exaggerate impairments to driving," he said.

People who smoked marijuana and drank and then drove presented a hazard to the community.

Puff Bag Test

Legislation to control them could be modelled on the present drunk driving legislation.

He recommended developing a method to accurately determine the level of drug influence a driver was under.

He said it could work on the puff bag test principle.

Professor Blewett said most of the people caught for the use of marijuana were young people and many of them were from underprivileged families.

It was rare to see a person from a middle to upper class background being arrested for drug use.

Arrest had a devastating effect on the personal and social life of marijuana smokers.

Career and day to day jobs were affected when the smoker was arrested.

The threat of arrest drove many smokers underground into the same situation as hard drug users.

Speaking in reply to Professor Blewett a drug squad detective, Sergeant K. Astill, said marijuana users were sick, sad and soft.

"Being an ex-soldier and lawman, I feel that illicit drug abuse is a self inflicted wound," he said.

He said drug use was not a victimless crime in many cases and marijuana was a menace to public health and safety.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HIGH COURT RULES ON LOOPHOLES IN DRUG LAWS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 26 Feb 77 p 5

[Text] A High Court decision yesterday has closed what appears to have been a loophole in Australia's drug laws.

The decision has removed doubt whether all species of cannabis were covered by the Customs Act between 1971 and December last year.

The prohibited import originally named by the legislation was "genus cannabis sativa."

Some lawyers believed this definition was too narrow, because some experts say there are other species of the plant.

To clarify the position, Parliament amended the act in December by deleting the word "sativa."

The court finally resolved the issue yesterday when it ruled by a 4-1 majority--with Mr Justice Murphy dissenting--that the original definition also applied to all species of the plant.

Yesterday's case was an appeal by West Australian woman, Gloria Denice Yager, against her conviction in Perth District Court last June and 4-year jail sentence for importing and possessing cannabis.

At her trial, she admitted that cannabis plant material--said to be worth about \$100,000--was found in three of her cases when she landed at Fremantle on 29 December 1975.

But she pleaded not guilty to the charges because she denied the material was cannabis sativa, the species named as a prohibited import.

Her appeal--on the ground that the Crown had failed to prove the material was cannabis sativa--was dismissed.

The Chief Justice, Sir Garfield Barwick, said in his judgment that was the expression "genus cannabis sativa" was used in the legislation, it was believed there was only one species and this was an appropriate description.

He also held that the trial judge had been right in directing the jury on the meaning of "genus cannabis sativa."

Justice Gibbs, Mason and Stephen agreed.

CSO: 5300

HEROIN ADDICTS WILL BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF VOLUNTARY TREATMENT

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Feb 77 p 3

[Text] Sydney--Heroin addicts will be given the choice of voluntary treatment as an alternative to gaol in a scheme announced by the NSW Government yesterday.

Government informants said it was a major step towards the ultimate decriminalisation of the use of marihuana and other drugs in NSW.

But the pilot scheme, to come into effect from March 1, would be limited to charges involving narcotic drugs--which in most cases means heroin.

The NSW Minister for Health, Mr Stewart, said that the scheme was designed to divert convicted drug addicts from gaols into the health-care system.

Treatment

Under the scheme, people pleading guilty to, or convicted on, charges involving narcotics may opt to be remanded for an initial eight weeks and referred to a treatment centre as an alternative to the usual process of law.

At the end of the eight weeks the magistrate will get a composite probation and treatment report to be taken into account in deciding the case.

The remand period may be extended beyond eight weeks if the treatment is incomplete.

People charged with narcotics offences will be told of the option open to them before they come before the court.

Mr Stewart said that the old Bourke Street police station had been renovated at a cost of \$20,000 as a central treatment assessment centre able to handle 200 addicts at once.

Other treatment centres would use existing facilities at Brisbane Street, Woolloomooloo, Glebe, Bondi Junction and Chatswood.

A committee representing the Health Commission, the Probation Service, the police and voluntary organisations and headed by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate Mr M. F. Farquhar, had studied the scheme for three months before recommending that it should go ahead.

The scheme was proposed last year by the Attorney-General, Mr Walker.

It will be limited to cases coming before the Central, Redfern, Newtown, Waverley and Manly Courts of Petty Sessions.

Heroin addicts are often given sentences of between six and 12 months or more where they are compounded by robbery with violence and other serious criminal charges.

A barrister experienced in drug cases said that though the programme was desirable, it would be adversely affected if offenders in the Western suburbs still went to prison while the well-advised or fortunate went to courts where there was a clear alternative to gaol.

But Mr Walker said he understood that all metropolitan cases could be channelled to the selected courts and that all magistrates would be made fully aware of the scheme.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

NO INTENTION OF LEGALISING MARIHUANA

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 2 Mar 77 p 1

[Text] The NSW Government has absolutely no intention of legalising marihuana, but will double the strength of the Police Drug Squad, the premier, Mr Wran, said yesterday.

Amid uproar in question time, Mr Wran told the Legislative Assembly that the Liberal MIA for Northcott, Mr Cameron, had spread spurious falsehoods about the government's intentions.

"Let me put to rest stories which emanate from people such as the honourable member for Northcott, who wish to disturb the parents and young people of this state.

"The government has absolutely no intention at all of legalising marihuana."

Mr Wran said the government intended to double the strength of the Drug Squad, which had stayed at 18 since 1968.

"The government intends to be ruthless and relentless in the pursuit of drug peddlers," the premier said.

"Equally, it will be forthright and determined in adopting a humane and sensible approach towards the treatment of those unfortunates who become victims of these unscrupulous persons."

Mr Wran said his opposition critics had sat on the government benches for 11 years, while drug addiction became a greater and greater problem.

In 1968 convictions for using opiates were 50, in 1976 they numbered 780.

Convictions for the possession or use of marihuana numbered 193 in 1968 and totaled 4,091 in 1976.

Mr Wran clashed with Mr Cameron early in his reply. After an interruption, the premier said: "That pontificator from the North Shore, the pillar of purity and self-righteousness, the member for Northcott, just said offensively, 'You are the drug-runners' friend if ever there was one.'

"If ever there were a man who should stand condemned, it is the honourable member for Northcott," Mr Wran said.

"For year after year he has run around NSW stirring up mischief, this follower of the Festival of Light, yet not once did he raise a finger to help drug addicts in NSW."

Mr Wran was replying to a question from Mr J. P. Flaherty (Lab, Granville).

Later, the leader of the opposition, Sir Eric Willis, accused the premier of misleading Parliament over the operations of the drug squad.

"The principle adopted by the previous government was to use the Drug Squad as a central core of highly efficient and capable officers, whose duties included training other police in drug detection.

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AUSTRALIA

ADVISER CLAIMS THE USE OF NARCOTICS SPREADING

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 4 Mar 77 p 2

[Article by Shaun McIlraith, Medical Correspondent]

[Text] Heroin addiction seems to be increasing and spreading to previously unaffected parts of NSW, according to the director of the NSW Health Commission's Central Drug and Alcohol Advisory Service.

The director, Mr Peter Diehm, told a Senate team this week that substantial groups of narcotic addicts had been detected in three parts of Sydney--Blacktown, Liverpool and Bankstown--where there had been few problems before.

Increasing numbers of addicts were being detected in Wollongong and Newcastle and the problem was appearing for the first time at Cessnock, Maitland, Singleton and Scone along the Hunter River and at Bathurst and Orange in the central west.

Senator Peter Baume, chairman of the government parties health and welfare committee, and Mr Barry Simon, the Liberal MP for McMillan, Victoria, who is the chairman of a sub-committee on community health services, met Mr Diehm during a tour of community health facilities in Sydney.

They will be reporting to the Federal Minister for Health, Mr Hunt, on the effectiveness of the Community Health Program in which the government has invested \$125 million since 1973.

Mr Diehm told them it was hard to judge the extent of the narcotic problem because there were conflicting reports from the police, the Bureau of Crime Statistics, treatment centres and from addicts themselves.

The police estimated there were between 6,000 and 10,000 users of narcotics in the state; the bureau, working from court statistics, put the number of addicts at about 800.

The number of new clients seen by drug treatment centres in the metropolitan area was about 350 a year. A further 800 or so narcotic addicts, referred to the centres since 1972, were still receiving treatment.

Addicts varied widely in their impressions, some saying the "scene" was dying, others that it was expanding rapidly.

The advisory services were inclined to the latter view because of a recent increase in the number of new clients at metropolitan treatment centres and the emergence of new drug cultures in other parts of the state.

Mr Diehm said the discrepancy in the estimates could partly be explained by the police practice of including many experimenters who would not be classed as addicts by the services.

The narcotic treatment network had expanded rapidly since the regionalisation of health services in 1973. The metropolitan services had grown from two treatment centres to 15 and there were new centres at Lismore, Bathurst (serving the central west) and Newcastle (serving the Hunter River district).

Mr Diehm said there would be a progressive expansion of the diversionary program under which narcotic offenders could choose treatment instead of punishment.

Starting this week, offenders from Central, Redfern and Newtown courts of petty sessions are being referred to a centre in the old Bourke Street police station. Offenders from Waverley court are going to a Bondi Junction centre.

After a trial period, the program will be extended to the western and northern metropolitan regions.

Questioned by Senator Baume on how the success of the narcotic program could be evaluated, Mr Diehm said this was a problem which had defied treatment authorities throughout the world.

Because addicts were a drifting population the services would need many more field workers to follow up people who had had initial treatment.

Abstention from narcotics had been suggested as one criterion of improvement, but the services believed that a person who still took heroin occasionally, but had achieved stable employment and social integration could equally be regarded as successfully treated.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

WISTARIA HOUSE FOR REHABILITATION CENTER

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 10 Mar 77 p 12

[Text] Heroin addiction appears to be increasing and spreading to previously unaffected parts of NSW, according to a report last week by the NSW Health Commission's Central Drug and Alcohol Service.

The City Coroner, Mr T. Weir, warned this week that the death of two young brothers from drug overdoses (acute narcotism) was a warning "to young Australians who think there's no danger in a little pot. In many cases these experiments ultimately lead to heroin and other hard drugs with tragic results."

Dr Stella Dalton, medical director of the Way Back Committee and psychiatrist in charge of Wistaria Drug and Alcohol Addiction Centre at Parramatta, has worked with drug addiction for the past 11 years. She has discovered a new type of addict--the boy-next-door junkie.

Dr Stella Dalton can still remember her first heroin addict at Wistaria House centre for addicts at Parramatta, 11 years ago.

Doctor Dalton, now one of Sydney's leading authorities on drug addiction, remembers calling nurses and doctors to see the patient.

"It was as rare as that in 1966, an extraordinary illness," she recalls. "Only the Chinese population in Sydney were on heroin and very, very few whites in those days."

Today the picture has changed to the ugly world of the heroin addicts.

Police estimate there are 6,000 to 10,000 narcotics users in NSW; the number of new clients seen by drug treatment centres in the Sydney metropolitan area is about 350 a year--a further 800 or so narcotic addicts referred to the centres since 1972, are still receiving treatment.

It is a long time indeed since Stella Dalton called her staff to see a young heroin addict shivering under a sheet pulled up over his head, suffering the symptoms of withdrawal.

No Police Record

But--over the past 4 months--Dr Dalton has become increasingly disturbed at a new type of heroin addict who has gone to the Wistaria Community Centre, in Westmead, for help.

She counted 23 cases in 10 days; some days four or five new cases arrive.

"These are a completely new species of drug addicts," she said. "What it means is that there's so much more heroin around that the kid next door is likely to be on it.

"A typical example is a 23-year-old man who has been on heroin for 3 years.

"He has a job and is married with a child, or is about to get married and wants to start a family.

"He lives with either his or her parents. And, in most cases, I would say the parents know.

"Then a few days after he has come in, we get the girl. She's about the same age and they usually both work. In the old days, whoever heard of a drug addict working?"

"They have no police record: they're not dropouts; they're still working in their trade, profession or job at a time when it's not easy for young people to get a job; and, in most cases, their bosses know about their addiction.

"They want help. Of course, they're fed up, because all their money is going on dope.

"They all seem to take three to six 'kicks' a day...it's incredible but they spend \$80 to \$180 a day for heroin.

"And, if you've got to find that kind of money and you're a fairly 'straight' person, you're not going to go ship-lifting or do a bank or armed robbery; what you're probably going to do is try to buy a 'bag' (of heroin) and then try to resell some to other addicts."

Doctor Dalton said that a few years ago the couple's addiction would have tended towards a few drinks in the local hotel after work and perhaps cigarettes.

Now these young people are increasingly taking hard drugs, such as heroin, from the start.

She fears that it is only a matter of time before children become addicted to the narcotic drugs.

"The young are dabbling with it...this is pretty certain, but how many of them are going to be hooked is a different matter," said Dr Dalton.

"I dread the day when they bring us any kids because I don't know what to do with them. They're enjoying it too much...it's just a game.

"The majority now start on heroin. Of course, they start not realising they are going to get hooked.

"The inevitable answer is always, 'I didn't think I would get hooked... somebody just offered it to me and I thought I'd have a try'... 'I never intended to take it regularly, I thought I'd keep it to once a week; then gradually it just happened.'"

This new group are treated as outpatients, with weekly counselling and group therapy to try to withdraw them slowly from the narcotics addiction.

If this is not successful against overwhelming craving for narcotics the alternative is the methadone blockade, which Dr Dalton first introduced as a pilot project at Wistaria House in 1970.

It consists of using a synthetic form of morphine, called methadone, which is substituted for the heroin. The patients are then freed from narcotic hunger and can work and live normally.

The treatment does not initially remove the addiction. By switching the addict from heroin to methadone, the doctor is substituting one addiction for another, according to the methadone critics.

Desperate Cravings

Even while being maintained on methadone (about 3 years), the addict can return to something very close to normal life.

At least five addicted students taking part in Dr Dalton's program have gone back to their studies, one of them having graduated in medicine.

Until they are eased off methadone (an 18-month process) they remain tied to Wistaria House, where they must go for their daily methadone dose.

So far, Dr Dalton has put about 600 patients on the drug. To qualify, the patient must be a heroin addict and must show motivation to take part in the program.

Motivation to kick the drug habit is not as rare as the layman might imagine:

Patients frequently complain to Dr Dalton and her staff about the desperation and cravings and the people they feel tied to.

The methadone is released slowly into the system, satisfying the patient's cravings for drugs without producing the incapacitating euphoria of the heroin.

Methadone blockade is no overnight cure, unlike the savagery of sudden withdrawal of heroin, but Dr Dalton takes the realistic view that the slow rehabilitation process is less of a problem than the original addiction.

The ultimate goal is the total abstinence from drugs and the social rehabilitation of the patient, who must be emotionally fit before going out to face the world again.

The obvious drawback to the present situation, in terms of rehabilitating the new groups of addicts who are still working, is that to go on to the methadone blockade treatment they must make daily visits to Wistaria House, 24 km from the city.

To patients who come from all over the western region and as far as Katoomba, this would involve train or bus travelling every day, 7 days a week.

A hostel type accommodation, similar to the Way Back communal-type houses set up as offshoots of the Wistaria House program, where at least there is nightly and weekend contact, could be the answer.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUG THERAPY INSTEAD OF JAIL

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Mar 77 p 5

[Text] Convicted drug addicts in NSW are being offered a rehabilitation course, including transcendental meditation and acupuncture, as an alternative to jail.

The first addict to take the course was referred yesterday from a Sydney magistrate's court. The course, called the Drug Diversion Program, is being run by the NSW Health Commission at police buildings in Bourke St, Sydney.

The program is only for those addicted to hard drugs, particularly heroin, and will not apply to offences involving marihuana.

It is also open only to those who have already pleaded guilty to a drug charge.

An addict may still elect to go to jail, but a Health Commission spokesman said yesterday: "We expect to get a very large number choosing the rehabilitation program."

The initial rehabilitation program will last 8 weeks when the case will be reviewed.

The person will again go before the magistrate who will decide future action.

In most cases it is expected that the magistrate will order the person to continue the course.

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AUSTRALIA

2 TONS OF MARIHUANA SEIZED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Mar 77 p 9

[Text] A 36-year-old man appeared in Fairfield Court of Petty Sessions yesterday charged with possessing more than 2 tons of Indian hemp worth more than \$2 million.

Domenico Velardi, a pensioner, of The Horsley Drive, Fairfield, appeared on two charges of possessing marihuana and one of selling the drug, all on Tuesday. No pleas were taken.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant P. Staples, said police visited Velardi's home on Tuesday and after a search found 2 tons of marihuana in large bags.

The police then visited a house in Campbell Street, Fairfield, where they found an additional 25 bags of hemp weighing about 100 kg.

The street value was about \$96,000.

Sergeant Staples said the house was owned by a brother of Velardi who was at present in Adelaide.

Sergeant Staples opposed bail.

Mr T. Nyman, for Velardi, said Velardi had migrated from Italy in 1968, had been married 6 years and had a young son. He did not have a passport and had no means of absconding.

He had a muscular problem for which he received a pension.

Mr R. J. Bartley, SM, refused bail saying the offences were serious. He remanded Velardi to appear at the same court on 11 March.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

\$16 MILLION WORTH OF MARIHUANA CROP SEIZED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 9 Mar 77 pp 1, 4

[Article by Eric Beecher]

[Text] Police have seized more than \$16 million worth of marihuana crops this year in a national campaign to stamp out Australia's booming cannabis industry.

More than \$100 million worth of Australian-grown marihuana plants have been seized by drug squads since the end of 1975.

Figures released by the Commonwealth police yesterday show that the number of charges involving cannabis has more than quadrupled in 4 years.

The figures, compiled from statistics provided by each state and territory police department, reveal there were 13,008 charges related to cannabis in 1975, compared with 2,299 in 1972.

In 1972 there were 1,783 charges relating to marihuana possession and 191 related to growing cannabis plants. By 1975 the respective figures were 10,821 and 575.

Police are convinced that organised crime syndicates, many from overseas, are behind the amazing growth of marihuana trading in Australia.

There are now between 400,000 and 500,000 Australians using marihuana at least once a month, according to Professor Neal Blewett, professor of politics at Flinders University.

Professor Blewett is a member of the South Australian Council for Civil Liberties.

Demand has soared in the past 2 years.

Turnover of the drug in Australia is now estimated at almost \$200 million a year.

"Cannabis accounts for more than 80 percent of all detected drugs in Australia," Dr Malcolm Hall, of Australia Police, said yesterday.

"And, curiously, marihuana is one commodity which hasn't been affected at all by inflation--it's been a standard \$30 per dealer's ounce to smokers for years."

Large Syndicates

Commonwealth police yesterday confirmed their belief that large syndicates are involved, but refused to elaborate in case details jeopardised current investigations.

"We believe organised crime has moved in," Senior Sergeant Graham Hindson, of Victoria's drug squad, said yesterday.

"We're not even scratching the surface in detecting the real growth of this stuff. As well as the big syndicates there are hundreds of small operators who are almost impossible to detect.

"They can be found in all four corners of Victoria, wherever there are facilities for water and wherever the crop can be disguised," he said.

The drug is provided for the Australian market by a vast network of growers, wholesalers, retailers and dealers not to mention thousands of backyard marihuana gardens.

Activity is now at its peak during the harvesting months of February-March.

Police say warehouses around Australia are being filled with sealed plastic bags full of marihuana, which will be systematici- [as published] out the winter months.

In little more than 2 months this year there have been seven major marihuana raids by police, each resulting in crops valued at more than \$750,000 on street prices.

Last weekend's \$5 million haul at Euston on the NSW-Victoria border, and another \$5 million seizure at Nabiac, in NSW, in January, are the largest.

But the biggest marihuana seizure in Australia took place at Colleambally, near Griffith, NSW, in November 1975.

Almost 13 hectares of marihuana crops were discovered--at a market value, according to Detective Paul Brown, of the NSW drug squad, "of between \$80 million and \$1 billion."

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

SMITH CHARGED FOR IMPORTING HEROIN

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Feb 77 p 27

[Text] A man was committed for trial at the April sittings of the District Court when he appeared in the East Perth Court yesterday charged with illegally importing heroin.

Dennis Myles Smith (26), sales representative of Hines Road, Dalkeith, pleaded not guilty to illegally importing 36.4 grams of heroin at Perth on 4 November last year.

(Before Magistrate T. McGulgan, Mr G. N. Calder for the Commonwealth, Mr J. Elter for Smith.)

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

TWO MEN ADMIT ROLE IN BIG DRUG DEAL

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Mar 77 p 34

[Text] Two men in need of money agreed to travel from Sydney to act as go-betweens in a drug transaction, it was alleged in the District Court yesterday.

Francis Albert Pithers (28), photographer, and Nicholas John Larkins (29), student, both of Palm Beach, Sydney, pleaded guilty to a joint charge of possessing money from the sale of cannabis.

It was alleged that each man had received \$1,000 for the introduction of a buyer to a seller of \$450,000 worth of cannabis, which arrived in Broome from Bali last December.

Mr G. Miller, for Pithers, said that Pithers had been approached by an American to find a buyer for the cannabis.

At first Pithers had not been interested but when he told Larkins and Larkins showed interest the two agreed to introduce a buyer.

Pithers had not been connected with the actual importing of the cannabis via the yacht Zigeuner.

He was just a small man in the deal, a tool used by the main operators, Mr Miller said.

Cannabis had been distributed through a network in Australia and small people had been used in the process.

Pithers had recently set up business on his own as a photographer and needed the money.

Because he came from NSW, Pithers had no idea of the severity of penalties for such an offence in WA.

Mr McCusker for Larkins, said that Larkins had a long-standing ambition to study medicine and had twice tried unsuccessfully to gain admittance to the University of NSW.

However, Larkins had thought that he would be able to train in Ireland and had started to work towards this end.

Business

Larkins had begun a business with a partner and thought he was due for money from the business when it was discovered that his partner had spent much of the money on drugs.

A few weeks later the proposal to find a buyer for cannabis had been suggested and Larkins had agreed.

Mr McCusker said that Larkins had no idea of the amount of cannabis involved nor did he know the American who was selling it.

Mr McCusker agreed with Judge Gunning that Larkins said in a statement to the police that he had expected between 22 and 27 kilos of cannabis from Bob (the American).

Mr McCusker said: "When a man makes a statement to the police he is often merely agreeing with the police and is not thinking about matters that become important in a court."

Larkins had pleaded guilty but this did not mean that he agreed with everything in his statement, Mr McCusker said.

Pithers and Larkins were remanded in custody for sentence.

(Before Judge Gunning, Mr F. J. Whelan for the crown, Mr G. Miller for Pithers, Mr M. McCusker for Larkins.)

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

\$5 MILLION DRUG CROP TO BE DESTROYED

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Mar 77 p 5

[Text] Melbourne. Work will begin on Friday to destroy a \$5 million marihuana crop on the banks of the Murray River near Euston, in southern NSW.

A notice to destroy the crop was served on the land owner early yesterday.

The police hope to begin the burn-off on Friday, but in the meantime extra men have been called in to guard the 8-hectare plantation day and night.

Twenty-three police, including detectives from the Melbourne and Sydney drug squads, raided the property, on Willra station, 32 km west of Euston, last Saturday.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN ADDICT JAILED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 10 Mar 77 p 14

[Text] Sydney. A drug addict who in 5 months illegally obtained \$4,200 from Medibank and private health funds spent it on heroin, Sydney central court was told yesterday.

The man, a 24-year-old driver, spent \$180 a day to get the drug, the court was told.

Mr K. Webb, SM, sent John Morden Hales, of Croydon Street, Petersham, to jail for 2 years on a total of 55 charges involving Medibank, HCF and MBF.

Hales pleaded guilty to the charges.

They included the forging and uttering of doctors' receipts and false representation.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

TON OF MARIHUANA--Customs agents searched a Dutch freighter yesterday for a cargo of marijuana believed to weigh more than a tonne. The search of the 6900-tonne Straat Clement took all day and could delay departure of the vessel from Portland, Victoria, today. Customs officials from Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra maintained a tight security clamp on their operation. More than 40 officers from Adelaide travelled overnight to Portland to search for marijuana among the cargo of coffee beans and sisal from East Africa. The operation began after a tip that the Straat Clement was carrying more than a tonne of the illegal drug, and that Portland, on the Victorian-South Australian border 362 km west of Melbourne, could be the key to a highly organised smuggling ring. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Feb 77 p 3]

MARIHUANA RAID--Melbourne, Wednesday--Police seized marihuana worth up to \$500,000 in an early morning raid on a tobacco farm near Wangaratta, North-Eastern Victoria, today. A team of 10 police discovered 700 plants and about 150 lb of marihuana, dried and processed, and packed in bags, in a shed on a farm at Markwood, 20 kilometres from Wangaratta. Two men were charged later with possession and conspiracy to sell Indian hemp. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 24 Feb 77 p 9]

DRUG RAID AT WANGARATTA--Two men were being questioned by police in Wangaratta last night after a big drug raid. Police said marijuana, valued at about \$250,000, was seized in the raid. It was found in a shed on a property near Wangaratta. It is believed 10 bags, containing 15 lbs of processed marijuana, was found. Police found 1 1/2 tonnes of marijuana plants growing between rows of tobacco plants on a farm at Markwood, 23 km south-east of Wangaratta. The police are questioning a man and his son. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 24 Feb 77 p 1]

CSO: 5300

PRESS REPORTS RAIDS ON NARCOTICS SOURCES, DEALERS

Poppy Plantations in Lashio

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 12 Mar 77 p 4 BK

[Text] Kutkai, 5 Mar--The members of "Operation Agati Phase I," with the help of the regional populace, are destroying clandestine poppy plantations in villages within Lashio Township. The operation was jointly launched by the police force and the councils and departments concerned under the leadership of Township Police Commander U Saw Myint and Maj Maung Soe of the 68th Infantry Regiment. A total of 530 acres of clandestine poppy plantations have been razed in Man-ai and Panghong village tracts (see above picture). The local populace as well as the owners of the plantations, who have been educated, participated in destroying the plantations.

Poppy Plantations in Lawksawk Township

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 8 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Lawksawk, 27 Feb--Three police platoons from "Operation Agati Phase II" launched under the leadership of Southern Shan State's Lawksawk Township Party Unit Executive U Kyaw Myint, Township People's Council Chairman Capt Aye Lwin and Police Commander U Hla Kyaw, destroyed more than 100 acres of clandestine poppy plantations cultivated by Lishaw nationals in Nanhu Village of Parme Village tract. Action under the Narcotic Drugs Law has been taken against the 44 arrested plantation owners who had cultivated the poppy.

Poppy Plantations in Putao Township

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 15 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Putao, 3 Mar--Township People's Council Executive U Di Zaw Ain and Township Police Commander U Zaw Li and party destroyed more than 5 acres of poppy in areas surrounding Landaw and Mo-Yite villages and Nanlan

and Mo-Yite streams. The campaign will continue in Putao Township to destroy similar plantations.

Police Heroin Raid in Mergui

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 14 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Mergui, 9 Mar--A police force under City Police Station Officer U Ba Kyaw and Sub-Inspector U Nyun Tin has been continually investigating and exposing narcotics cases, which are widespread in Mergui. Yesterday, a raid on Shwekyau compound in the center of Mergui resulted in the seizure of 20 small packets of No 4 heroin and a hypodermic syringe from two youths who were smoking the heroin. The two youths escaped.

Heroin Seizure in Hospital Compound

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 13 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Thedaw Wundwin, 10 Mar--Under the narcotic suppression campaign launched under the supervision of the Township People's Council in Thedaw Wundwin, police Sub-Inspectors U Than Ngwe and U Tin Nyun together with ward councillors at 1130 hours today searched the residence of U Sein Maung and his wife Daw Aye Myaing--staff of Wundwin Hospital, who were residing in the hospital compound. Seized from the pockets of a jacket belonging to Pho Toke, alias Win Maung--son of U Sein Maung and Daw Aye Myaing--were 10 packets of No 4 heroin, each worth 10 kyats, 19 empty packets and 100 kyats obtained from heroin sales. Pho Toke has been charged under Sections 6 (B) and 10 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. The arrest was the first ever made in Wundwin Township.

Rangoon Police Heroin Raid

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 14 Mar 77 p 2 BK

[Text] Rangoon, 13 Mar--Under the instruction of Commander U Tin U and Station Officer U Tin Shwe of the Latha police station, Policeman U Than Ohn and party rushed to the bus stop in front of the general hospital on Bogyoke Road at 1000 hours yesterday to search five suspicious-looking youths. They apprehended a youth carrying some packages of heroin and hypodermic needles. The four other youths managed to escape. The youth apprehended was Kalar, alias Soe Tint--25-year-old son of U Yit Pyu of Anawrata Road. Seized from him were 10 packages of heroin worth 50 kyat each, five packages of heroin worth 100 kyat each and two sets of hypodermic needles and syringes. Latha police station has taken action against him under Sections 6 (B) and 10 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

Police Heroin Check at Loikaw Checkpoint

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 14 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Loikaw, 7 Mar--Acting on a tip, police at Loikaw checkpoint searched 20-year-old Maung Than U of Daw-U-Ku Ward, Lokaw, at 1300 hours today on passenger bus "Ngwedaung-U" upon his return from Taunggyi. They seized five packages of heroin weighing about .013 lb. The people's police has taken action against him under Section 9 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

PHOTO AND CAPTION OF POPPY CLEARING OPERATION

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 6 Mar 77 p 5

[Text]



Party, council, and government personnel and army men are seen clearing under Phase II of Operation Agati, together with Lishaw people, over 100 acres of poppy planted illegally at Nanhu village in Pame village tract, Yatsawk township.

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

BRIEFS

HONG KONG DRUG SMUGGLERS--Tokyo, 11 Mar--Tokyo customs authorities announced Friday the arrest of three foreigners, including Chen Kuo-chao, an employee of the Hong Kong office of the Cathay Pacific Airlines, on charges of violating the stimulants control law. The three allegedly smuggled some 16 kilograms of a powdered stimulant drug from Hong Kong by air in January and sold it in the Japanese underground market. A special headquarters set up by Tokyo police has been cracking down on South Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwanese connections in cooperation with customs authorities. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT 11 Mar 77 OW]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

NEWSPAPER SUPPORTS NEW MOVE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Mar 77 p 12 BK

[Editorial: "The PEMADAM Thrust"]

[Text] The national campaign against drug abuse enters an important phase now that PEMADAM [National Association Against Drug Abuse], the moving force, will have a physical presence in every government department to monitor the incidence of addiction. Not that public servants among the vulnerable groups are particularly deep into the habit, but merely to reinforce the view that those who want help will get it promptly. There will be no coercion; persuasion is what Pemadam believes in, the better to rescue the misguided. The effect should be startling. Although not more than 100 government workers among the federal and state work force have submitted themselves for treatment in the past six months, one must assume that the incidence of hidden addiction in this large sector is as serious as that among students. The difficulty has been to win the confidence of drug users that the state does not wish to punish but to rehabilitate them. Perhaps the response to the federal "amnesty" of last September suffered a little because it looked too much like an ultimatum. Those on drugs were given three months to declare themselves voluntarily after which general orders became operative. PEMADAM's approach is much more flexible, with a trained officer stationed in every government department to help and to advise. The desire to help is pervasive and that alone should impress the dabblers, as many who have fallen prey are thought to be. Provided the officers work closely with the Welfare Ministry, the plan is orderly enough to encourage hopes of wide response. In good time it could even be extended to the uniformed services and the schools.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN MAN GETS LIFE FOR DRUG PUSHING

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Mar 76 p 7 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri--S. Suppiah, 42, was jailed for life and ordered to be given three strokes of the rotan by the special sessions court here today for trafficking in 55.05 gm of heroin.

He was found guilty of trafficking in the drug in his house at the 3 3/4 mile Jalan Ipoh here at about 9 P.M. on 19 October last year. Suppiah, who was called to make his defence, elected to remain silent. Court President Puan Siti Normah Yaacob said there was only one sentence she could pass.

Court was told that a police party led by ASP [Assistant Superintendent Police] Ahmad Tajuddin Bin Shahabuddin of the Antinarcotics Flying Squad went to Suppiah's house and found him seated on a bed counting \$531.

He told ASP Tajuddin the money was proceeds from heroin sales. A bundle of plastic straws was found near the bed. Police also found eight plastic packets containing heroin hidden in a rice bin.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

DETENTION ON DRUG CHARGE--Butterworth, Thurs--Police detained a 40-year-old man and seized 72 tubes of heroin at Teluk Ayer Tawar near here yesterday. A police spokesman said the man was picked up following a tip-off. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Mar 77 p 9 BK]

DRUG SUPPLY NETWORK--City and Petaling Jaya police have crippled one of the biggest drug supply networks with the arrest of two men believed to be key figures in the organization early today. Eight suspected drug offenders, one of them a woman, have been detained. A substantial amount of what is believed to be heroin was seized in a series of raids over a 6-hour period shortly after midnight in the Sungai (?Way) area. Police believed the network has been supplying drugs to local customers as well as foreign tourists. The city Police Flying Squad first (?convinced of) the network when several children of influential people volunteered to assist them recently. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Mar 77 BK]

NEED FOR THAI-MALAYSIA COOPERATION--Malaysian authorities have proposed to the Thai Customs Department a joint operation to suppress the smuggling of drugs, firearms and contraband goods along the Thai-Malaysian border, customs deputy director general Somsak Chanthanasiri said this morning. The Malaysians also said that they would build a 17- to 19-kilometer fence inside their territory at Badang Besar, but they did not announce the date the construction was to begin, he added. [Text][Bangkok WORLD in English 12 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

OFFICIAL REPORTS CHANGES IN DRUG TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Traffickers On Trial

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 77 p 24 BK

[Text] An assistant director of the Central Narcotics Bureau yesterday told a drug trafficking trial in the High Court that trafficking patterns had changed since the amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act in December 1975.

Mr Ronald Naidu, who is in charge of the bureau's Special Projects Division, said this when cross-examined by Mr Thomas Tham, for Koh Chai Cheng, 25, accused of unlawfully trafficking in heroin in Park Road on 24 April last year.

In the dock with Koh, a shop assistant from Batu Pahat, was Ooi See Hai, 44, a casual laborer from Taiping, defended by Mr Ram Goswami. Both denied trafficking in 1,256 grams of diamorphine (heroin).

Mr Naidu told the court that heroin No 3 was generally known as "Southeast Asian" heroin and it had a pure diamorphine content of between 20 and 80 percent. He said that the black market price of the drug last April was \$14,000 a kilo. The witness said that anything which contained more than four-fifths of pure diamorphine would be called heroin No 4.

Asked by Mr Tham, assisted by Mr Denis Tan, whether he was familiar with "big time" drug trafficking, Mr Naidu said that the patterns had changed since the new legislation came into operation on 12 December 1975. Among others, the amended law provides the death penalty for anyone found trafficking in more than 15 grams of diamorphine. Mr Naidu said that the new patterns began to emerge two to three months after the amendment was introduced.

Counsel asked if he would agree that a pound (0.45 kg) of heroin in March/April last year could fetch \$4,800. Mr Naidu said that it was \$5,000 and almost \$6,000 for 0.5 kg.

Asked if traffickers would agree on the price, the witness replied in the affirmative. He added that there had been instances where the actual principals (drug traffickers) had brought drugs into Singapore, parked their cars in various parking lots in multi-story car parks and went round "hawking."

"They spend about half a day looking for would-be buyers, failing which they would reduce the prices at giveaway prices so that they would never be caught holding the drugs," he said.

The witness did not elaborate further what the old and new patterns were.

Cross-examined by Mr Goswami, the witness said that an informer would get his full reward if the culprit was convicted.

The court was told that it was a tip-off to a central police station constable by two men that led to the arrest of Koh, Ooi and three other Malaysians. The drug was found in the boot of a Johore-registered car.

DPP [Deputy Public Prosecutor] Sant Singh is prosecuting. Hearing continues.

Acquittal on Drug Charge

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Mar 77 p 7 BK

[Text] Singapore, Wed.--A Malaysian casual laborer today became the first man to be acquitted of a capital offence of drug trafficking under the amended Misuse of Drugs Act.

Ooi See Hai, 44, of Taiping, was cleared of trafficking 1,256 gms of heroin jointly with another Malaysian, Koh Chai Cheng, 25, a shop assistant, at Park Road on 24 April last year.

He was acquitted and discharged by Mr Justice Choor Singh, presiding, and Mr Justice A. P. Rajah without his defense being called after submissions from defense counsel and DPP Mr Sant Singh.

The court, however, called on the defense of Koh, who elected to give evidence on oath.

Mr Thomas Tham, assisted by Mr Denis Tan, for Koh, submitted that the two informers' evidence should be subjected to the closest scrutiny.

The court heard that the informers--a casual laborer and a stevedore--tipped off then-constable Ong See Hock of Central Station about the drugs arriving here from Batu Pahat that day. An ambush was laid at the Park Road car park, leading to the arrests of Koh, Ooi and three other Malaysians.

Mr Tham submitted that there were too many discrepancies in both informers' evidence.

Mr Ram Goswami, for Ooi, said that there was not a shred of evidence to connect his client to the offence. He said the only connection of his client with the car where the drugs were later found was that he was a passenger. The hearing continues.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

POLICE ARREST MALAYSIAN WITH HEROIN AROUND WAIST

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Mar 77 p 8 BK

[Text] Singapore, Thurs.--While customs and immigration officers at Woodlands checkpoint paid careful attention to the passport and belongings of a well-dressed, elderly Malaysian this morning, antinarcotics officers stationed nearby were more interested in his paunch. And after the man was cleared to enter Singapore, officers of the Special Projects Division of the Central Narcotics Bureau [CNB] swooped down on him and recovered a kilogram of heroin in two bags secured around his waist.

The haul--heroin No 3--had a "street value" of \$35,000, making it the third major seizure of the drug this year.

According to a CNB spokesman, the man is believed to be one of the ring-leaders of a Malaysian-based drug syndicate. Information regarding this syndicate was only received by the bureau about a month ago. Following this, the CNB maintained surveillance on the activities of the ring.

Early yesterday morning, some CNB officers began their vigil at the checkpoint. So discreet were they that customs and immigration officers there were unaware of their presence until they made their seizure.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THANIN, BURMESE ENVOY DISCUSS OPIUM POPPY ELIMINATION

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 17 Mar 77 BK

[Text] Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department Sala Siwalak today at 0930 accompanied new Burmese Ambassador U Tuang Hmung who called on Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian at Government House on the occasion of taking over his ambassadorial post.

The prime minister and the Burmese ambassador exchanged views on the cooperation to eliminate poppy growing in the golden triangle area as the governments of both countries deem it necessary to take such action as soon as possible. The governments of both countries will jointly implement actions in the near future that will lead to the elimination of poppy growing.

Secretary to the prime minister Soemsak Thepakham was also present during the discussion.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

MORE THAN COMMITTEES NEEDED TO STOP DRUG TRAFFIC

Bangkok CHAO THAI in Thai 24 Feb 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Narcotics Suppression"]

[Text] The government's drastic action against the spread of narcotics looks encouraging after the government established separate subcommittees to handle separate problems related to narcotics. Each subcommittee will be able to concentrate on specific tasks. A central committee will coordinate the work of each of the subcommittees for utmost efficiency.

The problem of narcotics is a major problem that must be resolved quickly. Our national reputation has been extensively tarnished as a result of the country being labeled as the center of trade in narcotics which are produced in the Golden Triangle in the northern part of the country. Thai travellers --male or female, crooks or not--are thoroughly searched when they arrive in a foreign country.

Moreover, the health of hundreds of thousands of Thais has been destroyed by narcotics sold locally. Many social problems have resulted from the use of narcotics. For example, it was pitifully reported that a student addict recently stabbed his teacher to death, and the majority of prisoners in almost every prison throughout the country are sentenced for drug-related crimes--pushing drugs or being drug addicts.

The spread of narcotics is a complicated problem and is like a chain. It is practically impossible to tell how the drug problem begins. Since there are addicts, there must be pushers; once there are pushers there must be producers; and once there are producers, there must be growers of poppy, which is the vital raw material for narcotics, particularly heroin. However, the important groups who conceal themselves in the above-mentioned chain are those who make money from collecting raw opium for sale, from transporting opium, from selling chemicals used in heroin production, from trading in heroin at the production site, from delivering heroin to pushers, from smuggling heroin abroad, and from pushing heroin sold to addicts on the streets who must have it to satisfy their addiction. These addicts will resort to stealing or armed robbery if they do not have money to buy heroin.

It is evident that narcotic production and trafficking are not easily suppressed. In particular, a huge amount of money is involved in these movements. Heroin worth a few hundred thousand baht in Thailand would fetch hundreds of millions of baht abroad.

Therefore, it is difficult to end the above-mentioned movements. To do it the government must thoroughly study solutions, and must have cooperation from both local and foreign groups.

If we look carefully at the government's establishment of the separate subcommittees, we feel that drug suppression will only meet with partial success. The investigation and suppression subcommittee will be able to effectively deal only with minor addicts, pushers, and producers. It will not be easy to reach the financiers who direct the movement for financial and political benefit, because these financiers conceal themselves as ordinary businessmen or people claiming to engage in patriotic causes.

The crop replacement subcommittee can only replace the poppy crop grown inside Thailand. It cannot replace the poppy crop grown in the Burmese Shan and Wa states and in northern Laos. The subcommittee responsible for medical treatment can only help addicts who have been arrested. There is no guarantee that these addicts will not return to using narcotics after they have been treated.

The subcommittee on prevention of drug use and public relations can only be effective in certain areas. It is difficult to convince hundreds of thousands of addicts through public relations work. Such efforts can only help to discourage more people from turning to narcotics.

We are not saying that those subcommittees do not serve any useful purpose, because they do. However, we feel that the narcotics prevention and suppression committee must proceed to a more extensive plan, and the government must firmly use its administrative authority to identify the real sources of the narcotics problem, particularly those who conceal themselves by various covers. The government must be willing to spend a sufficient amount of money to support the activities of each subcommittee. We must not forget that the narcotics producers and traffickers spend huge amounts of money to counter the government's suppression efforts.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

'BANGKOK POST' WELCOMES EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH DRUG ADDICTION

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Nipping Drugs in the Bud"]

[Text] It is heartening to note that the Narcotics Protection and Suppression Committee is expanding its scope of work in an effort to reduce drug addiction among the younger generation. Its plan to conduct drug tests on students sitting for the forthcoming university entrance examinations is indeed a welcome move. We are certain thousands of anxious parents who wish to see their children grow up well will be happy to hear that concerned authorities are doing their best to eradicate narcotics addiction.

Prevention is better than cure. In taking this preventive measure, we can be certain that at least in our universities drug addiction will decrease. With the number of drug addicts still increasing annually and nearly 40 percent of them being youths, precautionary measures of this nature will help in a big way to suppress addiction in our country. Institutions like universities, schools, training colleges and other organizations where hundreds of youth congregate daily can be breeding grounds of vice, too. One bad student can spoil many. Similarly a handful of addicts can spread the drug habit to many.

We hope that the Narcotics Protection and Suppression Committee will further enlarge their activity to attack the grassroots of drug addiction in our educational institutions. They should not stop only at rehabilitating youths on whom drug tests are found to be positive at the next entrance examinations but should probe further to find out where these students buy their drugs or how they are supplied to them. This way schools where drug addiction is rampant could be traced and restrictive measures imposed.

We are given to understand that organized gangs of drugs salesmen are operating in various areas within the metropolis and are luring students into drug addiction. Some students themselves are in the employ of these drug salesmen and are earning lucrative commissions. Not long ago administrators in a well-known school in the metropolis were very worried about the high rate of drug addiction in their school. One student died and this forced other anxious

parents to withdraw their children and send them to foreign schools. At this institution a gang of salesmen reportedly operated openly late in the evenings and even threatened teachers who tried to obstruct their nefarious trade. Besides the increase in the number of drug addicts, the standard of discipline, too, dropped. Some youngsters apparently under the influence of drugs openly flouted school regulations.

Youths can easily fall prey to temptation. Being young and revolutionary in spirit they have a natural tendency to try anything that's given to them. And once they develop a liking for something, it often becomes a habit. With drugs being available in large quantities in Bangkok and the circulation well organized, students are always in danger of falling victim to drug addiction. It is, therefore, imperative that the authorities, especially those in charge of narcotics suppression, take strong precautionary measures to wipe out drug sales in schools.

To make this plan a reality and suppression efforts in educational institutions a success, concerned authorities in cooperation with school authorities should launch a two-pronged attack against the sale and use of narcotics by our students. We feel the best way this can be achieved is to appoint squads among responsible students to trace and wipe out sales points in and around school premises and at the same time conduct a vigorous campaign in all schools to impress on students the ill effects narcotics cause to people and how many are suffering from various ailments as a result of drug addiction. The Narcotics Protection and Suppression Committee has made a good start, but this needs to be followed up with enlarged plans and schemes to instill in the minds of our youths that drugs are injurious to health and retard mental development.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

OFFICIALS TO BURN 18,000 KILOS OF SEIZED DRUGS 'SOON'

Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Over 18,000 kilograms of heroin, morphine, boiled opium, raw opium and marijuana worth billions baht confiscated last year, will be burnt or destroyed by the Public Health Ministry very soon, reliable sources told the express yesterday.

According to the sources, the narcotics have been kept at the Food and Drug Control Division in the Public Health Ministry. There has not been any destruction of burning of the drugs for a long time and the amount of the seized narcotics has piled up quickly due to the frequent raids of police and narcotics suppression authorities against drug traffickings and smugglings.

A special committee for destroying the seized narcotics convened yesterday at the Public Health Ministry under the chairmanship of Dr Prakop Tuchinda, under secretary of state for public health. Other members of the committee participating in the meeting yesterday were representatives from the ministries of defense and finance, the police department, secretary general of the Anti Narcotics Coordination Center and some senior officials of the Public Health Ministry.

The meeting discussed about the methods to destroy the confiscated drugs kept at the specially-built store room in the Food and Drug Control Division. The date of burning the drug is to be fixed very soon, according to a committee member.

Dr Prakop Tuchinda told reporters that another committee will have to be set up to inspect and check the total quantity of seized narcotics.

There has been suspicion among some honest government officials that the figure of the drugs turned in by the police and that the Food and Drug Control had registered were not the same. It has been suspected that the drugs might have been stolen or smuggled out.

However, Dr Prakop pointed out to the EXPRESS that the drugs seized by the police and narcotics suppression authorities has been kept well in a thick

concrete room with inner and outer gates. Each gate has at least three locks. A key of each lock has been kept by each member of the committee taking care of the drugs.

During the first 11 months of 1976 alone, Thai authorities confiscated 553.9 kilograms of heroin, 289.7 kilograms of morphine, 380.7 kilograms of boiled opium, 1,297 kilograms of raw opium and 13,693.5 kilograms of marijuana. The narcotics seizure in 1976 was about five times over that of 1975.

"The overall value of these seized narcotics would be many billion baht," a police officer commented.

CSO: 5300

THAI POLICE SEIZE 212 TUBES OF HEROIN

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 9 Mar 77 pp 1, 16 BK

[Text] On 8 March at 1800, police officials of Bang Khunthian police station seized a Toyota Corona with license plate No Bangkok F-3079 in front of a food shop at No 39/17 Dao Khanong Chomthong Road, Bang Khunthian District, Bangkok. Investigations showed that this car had been used previously for heroin smuggling operations. Its driver, Suthin Amphai, 30 years old, claimed that he was merely hired to drive the car by the wife of the manager of "Bunloet Natasin" folk dance group.

Police officials searched the car and found 212 tubes of heroin worth about 30,000 baht locally, or about 3 million baht abroad. Suthin claimed he did not realize there was heroin in the car.

A subsequent investigation showed that the car had been stolen from Sumali Ruangkanchanaset who had reported the theft to the Chakkrawat police station on 7 February.



THAI HIGH COURT ACQUITS MALAYSIAN, THAI DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] The Court of Appeals yesterday reversed the Criminal Court's decision and ordered the acquittal of Malaysian Lu Peng-kia and his Thai associate Udom Asawa-itthiwatthana, earlier sentenced to 40 years in jail on drug trafficking charges.

Last May the two defendants were sentenced by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of illegally possessing narcotics and of attempted smuggling of the drugs. The third defendant, Wiwat Niyom-udom, was acquitted because of insufficient evidence.

The Appeals Court verdict said that testimony provided by witnesses for the prosecution had failed to make out a sufficient case against Lu Peng-kia and Udom Asawa-itthiwatthana.

The Court of Appeals did not agree with the Criminal Court's decision and, therefore, ordered the two defendants to be acquitted. However, they are still being held in detention pending an appeal to the Supreme Court by the public prosecutor.

Lu Peng-kia, Udom Asawa-itthiwatthana and Wiwat Niyom-udom were arrested on July 19, 1973, in coordinated pre-dawn raids at a Mahesak Road jewelry store, in hotels near the July 22 Circle and the Golden Mount. The operation was headed by Col Narong Kittikhachon, then the deputy secretary-general of the powerful Bureau for Inspection and Follow-up of Government Operations (BIFGO). The trio were alleged, by police, in trial testimony to be three leading international drug traffickers and were also alleged to be involved in the smuggling of other contraband.



Lu Peng-kia (left) and Udom Asawa-itthiwatthana before yesterday's acquittal.

Police seized a huge quantity of opium worth about 13 million baht and some morphine in Pathum Wan District, Bangkok metropolis, Surat Thani and Chumphon provinces which led to the arrest of the trio.

THAILAND

COURT JAILS AMERICAN FOR 30 YEARS ON DRUG CHARGES

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] The Bangkok Military Court yesterday sentenced 40-year-old American Thomas Kiley to 30 years imprisonment after finding him guilty of possessing 730 grammes of heroin and attempting to smuggle it out of the country.

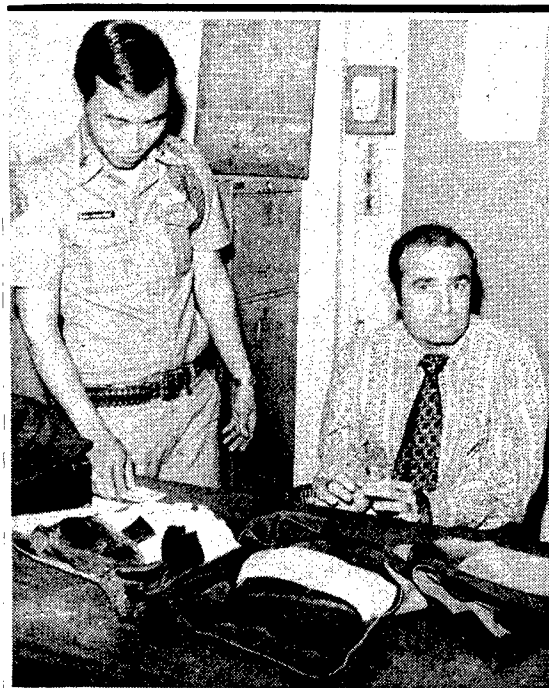
Thomas Kiley was arrested at Don Muang Airport with 730 grammes of heroin valued at about 21,900 baht.

He admitted all charges.

The court at first sentenced him to 10 years for possessing heroin plus life imprisonment for trying to smuggle out of the country.

But for confessing the charges, the court reduced the life sentence to 50 years imprisonment, thus totalling 60 years jail term.

It further reduced the jail term to 30 years.



Kiley ... sentence halved from 60 years

THAILAND

BRIEFS

OPIUM-SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM FUNDS--Thailand plans to seek an additional 14 million baht fund to extend by three years the United Nations programme to urge opium growing farmers to turn to substitute crops. Deputy Secretary General of the National Narcotics Control Board Mr Likhit Thoetsathiansak, told the NATION REVIEW yesterday that the current 5-year 40-million-baht UN programme is due to expire in February, next year. He said the United States will pull out of the programme after the UN scheme expires, "making it necessary for the Thai Government to boost the current annual budget of 5.5 million baht for the same programme to cope with the gap." He said he did not know exactly how much more budget would have to be allocated. "We must take into consideration several factors involved," he added. The United States, he said, also plans to introduce similar crop substitute programmes in Burma and Laos. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 10 Mar 77 p 3 BK]

AMERICAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG POSSESSION--The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced an American to one year's imprisonment for possessing 0.11 gram of heroin worth 3.30 baht. The sentence was, however, reduced to 6 months because the defendant, 21-year-old B. K. Morris, pleaded guilty. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Mar 77 p 3 BK]

POLICE BURN SEIZED MARIHUANA--About 2.5 tons of confiscated marijuana will be put to the torch next Monday at the Public Disaster Relief Centre, police sources reported yesterday. This is part of the new policy of destroying all seized narcotics. A police source said the National Narcotics Control Board had laid down a policy of having all confiscated narcotics, currently kept at the Public Health Ministry, destroyed as soon as possible. The source said the undisclosed amount of confiscated heroin kept by the ministry will be destroyed--either by burning or dumping into the sea--soon. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 11 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

BPP OFFICIAL ON NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION--[Interview with deputy commander of the Border Patrol Police Pol Maj Gen Prawit Wongwiset on 15 March. Recorded] [Prawit] Concerning narcotics suppression, the Border Patrol Police (BPP) have always made strong efforts in that sphere. In the north, with the support of helicopters provided by the United States, a quick dispatch of suppression forces was carried out. The BPP, however, lost several men in those operations. The amount of heroin confiscated in 1976 amounted to 52 kilograms. Nearly all major heroin factories in deep forests were destroyed and a large quantity of equipment and chemicals used for opium processing were captured. Concerning development work carried out by the BPP, I have something to tell you. That is, the BPP now operates as many as 201 schools in remote areas, or what are called "hilltribe schools," with a total of 15,915 schoolchildren. We have 576 teachers, all of whom are border patrol policemen. The money for this project was provided by the Princess Mother. She has already donated 10 million baht. [Excerpt] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 15 Mar 77]

2,700 ARRESTED IN 2 MONTHS--Metropolitan Police have arrested 2,700 suspects during the past 2 months on charges of possessing, trafficking, trading in narcotic drugs, and of being addicts, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lt Gen Wichian Saengkaeo said today. He said that 2,401 of them were arrested on charges of possessing dangerous drugs, while 121 were arrested for trafficking. The remaining 171 were arrested on suspicion of being drug addicts. The commissioner said that police would continue its campaign to eradicate production of and trafficking in the dangerous drugs in the country. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 12 Mar 77 p 2 BK]

CHINESE LIBRETTIST ARRESTED--A Chinese opera librettist was arrested for possession of heroin on Friday evening. Buppharam police in Thon Buri identified him as Sompot Yu-utsaha, 55. He reportedly confessed to possession of 21 capsules of No 5 heroin plus five medicine envelopes also filled with heroin. Total value was 3,500 baht. Arrested with him was Seng Yo Sae Heng, 38. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 13 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

POLICE SERGEANT HELD--Police Friday afternoon arrested a police sergeant and another man on charges of possessing and trafficking heroin at a house in Soi Udonsak off Sukhumvit Road in Phra Khanong District. The two were identified as Pol Sgt Sakdawan Khanchan (30) and Sanong Sinlapi (40). A search at the house uncovered six capsules of heroin hidden in a spirit house and one in Sanong's shirt pocket. The two were detained for further questioning. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 77 p 3 BK]

ARREST IN MORPHINE SMUGGLING ATTEMPT--A Malaysian national was arrested at Don Muang Airport by the customs officials for possession of morphine in his suitcase. Mr Wong Pang Chuan, 31, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was charged by the Criminal Court for possessing morphine illegally and trying to traffick it out of the country, on December 22, 1976. The morphine, weighing 3174.50 grams valued at 17,396 baht and packed in a suitcase was going to board Aeroflot for Moscow, but the customs officials found the morphine before boarding. Wong was arrested and sent to the Criminal Court. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

EDITORIAL URGES REASSESSMENT OF NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 16 Mar 77 p 14

[Editorial by Robert Chamberlain: "Get Off the Pot"]

[Text] Five years after LeDain, three years after seven U.S. states decriminalized it, and long after anyone has suggested that smoking it will turn human gray matter to rice pudding, Canada's federal government is still fudging on its own five-year-old promise to soften penalties for simple possession of marijuana.

But if President Jimmy Carter's administration has its way, our legislators may soon have an example to follow.

The Carter administration asked the U.S. Congress this week to decriminalize marijuana smoking and indicated it is considering a more lenient approach to possession of cocaine.

Dr. Peter Bourne, head of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy, said the American government "will continue to discourage marijuana use, but we feel criminal penalties that brand otherwise law-abiding people for life are neither an effective nor an appropriate deterrent."

All of which sounds quite similar to statements made by Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry a few days ago.

The American proposal would remove criminal penalties for possession of small quantities of marijuana a person might have for personal use.

It is overdue.

In 1974, Oregon became the first U.S. state to decriminalize simple possession and despite apocalyptic prophecies, found one year later no increase in marijuana use or problems with it.

As a result, Alaska, California, Minnesota, South Dakota, Ohio, Colorado and Maine "followed suit."

Mr. McMurtry suggests marijuana possession charges, which now fall under the Narcotic Control Act, are cluttering up Ontario's courts, and judges apparently agree, granting more and more conditional or absolute discharges on possession convictions.

The judges and Mr. McMurtry as well seem to feel a lifelong criminal record for something as innocuous as possession of a few grams of the weed is an unfair punishment.

Although the country is probably not ready for marijuana retail stores or a Cannabis Control Board of Ontario, throwing people in jail or even fining them heavily for simple possession is archaic.

Few, if any, scientists support the oldest and most publicized theories of brain damage, psychosis, sterility, deformed babies or the first-step-on-the-rocky-road-to-heroin-addiction.

As a matter of fact, attempts to treat glaucoma and asthma with marijuana or its active chemical, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) have been surprisingly positive.

Justice Minister Ron Basford keeps promising to put the matter before the Commons, but so far, that is all he has offered--promises.

The time is long past for a reassessment of Canada's Narcotic Control Act.

It should be a priority item of the government this year.

CSO: 5320

BILL TO LIGHTEN MARIHUANA POSSESSION PENALTIES FACES OPPOSITION

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 17 Mar 77 p 39

[Text] Ottawa (CP)--Health Minister Marc Lalonde faces stiff opposition when he introduces a long-promised bill to lighten penalties for possession of marijuana, some MPs indicated Wednesday.

Lalonde said the government will introduce new marijuana legislation, "preferably this session." Similar legislation is planned in the U.S.

Lalonde declined to discuss his legislative plans in detail.

A random survey of MPs shows several--including the 10-member Social Credit caucus--oppose such a move.

But there is also strong support for liberalization of marijuana laws from such people as former prime minister John Diefenbaker and Sports Minister Iona Campagnolo.

Charles-Robert Gauthier (SC--Roberval) said his party opposes any liberalization of marijuana laws. Although the drug "is less offensive than LSD, it is a drug nonetheless and we must protect the user against himself," Gauthier said in an interview.

The Mistassini, Que. undertaker said moving marijuana and hashish (cannabis) from the Narcotics Control Act to the less harsh Food and Drugs Act would make marijuana "as easily available as chocolate bars."

On the other side of the fence was Andrew Brewin (NDP--Greenwood) who said the present law, under which people can be put into prison for possession of marijuana is unjust, and he favored liberalization.

"I don't feel the nature of the offence merits prison," the Toronto lawyer said. "People in jail tend to pick up more bad habits than they lose."

Under a government bill which died on the Commons order paper two years ago, marijuana would have been shifted from the Narcotics Control Act to the Food and Drug Act.

CSO: 5320

PRESCRIPTION OF HEROIN TO ADDICTS A 'SOLUTION'

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 18 Mar 77 p 17

[Excerpt] Ottawa (CP)--Isabel Macneill, former director of the Kingston Prison for Women, suggested Thursday that Canada might solve a lot of its criminal problems by simply prescribing heroin to addicts.

She was responding to a question by Stuart Leggatt (NDP--New Westminster) during a session of a special Commons subcommittee into prison violence.

About 70 per cent of women in prison are there as a result of drug use. Miss Macneill said theft or prostitution are the source of money to pay for the drugs.

She said a woman who had turned to prostitution in Canada moved to England, has a job, and "lives a normal life on seven grains of heroin a day." The heroin is prescribed to addicts under British law.

The subcommittee has been told that heroin is British Columbia's fifth largest industry, some users paying up to \$350 a day and stealing to get the money.

In Western Canada at least half the men in prison were there as a result of drug-related crime ranging from theft and bank robbery to murder.

The Criminal Code defines an addict as a user who "has developed a desire or need to continue to take a narcotic." RCMP estimate there are 16,000 to 20,000 addicts in Canada and they spend more than \$500 million a year on heroin. Most of this money is stolen.

A British Columbia penitentiary official told the committee there are 12,000 addicts in the Vancouver area and most could be picked up at any time. However, prison capacity would have to be more than doubled to hold them.

Miss Macneill was the last female director of the only federal prison for women in Canada. She ran it from 1961 to 1966.

CSO: 5320

FORMER PRISON GUARD DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF HEROIN

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 9 Mar 77 p 13

[Text] A former Oakalla guard admitted in county court Tuesday that he had imported lantern batteries from Hong Kong but denied any knowledge of 8 1/2 pounds of heroin found in a shipment that arrived here.

William Lewis Reisig, 35, is charged with conspiracy to import drugs into Canada, conspiracy to traffic in heroin and possession of the drug for the purpose of trafficking.

He also denied conspiring with Clifford Fook Hing Jung, 44, jointly charged with him on the first two counts.

The charge covers the period between July 1, 1974, and March 28, 1975, when Reisig was arrested at a Vancouver home.

Police followed the shipment when it left the dock in Vancouver after placing an electronic bug in one of the containers.

Officers had been alerted by customs officials when one of the batteries tested failed to emit a spark.

The 35 batteries were each found to contain two vials of heroin with an estimated total street value of \$10.5 million.

Reisig said he ordered the batteries through a man named Sun Cheang, whom he had met at a kung fu demonstration at University of B.C. in 1972, and from whom he had ordered previous shipments of oriental goods.

He told country [sic] court Judge W. A. McClellan that he had ordered 40 of the batteries for which he had paid \$100 and intended to sell at \$4 each, with the intention of ordering more if of good quality.

He also said he had been engaged in a deal with another man named Jimmy to help dispose of the batteries.

He described Jimmy as Chinese and a flashy dresser who wore a sharkskin suit. He said he had met him in Chinatown several times.

"A man who dresses like that usually has some capital behind him and that's what I needed," Reisig told the court.

He said he had given Sun Cheang's Hong Kong address to Jimmy who said he was going to distribute the batteries and he was looking forward to high volume sales if they turned out to be a good product.

Evidence of tape recorded conversations was admitted earlier in which there were long conversations with Reisig and Cheang regarding the shipment.

Jung testified earlier that his occupation in the Chinatown district was that of a money lender and that Reisig was indebted to him.

He said he called Reisig several times inquiring when the shipment was going to arrive because when it arrived and the batteries were sold, Reisig would pay him his money.

Reisig said he was unable to explain letters in Chinese characters which were found in his bedroom which the Crown alleged used the term "white woman" which meant heroin.

He said he could neither speak nor write Chinese although he had a long association in the Chinatown area and that he could not explain how the letters got there.

The case continues.

CSO: 5320

CANADA BECOMING BUSY MARKET FOR AMSTERDAM DRUG TRADE

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 14 Mar 77 p 9

[Article by Duart Farquharson, Southam News Services]

[Text] Amsterdam--This city's multi-million-dollar heroin trade, blamed for a new epidemic of deaths across Western Europe, is also increasingly contaminating Canada.

Heroin from Asia's golden triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand, smuggled here by Chinese gangs, is being sold in considerable quantities to Montrealers and Vancouverites as well as to the Germans, French, Italians and British.

Traffickers are being arrested in Canada with heroin they acquired in Holland, according to the RCMP.

Chinese Canadians in the drug trade are known to be moving back and forth between Vancouver, Amsterdam and Hong Kong.

The Canadian link to the Amsterdam connection is documented in several recent court cases here.

Robert Irvine Bell, 51, of Vancouver, was sentenced recently to 18 months in a Dutch prison after being arrested at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport last October in possession of six ounces of heroin.

Bell, who also faces trafficking charges in Vancouver, admitted in court to making five previous trips to Amsterdam between last June and October.

Allan Lee, a Montrealer in his early 20s, was also sentenced here last December 29 to 18 months for possession of three ounces of heroin.

Several other associates are presently under charges in Montreal.

Last January Lui King, a Chinese facing drug charges in Vancouver, was arrested in Amsterdam as an alien and deported to Hong Kong.

The Canadian authorities are trying to extradite King with his wife, Lui Shin and a colleague, Wong Kwok Hang, to face charges in Vancouver. Another associate, Chan Joe Wai, is awaiting trial there.

"There is no doubt there is a definite link between Hong Kong, Amsterdam and North America," RCMP staff Sgt. G. E. Vandegraff said in an interview in his office. "You can assume the trade is increasing," he said, noting the discovery last week by Dutch police in Rotterdam of a freighter from Bangkok with 264 pounds of heroin worth an estimated \$8 million on the street.

The Dutch-speaking Mountie, who opened the Canadian criminal liaison office in Holland last September, said that with so much heroin available here "some of it is bound to go to North America or any place else there is a market."

He added, "One organization has shipped 3,700 kilograms of hashish from here to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver in a one-year period, mostly as air freight. When hash moves like that you can be sure heroin is coming too. They can make as much body-packing a few ounces."

Amsterdam began to emerge as the drug capital of Europe in 1972 following the breaking of the old Turkey-Marseille-New York French connection and the American withdrawal from Vietnam.

With the loss of their best market, the Chinese drug bosses of Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Singapore looked to Europe and West Germany where thousands of American GIs were already addicted.

Amsterdam was a natural choice for a headquarters as a liberal centre within the borderless European Common Market which, most importantly, had the largest Chinese community on the continent.

There are now thought to be about 10,000 Chinese living here, as many as 8,000 of them illegally. The Chinese community is said to have been intimidated by the gangster-run secret societies--triads--which control the narcotics trade.

An ant army of couriers brings the heroin from Asia to airports from Rome to Helsinki, then overland to Holland, Schiphol airport now being carefully watched. Buyers descend on Amsterdam from all over the continent, make their deals with the agents of the Chinese in places from red light district bars to the best hotels, and carry the narcotic back home to be retailed.

"In 1971 we seized 50 grams of heroin in Amsterdam," said detective commissioner Gerard Toorehaar, head of the city's special narcotics squad.

"In 1976 we seized 65 kilograms in Amsterdam, 175 kilograms in the whole of Holland. Some 500 kilograms were seized all over Europe."

Police generally estimate that seizures represent about 10 per cent of the actual traffic.

Commissioner Toorenaar [sic] told Southam News Services his squad, recently increased from six to 25 men, is beginning to make some headway. As an indication of street shortages of heroin in Amsterdam, he said, the price has gone up from 70 guilders a gram last fall to 400 guilders today.

While the Dutch police find it impossible to infiltrate the Chinese gangs they are managing to deport some of the illegal residents--400 in the last two and a half months--thought to be involved in the heroin racket.

A change in Dutch law passed by the Parliament last November had increased the maximum prison sentence for trafficking to 12 years from four. Sentences imposed, however, have remained much lighter than those given in Canada.

There have been 16 "executions" by the Chinese themselves of rival triad leaders and couriers believed to have become too greedy.

Bodies often end up floating in the canals or, as in the case three months ago of Jenny Ymip, 17, and her boyfriend Kan Lan Chan, 24, with five bullets in the head left on a lonely dike enclosing the old Zuider Zee.

CSO: 5320

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES DECRIMINALIZING MARIHUANA POSSESSION

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 16 Mar 77 p 6

[Editorial: "Grass Across the Border"]

[Text] In Washington the Administration of President Jimmy Carter has asked Congress to decriminalize possession of marijuana. If the plan goes through it will mean that possession of a small quantity of marijuana for personal use will no longer be a violation of any law.

Dr. Peter Bourne, chosen by Mr. Carter to head the Office of Drug Abuse Policy, said the Administration "will continue to discourage marijuana use, but we feel criminal penalties that brand otherwise law-abiding people for life are neither an effective nor an appropriate deterrent."

A sensible approach. Use of alcohol or tobacco is hardly to be encouraged, either. Each of them is known to be damaging to the user, much more so than marijuana. Yet prohibition of alcohol, when tried, was a disaster, as prohibition of tobacco would be, and as prohibition of marijuana now is.

Decriminalizing possession does not, of course, offer a complete answer to the existing problems. If possessing marijuana is legal then obtaining it will have to become legal, too, and that calls for a distribution system, probably, like that of liquor, under government control. This in itself would be an important step for it would break the one real link between marijuana and harder drugs, the fact that the underground pusher has both in his stock in trade.

The readiness of the Carter Administration to act makes an impressive contrast with the Canadian Government's long record of foot-shuffling and foot-dragging, looking the other way, pretending one day that the problem doesn't exist and the next that it can be handled by asking judges to go easy in applying an unchanged law.

One excuse for inaction in this country has been the fear that if Canada moved before the United States it would make for trouble at the border. Now it appears that that pretext for keeping the law lagging behind the needs and realities of the time, and thus helping to create a climate of casual disrespect for the law itself, may soon be demolished. Dare we hope now that even Ottawa will find the courage--only the most modest of courage is needed--to act?

BRIEFS

DRUGS MAY CONTAIN PCP--London, Ont. (CP)--Street drugs here may be laced with a horse tranquillizer known as angel dust, Dr. Edward Waring, chief of Victoria Hospital's counselling service, said yesterday. Two people, one a teen-ager, are in critical condition at the hospital suffering from what could be the effects of angel dust. Dr. Waring said the two patients, in a semi-conscious state in the hospital's intensive-care unit, took what they thought to be the drug mescaline. He said doctors are investigating the possibility the two may have taken drugs containing either angel dust, medically known as phencyclidine or PCP, or phenothiazine, a major tranquillizer. [Text] [Toronto THE SATURDAY GLOBE MAIL in English 26 Feb 77 p 12]

MARIHUANA SEIZED AT AIRPORT--Two Europeans were to appear in Richmond provincial court today on a charge of importing drugs into Canada. Erich Grigis, 25, was arrested late Wednesday as he disembarked from Air Canada flight 853 from Bangkok, Geneva and London. Immigration officers found 20 kilos of marijuana in a suitcase. Pius Huber, 24, was arrested early Thursday in a hotel in downtown Vancouver. Street value of the marijuana is estimated at \$320,000. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 4 Mar 77 p 16]

GARDOM TO DISCUSS DRUGS--Victoria (CP)--Attorney-General Garde Gardom will travel to Ottawa within the next month to discuss the narcotics problem in British Columbia. Gardom said in an interview that, among other subjects, discussion will involve proposals for liberalized use of marijuana made last week by Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry. McMurtry suggested that the federal government should either enforce cannabis laws or legalize the drug, with sales through an agency similar to those controlling liquor sales. Gardom said he is keeping an open mind on the subject, but said he felt there has not been satisfactory evidence as to the safety of marijuana. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 9 Mar 77 p 1]

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--A man who walked away more than two years ago from a Vancouver court due to an error by a court official after pleading guilty to a charge of possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking, was sentenced Tuesday in North Vancouver provincial court to one

year in jail. Judge J. D. Layton sentenced William August Mazurski, whose address was given the RCMP as Surrey, to 12 months for the offence he had pleaded guilty to before Judge Layton in December 1975. Defence counsel Howard Bradbrooke argued that Mazurski had led an "exemplary life" since his walkaway from the Vancouver provincial court and he suggested his client be sentenced to the 2 1/2 months he already has spent in jail awaiting dispensation of the case. "You're 30 years old and you have a record going back 12 years and you have had ten or twelve indictable offences," Judge Layton said in passing sentence. "This has been your third conviction for possession for the purpose of trafficking and my view is you have to do time." Previously, Bradbrooke told the judge that Mazurski had, after pleading guilty before Judge Layton, been taken "to a third or fourth floor office" of the Vancouver public safety building where due to a mistake by someone, he was told he could go free. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 9 Mar 77 p 20]

INDICTMENT SIGNED TO REOPEN CASE--An indictment signed by Attorney General Ron Basford has been filed in Ontario Supreme Court charging Daniel Lynch and Guy D'Aoust with possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking. Lynch and D'Aoust were arrested last summer and charged with the same offence but a provincial court judge threw the case out of court after deciding there was insufficient evidence to commit the pair for trial. Remarks allegedly made by the federal crown attorney outside the court that day sparked a sharp outcry from Lynch's lawyer. Arthur Cogan said Graham Pinos boasted, after dismissal of the charges, that he could easily bring the case back before the court by way of preferred indictment. A preferred indictment--which must be signed by the attorney-general--enables the Crown to bypass a preliminary hearing and proceed directly to trial. Cogan charged it was a misuse of a legal procedure. Pinos, the federal prosecutor, denied making the statements attributed to him. He said he mentioned a preferred indictment as one of several possibilities in dealing with the case. Lynch and D'Aoust were alleged to have been in possession of more than 400 pounds of hashish. [Text] [Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 11 Mar 77 p 3]

NINE ARRESTED IN RAIDS--Hawkesbury (Staff)--Nine people were arrested following a series of drug raids in the Hawkesbury area Friday night. A total of 24 drug charges were laid after 50 officers from four forces raided seven homes and a Hawkesbury hotel room shortly after 8 p.m. The raids concluded a four-month investigation by the RCMP, Hawkesbury city police and Ontario Provincial Police and Nepean police. Eric Stewart, 37, of Calumet, Que., is scheduled to appear in court today in St. Jerome, Que. to face four charges of drug trafficking. Yvon Villeneuve, 21, Yvon Mallette, 22, Yves Brisebois, 20, and Marc Myre, 19, all of Hawkesbury, and Robert Carriere, of RR 1, Hawkesbury, face one or more charges of trafficking. In addition, Brisebois, Myre and Carriere face charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking. Myre, Mallette and Carriere also face charges of possession. Also charged with simple possession are Florence and Gilberte Lacasse and Lyse Chartrand of Hawkesbury. [Text] [Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 14 Mar 77 p 3]

GUITARIST FREE ON \$25,000 BAIL--Keith Richard, guitarist for the Rolling Stones who is charged with two drug offences, was remanded to June 27 when he appeared in court yesterday. Mr. Richard, 34, appeared before Provincial Court Judge Joseph Addison on charges of possession of an ounce of heroin for the purpose of trafficking and possession of about a fifth of an ounce of cocaine. The charges stem from an RCMP search of a downtown hotel room on February 28 after a week-long investigation by the RCMP at Toronto International Airport and by the Ontario Provincial Police. Mr. Richard is free on \$25,000 bail. His lawyer, Clay Powell, said in an interview that the remand date could be for a preliminary hearing or a trial, as the accused elects. In Brampton, Anita Pallenberg, Mr. Richard's girl friend, was fined \$400 in Provincial Court after pleading guilty to possession of marijuana and hashish. Judge John Ord said a fine was called for because only traces of the drugs, along with a syringe, were found in her purse at the airport. [Excerpt] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 15 Mar 77 p 5]

CSO: 5320

DRUG EPIDEMIC DISCUSSED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 21 Feb 77 p 4-A

[Text] "Youth Culture", "Generation Gap" are among the stereotyped expressions with which parents are bombed when they attempt to understand the drug problem and to protect their children from the dangers that this problem creates. There is a constant flow of articles, books and newspaper reports which increase parents' knowledge of drugs but the price is very high: uneasiness, guilt complex, the feeling of helplessness has increased alarmingly.

On one hand, we feel that we are primarily responsible for our children having drug or other problems. On the other hand, we feel that we are so far from the youth's generation that we cannot hope to influence their lives. Similar contradictions and incorrect information flood popular literature on this subject. Complaints and slogans frequently substitute clear thinking. Squeezed in this whirlpool, parents desperately seek new outlooks. We must know how we, our children and society can share the responsibility for the drug problem, and how we might work together to find adequate solutions.

Unfortunately, no magic formula exists for preventing children from trying drugs. There are no instant solutions for such a great social problem as drug addiction. However, the first step toward the solution of any complex problem is to identify its components, avoiding oversimplified explanations and solutions.

When we say that only youth, only parents or just society is to blame for this, we are in fact looking for who is guilty rather than for solutions. This reduces the possibilities that parents, youths and society can collaborate among themselves to find the solutions.

But what can parents do? We find ways to face the problem more adequately. We can find more effective means of communication with our children. It is also possible for us to take direct steps to end or at least change some sociological conditions which lead to drug addiction. By means of this broader view of our thoughts and deeds, we have a better chance of influencing our children's decisions.

Parents influence the conduct of their children even when they are not under

the direct supervision of the parents. When we speak of drugs, one must remember that we are also speaking about many other things besides drugs. We are speaking about people and human relations by which we transfer an attitude toward life in general.

Drugs have been with us for centuries. Throughout history, man in all ages, in every generation and in all countries has turned to drugs to find relief from the sorrows of life or in search of special experiences which otherwise would not have been within his reach.

What is new in our times is that drugs are more available, that their use increases daily among youths, with the age level progressing downward. In less than one decade, drugs have spread from isolated groups of adults to university students, to secondary school students and now to elementary school children.

The importance which mass mediums of communication has given drugs led to the belief that drug addiction has reached epidemic proportions. Most parents have come to the conclusion that all youths try them. This is not true. Drug addiction is a "disease" which is "contagious" and likely to spread to all who are in contact with it. All youths are not vulnerable to drugs to the same degree. Some are not vulnerable at all.

8923
CSO: 5330

DRUGS AND ARMS TRAFFIC

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 19 Feb 77 p 2-B

[Reprint of an editorial from EL SIGLO, Torreon]

[Text] The large number of machineguns and pistols seen throughout the nation is proof that smuggling of arms from the United States has been very voluminous. Due to the risk involved in smuggling them, terrorists, bank robbers, plagiarists and guerrillas pay very high prices for obtaining arms surreptitiously. In view of the time which has elapsed since the American government made the first denunciations, it seems very strange that the steps taken at both sides of the northern frontier by the authorities have not produced any positive results yet. The heads of our customs emphatically deny that smuggling goes on through their jurisdictions. The fact is that smuggling is going on with or without the tolerance by the authorities. There are many tricks by which arms are smuggled. The intense campaign against drug traffic by the previous regime will continue under the current one. Not only is it to eradicate one of the most pernicious evils but also to change the image of Mexico abroad distorted by evil international propaganda which attributes to our nation the demeaning role of main supplier of marihuana and other drugs to the United States. International drug traffickers have made Mexico their headquarters. The ease with which they operate is unquestionably due to the complicity of minor employees. This can be inferred from their daily transactions involving millions of pesos. These gangs are in contact with others operating on the other side of Rio Bravo River. In exchange for drugs, they are known to receive firearms which are distributed through their contacts all over the nation. These are two businesses which are equally illegal and severely punished. Tying the loose ends together the trilogy results: smuggling arms, drug trafficking and terrorism. The same persons seem to engage in all of these crimes.

Very grave for our national prestige is the denunciation by Peter Besinger, federal drugs administrator, to the American senate. He said that smuggling of arms into Mexico is carried on with the complicity of our country's consulates in his nation. He also said that Mexican and American terrorists have understandings for carrying out crimes. The governments of both countries spent billions of pesos. The accomplishments to date have been few. The flow of drugs has not stopped. The only satisfactory solution to this evil would provide a significant reduction of the use of drugs. Well-known persons in

persons in Mexico and the United States have been pointed out as having an important role in arms smuggling. Recently, one of these personages was said to have enough arms to equip a small army. Since this involved an important person, the denunciation was not investigated and the authorities accepted the denial of the accused as true.

The control of firearms by their registration with the secretariat of defense did not stop the smuggling. The honest peaceful people complied with the law but the terrorists, gangsters, and that type of people who are outlaws did not do so. Evidence proves that watchfulness to prevent arms smuggling is as deficient as that for checking drugs trafficking. More attention should be given to those campaigns.

8923

CS0: 5330

VERIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF DEGREE OF DRUG ADDICTION

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 77 p 4-A

[Text] The head of the preventative programs of the Public Health Center, Dr Carlos Aguirre Gonzalez, provides expert opinions requested by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office on whether persons arrested with drugs are drug addicts. He informed EL DIARIO that the general procedures are interrogation and observation of physical symptoms of drug addiction of the prisoners. He said that due to his direct relations with that federal office and with the Youth Integration Center he continually receives instructive information from the Office of the Attorney General, on findings of the experts, how to deal with drug addicts, how to determine the amount of drugs the addict needs based on the length of time he has been addicted and so forth.

He then mentioned that a drug addict may use up to 40 grams of marihuana a day. Such a case has not been met with here, at least as to that amount of drugs. Dr Aguirre Gonzalez pointed out that many factors can lead to drug addiction. If a person smokes regular cigarettes--not marihuana-- he may smoke daily three or more of them while others smoke one or two packs, depending of their habit.

He also discussed the effects of the drugs. Completely dried out marihuana loses its strength while recently gathered marihuana may be 100 times as strong, depending on its quality. The most suitable places for growing marihuana are Guerrero, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon and the coastal region.

He discussed tests given persons who had just been arrested with 2 grams of marihuana. The prisoner had symptoms of being a marihuana addict for about 5 years. On the basis of that period of time, he would use daily between four and five cigarettes made with the maleficient weed.

As to possibilities of obtaining drugs to satisfy their cravings in cases where addicts were under official orders of imprisonment and were in jail, Dr Aguirre said that during visits to the municipal jail and the jail for persons under preventative arrest, he had found that in some cases there were no symptoms of drug addiction but in others the symptoms were unquestionable.

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Warden Victoriano Rodriguez confirmed the above statements and added that as long as there is a single drug addict, in whichever jail, there will be drug addiction. How do they obtain the drugs?...Nobody knows but the fact is that they succeed in their endeavors. Sometimes by means of medications, they self-hypnotize themselves and overcome their craving.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

CIA ACCUSED OF BEING MAIN ARMS SMUGGLER INTO MEXICO

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Feb 77 p 2-A

[Excerpts] Drug trafficker Jose Egozzi Bejar testified before Vicente Munguia Diaz, Third District Criminal Court judge, that the main arms smuggler into Mexico is the CIA. He added that he himself and the following persons, also under arrest for drug trafficking, are under threats of being murdered by the American spy agency: Alberto Sicilia Falcon, Carlos Quiriaquidez Villasenor, Joan Karen Becker and Jose Hernandez Rubi. All of them had been led for a long time by Alberto Sicilia Falcon. He organized one of the most powerful gangs of drug traffickers in Mexico and abroad, especially in the United States. Sicilia Falcon's name was on a list published in the United States of businessmen of high powered arms which later were smuggled into Mexico.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

GUADALAJARA YOUTHS URGED TO DENOUNCE TRAFFICKERS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 23-A

[Article by Eduardo Chimely]

[Text] Guadalajara, Jal. 11 Feb. The president of the Federation of Parents' Associations of Jalisco, Samuel Rivas Hernandez, stated today that parents must take an active part in the fight against drug addiction. They can make their children denounce the traffickers, "now that this problem has arrived on our very doorsteps."

He said parents withdraw from these situations and leave it all to moral and civic groups, when it is they themselves who encourage the opening of new centers of crime which even turn into anti-government agencies.

He asked that the San Juan de Dios zone, "which is the most crime-ridden," be eliminated from Guadalajara, as well as other drug distribution centers, such as the city's east end, Tlaquepaque, and the red light districts. He added that parents should not be silent in the face of this situation, and he hopes for the cooperation of the authorities who, in many cases, are hand in glove with the drug traffickers.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

OJEDA CALLS FOR MORE ACTION IN ANTI-DRUGS FIGHT

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 6

[Text] Geneva, Switzerland. 11 Feb. On turning over the presidency of the U.N. Commission on Drugs to his successor, D. Babayan of the Soviet Union, Pedro Ojeda Paullada stated that "the demand is the cause" behind the cultivation of drugs. In addition, he indicated that all the member countries of the commission would be pleased if the United States signed the Geneva 1976 International Agreement on Psychotropic Substances, and if "it would implement the means to put a definitive end to the domestic use of narcotics."

Ojeda Paullada admitted that "there are still many difficulties along the way which must be overcome. Many problems still remain, on which we must concentrate and for which we will surely find a solution." He indicated that the remaining work is not easy, and the objective "could not be more worthy."

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

'CONDOR' DESTROYS POPPY FIELDS IN SINALOA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 23-A

[Article by Roberto Martinez Montenegro]

[Text] Bacubirito, Sin., 11 Feb. Continuing the activities of "Operation Condor" in this area 180 kilometers north of Culiacan, personnel of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic discovered more than 5,000 poppy fields, some of them nearly ready for harvesting.

According to a report by Carlos Aguilar Garza, federal public ministry agent and coordinator of the campaign against the narcotics traffic, agency helicopters destroyed 832 poppy fields on the first day.

To carry out the operation, 17 spray helicopters, 8 support helicopters for carrying personnel, and light aircraft for the detection of the fields were concentrated in this village and began their operations at 0600 hours.

The spokesman explained that it is expected that within a week the area will be free of poppy fields, through the use of the herbicide "gramoxone," which has been highly effective in the destruction of poppy and marihuana plants.

He added that agents of the Prosecutor General's Office, under the command of Manuel Arregui of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] in Sinaloa, are being deployed on land in coordination with the army during the search for persons who have been cultivating the plants and to begin a campaign of... [text incomplete].



Mexican soldiers jump from a helicopter onto a poppy field in Sinaloa, as part of "Operation Condor," whose mission is to stop the production of heroin and marihuana in northwest Mexico. (AP)



Soldiers of "Operation Condor," of the Mexican Army burned poppy fields yesterday and established controls to arrest the drug traffickers. (AP)

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MUNITIONS TRAFFICKER RELEASED ON BAIL

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] At the request of his defense attorney, Jesus Chavez Villanueva, Jose Becerra Santiago, the District Court judge ordered the release on bail of Armando Gilbert Gilbert, who is accused of violating the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law. According to information provided to EL DIARIO, the judge set the bail at 10,000 pesos by the posting of which the man accused of possessing ammunition for firearms was released. Armando Gilbert Gilbert was officially ordered imprisoned 72 hours after his arrest at the customs post at kilometer 22 while traveling in a Ford car with his wife and son. Proceedings were also being prepared against Armando Gilbert Gilbert for involvement in a prison escape, but he was released.



Armando Gilbert Giblert, against whom proceedings are being made for smuggling ammunition was released when his defense lawyer, Jesus Chavez Villanueva--center--posted 10,000 pesos bail set by the District Court judge. This is the time at which Enrique Galvan Ortiz informed the prisoner of his release.

MEXICO

HASHISH AND MARIHUANA SEIZED IN HERMOSILLO

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 23-A

[Article by Francisco Santa Cruz Meza]

[Text] Hermosillo, Son., 11 Feb. The assistant manager of the International Hotel, Gumersindo Ramos Barron; the head waiter, Luis Enrique Adame; and two waiters, Francisco Pulido and Edmundo Mendez Noriega, were arrested this morning by the Judicial Police [PJF], who took from them drugs valued at more than 20 million pesos.

The arrest of the traffickers took place in the aforementioned hotel when they attempted to transport the drugs--4,600 kilos of hashish and 280 grams of marihuana--to a house at the corner of Periferico and Olivares, their customary meeting place for selling drugs to U.S. citizens.

The PJF also confiscated several hundred bottles of liquor which had been brought into the country illegally.

In their statements, those arrested indicated that they had received the hashish from Culiacan, Sinaloa, and named Jesus Nunez, a fugitive, as the sender.

THE PJF indicated that there will be more arrests made, since it is believed that several young women working in offices and commercial establishments were taking part in the meetings, known as "marihuana parties," and it is probable that they have connections with foreign drug dealers.

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CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

TALKS ON DRUG ADDICTION--Dr Raul Trevino, director of the Public Health Center of this city, informed EL DIARIO that doctors of the Public Health Center and Youth Integration Center authorities of this port will carry on a campaign at local educational institutions providing clear guidance and direct information to students and parents. Direct talks will be held with parents and with all students. One of these talks will be at the Zaragoza School. Special stress will be given to health and the struggle against drug addiction. On the other hand, Dr Ramiro Ramirez, the director of the Youth Integration Center, will give an important talk on drug addiction. [Excerpts][Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 77 p 4-A]

NEGLIGENCE OF PJF AGENTS--Reliable sources informed EL DIARIO that recently, after the arrest of Alfredo Alamillo Perez and Manuel Leoncio Valdes Rodriguez, one of them, evidently the latter, provided a number of facts, especially the name of the pusher who supplied them with marihuana and that he makes frequent, regular visits to this city. These persons from whom 2 grams of marihuana were seized said that the pusher resides in Muzquiz, Coahuila, and that he is engaged in large scale operations. These facts were given to PJF [Federal Judicial Police] agents who surprisingly gave a series of excuses. This was the case also with the previous PJF agents Francisco Fernandez Marin and Jesus Godoy Garcia. They said that they did not have enough personnel, that they had to take up the matter with Salvador del Toro Rosales, special agent of the Office of the Attorney General and coordinator of the Public Prosecutor Offices in Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and Coahuila and similar excuses. The PJF's conduct is in violation of Article 113 of the Federal Code of Penal Procedures which states: "Officials and PJF agents are required to investigate federal crimes of which they are informed except in the following cases: I. When the crimes are such that they can act only after a required complaint has been made and this has not been made. II. If a previous requirement, set by the law, has not been met. If the person who begins an investigation has not been assigned to continue it, he will immediately inform the person legally responsible for doing so. Conduct like that mentioned provides a great deal of latitude in which drug traffickers may operate with impunity. It makes our frontier port a springboard for trafficking drugs, wetbacks, arms, and other federal crimes which are within the jurisdiction of the PJF agents who make improper use of their time. [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Feb 77 p 4-B] 8923

THREE DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Alejo Sierra Gomez, Third District Court judge, sentenced three drug traffickers for crimes against public health. Agustin Zamora Cruz, a mechanic, was sentenced to 8 years 3 months imprisonment and fined 10,000 pesos for transportation and illegal importation of merchandise. Jose Ontiveros Sarabia or Jose Lazarraga, 33-years old, was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment and fined 8,000 pesos. Francisco Ontiveros Pedraza, alias "El Kika", 39-years old, was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and fined 8,000 pesos. These last two are from Sinaloa. They used to live at the ranch "El Laurel". They were captured a few days after selling 1/2 ton of marihuana to Zamora for 85,000 pesos. On 10 November 1975 on the American side, at the time when narcotics agents captured drug trafficker Manuel "Meme" Aguilar with 1/2 ton of marihuana which he had brought across the Rio Bravo River in a boat, Zamora was arrested. An auto dealer attempted to recover the Volkswagen auto. However, the judge decided that the return of the auto was not in order because it was an instrument of the offense. The guilty person, who is a skilled mechanic, had fitted a double bottom on the auto in which he transported the marihuana. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 77 p 5-B] 8923

CSO: 5330

ISRAEL

TRAFFIC IN HEROIN SPREADING, FAR EAST SOURCES BLAMED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Mar 77 p 17

[Article: "While Heroin Smugglers Are Making Millions, Police Are Helpless Because of Lack of Minimal Equipment"]

[Text] There is a crisis in the heroin trade which commands millions of pounds. There is a lot of demand for the merchandise but only small quantities are offered for sale. Prices have gone up four times and more within a few weeks: about 2 months ago one "unit" cost IL450, now its price is IL2,000.

Heroin, the hard drug, has taken over the addict community in Israel ever since its introduction about one-and-a-half years ago. Heroin, known as the "white death" and by its users as just "white," entails physical dependence. Addicts lose all human dignity and eventually they die from it.

The amount of heroin that officers of the drug division in the Tel Aviv police found near Rosh Pina--550 grams--is considered very large even in countries with a tradition of using the powerful drug. But in Israel it is an enormous quantity considering the amount used here in the course of a year: According to estimates of police intelligence about 5 kg a year of heroin are consumer in Israel in that period.

The civil war in Lebanon has caused a "drought" on the Israeli drug market, which up to then used mostly hashish. Addicts used opium or certain prescription drugs as a substitute. According to information the police have, heroin was first brought to Israel in the summer of 1975, at first in minute quantities. The police then caught two very small amounts--less than 100 mg each--both from people who intended to use the drug themselves.

But during the following fall and winter police started gathering more information on the invasion of the "white" in Israel and on traffic with it. On 26 February last year, exactly 1 year and 1 day before the catch in Rosh Pina, 152 grams of heroin were found in the Yemenite section in Tel Aviv.

The police had some suspicious information, according to which the owner's son, Chaim Khavurah, 30, smuggled 350 grams of heroin in cooperation with another person. Khavurah was acquitted in the Tel Aviv court for lack of evidence, resulting from contradictions in the testimony of the man who discovered the drug, Eli Dadon, who is considered one of the best detectives of the Israeli police.

The police was rather disappointed by the acquittal of Khavurah but was consoled by the heroin find. In the meantime, from the time the drug was found to Khavurah's acquittal, many months passed and traffic in the "white" increased. Here and there small amounts of heroin were found, a few grams at a time. Until the recent find of half a kilo, the amount found in Khavurah's house was the largest. There were only two more significant finds:

On 16 July 1976, in Kfar-Shalem, near Tel Aviv, 55 grams were found hidden in an oven in the backyard of Albert Rofeh, a known criminal.

On 8 February 1977, 22 grams were found in the home of Dachi Daudi in Shikhunat-Shapira, Tel Aviv.

Up to 5 years ago the Turkish poppy fields were the main source for heroin in the world. Basic morphine, produced in Turkey from the poppy plants, reached Europe, and there--especially in Marseille, France, on the island of Corsica and in southern Italy--it underwent further refining in "plants" that transformed it into heroin.

Because of heavy pressure of the United States on the Turkish Government, the raising of the poppy in Turkey was banned (compensations were paid to the farmers, who are gradually returning to raising this profitable crop). In Europe there was a shortage of opium, which in turn brought about a shortage of heroin. Prices skyrocketed and an alternative for Turkey was sought. It was found in the Far East. Heroin manufactured in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and especially Hong Kong, which has at least 50 sources for the drug, started arriving in Europe.

Two kinds of heroin are produced in Hong Kong. One is called "heroin No 3" or "rock heroin." It is crystalline, grayish, and contains 40 percent pure heroin. This is the kind that was prevalent in Israel up to recently.

"Import" From Bangkok

The other kind of the "white death" is called "Hong Kong No 4" and is similar to Turkish heroin. It is a white powder containing 80-90 percent pure heroin. It is this kind of heroin that was discovered in the last find near Rosh Pina.

Heroin from the Far East first arrives in Holland (mostly in Amsterdam). The "importers" are members of the large Chinese community in Holland. Amsterdam is an international center for heroin traffic. Large networks of pushers have representatives there, who buy the amounts of the drug needed for addicts in their countries. Lately there has been a shortage

of heroin in Amsterdam. It is suspected that this is one of the reasons that "importers" of the drug that was found near Rosh Pina bought it in Bangkok.

Heroin pushers usually mix the drug with a similar looking substance such as grape sugar. They produce 18 doses out of each gram of "rock heroin." Likewise they produce 12 doses out of each gram of "Hong Kong No 4" (which is purer).

One dose of heroin costs the Israeli "consumer" about IL450. But because of the shortage of the "stuff"--following resolute actions of the police, discovering drop points and arrests of pushers--the price has recently gone up to IL2,000!

Heroin addicts need one dose a day. They thus need IL2,000 a day or IL720,000 a year for the drug! There are at least 3,000 such addicts in Israel.

The need to acquire such astronomical amounts of money explains why most heroin pushers that were caught in Israel are addicts themselves. At first they became addicted and in order to support their habit they started pushing.

The need for such large sums also explains the influence of hard drugs on the rising crime rate in Israel. No person on a salary, not even an independent person, can afford the drug--if he is an addict--on his regular income. The solution: theft, breaking and entering and robbery.

The big pushers, who control the "import" and the wholesale traffic, are not addicts. They are too smart to use the merchandise that they sell to the poor souls addicted to it.

Profits from pushing heroin are staggering. Suffice it to look at data related to the last find in Rosh Pina. According to police intelligence the amount was purchased for \$3,500 (IL35,000). Travel expenses to Bangkok for the five suspects were about IL70,000. Miscellaneous (messengers, insurance, etc.) about IL25,000 (and this is a very conservative estimate!). All told: IL130,000.

If one dose sells for IL2,000, then the street value of the find is IL13 million (not IL5 million as was announced by the police). Most of the profits go to the "importers" who spend on its purchase and transportation one hundredth of its market value!

Close Surveillance

Criminals who were thieves, blackmailers and robbers discovered the gold mine of the heroin traffic and many of them have turned to pushing. One of them is a Jaffa citizen, 32.

Approximately 6 months ago MA'ARIV had a report on him because he was known as a "professional" in diamonds and breaking and entering. He changed to drug pushing and was caught one night after a chase. He was suspected of possessing drugs, including heroin.

The court delayed his release for 10 days. But there was not sufficient evidence to indict him and he was released.

The police continued to watch him. In the middle of December of last year there was enough intelligence about him following which a search of his home was ordered. Nothing was found, except a radio with which he could intercept police broadcasts....

The man protested because the police took his passport and that of his wife, his bank book and camera. But the people of the drug division knew what they were doing. They had reliable information that the man traveled to Europe for the purpose of purchasing heroin. According to this information another criminal (also a former robber) of Bat-Yam, a friend of the suspect, also pushed heroin, in cooperation and sometimes in partnership.

A "Gold Mine"

The two were watched very closely. They were just arrested with three others (one is suspected of being their "guide," the other, and his pregnant wife, are suspected of being the messengers).

When they were brought to court (their names were not released) in order to postpone their release, the police representative was confident that there is enough evidence against the suspects. But the police officer refused to elaborate and maintained that the information was privileged. The suspects' attorneys, Eliyahu Kedar and Moshe Aloni showed the judge a MA'ARIV issue of that day and asked: "How can anyone say that the information is privileged when MA'ARIV has so many details of the whole thing...?"

The police consider the find of the 550 grams of heroin and the arrest of the suspects a tremendous achievement. According to police, a dangerous network of pushers was uncovered. Very true. The achievement is worthy of praise, especially in view of the pathetic shortage of manpower and equipment at the disposal of the fighters of the "white death."

The drug division of the Tel Aviv police is in charge of 80 percent of the war on drugs in Israel. There are 20 detectives in the division (including the commander superintendent Isidore Sluk and his deputy inspector Amnon Shemesh). Sometimes the number of detectives is even smaller. They have at their disposal one old Ford Cortina, one Escort and one motorcycle, the personal vehicle of Eli Dadon. They need communication equipment, they only have a few binoculars and no sophisticated equipment whatsoever.

These 10 detectives earning an average of \$2,500 a month, are pitched against tens, perhaps hundreds of criminals, with a lot of money, elegant American cars, who go abroad every few weeks and who spread death by selling the fatal white powder.

"The indifference of the public drives me crazy," says one of the detectives. "Today there are already murders and people 'disappear' because of drugs. How do people not understand what is awaiting us in but a few years because of heroin...?"

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

ANTIDRUG COOPERATION--The Thai Government has asked France to send to Bangkok one or more experts in the struggle against drugs so that the police forces of the two nations can be coordinated in their struggle against heroin smuggling. The Americans, British and Canadians are already working there, and the Dutch are expected. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 7 Mar 77 p 55]

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

DRUG MARKET IN CHINESE QUARTER OF AMSTERDAM DETAILED

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 4 Mar 77 pp 30-35, 64

[Article by Jean-Claude Halle: "Amsterdam-on-Drugs"]

[Text] Drugs which in France kill so many young people are carried by Chinese traffickers from the "Golden Triangle" in Asia to Amsterdam from where they flood the whole of Europe. Our reporters [Jean-Francois Chaigneau, Erica Lemoine, Georges Menager, Jean-Pierre van Geirt, and photographers Claude Azoulay and Gilles Virgili] made an investigation in the Chinese quarter of Amsterdam. A rectangle on both sides of a canal, a maze of narrow streets not far from the railroad station--that is Amsterdam's Chinese quarter. These few thousands of square meters, the European drug center, are the scene of frequent settlements of accounts between rival bands who fight for the market among themselves. In 1976, nine bodies of Chinese were discovered, with their brows often marked with the sign of an avenger.

Leaning against a wall, he is acting like the toughs of Harlem. His cap is tilted forward in gangster manner. His trousers seem to be blended with his body. In the pockets of his denim vest, his fists are clenched. Perhaps they hold a knife. He is a "Surinamer," a black hailing from the former Dutch Guiana. Unquestionably, he is a hooligan. He may be our man. We approach him.

He quickly scans Zeedijk Street, a narrow thoroughfare located at the border of the "hot" district and Amsterdam's Chinese quarter. There is no policeman in sight. It is he who comes to talk to us. "Hash?" he asks. We get into the game. "O.K. Where from?" we ask. "Pakistan, good quality," he answers. "How much?" "Thirty Dutch florins (60 French francs) for 10 grams." "All right, but we want a sample first."

The "hash" is not of interest to Jean-Francois Chaigneau and Glaude Azoulay, our photographer. The two reporters of PARIS MATCH were sent to Amsterdam to

make an investigation and separate fact from fiction as regards the rumors making the rounds in Paris: "In Amsterdam one can find as much heroin as one wants. You, I, or any kid can buy the stuff without contacts or pipeline."

"The Guianese disappeared for a few seconds in the entrance of a doorway," Chaigneau related. "He reappeared with a countryman of his and gave us a sign to follow him in the dark passageway. The second Guianese allowed us to pass. I recoiled. He was holding in his right hand flush with his thigh a long knife whose blade must have measured at least 30 cm. This was probably to dissuade us from trying to be wise guys. The other black lit a lighter and warmed a tiny piece of drug which he slipped into a cigarette to make us sample it. The odor was that of hashish. He, too, took out his knife and cut a small piece which he handed to us wrapped in foil. We made a deal. We were to pay 25 florins (50 francs) for 10 grams of the stuff. With a gesture, he pocketed the money and asked right away: 'Heroin? Brown sugar?' 'How much?' '150 florins (300 francs),' he answered. 'For what quantity?' we inquired. He misunderstood our question and answered: 'All that you want.'"

In 1976, 59 Young Frenchmen Died of Overdose

"Claude Azoulay and I huddled about the deal. That was the price of a gram of heroin. 'We don't have enough dough. We'll be back tomorrow. At what time do we see you and where?' The black made an evasive gesture. He would not mention an hour or make an appointment but said: 'If I am here then we meet.'"

"The following day, at the same place, he sold us two small bags of dark heroin, or brown sugar, for 250 florins (500 francs). A few dozen meters from the spot a police patrol went by with its dog."

In 1976, 59 young Frenchmen died as a result of drug overdose, that is, after shooting it up in excessive amount or using adulterated heroin.

A Hippie in the Municipal Council of Amsterdam

In West Germany the tragedy is even more overwhelming. There were 325 drug-related deaths there in 1976. Britain, Belgium, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, and even Switzerland, relatively spared so far, have now been touched by the scourge. There are dozens of deaths in those countries. All these fatalities have one point in common: The drugs involved originate in Amsterdam. Within a few years--the first officially recorded "overdose" death in France occurred in 1969--Rembrandt's city has become the European Mecca of drugs and of all narcotics addicts. According to the statistics of the Dutch Government itself, some 8,000 "hard" drug users representing more than 40 different nationalities reside in the Netherlands on a permanent basis. Specialists in world drug traffic estimate that at least 10 percent of the heroin produced in the clandestine laboratories of the Golden Triangle--that area as large as three French administrative departments [districts]

and located where Thailand, Burma, and Laos come together--is loosed on the sidewalks of Zeedijk Street, Geldersekaade Street, or Binnen-Bantammerstraat Street from where it floods Europe. This is the "Chinese Connection"--the Chinese trail--which, from Southeast Asia to the Netherlands, has replaced the famous "French Connection," busted by the joint action of French and American policemen.

Why Amsterdam? And why the Chinese? Drugs were probably included in the destiny of the city. The hippie movement witnessed its most glorious moments in Amsterdam through the "provo" epic which catapulted one of its representatives into the municipal council. Did "flower power" find its home base in the kingdom of tulips? This puritanical population is the most tolerant people in the world today--perhaps to excess. Whereas everywhere else in the world there is debate about the merits and dangers of soft drugs, hashish in Holland has entered into the country's mores if not its laws so far. It is cultivated in gardens and even, at times, in public squares. The Netherlands is the only country in the world where, each Saturday, at 1400 hours on the dot, a radio station quotes the market rates for hashish charged on the streets of the city for the coming week. The announcer is a young man of 25, Koss Zwart, the son of the distaff minister for the Quality of Life. Can you conceive of Michele or Martine Ansquer [relatives of the French minister for the Quality of Life] declaring on Europe I Station on Saturday: "Today, you should not pay more than 3 francs a gram for hashish grown in France. But if you find 'Thai'--hashish cultivated in Thailand--you can pay up to 25 francs a gram. Enjoy excellent 'trips' until next week."?

On his canal barge tied up in the center of the city and baptized "Majihu," Keers-Hakert, a gray-haired man in his fifties, established the seat of a company which he founded, the Lowlands Weed Company, which sells cannabis [hemp] seeds by mail. Keers-Hakert officially claims to be a "peddler of happy hours" whose purpose is to promote in the world, at low cost and without substantial profit, the weed that would bring genuine equality among people. He ships his stuff anywhere in Europe by mail on simple request accompanied by a check.

Traffic Goes Via Chinese Restaurants

The Asian trail, however, could never have taken root in Amsterdam without the existence of a sizable Chinese community which defies control and is impenetrable. In Amsterdam, on the first floor of the modern building housing the "Gemeentepolitie"--police headquarters--a giant blond man, calm and debonnair, Gerard Toorenaar, who heads Holland's special service to combat anti-drug traffic, explained: "During the whole of 1971 in the Netherlands we arrested six Chinese. They were carrying 35 grams of heroin. Last year we picked up 275 Chinese and seized 172 kg of heroin on them; that is, 5,000 times as much as in 1971. This is where our problem lies. Six years ago, the sizable Chinese colony of Amsterdam posed few problems. We were used to the situation because Holland also had colonies in Southeast Asia and these people were no more than the sequels of our colonial past. It is the Vietnamese War

which changed the situation. It was Chinese from Hong Kong who, throughout the war, controlled the market of drugs slated for American G. I.'s, large consumers of dope. At the end of the war, a portion of the United States Army was transferred to West Germany. The Chinese traffickers were unwilling to relinquish such a profitable clientele and tried to deliver narcotics in West Germany. But, isolated, the Chinese pushers did not feel at home in a strictly European milieu. Thus, they fell back on Amsterdam where they found more hospitable conditions among their fellow-countrymen. Since that time, more than 10,000 Chinese have been living illegally in the Netherlands. Hailing from Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, nearly all of them thrive on the heroin traffic. Among them, at least 2,000 are narcotics-users."

The drug traffic runs through the Chinese restaurants--there are 300 of these in Amsterdam and more than 1,000 in the Netherlands. The breaking up of the French Connection has made the fortune of the Chinese trail in the past 2 years. It has led in Amsterdam to a gang warfare whose cruelty is reminiscent of the inglorious epics of Chicago. Seven rival bands, "triads" organized into secret societies in the Chinese tradition, with roots in Asia for centuries, are fiercely fighting for control of the heroin market. The starting whistle occurred in the form of the murder of Chun Mon, the Chinese "godfather" of Amsterdam, in front of his restaurant.

No One Ever Claims the Bodies of the "Double Crossers"

Chun Mon had arrived in the Netherlands before World War II. For years he had organized the flow of drugs destined to his own community. In the 1970's, he watched with interest the downgrading of Marseilles in the drug traffic and the liquidation of the Corsican trail. There was a void and he filled it. His triad, it is said, controls 60 percent of the heroin traffic to Europe.

For Mon everything went well until 1973. But in that year the circles in Hong Kong decided to invest heavily in Amsterdam. "Specialists" with slanting eyes landed at Schipol, Amsterdam's airport. Most of them belong to the "14-carat" triad established to support Chang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang in their struggle against communism and which has retained ties with the remainder of Chang Kai-shek's army, concentrated in the Golden Triangle where it switched to the business of processing and exporting local opium. To protect his empire, did Chun Mon give the police the names of some of the overly enterprising newcomers, as is rumored in some restaurants in Zeedijk Street? A volley of gunfire put an end to his adventurous life, triggering other actions of revenge. Sixteen bodies, nine of them in 1976 alone, have already been found on the pavements of Amsterdam, the dikes of the port, or floating in the canals. Naked, they often bear the mark of a triangle. No one has ever claimed them. That is also the fate earmarked to double-crossers, to faltering "couriers." At the close of 1976, the police found two bodies on top of a dike, their hands tied together. The young woman was identified. She was a young journalist from Hong Kong, barely 19 years old, who had come "to spend her vacation" in Europe. The other was that of a boy of 21. Entrusted with carrying

a shipment of heroin, she allowed herself to be distracted by the boy. Did they try to sell the drugs for their own account? Death united them.

The penetration of Chinese circles poses insoluble problems to European policemen. Since they control the traffic, the Chinese big shots have relinquished drug retail sales to the "Surinamers." How are the trails to be traced, then? This task is all the more difficult as the Chinese community has remained very closed upon itself, not integrating with the life of the host country. The Amsterdam police do not have a single member who speaks Chinese, and all those who are interrogated by it feign not to understand. When an interpreter is called it so happens that, by coincidence, the suspect and the interpreter never speak the same Chinese dialect!

"I Shall Fire at the First Chink Who Shows Up"

Europeans, too, get involved in the drug traffic. Wim Evers is 41 years old. He wanted to establish a company specializing in the trade in bamboo and rattan items. He went into partnership with a Chinese, Suan Shi-tan, 30. He traveled to Singapore and there the deal turned sour and Suan Shi-tan suddenly changed his tone. The affable merchant proved to be one of the bosses of the drug traffic. Wim Evers had a choice: He could end up in Singapore harbor with a rock tied to his feet or carry a shipment of heroin to Amsterdam in consideration of a premium of 50,000 florins (100,000 francs). His choice was not long in the making. On 13 June 1976, with a load of 14 kg of heroin concealed in meat cans, he took the Singapore-Milan Boeing flight--to throw off any suspicion--and from there a flight to Paris. In the French capital Wim Evers boarded the Trans-European Express train to his native city where the suitcase was picked up by a correspondent of Suan Shi-tan. The deal was so successful that Suan Shi-tan wanted a repeat performance. Wim Evers refused. He received a death threat. He did not falter even then but found it more prudent to disappear for a while.

Today Evers is back in his Amsterdam apartment. He has had four locks installed on his door and is constantly armed. He says without beating about the bush: "I shall fire at the first Chink who shows up. And every time I want to go out I send a scout into the street to determine whether or not I am being followed by a Chinese."

On the Drug Train the Customs Officials Examine Arms

The 16 policemen of the narcotics brigade do what they can. The Dutch customs has beefed up control measures at airports, railroad stations, and even in the large hotels where the major deals are hatched. Each year, seizures double but still involve only a negligible part of the traffic. On trains, by automobile, transiting through the large European airports and even, recently, through Moscow, the drug pushers always reach Amsterdam.

"The Netherlands, by allowing drugs to transit its territory, is in the process of corrupting its neighbor countries," divisional police commissioner Andre

Soleres, the boss of the antinarcotics traffic in Paris, stated. Sensitive to the tidal wave of protests being raised in all the capitals of Europe, the Dutch Government has taken its initial countermeasures. A law of 1 November 1976 has upped to 12 years in jail the maximum term for drug traffickers. But it is necessary to bring these to court. More sensitive to domestic disorders than to their international responsibilities, the Dutch seek especially to halt the mounting crime wave hitting their city. To find the necessary money to purchase their daily dose of dope, the "junkies" increase the number of thefts, attacks, and at times even murders. A municipal councilor, Mr. Verhey, has thus proposed to the mayor of Amsterdam to supply narcotics free of charge to addicts. Is this an error or the ultimate form of wisdom? The debate is on.

From all over Europe, drug traffickers and addicts continue to converge on Amsterdam. The police and the customs service try to control the "drug trains" which, from Paris, Milan, or Basel, bring their contingents of drug addicts or hooligans who come there to buy their dose or drugs which they will resell at bloated prices to the candidates for this slow death. The gangrene has hit every circle and is growing. In France, 10 percent of those questioned by the police in 1975 admitted to being heroin addicts. There are 30 percent of these today and individuals are dying from overdoses at Belleville and Neuilly [Paris suburbs] just as Marseilles and Montargis, following an initial shot, just as they would at the end of a long agony. "In every nightclub in Paris, it is reasonable to think that someone has dope in his pocket," commissioner Rene-Georges Querry, head of the narcotics brigade at Paris police headquarters, estimates.

Reawakening of a "French Connection Part 2"

Until recently, this "traffic of ants," as the police call it, was essentially the work of the addicts themselves, on their way to getting their supplies of dope on Amsterdam's "free market." Since the fall of 1976, however, the police have been finding the first signs of organized drug traffic by nonaddicted bums. Inhabitants of the North African quarter of Belleville found that it was less risky to go to Holland round trip than to increase attacks and armed robberies in the streets of Paris. Even more serious, last year two French drifters were arrested in Bangkok, Thailand. They were found to be in possession of 9 kg of base morphine. To which laboratory were they headed? The police believe that it was that of Henri Malvezi, the son of a known trafficker sentenced to 12 years in jail. This laboratory was discovered some time later in the walled room of a villa near Marseilles. By all evidence, the laboratory had been placed on "hold" while waiting for better days. Does this discovery herald the reawakening of a "French Connection Part 2," this time designed to supply metropolitan France itself? In 1977 in France, the previous record of deaths through overdose will be beaten.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p 30. Amsterdam's Chinese street is lined with restaurants and dives barred to Europeans. The "Chinese colony" totals 35,000, plus 10 percent who are there illegally and live on the drug traffic, like these Chinese in the picture who were arrested and are to be deported back to Hong Kong (there were 400 expulsions in Holland in 1976).
2. p 32. Retail drug sales are made openly in the street by blacks from former Dutch Guiana (top). The police are watching. But in vain. They never find dope on the peddlers. In the meantime, gang warfare is going great guns. Chang Yu Muck, lying on the pavement in the picture, is the second "godfather" who has been murdered.
3. p 35. The boat of hashish: On this canal barge, the "Majihu," tied up in the center of Amsterdam, it is possible to buy "grass" openly and to plant it in one's vegetable garden. This plant (left) can grow to a height of 3 meters. Keers-Hakert, its captain, manager of the Lowlands Weed Company, sells hemp seed by mail throughout Europe and grows it on the deck of his barge (right).
4. p 64. Customs officials search suspect on Paris-Amsterdam train.

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NORWAY

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLERS SENTENCED--Yesterday an Oslo court sentenced two Chinese men from Singapore to 9 years' imprisonment each for smuggling 14.44 kg of heroin mixture into Norway. [Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 26 Feb 77 p 3 LD]

CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

SWEDISH NARCOTICS OFFICERS TO BE STATIONED IN NETHERLANDS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 14 Feb 77 p 7

[Report on interview with Carl Persson, president of the National Police Board; date and place not given]

[Text] Groups in the Chinese colony in Amsterdam are running the narcotics trade in Western Europe, says President of the National Police Board Carl Persson in an interview with TT [Press Wire Service]. The National Police Board will place Swedish police in Holland and Bangkok in an attempt to halt the supplies of narcotics coming into Sweden.

The National Police Board is now trying new ways to stop the flow of narcotics coming into Sweden. This spring already, Carl Persson counts on being able to place Swedish police in Holland as well as at the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok.

"I have discussed the matter with the State Department and last week I was in Amsterdam speaking with the Dutch Attorney General. Both at the State Department and in Holland people are positively inclined and we will now discuss the practical details. We are obviously also prepared to receive Dutch police here in this country."

Carl Persson has just returned from a meeting with the European section of Interpol in Paris, where the growing narcotics trade was discussed among other things.

According to Carl Persson the center of the West European narcotics trade has already been identified. But there is still not enough evidence to break the organization.

"The West European narcotics trade is directed by the Chinese colony in Amsterdam. Even though the police have succeeded in stopping the flow through the international airport of Amsterdam, the narcotics traffic is still directed by the Chinese via other European cities. There is fresh evidence of this."

Carl Persson is aware of the human tragedies which accompany narcotics and stresses the importance of a quick solution to the problem.

"Of course this is pressing, but first of all people must realize that the police cannot solve these problems on their own. Narcotics must be considered as a social problem in the respective countries. The resources must be pooled and increased. Everybody must bear their part of the responsibility.

"Another important requirement is reliable information about the damages of narcotics. Today we do not have that. It is not a matter of frightening propaganda, but young people have the right to know. Take, for example, the year 1973, when heroin was on its way to Sweden; that would have been the time to warn people."

Telephone wire-tapping has been an efficient weapon in tracing the narcotics trade in Sweden, Carl Persson says.

"We have never doubted but that the wire-tapping system is of decisive importance. We have used it in 40 to 50 cases every year and in nearly every case our suspicions have proven well-founded."

The National Police Board also wants to raise the status of the police profession. An open letter has been sent to the government demanding that police schools be reorganized into institutes of higher learning in order to implement such a raise in status.

The increasing demands put on policemen have now resulted in candidates with high school backgrounds. Therefore, they ought to be considered equal to students at other institutes of higher learning, the National Police Board says.

The National Police will also increase on-the-job safety for policemen. According to Carl Persson this was one of the major reasons behind the request for a small army unit, which was rejected by the National Police Board investigation committee.

"The police have as much a right to demand on-the-job protection as any other group of employees. I find it deplorable that a big discussion flares up just because a policeman wears a helmet on his head. Every worker wears one."

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SWEDEN

HARSH SENTENCES GIVEN TO DRUG DEALERS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 11 Feb 77 p 25

[Article by Massi Svensson]

[Text] Last Thursday the court of Huddinge convicted the six men who have been identified as the most important heroin dealers so far. They received a total prison sentence of 41 years and 6 months and a fine of 390,000 kronor. When the leader was arrested he had 1.2 kilograms of pure heroin in his apartment. He confessed that he had already sold 2 kilograms. The investigation also showed that the group had already supplied the illegal narcotics market with at least 30 kilograms of amphetamines.

The leader, 29-year-old Lars-Goran Sundstrom and his closest associate 26-year-old Erik Samuelsson, were each sentenced to 9 years in prison.

The 35-year-old Canadian, John McLean, who has been wanted internationally, received a prison sentence of 7 years. Bjorn Nilsson, 32, was sentenced to 6 years. Fred Drangel, 30 years of age, got 5 years and 6 months. The sentence for 32-year-old Anders Chatkowski was 5 years in prison.

It was the criminal section of the Huddinge police which started to unravel the crimes. The six were arrested in turn during October and November of last year. Then investigations had been going on for several months.

The various members had expensive living habits and continually made trips abroad, to Bangkok, among other places. Their narcotics trade exceeded millions of kronor.

What alarmed the investigators was the fact that the heroin involved in the trade was 100 percent pure. Normally the level of purity stands at 60 percent and addicts dilute it with grape sugar. With pure heroin on the market there were obvious risks of over-dosages.

The police in Huddinge were surprised to find that all the members confessed after the Canadian's identity had been established.

In the sentence, signed by Municipal Court Judge Ake Sundstrom, there is also an economic calculation showing compensation or gain from serious narcotic crimes. The total figure is 390,000 kronor, which was divided among Sundstrom and Samuelsson, who each received 150,000 kronor; McLean, who got 70,000 kronor, and Drangel and Charkowski, who got 10,000 kronor each.

Immediately after being informed of the sentences, several of the convicted declared that they intended to appeal the court's decision. On Thursday it will become clear whether there will be an appeal across the board.

Last Thursday the Orebro court sentenced a man and his wife, both from Orebro, to prison for 1 year and 10 months each as the result of serious narcotic crimes and receiving stolen goods. The 33-year-old man and his 25-year-old wife had sold narcotics in their apartment, where the police also were able to confiscate great amounts of stolen goods the couple had received as payment for their narcotics. (DN, Orebro)

The police in Falun will ask the National Police Board to have a narcotics dog accompanied by his trainer stationed in Dalarna. The reason for this demand is the presence of heroin in northern Dalarna. Five persons, suspected of serious narcotic crimes, have now been arrested in Mora and Alvdalen. (TT, Falun)

8901
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U.S. CULTIVATION THREATENS TURKISH OPIUM INDUSTRY

Beirut EVENTS in English 28 Jan 77 pp 34-35

[Text]

The United States has been wanting to put Turkey's opium growers out of business for a long time. Six years ago, it persuaded the Turkish Government to make opium cultivation illegal because it believed Turkey was a major source of heroin for drug addicts in the United States. But the ban caused so much hardship to the country's opium growers that it was lifted two years ago.

Now the US Government has introduced a measure which could end opium growing among many Turkish peasants. The outgoing Ford administration had decided to allow commercial cultivation in the United States of the scarlet poppy from which opium is extracted. The aim is not to deal a blow at foreign opium producers but to ensure supplies to the US pharmaceutical industry which uses opium to make the painkiller codeine. Eventually, the US will cultivate all the poppies it needs.

To the Turkish peasant, dependent on the poppy crop for his income, the US has been a major export market for legal sales of opium. The illegal narcotics trade had merely been a means of boosting earnings. With the American market closing up, the income of many Turkish opium growers could fall to drastic levels.

The US Government's action could also hit Iranian growers who are also dependent on the US trade. Last year's production of opium capsules in Turkey

is estimated to have totalled up to 18,000 tons. A grower earned from \$1.2 to \$1.4 a kilo by selling his crop to an official Government marketing agency – the only organisation allowed to purchase and extract opium.

The US Government does not intend to start restricting opium imports until 1981. So the Turks have a few years in which to find new markets. Sales to Western Europe, particularly to the large Swiss pharmaceutical industry, are likely to increase. There are also plans to build a factory in Turkey for extracting morphine from poppy capsules.

But the Carter administration could have second thoughts about its predecessor's decision. Already, experts in drug addiction are talking about its possible dangerous repercussions.

Dr Tom Bryant, president of the US Drug Abuse Council, says that commercial cultivation of the scarlet poppy will produce a new wave of drug addiction throughout the United States. "If our past is any indicator, it certainly will happen."

He believed that extractions from the poppy capsule would be so easy to convert into dangerous compounds that even a modest laboratory worker could do it. Others like Dr Bryant feel that the United States could be importing a problem best left to other countries to grapple with.



A Turkish farmer ploughs through his opium crop while a soldier keeps guard

CSO: 5300

OPIUM FARMERS GET U.S. CASH AID

Beirut EVENTS in English 28 Jan 77 pp 39-40

[Text]

Opium growers in Turkey may shortly be receiving aid from the United States and other Western countries to help them switch to other crops. The new Carter administration in Washington is considering initiating a Western-backed assistance programme mainly aimed at ensuring greater control of the world's narcotics production.

"It is important for the United States to play a role in the social development of those countries growing opium", said Dr Peter Bourne, one of President Jimmy Carter's closest advisors and an expert on drug abuse. "We must not just look at narcotics control in the narrow terms of getting rid of the opium poppy and stopping heroin reaching the United States."

However, Dr Bourne emphasised that the US would be unwilling to provide all the money for the scheme. Western European countries, wrestling with their own drug addiction problems, have a vested interest in cutting the inflow of heroin.

Suggestions for the assistance programme follow a decision by the Ford administration to allow commercial cultivation of the opium poppy in the US (*Events* January 28, 1977). The country's pharmaceutical industry had been lobbying the government to ensure long term supplies of opium for making the pain killers codeine and morphine.

Thousands of Turkish peasants, whose livelihoods depend on opium, could be reduced to penury if American farmers are allowed to grow poppies.

Pressure by the US on the Turkish government led to a four-year ban on opium growing in Turkey but the ban caused the country's farmers so much hardship it had to be lifted two years ago.

Today, the US is a major export market for industrial sales of Turkish opium. The Carter administration has yet to decide whether to go ahead with the proposed domestic production. The decision still has to be ratified by Congress which is due to hold public hearings on the issue in March.

State Department officials are concerned that opium cultivation will harm America's image abroad. "It will have a damaging effect on the economies of Turkey and India - the only two countries authorised by international convention to produce poppies for legal export," said one senior official. "The world is currently producing too much opium. Turkey has only been able to sell half last year's production and even more poppies are being planted for this year's crop."

Turkey and India can expect powerful support from Canada at a United Nations meeting on narcotics now taking place in Geneva. America's neighbour is worried that overproduction of opium may boost the undercover trade in heroin and feels that the West has an obligation towards both countries which, as a result of international pressure, have tried to stamp out illegal opium trafficking. But Canada is likely to welcome any US proposals for an international aid programme to help opium growers in Turkey and India to diversify●



Turkish peasant shows some of his poppy crop, with each flower cut to drain the opium liquid which provides his main income

CSO: 5300

MINISTERS CONSIDER REDUCING CANNABIS PENALTIES

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Mar 77 p 2

[Text] A reduction of penalties for the possession and use of small quantities of cannabis, similar to that planned in America, is under consideration by Home Office Ministers.

But any change in the law is expected to be resisted by the Government until the current legal confusion over the definition of cannabis, and whether possession of mere leaves and stalk of the plant is an offence, has been resolved.

Amendments to the Criminal Law Bill that would remove the threat of imprisonment when a person charged with possessing a small amount of cannabis appears before magistrates are to be debated at the Bill's resumed report stage in the House of Lords next week.

One amendment, tabled by Lord Avebury, would mean that an offender could not be imprisoned on conviction for his first two offences, while another would remove altogether the threat of prison on summary conviction.

Not Right Time

Both amendments are expected to receive considerable support, but are likely to be opposed by the Government with an indication that it is not the appropriate time or way to reduce the penalties.

Under the Bill as put forward by the Government, the maximum penalty on summary conviction for possessing cannabis will be varied from six months' jail and a 400 pounds fine to a maximum of three months' jail and a 500 pounds fine.

On conviction on indictment the maximum penalty for possessing cannabis, which is listed as a Class B drug, is five years' jail and an unlimited fine.

In America, where the Carter Administration has proposed lifting the severe penalties for possessing and selling small amounts of cannabis,

there can be five years' jail and a \$15,000 (about 9,000 pounds) fine for the first offence.

Law in Confusion

Announcing the new policy, Dr Peter Bourne, the British-born director of the White House Office of Drug Abuse, said they favoured reducing the present federal penalties of possession to a small fine and a citation, as for traffic offences. They were against legalisation of the drug.

In Britain, the law is in considerable confusion since the Appeal Court ruled that a man found in possession of the leaves and stalk of cannabis could not be convicted of possessing the drug as leaves and stalk fell outside the legal definition of cannabis.

Yet shortly afterwards, on the same facts, the man was convicted and fined for the more serious Class A offence of possessing cannabinol derivatives.

This decision is to be tested in the Court of Appeal and both cases may eventually go to the House of Lords for a final ruling. The Government is expected to await the outcome before making any moves to reduce the penalties for simple possession.

CSO: 5320

DANGERS OF MARIHUANA USE CITED

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 14 Mar 77 p 8

[Article in the column "Science": "Where Health Has Gone to 'Pot'"]

[Text] At the very moment when Governments are wondering whether to legalise the smoking of marijuana, there comes news that the drug does more than just give the smoker a pleasant "high"; it can in fact be even more dangerous than high-tar cigarettes.

Until now, the argument against legalising marijuana has rested on a highly dubious psychological case. Marijuana is believed, in some mysterious fashion, to entice smokers of it to harder drugs, such as opium and heroin, which are unquestionably dangerous.

This belief has always struck me as being about as rational as suggesting that whisky drinkers will become bored of the tame taste of whisky and turn to drinking deadly nightshade.

But new research indicates that marijuana itself can be a deadly poison. Scientists at the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, have come up with some very unpleasant results after testing humans with large doses of marijuana. They are discussed in the current "Time-Life Nature Annual":

--The immune response system, which makes the body reject disease-causing viruses and bacteria, is impaired by marijuana.

--Damage to the lungs can be much greater than that caused by tobacco cigarettes, because the tar content in marijuana cigarettes is much higher.

--There is reduction of the body's "testosterone," the agent which regulates sexual development. This means in plain language that a pregnant girl who smoked marijuana might give birth to a boy with underdeveloped or missing sexual organs.

--There is erosion of the will and the desire to concentrate over long periods.

--Lessened alertness, coordination and judgment occurs, a condition which could obviously be dangerous when driving.

--Physical dependence is created, so that a heavy marijuana smoker will suffer painful withdrawal symptoms when he or she tries to give it up.

These conclusions are rather sad, since tens of millions of people, for the past 3,000 years, have had many hours of supposedly innocent pleasure from marijuana. The only consolation is that tobacco may not be nearly as dangerous.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

AUSTRALIAN JAILED FOR 3 YEARS FOR IMPORTING HEROIN

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] London, Friday--A 25-year-old Sydney man described in court as a heroin addict was jailed for three years yesterday after he pleaded guilty to having illegally imported almost \$A200,000 worth of heroin.

Michael Desmond Haybittle, of Hunters Hill, was charged with the illegal import of 528.3 gm of diamorphine heroin at Heathrow Airport, London, on November 18.

Prosecuting, Mr Bruce Houlder told the court the drug was found in a concealed compartment in Haybittle's suitcase.

He said Haybittle at first denied knowing what the substance was, but had then admitted he was acting as a "runner" for a man in Australia in return for \$A5,000 and a free holiday.

Mr Houlder said the plan had been for Haybittle to pick up the drug in Bangkok and take it around the world before delivering it in Australia.

He said a doctor had been called to the airport to give Haybittle an injection when he showed heroin withdrawal symptoms.

Mr Houlder said a Customs officer had valued the haul in November at 125,000 pounds (about \$A195,000) but he estimated it would be worth at least twice as much today.

Replying to Judge Solomon, Mr Houlder said others may be involved and "things were happening" in Australia which he could not say anything about.

Haybittle's counsel, Mr Jeremy Hutchinson, QC, told the court Haybittle had entered an orphanage at an early age and osteomyelitis of the leg had ended a promising Rugby career.

He said that after an accident Haybittle had undergone two extremely painful operations and someone had supplied him with heroin, to which he had become addicted.

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END