

JPRS 68924

13 April 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 294

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
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Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available through Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio, 44691.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET	1. Report No. JPRS 68924	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
	4. Title and Subtitle TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, No. 294		5. Report Date 13 April 1977
7. Author(s)		6.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201		8. Performing Organization Repr. No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above		10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
		11. Contract/Grant No.	
15. Supplementary Notes		13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
		14.	
16. Abstracts The serial report consists of translations from the world press and radio relating to law, law enforcement, illicit traffic and personalities concerned with narcotics and dangerous drugs.			
17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors Narcotics Drug Addiction Law (Jurisprudence) Law Enforcement 17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms Dangerous Drugs Drug Control Drug Traffic 17c. COSATI Field/Group 5K, 60, 6T			
18. Availability Statement Unlimited Availability Sold by NTIS Springfield, Virginia 22151		19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED	21. No. of Pages 84
		20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	22. Price PCA05

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DRUG ADDICTS RAID CHEMIST SHOPS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Mar 77 p 9

[Article by Clive Bolton and Malcolm Farr]

[Text] Drug addicts raiding chemist shops in search of supplies have become so common that many chemists have either removed dangerous drugs from their shelves completely or cut them to a minimum.

The chemists acknowledge that this policy could lead to delays in filling prescriptions for those with a genuine need for painkilling drugs. But they say it's the only way.

One in three Australian chemist shops was broken into last year including 23 hold-ups and 211 burglaries involving drugs.

In Victoria there were 125 break-ins, NSW and A.C.T. 18, South Australia 33, Western Australia 49, Queensland 7 and Tasmania 5.

So far this year Melbourne, with one of the worst robbery rates in Australia, has had 13 armed hold-ups and 35 burglaries.

In Sydney, the latest attack came yesterday on a chemist shop at North-bridge.

One chemist who has cut out stocking addictive drugs altogether is Mr Harley Brook who runs shops in Melbourne.

In 18 months he has been robbed four times; been threatened with a rifle and stabbed three times.

The latest attack came one Sunday when two nervous and shaking men, one armed with a knife, terrorised his night staff and stole drugs and money.

Mr Brook is concerned about not being able to help out with morphine and cocaine in emergencies, but says: "If they come to my shops at night for these drugs it's just too bad.

"My main reason is to protect the staff who shouldn't have to face dangerous drug addicts."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia does not go so far, but it does recommend that chemists stock few dangerous drugs--and only in small quantities.

But has Tasmania--with the best record in Australia--got the right ideas?

There, chemists have a no-drugs policy worked out in conjunction with police and the State's 134 guild chemists have central depots--heavily guarded--from where drugs can be drawn in an emergency.

Under this system last year there were only five robberies--none of them armed--representing a drop of more than a third in two years.

"There has never been any complaints here about it, no resistance at all, and the police, public and chemists are very pleased," he said.

The refusal to stock drugs means that it takes an extra half-a day to fill some prescriptions, as the dangerous drugs are taken in the exact quantity from the wholesalers when needed.

CSO: 5300

MURDER OF MAN REVEALS DRUG DEALING

Melbourne THE AGE in English 21 Mar 77 p 3

[Text] Police have uncovered a State-wide drug trafficking operation after investigations into the murder of a man near Melton.

Dennis McVeigh, 34, was gunned down at a secluded picnic spot in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Police have confirmed that McVeigh was involved in a hard drug trafficking deal worth about \$15,000.

Police are looking for a 30-year-old man who is armed and believed to have been wounded in the gun battle.

He is 172 cm tall and slightly built with a fair complexion, dark hair and hazel eyes.

He has several tattoos on his body, including the words "love" on his left knuckles and "Freddy Flintstone" on his left leg.

He has a number of past convictions including breaking, stealing and assault.

Meanwhile, following investigations into the murder, three people have been charged with drug offences.

McVeigh left his parents' West Footscray home on Friday night in a car he had hired for 24 hours because his own dark green Oldsmobile Toronado had broken down.

When he had not returned by early Saturday morning, his wife went looking for him.

She found him lying in a pool of blood at a picnic reserve near the Djerriwarrh Creek on the Western Highway, 44 km west of Melbourne.

The rented car was 30 metres away. The blood stains of two people were splattered on the front seat.

Convictions

Police said seven shots had been fired from the murder weapon, a .38 calibre semi-automatic pistol.

McVeigh, separated from his wife and the father of two young boys, had previous convictions for theft, housebreaking and one drug offence.

In Brisbane, detectives are searching for a girl hitch-hiker aged about 16 following the fatal shooting of a man in a house in the suburb of Willawong.

The victim, Frederick Samuel Pearson, 30, a wardsman at Princess Alexandra Hospital, was killed with a blast from a shotgun at about 3 pm on Saturday.

His body, dressed in a pair of shorts, was found by his father at 9.30 am yesterday. Pearson had been shot under the right armpit.

The girl sought for questioning is of slim build with shoulder-length blonde hair. She has two scars under her left eye, the tattoo of a skull on her upper right arm and a mark on her left forearm.

Police have been told that she claimed to be an escaper from Fairlea women's prison in Victoria.

In Melbourne, a police spokesman said the girl was too young to have been a Fairlea inmate. As far as he knew the Victorian CIB had not been approached from Brisbane about the case.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

POSSESSION OF HEROIN--A man was remanded in the Redcliffe Magistrate's Court yesterday on three drug charges. Rodney Murdoch was remanded to 13 April on charges of having had heroin in his possession; \$1,292 in cash, believed to be from the sale of heroin and \$22,700 in a bank account, also believed to have been obtained from the sale of the drug. He was charged yesterday after police searched a house in Old Bay Road, Deception Bay. Another man, Gordon Alfred Osborne, was remanded to the same date to face a charge of having had a concealable firearm, allegedly found during the search. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER MAIL in English 10 Mar 77 p 11]

CSO: 5300

RIAU, A NARCOTICS TRANSIT AREA

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 17 Jan 77 p 2

[Article: "Riau Is an Alarming Distribution Area for Narcotics"]

[Excerpts] Tanjung Pinang (Antara)--Control of narcotics -- opium, morphine or marihuana -- is being pursued constantly by the Riau police. Thus far the total amount of drugs seized has not been large compared with the total amount distributed in the local area, according to Police Lt Col Drs Bambang Darundrijo, 404 DANRES [resort command], Riau Archipelago, who gave this information to "Antara".

He said that the situation in the Riau Archipelago, which consists of thousands of islands, is alarming and requires a high level of vigilance. What's more, if it is recalled that in less than 4 hours an individual can easily be abroad (to Singapore) or, in the same amount of time, individuals who do not wish to be found can bypass this area or be in our territorial waters, he added.

Considering all the possibilities, he said that it would not be surprising if the Riau Archipelago were to become a transit area for distributing narcotics to other areas in Indonesia.

According to Bambang, opium is the narcotic most frequently distributed in this area. Generally raw opium is brought in by a distributor and must be processed further before it is sold to the addict.

The opium generally is smoked by Chinese addicts. This is not a new thing in the Riau area. It has been used for a long time by the Chinese.

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INDONESIA

INDONESIA IS NO TARGET FOR ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE

Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 15 Jan 77 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Indonesia Is Not Yet a Target for the Illegal Drug Trade"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta (Antara)--Although Indonesia thus far has not become a main target for the spread of narcotics, with increasing general prosperity resulting from successful development, this possibly could occur.

Police Brig Gen Drs Soekardjo Soebadi, chief of the INPRES 6/71 [June 1971 Presidential Decision] Drug Sector BAKOLAK [Implementation Coordinating Agency], in a special interview with "Antara" in Jakarta on 14 January, stated that there were two reasons why a nation becomes a target for the illegal drug trade.

In a nation where the people are so prosperous that their purchasing power increases, the members of that society will be able to purchase very costly goods for their needs. Drugs will flow to markets with a strong purchasing power.

In addition narcotics will seek targets in individuals who no longer can find their place in society. This happens in advanced industrial nations. Many citizens of such a society become frustrated because they cannot adjust to their environment.

If both situations occur in a region, the illegal narcotics trade will flow to it.

Indonesia, as a nation attempting to raise the standard of living of its citizens, is not immune to possible illegal drug traffic in the future, he said.

The illegal narcotics trade is an international problem. In this connection, Indonesia does not treat the problem lightly. Indonesia does not want to be like its neighboring nations, Singapore, Hong Kong and others, in controlling the narcotics problem. In these nations there are around 70 to 150,000 victims compared with populations of only several million.

Indonesia therefore is determined to increase coordination among a number of departments and agencies in the coming working year. The aim is to completely eliminate the illegal drug trade.

The total recorded victims at this time range around 10,000, a figure which could rise rapidly. Seeing this as an indicator, the INPRES 6/71 Drug Sector BAKOLAK chief hopes that the people's awareness of the danger of narcotics will be heightened.

"Increasing people's awareness of the danger of narcotics as well as their effective participation in solving the problem will greatly assist the program for controlling narcotics," said Police Brig Gen Drs Soekardjo Soebadi.

Soekardjo said that it is fortunate that this nation is not on the world illegal drug trade route. "We are on the edge of the America-Southeast Asia-European trade route," he said.

At most this region is a depository but given the drug laws such activity carries a great risk for those foolhardy enough to store drugs in Indonesia.

However there already is a trend toward creating a new route, namely Southeast Asia-Australia. It is possible that Indonesia will feel the results of this.

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FEW DRUG ADDICTS IN INDONESIA

Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSEJAJAR in Indonesian 12 Jan 77 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Ninety Percent of Drug Addiction Victims in Indonesia Are Between 15 and 25 Years of Age"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, 12 January (AB)--KESRA [People's Prosperity] State Minister Prof Sunawar Sukowati said that 90 percent of drug victims in Indonesia are between 15 and 25 years of age which signifies that there is a danger to the molding of adolescents and the young generation in general.

He made these remarks while receiving Dr J. G. de Beus, UN Assistant Secretary General concurrently Executive Director of the Fund for Drug Abuse Control, who is now in Indonesia. The KESRA minister went on to clarify that there in fact are few addicts in Indonesia. "In spite of this, each year shows a rising percentage of victims," added the KESRA minister.

Minister Sunawar Sukowati also stated that because the dangerous drug problem is rampant in developing countries as well as in the advanced nations, he greatly appreciates having a UN program which, in concert with its members, increases efforts to find solutions for prevention, repression and rehabilitation.

He remarked further that the Indonesian Government currently is forming an interdepartmental cooperative working committee to formulate a system specifically for [word illegible] the problem of a rehabilitation institution for narcotic and other drug victims.

Compared with other nations there are few narcotics victims in Indonesia because this problem has received the attention of the government. Nor do narcotics enter Indonesia in as large amounts as they do in other nations.

In pointing to this problem, the UN assistant secretary general concurrently executive director of the Fund for Drug Abuse Control, Dr J. G. de Beus further explained that there are many narcotics victims in, among other nations, Canada and Iraq followed by Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and America.

Responding to a question from the press about UN assistance to nations for controlling drug abuse, de Beus stated that the UN has contributed \$17 million. The UN project for controlling drug abuse includes replacing opium poppy plantings with tobacco, potatoes and so on in Turkey and in regions within the Golden Triangle, that is the area within Thailand, Burma and Laos.

With respect to the number of victims in Indonesia, he said that about 10,000 persons were on record. As yet there is no aid from the UN to Indonesia for control of this problem since it is considered that there is slight drug abuse in Indonesia.

Dr J. G. de Beus paid a visit to Indonesia to learn in detail of drug abuse here.

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INDONESIA

STUDENT ARRESTED FOR PUSHING HEROIN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 28 Jan 77 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Student Peddling Heroin Tried in Bandung"]

[Text] AR, 25 a Bandung student, was taken to the Bandung district court last Wednesday, 26 January, charged with peddling heroin in the city.

The council of judges who tried the case was composed of A. Gultom, attorney serving as chairman, and members Mrs. Kustantinah Gunawan, attorney, and Pupung Purnawirawan.

The quantity of heroin involved was 80 grams, of which 0.75 grams was sold to KG, 6 grams to Fai, and 7 grams to JB. However, the accused could not be prosecuted under the Narcotics Law No.9/76, which did not take effect until 26 June 1976, because the event occurred in May 1976.

The first witness heard in the case was KG, 22, a student. He knew PCC through the accused. The heroin he bought was about 1 spoonful, about 1 gram, worth 10,000 rupiah. After it was mixed with aquades, the heroin dissolved in the water was injected into his arm with a syringe used to inject chickens. The witness acknowledged that he had been a morphine addict since 1975. The heroin he bought was used for 10 injections.

Together with the accused, the witness then looked for prospective buyers.

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1975 MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE 1 JUNE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 18 Mar 77 p 3

[Text] Narcotics will be known as controlled drugs when the misuse of drugs regulations and the 1975 Misuse of Drugs Act become operative on June 1.

Under the changes the Government will have a tighter control on the circulation of certain drugs and pharmacists will have to lock away a wider range of drugs.

Dr A. G. Scott, of the clinical services division of the Health Department, said yesterday that the 1975 act consolidated and amended the Narcotics Act of 1965.

This act was now out of date and needed amending in line with agreement reached at a recent international psychotropic (mind-bending drugs) conference.

Under the new act, Dr Scott said the old list of "narcotics," such as heroin, cocaine, cannabis and opium, would be broadened to include barbiturates, amphetamines, mandrax and a number of similar drugs.

The new list would be divided into schedules, depending on their dangerous properties.

Attached to the schedules would be the penalties for trafficking and use.

Other conditions surrounding the use and circulation of the drugs would also be attached.

None of the penalties for illegal use of the drugs have been increased but they have been codified.

Under the changes, Dr Scott said the Health Department had been given wider powers to publish information about drug addicts.

The department had certain powers along these lines under the 1965 act but they had been strengthened to cover the additions to the controlled-drug list.

Other changes would include new prescription forms, smaller packages containing dangerous drugs and stricter documentation.

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BRIEFS

ATTEMPT TO SELL HEROIN--A 21-year-old woman was watched by the police as she attempted to sell heroin, Senior-Sergeant A. K. Mitchell said yesterday in the Auckland Magistrate's Court. Before Mr B. H. Blackwood, SM, was Kaye Francis Forman, masseuse, who admitted one charge of possession of heroin for sale and one of offering to sell heroin. She was convicted and remanded in custody to March 31 for a probation report and sentence. Mr Mitchell said on February 16 police kept watch on a number of people in the Avondale area. The defendant was seen in conversation with two persons, one of whom got some money from a car. Police approached and recovered six sachets of white powder from Forman. She told them it was "smack." Her handbag was searched and a large quantity of money found. The defendant said this was from the sale of heroin the previous day. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 18 Mar 77 p 4]

JAIL SENTENCES PROTESTED--Jail sentences for marijuana users should be abolished, according to the chairman of the Auckland Council for Civil Liberties, Mr D. R. Lange. Speaking at an outdoor lunchtime forum in Auckland yesterday, Mr Lange said that any law should reflect the practice of society. But at the moment, the provision for jail terms of up to three months for marijuana users was not being enforced. "Depending on the magistrate," Mr Lange said, "people are fined from \$50 to \$120. Therefore the provision of the jail penalty is now obsolete." [Excerpt] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 Mar 77 p 5]

HASHISH OIL CONVICTION--A man who imported hashish oil into New Zealand told the police he was going to exchange it for heroin, Sergeant T. J. Hughes said yesterday in the Auckland Magistrate's Court. Before Mr D. D. Finnigan, SM, was Peter Cyril Barrow, aged 25, industrial radiologist, who admitted a charge of importing hashish oil. He was convicted and remanded on bail to April 18 for a probation report and sentence. The sergeant said Barrow arrived from Sydney on February 19. Customs officers found a black material in rubber condoms sewn into the lining of each sleeve of his jacket. The defendant admitted it was hashish oil. He said he had bought it in Sydney for \$100 and was going to exchange it in New Zealand for heroin. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 22 Mar 77 p 4]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI LEADER URGED TO SEEK DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG PUSHERS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian is being urged to impose Article 21 of the Constitution, which allows the death penalty, on two Haw Chinese drug dealers arrested earlier this month in Bangkok with 4.1 kilos of No 3 heroin.

The proposal for using Article 21 for the first time against drug dealers came from Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Commission Secretary-General Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon.

The two traffickers were identified as 45-year-old Lin Taisieng (alias Lauchai Sae Ou) and Mrs Ma Chin-muey. They were arrested on 2 March in two separate raids.

Police trailed the couple for some time on 2 March and first arrested Mrs Ma at the Star Hotel on Rama 1 Road. In her room they found 10 plastic bags containing around 400 grammes of heroin in each. Lin was nabbed shortly afterwards in front of the Broadway Hotel in the Chinatown area.



Mrs Ma Chin-muey and Lin Taisieng (centre) undergo questioning shortly after their arrest earlier this month.

THAILAND

POLICE RELEASE SUSPECTED HEROIN COURIER

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Police yesterday released the Hong Kong Chinese, Chan Ming-fai (26), who was detained for interrogation as a suspected heroin courier at Don Muang Airport on Saturday night, after they found no evidence to prove his guilt.

However, another suspect, British national Miss Rita Nightingale (24), was brought into custody at the Crime Suppression Division for further interrogation.

Late Saturday night, customs officials at Don Muang Airport acting on a tipoff, searched the belongings of Chan and Miss Nightingale and found 3 kilogrammes of No 3 heroin (brown sugar) hidden in an overnight bag and a transistor radio.

Chan was first detained because there was confusion among the customs officials that the transistor radio, which contained 1 kilogram of heroin, belonged to him.

However, it was believed later that the radio and the overnight bag, which contained another 2 kilogrammes of heroin, belonged to Miss Nightingale.

Chan's briefcase did not contain any heroin, so he was later released.

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Miss Nightingale

THAILAND

BANGKOK PAPER: CONFISCATED HEROIN TO BE BURNED

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Heroin consignments confiscated from arrested drug traffickers and pushers will be destroyed by burning, secretary general of the Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Commission, Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon, said yesterday.

He said that the minister of public health, Dr Yongyut Satchawanit was recently appointed president of the committee to check and collect the amount of heroin to be destroyed.

The confiscated heroin is under the supervision of the Food and Medical Control Division.

Pramuk explained that the heroin to be destroyed was that impounded after the cases had been settled in court.

Meanwhile, the committee has instructed officials of the Food and Medical Control Division to submit the list of confiscated heroin for burning to the committee.

Asked whether an investigation will be conducted over reports of the disappearance of a huge amount of heroin 2 years ago from the Food and Medical Control Division, Pramuk said that he would have to wait until the list of confiscated heroin is submitted to him.

"If it is found that some heroin is missing, an investigation will be conducted to find the officials responsible for it," Pramuk said.

In June 1975, there was a report that 272 kilogrammes of heroin, 280 kilogrammes of morphine and 3,700 tubes of dry morphine had disappeared from storage. The drugs were under the responsibility of the chief of the Food and Medicine Control Division, Chuwit Ratanachai.

Former public health minister, Prachum Ratanaphian, had set up a committee to probe into the missing drugs. However, the results were not made known. There was only a report indicating that the amount of drugs missing was far smaller than that.

At that time, Chuwit had been transferred from his position pending the investigation.

THAILAND

POLICE SEIZE DRUGS IN TWO BIG HAULS

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 17 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Drugs worth more than 34 million baht have been seized in two massive hauls in Thailand in the last 24 hours.

An unmarked bag containing 14 kg of No 3 heroin worth 14 million baht on the U.S. market was found on a KLM flight bound for Amsterdam at Don Muang Airport last night, chief of the airport customs Lt Anan Thananon told the BANGKOK WORLD this morning.

And in raids carried out by a team of more than 200 police on three villages in Tambon Non Sawat in Tha Uthen District of Nakhon Phanom Province yesterday 13 tons of marihuana worth about 20 million baht on the local market was seized.

The discovery of the heroin at Don Muang, was made after a KLM employee, Mr Uthai Kosaratha, reported to customs officers that a package without any name tag was found in the KLM plane scheduled to fly to Amsterdam at 0200 hours.

Lieutenant Anan said that the heroin, the type popular in Europe, was packed in 13 brown paper packages and two liquor boxes and contained in a large bag.

The plane flew in from Singapore, but customs officials believed that the bag must have been loaded at Bangkok because the bag had Thai language labels.

The 13 tons of marihuana was found in Nakhon Phanom by police raids on three villages yesterday, police reported today.

Acting on a tip-off, the police forces, which consisted of Border Patrol and local Nakhon Phanom policemen, led by deputy commissioner of Zone 6 Provincial Police Col Thip Ruanroeng, raided the villages at 0400 hours yesterday.

A total of 13 tons of marihuana were found in village houses in searches which lasted until 1600 hours the same day, a police source said.

Police also arrested 19 persons on charges of possessing the drug.

The confiscated narcotic was prepared to be sent to Bangkok for smuggling out of the country.

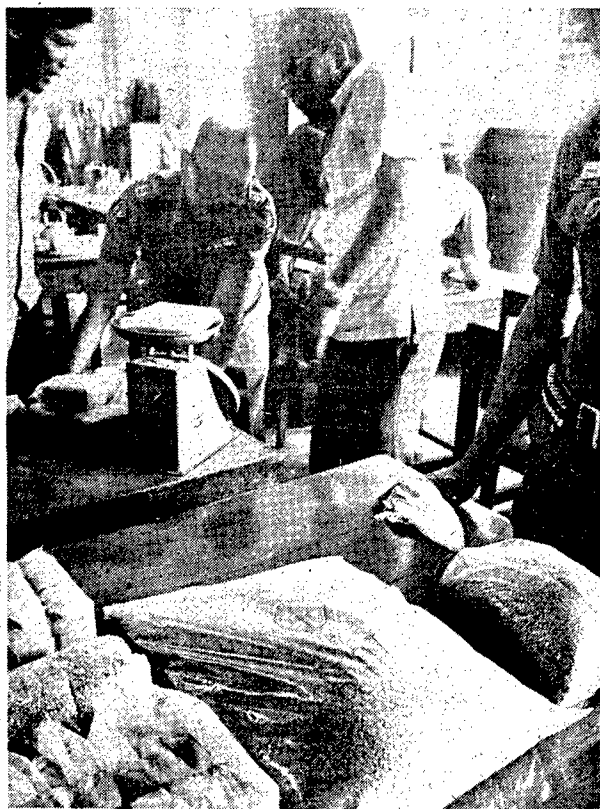
The report said the villagers had grown marihuana in deep jungle.



Photo shows Customs officials at Don Muang Airport this morning examining the neatly packed 14 kilogrammes of No 3 heroin from the bag. The drug was addressed to Amsterdam in the Netherlands where the punishment for narcotics possession is very light.



KLM's station Manager H.J. Hughan and Customs officers inspect the heroin at Don Muang Airport on Wednesday night.



Crime suppression police weighing the heroin taken from a KML flight at Don Muang Airport.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI POLICE BURN SEIZED MARIHUANA

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 15 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] More than 5 tons of marihuana seized last year was put to the torch by police at the Disaster Relief Centre yesterday afternoon.

The marihuana, police estimated, is worth about 5 million baht on the local black market or \$20 million in the United States.

Police said only a portion of the entire marihuana haul kept at the Public Health Ministry's godown was burnt down while the rest of it would be destroyed in the future.



5 tons of 'pot' smoked

THAILAND

BRIEFS

2 MILLION BAHT OF HEROIN--Wat Phrayakrai police raided a house in Yannawa District Saturday night and booked a woman and a man for possessing 38 sticks of heroin worth 2 million baht. The police who had been hiding near the house in Saphap Yao Lane on Charoenkrung Road since the evening stormed into the house several hours later. They found Mrs Hieng Sae-sim, 42, and Mr Prasan Sae-tang, 19, in the house with the heroin No 5. Both of them disclaim any connection with the drugs. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 21 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

TWO LAO SMUGGLING OPIUM--Nong Khai--Two Lao were arrested yesterday morning in Muang District of Nong Khai with 5.2 kilograms of cooked opium on a timber truck which was registered in Vientiane. Acting on the tip-off that there would be opium smuggled from Vientiane, Nong Khai superintendent, Pol Col Anan Wora-Urai set up a checkpoint at Michai intersection on Ruammit Road. At about 0945 hours a timber truck belonging to Thai Annuai Company arrived at the checkpoint. After a thorough search police found five packages of cooked opium, 5.2 kilograms, worth about 10,000 baht in the local market, hidden inside a used battery on the truck. Police arrested the two Lao--Thao Phouvong Louanglat and Thao Lim Chiangtung--for interrogation. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 77 p 3 BK]

HEROIN BAGS IN STOMACH--Doctors who performed a post mortem on the Japanese tourist who died in his Amarin Hotel room on Wednesday found 12 small rubber bags in his stomach yesterday. A police source disclosed that the rubber bags, each tied at one end with tiny rubber bands, proved to be high-grade No 4 heroin in laboratory tests. The surprise discovery yesterday sent Lumpini police in charge of investigating Hiroji Yamazaki's death to look for a background in possible narcotics trafficking. "His ingenious method of heroin trafficking is suicidal," a police officer said last night. He said further that Yamazaki might have swallowed the 12 rubber bags the day he was scheduled to leave Bangkok and would then excrete them in Japan. According to initial investigations, Yamazaki first came to Bangkok on 6 January and checked in at the Amarin Hotel, leaving on 2 February. He returned again on the 15th of this month and was scheduled to check out from Amarin Hotel last Wednesday when he was found lying dead in his hotel room. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

VIETNAM

DRUG ADDICTS COMMIT THEFTS

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 30 Jan 77 p 4

[Saigon's Many Faces column by Tu Rau]

[Excerpt] Is there anything strange going on near the Bong Bridge at Hong Hoa Street? This is a question which a number of readers have asked Tu Rau who, wanting to know, went to find out.

Groping along, Tu Rau slipped into Hong Hoa Street; actually Tu Rau suspected that this narrow street had a problem related to public order and the security of the people, who therefore depended on Tu Rau to serve as a loudspeaker. And in fact, each day on this street, a number of heroin and drug addicts gathered together to sniff dope and discuss tricks in stealing things.

Most of the people must shut their doors because they are afraid these people will stealthily enter and steal all the articles in the house.

This group's leader is C, who specializes in stealing...and disappearing. Listening everywhere, they have stolen bicycles from in front of Lang Ong, the Posts and Telegraph Service, the Ba Chieu and Tan Dinh markets, and Phu Nhuan, taken them to "slaughter," and sold the parts and divided things for use. When people discover the matter and notify the public security forces, they sneak away to the river, listen and watch quietly, and then again gather to sniff dope and steal. They usually become hostile and threaten people if exposed by anyone and will inquire after the person's health!

Actually, the people who live on Hong Hoa Street are too meek and are afraid of confronting this group of hoodlums and therefore they have relied on bringing this matter up in "Saigon's Many Faces" [column].

There is nothing really important about this matter. Empty words and soft crying -- although they have had practice in petty stealing, like Than Hanh Thai Bao who could not escape divine justice either, with the exception of people who do not clearly understand the situation and who help them, the people will help build a new life which is wholesome and which has a future.

11,943

CSO: 4909

EASING OF MARIHUANA LAWS HAS TO WAIT, SAYS TRUDEAU

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 18 Mar 77 p 9

[Excerpt] Ottawa--Canadian pot smokers had better not hold their breath if they are expecting the federal government to legalize simple possession of marijuana.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau said Thursday that he thought there was a proposal along these lines in his administration's list of proposed legislation, but it certainly was nowhere near the top of the list. In fact, he suggested it was nearer the bottom and marijuana users likely could not expect action before Parliament's summer recess.

About 3,000 persons are believed to be in Canadian jails for simple possession despite a recommendation by the government's own Commission on the non-medical use of drugs in 1974 that possession be removed from the Criminal Code.

One prominent member of that commission went even further, issuing a minority report recommending that marijuana be sold as freely as alcohol.

That member was Marie-Andree Bertrand, criminology professor from the University of Montreal, who told the CBC's Fifth Estate this week that the government's failure to follow up on the recommendations was "a bad game" because it aroused false expectations.

"I don't say that because my minority report was not followed," Bertrand said. "But I think that the majority report, which was very moderate and very wise--decriminalization was a very small step--should have been followed.

"It's a shame that we went so far in the study of this problem and we did so little to implement what we knew for sure."

CSO: 5320

JUSTICE MINISTER SAYS NO PLAN TO LEGALIZE CANNABIS

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 29 Mar 77 p 9

[Text] Ottawa (CP)--Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's recent statement that a person who smokes a joint of marijuana for personal pleasure should not be hassled does not mean the Government intends to legalize the drug, Justice Minister Ronald Basford said in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Basford told Dan McKenzie (PC, Winnipeg South Centre) that he, Health Minister Marc Lalonde and Solicitor-General Francis Fox are deciding whether to reintroduce a Senate bill to lighten marijuana possession penalties, which died two years ago, or to draft new legislation. The Senate bill proposed moving marijuana and hashish offences from the Narcotics Control Act to the less harsh Food and Drug Act.

Under the Narcotics Control Act, a conviction for possession of cannabis can mean a fine of up to \$2,000 and imprisonment for up to seven years. Most first-time offenders are fined between \$200 and \$300. If moved to the Food and Drug Act, a conviction for possession of cannabis would mean a fine of \$500 for first offences and up to \$1,000 for subsequent offences. No imprisonment or criminal records would result from the conviction.

Mr. Basford told John Gilbert (NDP, Broadview) that he could not say if legislation to lighten penalties for possession of marijuana would be introduced before the summer.

He said he was unable to say when the legislation would be introduced or what form it would take.

CSO: 5320

EDITORIAL SUGGESTS UK HEROIN PLAN HAS MERIT

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 21 Mar 77 p 6

[Editorial by Richard Chamberlain: "UK Heroin Plan Has Solid Merits"]

[Text] The former director of the Kingston Prison for Women suggests that many Canadian criminal problems could be solved if heroin were prescribed to addicts.

The idea of simply giving heroin to addicts is far from new. In England, addicts have been allotted daily doses of their habit for years, so the program is not without merit by any means.

The special Commons subcommittee investigating prison violence has learned that about 70 per cent of women and at least 50 per cent of men in Canadian prisons are there as a result of drug use and drug-related crimes.

Some of Canada's estimated 16,000 to 20,000 addicts pay as much as \$350 per day to feed their need and obviously must steal to get much of it.

Muggings and simple theft, prostitution, bank robbery and murder have all been cited in many cases as results of drug dependency.

While in British Columbia the subcommittee was told heroin is that province's fifth-largest industry. According to RCMP estimates, Canadian addicts spend \$500 million each year on heroin.

The great percentage of that money is stolen and innocent people are killed for it. An addict's conscience is, at best, a nebulous commodity.

Limited success has been reported with methadone treatments, but what of the scores of addicts who don't want to be cured, and will continue stealing and killing to maintain their bleak existence?

There are, of course, drawbacks. The children of mothers addicted to heroin are often born addicts, obviously through no fault of their own, although they are usually successfully weaned from their horrid affliction with methadone.

The benefits, however, appear great. First and foremost, prescribing heroin for addicts would have a profound effect on crime. Pushers would be out of business and some hope might exist for young junkies trapped in a life of crime and prison.

It is easy enough to argue that they made their beds and should sleep in them--too easy, in fact.

Because for every addict who is forced to break the law, there are untold numbers of innocent people indirectly victimized by heroin.

It is a lot to expect of a government that has dragged the marijuana controversy out for years without definite action. But the important benefits to society of removing as much of the criminal element from heroin addiction as possible are well worth acting upon.

CSO: 5320

DRUG TRIALS STALLED AS LAWYER SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF WIRETAP LAWS

Toronto THE SATURDAY GLOBE MAIL in English 26 Mar 77 p 5

[Article by Michael Keating]

[Text] A Lindsay Provincial Court judge has delayed three major drug conspiracy cases while a Toronto lawyer tries to have the Supreme Court of Canada clarify this country's wiretap legislation.

Anthony Bazos represents one of 25 men and women each charged with conspiracy to traffic in cocaine or amphetamines or both. The cases involve four months of wiretap evidence garnered by an intensive RCMP investigation.

Mr. Bazos would like to challenge the way that evidence was obtained, but while recent rulings in Alberta and British Columbia Supreme Courts could help his case, a recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling would work against him.

The lawyer said--and Judge G. F. W. Inrig agreed--that there is confusion over the interpretations of the 1974 wiretap law and Canada's highest court should clarify the rules.

If Mr. Bazos followed normal court procedure of preliminary hearing, trial and appeal within the province before appealing to the national court it would almost certainly take more than a year and cost many thousands of dollars to the accused and the state.

The judge and lawyer both said that there should be a special appeal to this court, made by either Canada's Justice Minister or some other unusual approach.

In a transcript of the case involving Mr. Bazos' client, John Buchanan, 32, of Lindsay, Judge Inrig said on March 7:

"It seems to me that it would be a most unjust situation to proceed with these trials and eventually find that the matters will go to the Supreme

Court of Canada and it may be that the time spent will have been a complete waste of time and a waste of money. It seems that this is the time for the Supreme Court of Canada to be requested to make its determination so that the trial courts in this land will know what they are to do."

Then the judge adjourned the cases to April 14, saying, "at that time we'll ascertain whether there is any possibility of the matter being settled."

Shortly after the hearing, special federal prosecutor Bruce Glass of Lindsay wrote the Justice Department in Ottawa seeking instructions.

S. M. Froomkin, director of the criminal law section, replied: "There is a long standing reluctance on the part of the various ministers of justice ...to take this kind of action which would circumvent the normal judicial process.

"I could only envisage a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada if this were considered to be a burning national issue which I believe it is not."

Mr. Froomkin advised the prosecutor to press for a continuation of the preliminary inquiry, "unless Mr. Bazos can produce some tangible evidence that a reference is in the offing."

A spokesman for Justice Minister Ronald Basford said yesterday that position still stands but Mr. Bazos said he may be able to take another tack and ask the high court to hear his appeal under a rule that allows it to take direct submissions from lawyers on important questions of law.

Mr. Bazos is an outspoken opponent of wiretap legislation and says the June, 1974, Protection of Privacy Act should be retitled the Invasion of Privacy Act.

"I've had cops come up to me and tell me they've been listening to my conversations. I don't see why I have to go out of my office to talk to a client because they may be tapping my line or have a parabolic mike aimed at my window," he said in a recent interview.

Mr. Baxos is specifically concerned about the procedure used by police to obtain a judge's permission to tap his client's phone but says he lacks the clear right to question the procedure. "How do you see if a cop committed perjury to get the original judge's order?"

He also questions the way the Government appoints special officers to apply for wiretap orders and the security of the tapes once they are obtained by police.

The latter issue was one that was central to the interpretation of tapes made by former United States President Richard Nixon.

Mr. Bazos, a Toronto criminal lawyer, is receiving at least some support from fellow solicitors.

Morris Manning of Toronto said in an interview yesterday that the Supreme Court should interpret the wording of the wiretap legislation for once and for all. Some judges have held that police must satisfy three conditions before a judge should authorize bugging:

--Other investigative techniques had been tried and failed.

--It appears the other techniques would not succeed if tried.

--It is an urgent matter which cannot be investigated quickly by the usual means.

Other judges, including five in the Ontario Court of Appeals, have held that only one of these conditions must be satisfied, which gives the police much greater opportunity to obtain wiretap orders.

In fact, Solicitor-General Francis Fox released statistics earlier this year showing that in 1976 police in Canada made 614 applications for wiretap orders and got 542 extensions. They tapped 1,224 phones or other means of communication and made 1,062 arrests.

Conspiracy cases involving wiretap evidence are long and costly.

Mr. Bazos estimated it would cost \$100,000 just to defend his client against the series of charges and it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars more to the state for the salaries of police and court officials.

In the Metro area the federal prosecutors have had a number of drug conspiracies and one case now in County Court started trial last May and shows no sign of finishing quickly.

Yesterday Julius Isaac, head of the Toronto-based federal prosecution group, said this is the longest such case he has seen, but a Brampton trial involving a ton of hashish started in October and similar trials have lasted a month or more.

Much of the time is spent while the judge rules on the admissibility of wiretap evidence against the accused...for example the identification of voices on tapes and the manner in which the interceptions were made may be at issue.

"On balance," he said, "one can say the need to prove the lawfulness of wiretap evidence will lengthen the evidence by three to six weeks."

CSO: 5320

BRIEFS

DRUGS COMMITTEE FORMED--Ottawa (CP)--A federal-provincial committee has been formed to seek ways to cut the supply of illicit drugs in Canada, Justice Minister Ron Basford announced Thursday. The committee's major focus will be on the heroin problem in British Columbia, Mr. Basford said in a news release following a meeting Wednesday with B.C. Attorney-General Garde Gardom. They discussed the matter with Health Minister Marc Lalonde, Solicitor-General Francis Fox, and B.C. Health Minister Robert McClelland. Basford and Gardom said more than 60 per cent of Canada's drug problem is centred in British Columbia. Gardom said at a news conference that "a sense of frustration" has dictated the move. Police clampdowns on heroin imports tend to drive up prices, so high now that RCMP estimate 16,000 users pay \$500 million a year for the drug. Most of the money is raised through theft, giving the Vancouver area a high and violent crime rate. The news release said immediate initiatives are needed to deal with supply and demand. [Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 25 Mar 77 p 2]

MUSICIAN CHARGED--A musician at a Ouellette Avenue tavern was searched by police last May. They charged Roger Morgan with possession of narcotics for trafficking after they found about 20 grams of hashish resin in his pockets. One gram of resin is approximately equal to five grams of marijuana. In his defence, lawyer Duncan Macintyre said that the quantity of resin was small and that Morgan hadn't sold any. However, Morgan was sentenced to one month in jail and placed on probation for 12 months. [Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 30 Mar 77 p 13]

CSO: 5320

BULGARIA

PRESS CONFERENCE SUMS UP SUCCESSES AGAINST NARCOTICS

Sofia BTA in English 1510 GMT 30 Mar 77 AU

[Text] Sofia, 30 Mar (BTA)--After the failure of the "French connection" 4 years ago the attempts by smugglers of narcotics to cross Bulgaria on their way to Western Europe or the United States have become more frequent. Bulgaria has since strengthened customs on control at the frontiers and doubled the penalties for the smuggling of narcotics.

Now the Bulgarian laws for this crime provide imprisonment up to 12 years and fine up to 20,000 leva. The Austrians Erich Haderer and Walter Kroetul, intercepted last year with 1,500 kg of hashish and 7 kg of opium, were sentenced to 10 and 9 years of jail and 14,000 and 12,000 leva fines. The Turk Cilik Bilyak Mahmud, who tried to pass 420 kg of hashish, is now serving a 6-year term supplemented with a 3,000 leva fine.

"In 1975 and 1976, 90 foreign nationals have been caught trying to smuggle narcotics and they are now serving their sentences in Bulgarian prisons," a senior representative of the prosecutor's office announced at a press conference today.

This is the place where probably will land also Harmuth Wagner, 29 years of age, an FRG national, caught on 6 March carrying on a "Mercedes" refrigerating lorry 1,900 kg of hashish, and Akil Demir Kiran, a 50-year-old Turk, who tried on 8 March to cross Bulgaria with 600 kg of hashish. They were both present at the press conference.

They were very embarrassed under the numerous questions posed by journalists. Akil Demir Kiran, father of five, stated that he had known of the narcotics hidden in the tanks of the lorry but had taken the risk because he had been offered an additional reward of 7,000 Turkish pounds.

"Since 1969 the Bulgarian customs authorities have foiled the transportation of some 21 tons of narcotics and 315 kh of morphine. Over the same period, 504 smugglers have been detained," Mr Lazar Bonev, director of the "Customs Houses and Departments," declared at the press conference. This year alone 35 attempts at smuggling a total of 4,075 kg of hashish were frustrated. Practically all the consignments were intended for the Federal Republic of Germany.

In Bulgaria drug addiction is not widespread and constitutes no problem. So far there has been no case where a Bulgarian citizen has been implicated in the smuggling of narcotics. In spite of this the customs administration puts the accent in its work on the struggle against this criminal activity.

"Without having a problem of our own, we are making more efforts and showing more concern than some states that have been strongly affected by drug addiction," Mr Bonev emphasized. He pointed out that it is necessary for the national and international organs and organizations concerned to establish more effective two-way cooperation with the Bulgarian customs administration.

The hashish, intercepted in Bulgaria, is burned in the presence of a special commission, once the sentence of the smuggler has come into force.

CSO: 5300

BULGARIA

LARGE HASHISH HAUL FOUND AT BORDER

Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 9 Mar 77 p 3 AU

[Text] During the past few years, dozens of foreign citizens have attempted to transport narcotics destined for West Europe through the border posts of the Bulgarian People's Republic. More than 3,000 kilograms of hashish was uncovered in 1976 at the Kalotino Border post alone.

On 6 March, Nikifor Nikolov, Stoimen Pavlov and Iliya Naydenov, customs officials in Kalotino, uncovered 1,900 kilograms of hashish in the Mercedes refrigerator van number MUR-2833 owned by Horst Koeller of Munich. The Mercedes owner has "comfortably" preferred to travel by plane. After loading the cargo in Istanbul, Mr Horst Koeller left directly for Munich and left the van loaded with this poison to his drivers Wagner Hartmut and Weise Kristof.

The two drivers were very "surprised" by this discovery of the customs officials in charge. They told the press representatives that they "knew" the van was empty. They were allegedly disturbed when they saw the double bottom with 13 hiding places in which hashish was hidden in nylon detergent sacks. Neither the nylon sacks nor the double bottom of the trailer, however, could cover the hiding places enough from the vigilant eyes of the experienced customs control officials.

CSO: 5300

BULGARIA

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZURE--At the end of our newscast an announcement from BTA: Today 500 kilograms of hashish was discovered at the Bulgarian border checkpoint Kapitan Andreevo. Customs officials Georgi Kapasuzov and Stafan (Vaptsamov) found the narcotic in a truck driven by its owner, a Turkish citizen named (Yogmen Kenam). It is interesting that this has been the third time this week that hashish has been captured at the Kapitan Andreevo checkpoint. Five days ago customs official Kapasuzov again, that time with his colleague (Emil Milev), discovered 628 kilograms of drugs in another Turkish truck, while 2 days ago their colleagues Andrey Todorov and Tancho Tanchev found 440 kilograms of hashish. All three trucks were heading for the FRG. I think that a commentary is superfluous in this case. The smugglers have no chances at all. [Text] [Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 14 Mar 77 AU]

CSO: 5300

RISING DRUG ADDICTION, TRAFFIC LEAD TO CRACKDOWN

Maribor 7D in Slovenian 17 Feb 77 pp 52-53

[Text] Drug Addicts

It is difficult to find out how many people in our country have become drug addicts. Nevertheless, some unofficial figures are available. It is estimated that there are approximately 10,000 drug addicts in our capital, 5,000 of whom are young women. Next come Zagreb and Ljubljana, where the numbers of addicts are smaller; it is known, too, that there are approximately 1,000 drug addicts in Rijeka.

Recidivism

In recent years the Yugoslav security authorities have discovered a considerable number of drug addicts who at the same time were engaged in the sale of drugs and were convicted by the courts because of it. Unfortunately, many returned to their old ways after they served their sentences. This is an indication that it is necessary to increase the efforts for prevention of sales and spreading of drugs. At the same time it is necessary to consider what methods would be most effective for rehabilitation of these offenders in various educational institutions.

Pharmacies, Hospitals: Potential Targets of Drug Addicts

In the last 5 years the Yugoslav security and customs authorities at our border crossings have discovered, among other things, several tons of narcotics--hashish, marijuana, opium, and so on--not to speak of the narcotics contained in pills. The most recent and so far the greatest discovery of a narcotics shipment came to light in Slovenia after strenuous efforts and a skillful investigation jointly conducted by the Slovenian and Croatian Public Security Administrations. No less than 720 kilograms of the finest processed hashish, valued at 3.6 billion dinars in Yugoslavia and several times that amount on the foreign markets, was seized.

Held for investigation in Ljubljana now are Nicholas Manogianakis, 26, a Greek national living in Holland; and Jan Pieter Brasser, 23, a citizen of the Netherlands; Jan Woudster, 23, and his wife Antonella, 22, who is Italian by birth. Thus far it has not yet been established whence came the shipment and what was its actual destination. All that is known is that it was not intended for users in Yugoslavia and that the shipment was to be sent from Ljubljana in different directions to various customers. In essence the apprehended smugglers represent only one link in the chain of an international ring for smuggling the narcotics. According to the investigators, the arrested persons were in all likelihood acting only as couriers who were to be paid 10,000 guildens by their client upon a successfully accomplished assignment.

The current investigation will establish whether any of the foursome had been previously involved in international drug smuggling and whether any of them had previously traveled through Yugoslavia on similar business. Had he known what was in store for him, Manogianakis, the 22-year-old [As published] Greek, would, on arriving in Ljubljana from Zagreb, probably have stopped elsewhere rather than at the prearranged place on Nemska Cesta [German Road] in Ljubljana. It was here that the detectives picked up his trail and were carefully following him to discover the international route by which narcotics travel through Yugoslavia to the West.

He left his Ford Taunus van, registered in the Netherlands, in Ljubljana and flew to Holland where he was to inform his customers that the shipment had arrived in Yugoslavia and that it was only necessary to take it across the border to Austria or Italy. Two days later he left for Vienna, from whence he returned to Ljubljana accompanied by the Woudsters in a Volkswagen of Dutch registration driven by Jan Pieter Brasser.

Immediately after their arrival they began to unload and divide the narcotics. Part of the shipment was transferred from the van to a personal car and taken to the Turist Motel near Grosuplje where a Volkswagen van suitably modified to provide space for concealing the contraband was waiting for them. The Woudsters took this vehicle toward the Italian border but they were apprehended at the Fernetici border crossing point where inspectors of the Koper Public Security Administration, acting in close cooperation with the Slovenian Socialist Republic's Public Security Administration, were waiting for them. The vehicle contained 86 kilograms of hashish.

On the same day Jan Pieter Brasser was arrested at the Podkoren border crossing point. Within a couple of hours after Brasser was arrested an inspector called on Manogianakis, the Greek, who finally realized that all his efforts were in vain and that he would wind up in prison.

From the Greek the inspectors seized the largest quantity of narcotics--680 kilograms of refined hashish stored in 34 tin boxes.

Interpol Becomes Involved

At the Podkoren border crossing point the inspectors found not a single gram of hashish in Jan Pieter Brassers' car. At interrogation, however, he confessed that he had a cache near Otocec in Dolenjsko, where the authorities subsequently found 11 kilograms of narcotics and the discarded tin boxes previously used as storage for hashish.

On 28 January the Public Security Administration concluded its action with all four smugglers safely locked away for interrogation. The suspects stated they were aware that sale and distribution of hashish were involved but they maintained that they were only a small link in a chain acting on orders of dealers and big bosses.

"This case required the concentrated effort of 10 specialists of the criminal detail who worked around the clock. Regardless of our success so far, our objective is to discover the entire route--that is, the origin and destination of the narcotics. A great deal of information may be available from Interpol, which has already become involved," say the people at the Ljubljana Public Security Administration to whom belongs the lion's share of credit for this great discovery although they modestly maintain that the shipment could not be intercepted without the extensive cooperation of all security and customs authorities, pointing out that the main thing is that the narcotics did not reach the end users.

Pharmacies Are the Targets

According to the results of the current investigation, the shipment of 720 kilograms of hashish was probably intended for distribution in the Netherlands, France, Italy, Sweden and West Germany rather than for users in Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that some of the narcotics that travel along similar routes remain in Yugoslav cities. According to statistical estimates more than 30,000 persons are using narcotics in Yugoslavia. These are mainly young people. In Belgrade there are approximately 5,000 young women who use drugs and their number is still increasing.

The fact that narcotics carriers also maintain some bases in Yugoslavia is clearly indicated by the data of the Public Security Administration which in the last few years has registered hundreds of people who use, distribute and smuggle narcotics and thus make money.

Because of the efficiency of narcotics inspectors, the addicts have recently turned to pharmacies as their sources of supply and pharmacies have become the target of burglaries. Last year a record number of such burglaries was recorded. In the first month of the current year more than 20 pharmacies were burglarized in Belgrade. Some burglars have already been apprehended while others are still being pursued.

Other cities are not lagging far behind Belgrade. Drugs containing narcotics for which there is a great demand among the addicts are disappearing from the pharmacies. The most popular drugs are hektaton (synthetic morphine), cocaine, and morphine in vials.

The fact that the offenders can all too easily reach their loot is a cause of concern. After breaking in by forcing the door or by breaking the windows the burglars have no problems in reaching the narcotics, which are usually kept in unlocked wooden cabinets or even out on shelves.

Within a very short time a pharmacy in the center of Belgrade was burglarized twice in a row. The last break-in at the end of January was quite spectacular. Two young men broke the glass door with a stone and hid for a few minutes behind the corner of the adjoining house whereupon they dashed into the pharmacy and stole the narcotics. When the neighbors noticed this they called the militia who responded within a few minutes. In the meantime, however, the burglars had disappeared in the adjoining alleys.

Improper Storage

In view of such burglaries and thefts, pharmacists are frequently blamed for failing to store narcotics properly and in a safe place, such as safes and vaults as required by regulations on the storage of drugs containing narcotics. "Pharmacists are often at fault for keeping narcotics in accessible places. When theft occurs workers of the health care institutions make an inventory to establish how much of the drugs are missing, submit an insurance claim and collect the damages. It is strange that the underwriters are willing to pay claims in instances when it can be established that the narcotics were not kept in a safe place as required by regulations," say the narcotics inspectors.

One heptanone or cocaine pill commands a price of 100 dinars on the market. Three to 5 pills of these narcotics per day can satisfy the needs of the addicts. From this we can estimate the cost of the organism-destroying poison for which more and more pharmacies are burglarized.

If we do not assist the security authorities in preventing and suppressing narcotics addiction, but are careless in our work, their efforts alone will not be enough.

In addition to burglaries in pharmacies there now occur break-ins in the pharmaceutical cabinets in hospitals, purchases of narcotic-containing drugs with forged prescriptions, and the like.

Occasionally a thief who reaches a pharmaceuticals cabinet in a hospital is discovered by the physician on duty which can lead to a physical confrontation. However, fearing discovery and severe punishment, the criminals in such situations usually give up and run away in a hurry.

If, however, the physician on duty is occupied with his patients and the glass cupboards or drawers containing narcotics are not locked, the scoundrel has an easy task. It is precisely because of this that regulations for storage of "narcotics on display," are expected to be tightened so that further burglaries and thefts by drug addicts will be prevented.

The statistics telling about hundreds of burglaries occurring every year point to the carelessness of personnel charged with the safekeeping of the narcotics-containing drugs. We should point out that thanks to the advice of the security authorities charged with suppression of drug addiction considerable improvement in this area has recently been achieved in Slovenia.

12070
CSO: 5300

YUGOSLAVIA

BRIEFS

DRUG SMUGGLERS CAUGHT--Customs officers at the Gradina border crossing near Dimitrovgrad on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border discovered on Monday 14,254 kilograms of opium, the most expensive drug on the world market, in a special compartment of a Mercedes 230 automobile. The drug was smuggled by Lebanese citizen Husayn Ali, a mechanic, and was intended for the French market. Because of custom violations the automobile and the drug have been confiscated, while the smuggler will soon be tried by the Dimitrovgrad communal court. [Text] [Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 8 Mar 77 p 16 AU]

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKING--Buenos Aires, 18 Mar--The national police have arrested seven persons who were illegally trying to bring coca leaves across the border from Bolivia. Those arrested are Guccio Aramayo, Enrique Armando Gutierrez, Eduardo Ruben Sanchez and Clemente Paredes, all Argentines, and also Nicolas Villate, Maria Esther Gomez de Gonzalez and Lucio Gomez, Bolivians. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1414 GMT 18 Mar 77 PY]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

THREE AMERICANS WITH COCAINE--Medellin, Colombia--Narcotics agents today seized 7 pounds of cocaine worth several million pesos at Olaya Herrera Airport. Three U.S. citizens identified as Christian (Slicher), Daniel William (Crowledge) and Christopher (Faulsfeather) were taking the drug by plane to Miami via Curacao. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Mar 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARREST--The Guayas INTERPOL revealed that three drug traffickers and three consumers had been arrested as part of the Drug Addiction Eradication plan. The traffickers are Jose Hugo Marmolejo Quintero, Felix Miguel Yagual Jurado, who is also an addict, and Pablo Buri Quinonez. The addicts are Jorge Luis Silva Pacheco, Freddy Washington Avendano Bravo and Nelson Enrique Latorre Monroy. The addicts are supplied by a woman called Maritza Sanchez who is still at large. [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 9 Mar 77 p 16 PA]

DRUG ARRESTS--Guayaquil, Ecuador, 26 Mar--It was reported here that the Ecuadorean police, in cooperation with INTERPOL, have arrested three members of an international drug ring. The three, two Ecuadoreans and a Colombian, had hidden 14 kilos of cocaine paste in an automobile which they were taking from Guayaquil to Quito, where the drug was to be smuggled to the U.S. market. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 27 Mar 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN PROCEEDS APACE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 13-A

[Text] Some 2,033 poppy fields were destroyed in a 72-hour period [by Federal Judicial Police agents. These fields represented approximately] 95.7 tons of pure heroin, enough to supply the drug trafficking market for an entire year.

At the present time, 1 kilo of pure heroin sells for 3 million pesos.

Julio Camelo, secretary to the Attorney General of the Republic, reported that Judicial Police agents, under the command of Gen Raul Mendiolea Zerecero, used 10 helicopters to destroy the fields in 3 days.

Camelo stated that this is one of the strongest efforts exerted by Federal Judicial Police agents, in collaboration with army troops.

Julio Camelo told EXCELSIOR that destruction action had been taken in the towns of San Jose de las Gracias, Rio Sinaloa, Portrero de Abajo, La Mujer Dormida and Sierra de Chancote, in the state of Sinaloa, and in the towns of La Quebrada de Guadalupe Urrea, in Durango.

On another matter, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic reported the destruction of a clandestine laboratory in which 1.5 kilos of pure heroin were confiscated, as well as 17 bags containing 30 kilos of a substance used in the manufacture of the drug.

The laboratory was located at 6 Nicaragua Street, in the Rosales barrio, city of Culiacan, Sinaloa.

The federal agents arrested Ramon Garcia Barnaza and Gilberto Gispar Galindo who were processing raw opium to convert it into white heroin.

Six other drug traffickers were apprehended by the federal agents and charged with taking marihuana into North prison and distributing it.

The prisoners are Angel Luvan Sevilla, Jorge Sanchez Navarro, Fany Sanchez Navarro Plaza, Kim Velazquez Loperena, Fernando Sanchez Navarro Plaza and American John Gutierrez.

The investigation was started when two guards at the prison arrested prison cook Luvian [sic] Sevilla when he tried to take marihuana into the prison hidden beneath his clothing.

When he was informed of this, Gen Mendiola Zerecero ordered an investigation which led to the arrest of the other prisoners.

The marihuana was for inmates John Gutierrez and Fernando Sanchez Navarro Plaza.

8143

CSO: 5300

FLORES DESCRIBES 'CONDOR' TRACK RECORD TO DATE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Feb 77 p 28-A

[Article by Victor Payan]

[Text] The Attorney General of the Republic, Oscar Flores Sanchez, told EXCELSIOR yesterday that the Mexican authorities will eradicate international drug trafficking, thanks to the work being done through "Operation Condor," during which at least 50 percent of the poppy fields have already been destroyed. When the Operation ends at the beginning of April, 90 percent of the fields will have been destroyed.

The official stated that the success of "Operation Condor" is attributable to the support provided by the air team which starts out using photographs taken from satellites and ends up sending helicopters and light planes to spray the regions detected with potent herbicides.

On this occasion, the Attorney General added that there is now no danger that the large and powerful "mafias" of drug traffickers can suborn the human element, because from the time the photos are taken by a satellite until the coordinates of the locations which are to be sprayed are established the documents are not touched by human hands.

The pilots take off from different bases and receive their instructions when they are airborne. What is more, different types of aircraft are used, such as small helicopters which are utilized only for spraying, or enormous passenger transports, not to forget the fixed wing airplanes which reconnoiter the terrain or take photographs of sites that have already been destroyed. The last procedure is used to provide proof of the real work that has been done.

The Attorney General of the Republic told EXCELSIOR that in mid March his office will have eight new helicopters, half of which have a passenger capacity of 20 persons. This will bring to 80 the number of aircraft with which "Operation Condor" is being carried out. This Operation started on 1 January.

Flores Sanchez noted that the principal objective of "Operation Condor" is the state of Sinaloa which is considered the most suitable area for growing poppies because of its climate and humidity. He said, "It is here that most of the opium poppy field destruction has taken place. This is the place where raw opium originates that is subsequently converted into heroin, a drug considered one of the most serious cancers of mankind."

He indicated that the Mexican authorities will have an impact upon international drug trafficking and stated that Mexico is considered to be the principal producer of the heroin consumed on the United States market. This production is promoted by the international "maffias" which not only supply seed but also pay large amounts of money to the peasant farmers to achieve their objectives.

"Thus," he said, "if at the end of the campaign we expect to have destroyed 90 percent of the poppy or opium poppy fields, we can believe that the international drug traffic will incur an irreparable loss due to the fact that this kind of flower has a growing cycle of only 4 months a year."

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

'CONDOR' HURTS LOCAL ECONOMY SAYS TOWN OFFICIAL

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Mar 77 p 27-A

[Article by Roberto Martinez Montenegro: "Economy of Badiraguato, Sinaloa, Hurt by Campaign Against Drug Traffic"]

[Text] Badiraguato, Sin., 10 Mar--Jesus Ignacio Landell Esquerria, mayor of Badiraguato, said today that "Operation Condor" to combat drug traffic has hurt the economy of this town in the Western Sierra Madre because at least 30 percent of the total population--50 percent are children--depended on drug traffic.

As 60 tons of marihuana were burned, the mayor stated: "For this reason, I will propose an agrarian reform plan for this area to Governor Alfonso G. Calderon. For more than two decades, it has been ignored by all economic and social aid plans."

He explained that he will also propose that state authorities help start pig farms to help the damaged economy of Badiraguato.

Landell Esquerria added: "Possibly being ignored is what made the inhabitants of the Sinaloa sierra cultivate drugs and sell them. Their apparent prosperity was based on illegal means so the time had to come when it would end," he said.

He proposed that the authorities concentrate on creating legal sources of employment for the inhabitants of the sierra so that they would not be forced to resume illegal activities for survival.

The local deputy, Ramon Alberto Monjardin, only said: "I recognize the organized effort of 'Operation Condor' to stop drug traffic in Badiraguato. In my opinion, this is one of the most controversial actions."

7717
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS KILL POLICE IN MEXICALI SHOOTOUT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Mar 77 p 24-A

[Article by Consuelo L. de Avalos and Carlos Estrada Ch.: "Three Policemen Killed in Mexicali by Four Drug Traffickers Trying To Free Comrades"]

[Text] Mexicali, B.C., 7 Mar--Four drug traffickers armed with high-power rifles killed three policemen early this morning in a frustrated attempt to free four of their comrades--including two women--held in the agency of the Federal Public Ministry of this city.

Apparently one of the drug traffickers who attacked the agency at 0030 hours today was seriously wounded.

Municipal Policemen Pablo Alberto Alvarado Diaz, 20 years old, and Adolfo Tejeda Lopez, 25 years old, and Federal Judicial Policeman Ernesto Argumedo were killed.

The four criminals attempted to free Cecilia Bernal de Reyes and Luz Aguilar Medina, the wives of known drug traffickers Fernando Lopez Fernandez and Manuel Salas Garcia. The names of the other two prisoners were not given.

The women were arrested in possession of \$16,000, pistols and white powder, apparently cocaine.

Information from the State Judicial Police, the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] and the Municipal Police indicates that four people arrived at the agency of the Federal Public Ministry at 0030 hours today armed with R-15 rifles. Two of them came in the front of the office and the others came in the back.

The criminals ordered the municipal policemen to open the cell where the women and their accomplices were. When the policemen refused, they were shot.

An agent of the PJF, Ernesto Argumedo, tried to help the municipal policemen and was also killed by machine-gun fire.

The drug traffickers arrived in a late model blue and white Ford Galaxy LTD without plates.

Closer Surveillance

Members of the Army, the State Judicial Police and the PJF were sent to the offices of the Federal Public Ministry where drug traffickers are being held to prevent another attack.

When Police Chief Salvador Hilares Barrera learned of the attack, he said on the radio that the attackers were not robbers or terrorists but drug traffickers.

He made a call to the citizenry to help maintain peace in the state and keep Baja California from becoming a city of gunmen.

The agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Jose Trinidad Lopez Zamarripa, indicated that none of the drug traffickers who attacked the agency has been identified. He examined the bodies. He said that Professor Maria del Pilar Davalos, director of the Leona Vicario School across from the offices of the Federal Public Ministry attacked early this morning, and Gaston H. Salazar, president of the Householders Association, decided to cancel classes this morning. The offices of the Federal Public Ministry were not moved.

7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS SHOOT DOWN POLICE AIRCRAFT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Mar 77 p 24-A

[Text] A band of drug traffickers shot down a small airplane from the Attorney General's Office yesterday as it approached the Santa Rita landing strip in Guachochic, Chihuahua. The airplane crew, an agent of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] and a drug trafficker were seriously injured.

This was reported by Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, director of the PJF. He added that the attack was probably retaliation because the PJF has destroyed marihuana and poppy fields in that area.

He explained that the airplane had taken off very early from the city of Chihuahua for reconnaissance of poppy and marihuana fields in the Western Sierra Madre (south of that city).

He added that it picked up an arrested drug trafficker and his guard, a federal agent, in the mountains. It flew to Santa Rita to refuel but it was fired at as it approached the landing strip.

The detonations and impact of the bullets on the small plane disconcerted the pilot, Capt Luis Manuel Barbosa Barbosa. He lost control of the airplane and it crashed to the ground.

The pilot and the mechanic, Alberto Alejandro Casillas Mendoza, were seriously injured as was the federal agent, Hector Guevara Gutierrez, who has a skull fracture. The drug trafficker, Vicente Castro Veraza, received internal injuries. The four are in the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] Hospital in the city of Chihuahua.

Finally he reported that Attorney General Oscar Flores Sanchez gave instructions for federal agents and two agents of the Federal Public Ministry to go there; he also asked the Army to help look for those responsible.

7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH DRUGS

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 6 Mar 77 p 2-A

[Article by Abelardo Martin: "Drugs Invade Primary Schools; Children Themselves Sell Them"]

[Text] The wife of the political representative from Gustavo A. Madero, Maria de los Angeles Vazquez de Corona del Rosal, reported that 10 and 12-year-old children are distributing drugs in primary schools and even in kindergartens. They try to get children to use drugs.

"Drugs are even offered to 4-year-olds," she told EL SOL DE MEXICO.

There are at least 600 primary schools in the Gustavo A. Madero district. There are about 2.4 million people in the area and it has one of the highest rates of population growth.

Many of the people who visit Villa de Guadalupe settle there.

During the Mexican Red Cross contribution campaign, Mrs Vazquez de Corona del Rosal revealed that one of the problems that most concerns her as head of a group of social workers that has visited all the sectors in the area is drug addiction. "We must also work on the serious problem of population growth," she continued.

She stated: "We received reports during our visits that children are in charge of selling almost every type of drug. At 12 years of age they already know everything that they can smoke or take."

She emphasized that this is due to the fact that the children have a great deal of free time.

She explained the need to plan sports and cultural activities to fill the children's and youths' leisure time outside school.

The wife of Representative German Corona del Rosal, along with the Caricaturists Club, promoted the "Caricature Marathon for the Mexican Red Cross." Well-known cartoonists drew sketches of those who gave a small contribution to the worthy institution.

Just before the campaign began, Mrs Vazquez de Corona del Rosal emphasized that "there is every type of family living in the area."

She said that the fundamental task is to establish youth centers. She said: "There are already youth centers to help drug addicts but prevention centers should be planned. I propose a center in each sector to keep children from falling prey to the drug distributors and producers."

7717

CSO: 5300

POPPY FIELDS DESTROYED IN SINALOA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Feb 77 p 27-A

[Article by Roberto Martinez M.]

[Text] San Ignacio, Sinaloa, 23 Feb--Helicopters of the Attorney General of the Republic today entered the Sierra Madre Occidental today in connection with "Operation Condor" activities and on the first day of action destroyed 834 poppy and marihuana fields of the 4,000 detected in that region.

The action was supported by spray helicopters, soldiers, Federal Judicial Police agents, [tank trucks with blowers], pickup trucks, trucks and planes. Forty-five days after the start of the so-called "Operation Condor," it can be said that the region is completely controlled by the authorities.

Up until recently, this town was considered impregnable, protected as it is by the nearly inaccessible mountain crags, the terrain of persons ready to fight drug trafficking. [sic]

Carlos Aguilar Gazar, coordinator of the campaign representing the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, said that this action is a battle against time, since the poppy and marihuana fields will be ready for "harvesting" in a few days. In this regard, he added, "We can't waste a minute until they are destroyed."

For his part, the commander of "Operation Condor," Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo, said that the work in the Sierra has been complicated, especially because it is almost impossible to get in there with equipment overland; and, because of the nature of the terrain, the spraying of herbicides from helicopters is difficult."

8143

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

AMERICAN ARRESTED WITH MARIHUANA--Guadalajara, Jalisco, 27 Feb--Federal Judicial Police agents of the narcotics section today arrested Steve Joseph Matallon. They found 15 kilos of marihuana in his automobile which he intended to take into the United States. Maj Jose de Jesus Meixueiro reported that the American's car was stopped at the Magdalena checkpoint. It was a 1968 convertible Cadillac which looked suspicious to the agents. He added that the marihuana was found in the air-conditioning ducts and upholstery of the car. The prisoner told the police that he had entered the country at Nogales, having departed from Louisiana, and that he had vacationed at Puerto Vallarta. Matallon added that he had bought the marihuana from a man whose name he did not know. He was arraigned before the Federal Public Ministry agent. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Feb 77 p 28-A] 8143

PRISON COOK TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--The cook of North prison and five other persons were arraigned before the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic for crimes against public health. The cook was apprehended as he attempted to bring marihuana into the prison. Angel Luvian Sevilla, the cook of this prison; Jorge Sanchez Navarro; Fany Sanchez Navarro Plaza; Kim Velazquez Loperena; John Gutierrez; and Fernando Sanchez Navarro Plaza are the persons charged. Two prison guards apprehended Luvian Sevilla as he attempted to bring the marihuana into the prison. The prison office requested the intervention of the Federal Judicial Police to initiate an investigation which resulted in the arrest of the other persons. The Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, through the Directorate of Pre-Trial Investigations, stated that there is enough evidence to take legal action against the six persons allegedly responsible. It was felt that there was sufficient evidence to turn these men over to the 4th Criminal District Judge of this city on charges of crimes against public health, namely possession, trafficking and use of marihuana. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 12-A] 8143

COLOMBIAN SEIZED WITH COCAINE--Colombian Jaime Roa Escobar was arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents at the International Airport when he appeared there to pick up a suitcase with a false bottom in which he was carrying 1.5 kilos of cocaine worth more than 6 million pesos. Roa Escobar

bought a ticket in Bogota, Colombia to travel by AVIANCA jet to this capital; however, he claimed that he had missed the flight and allowed his suitcase to travel by Colombian jet to this capital. For his part, he arrived yesterday from Bogota on the Argentine Airlines flight. When he appeared to pick up his suitcase, he was arrested and questioned by the federal agents. Roa Escobar said that "he received good money and instructions to deceive the Mexican police by sending his suitcase on one flight taking another himself and picking up the suitcase later. "This suitcase which contains 1.5 kilos of cocaine was to have been taken to the city of Tijuana where I was told that I would be given all kinds of protection," said Roa Escobar. Then he stated that the drug was destined for the drug addicts of a broad area in the state of California where they would pay a large sum of money for the cocaine. Roa Escobar indicated that he did not know "the persons who gave me the suitcase with the drug in it. All I know is that they offered me good money to take it to Tijuana, Mexico. Since the offer was acceptable to me, I took it." The federal agents immediately arraigned Roa Escobar before the Federal Public Ministry in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Feb 77 p 26-A] 8143

POPIES DESTROYED--The Attorney General's Office reported yesterday that 19,800 poppy fields on 4,288 hectares have been destroyed in the last 3 months in the states of Sinaloa, Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, Jalisco, Michoacan and Guerrero. The office also reported that federal authorities destroyed 4,031 fields of marihuana on 905 hectares. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 77 p 24-A] 7717

MARIHUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED--Cancun, Q.R., 6 Mar--Agents of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] captured one of the principal drug traffickers in the area and confiscated 48 kilos of marihuana and two shotguns from him. They also found 40,000 square meters that he used for drug cultivation. The police reported that Daniel Canche whom they had been tracking for some time was arrested on a ranch 50 kilometers from a town called Kilometro 80. That ranch was used by Canche for drug cultivation. On the site where the drug trafficker was captured, the police found 48 kilos of packaged drugs ready for sale. According to the man arrested, they were to be distributed to national and foreign tourists who come to this tourist center. PJF Chief Pedro Allende reported that interrogations and investigations continue because it is believed that the entire drug traffic band that operates in Cancun has not yet been arrested. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 77 p 24-A] 7717

TLALNEPANTLA TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Tlalnepantla, Mex., 6 Mar--Early this morning the municipal police arrested three drug traffickers in the Marina Nacional district of this town. They sell marihuana to students at several schools. The police headed by Commander Armando Ramirez Perez received an anonymous call reporting that several people were disturbing the peace. The people arrested were: Carlos Pacheco Ramirez, 22 years old; Carlos Castillo Villalba, 20 years old; and Jose Garcia Perez, 18 years old. When they were searched, 1 kilo of marihuana was found on them. The arrested men

confessed that they sold marihuana to students in several schools at 1,200 pesos per kilo. Tomorrow they will be arraigned before the agent of the Federal Public Ministry for possession and sale of marihuana. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 77 p 24-A] 7717

MULTIPLE MARIHUANA SEIZURES--Guadalajara, Jal., 7 Mar--Agents of the PJF arrested 10 drug traffickers today and seized 147 kilos of marihuana. The following U.S. citizens were arrested on the beaches of Yelapa in Puerto Vallarta: Tom Robinson, Christofer James, Enrico Brandanini, Robert Byrna and Ruben Arlena Blecher. One Mexican, Victor Rodriguez Estrada, was also arrested. They were all smoking marihuana; the police confiscated 2 kilos of marihuana from them. Three peasants--Librado Gonzalez Fuentes, Juan Uriel Rubio and Jose Luis Guzman Sanchez--were arrested in Capomo, Nayarit, with 142 kilos of marihuana and 8 kilos of marihuana seed. Jose Guadalupe Castellanos Hurtado was arrested for trying to smuggle 3 kilos of marihuana inside a bureau into the state penitentiary in Oblatos. He confessed that the marihuana was for prisoner Salvador Ruiz Rodriguez. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Mar 77 p 26-A] 7717

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--In the last 6 days agents of the PJF arrested nine drug traffickers, destroyed six poppy and marihuana fields-- 2,470 plants--and seized 1,800 kilos of marihuana as well as small quantities of cocaine, heroin and pills. This was the result of PJF actions from 4 to 9 March in the states of Sinaloa, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Michoacan, Jalisco, Durango, Chihuahua, Sonora and Baja California Norte. According to the Attorney General's Office, police destroyed an equal number of poppy and marihuana fields in the first six states mentioned. Jose Trinidad Pereda Larquier, Candelaria Estrada de Cano, Jose Camacho Arambula, Victor Manuel Zenteno, Esteban Valles Reyes, Ignacio Espinoza Cordova, Francisco Calles Bustamante, Jesus Alvarez Sanchez and Alma Rosa Martinez Gonzalez were arrested. Police confiscated marihuana, cocaine, heroin and pills from them. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Mar 77 p 26-A] 7717

GUADALAJARA PHARMACIES CLOSED--Guadalajara, Jal., 10 Mar--The PJF closed seven pharmacies today where pills were being sold without prescriptions. The pills were being sold without restriction at very high prices according to the police. When they closed the El Fenix Pharmacy today, they arrested the manager, Juan Manuel Cerna Ochoa, who said he sold drugs for 10 pesos a pill. The commander of the drug section of the PJF, Jose de Jesus Meixueiro, reported that he had the approval of the Householders Association for what they are doing to best combat the drug supply centers. In the El Fenix Pharmacy 10,000 pills were seized according to the police. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Mar 77 p 27-A] 7717

MARIHUANA BURNED--Badiraguato, Sin., 10 Mar--Today 60 tons of marihuana, seized by members of "Operation Condor" in the last 20 days, were burned on the runway in this town that traditionally has been one of the principal opium and marihuana-producing centers. The drug had an approximate street value of 100 million pesos. It was burned in the presence of many residents of the area. The commander of "Operation Condor"--Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo--a representative of the Attorney General's Office and state officials set fire to the enormous mound. For the first time public land managers of this region attended an event like this at the invitation of Hernandez Toledo. The military commander revealed that several hundred tons of marihuana were seized during 2 months of work in an area of 80,000 square kilometers which includes the mountains that border the states of Chihuahua, Sinaloa and Durango. The marihuana is burned in the town nearest the place where it is seized since it would be difficult to bring it all to this town to burn it. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Mar 77 p 27-A] 7717

DRUGS, TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Hermosillo, Son., 4 Mar--A joint action by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] and the Mexican Army netted drugs with a street value of 17.5 million pesos and the arrest of 30 people involved in drug traffic. The majority of those arrested operated in Nogales, Sonora. The investigation by the authorities lasted 15 days. The PJF chief in Sonora, Commander Margarito Mendez Rico, reported that his agents seized 3,180 grams of pure heroin, 1,400 grams of cocaine and 1.5 tons of marihuana. They also destroyed two secret drug processing laboratories, hundreds of hypodermic needles, spoons, several bottles of pills and other equipment used to measure and weigh drugs. In another part of his report, the police chief said that weapons, ammunition, checks and cash totaling 130,500 pesos and \$3,000 in cash were also seized. He said that the drug traffickers were arrested on the international highway and in the principal cities of Sonora. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Mar 77 p 25-A] 7717

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Chihuahua, Chih., 4 Mar--At the Los Ojitos ranch in the town of Satevo, the PJF seized 3 tons of packaged marihuana and one-half ton of marihuana seed and arrested six people. Antonio Quezada, the agent of the Federal Public Ministry in Chihuahua, reported that the marihuana was to be transported to the United States; those arrested gave names or addresses of the buyers. He added that a small Cessna airplane with U.S. registration and five high-power weapons that the drug traffickers had in their possession were also seized. Quezada said that those arrested were the owner of the ranch, Alejandro Fontes Lugo, and the members of his gang--Oscar Carrillo Barraza, Raul Gutierrez Fuentes, Alvarado de la Rosa, Agustin Escalante and Abel Bojorquez Lugo. This is the second blow that the PJF has given drug traffickers in the area this week. Only 3 days ago five members of another band were arrested when they were taking 400 kilos of marihuana to Ciudad Juarez. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Mar 77 p 25-A] 7717

SIX TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] arrested five men and one woman who distributed marihuana in the border cities of Chihuahua. The police seized 982 kilograms of packaged marihuana. Jesus Mier Hernandez was arrested on the Chihuahua-Ciudad Juarez highway while transporting 107 kilograms of packaged marihuana in a Chevrolet with license plates DNW-359. Later on the same highway the PJF intercepted two brothers, Francisco and Antonio Resendiz Cobos, who were traveling in a Ford Galaxy, license plates DPT-079, carrying 114 kilograms of marihuana. The three drug traffickers were placed under the jurisdiction of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry in Chihuahua who interrogated them. They confessed that their center of operations was at No. 14 Calle de Insurgentes in the Ampliacion San Felipe sector of the city of Chihuahua. When the federal agents arrived there, they arrested Marta Mier de Resendiz and Victor Mier Hernandez who had 61 kilograms of packaged marihuana in that house. The agents also arrested Rosendo de la Rocha Zuzueta who distributed marihuana in Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez. In his statement he revealed that he had 14 large sacks with 700 kilograms of marihuana which were seized by the agents. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Mar 77 p 24-A] 7717

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

BRIEFS

AMERICAN ARRESTED WITH COCAINE--Narcotics agents of the Fiscal Investigations Department of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury on Friday arrested an American who arrived in this country with 1.9 kg cocaine after getting past the scrutiny of airport authorities in Rio de Janeiro, Lima and Bogota. His name is John Allen Stevenson, 43, who lives in Los Angeles, California. He was also wearing a bullet-proof jacket. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Mar 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

EGYPT

UNDERCOVER WORK SMASHES INTERNATIONAL DRUG RING

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Feb 77 p 8

[Article by Husayn Ghanim: "The Secret Behind the Flood of Drug Pills on the Cairo Markets"]

[Text] The security authorities have exposed the riddle of the flood of drug pills. Three Egyptian officers in the narcotics department infiltrated an international network the members of which were bringing in pills from abroad according to a careful plan, and worked undercover among them for 4 months until they learned the secret. After their plan succeeded, the three officers revealed their identities and arrested the members of the network along with the remaining force. They number two persons from Switzerland, an Egyptian woman, her Syrian husband, her brother and her Lebanese partner. Seized with them were three large shipments of pills in a villa in al-Ma'murah in Alexandria, the pills worth an estimated 4 million pounds, and a motor launch, and, at the same time, 24,000 pounds which was a down payment from a dealer.

It started when it was observed that various drug pills and tablets, representing a dangerous and destructive phenomenon to the minds of Egyptian youth were widely available among some segments and classes of the population. The appropriate machinery was alerted and realized how dangerous they were as they had started to be sold openly on the sidewalks, in tobacco shops and everywhere. Despite their danger, all cases which had been taken to court at this time were charged with a misdemeanor for practicing pharmacy without a license, with only a fine for a penalty, since this did not fall within the narcotics acts. By checking out the types of pills, it was determined that the most dangerously available were (munulun) and (nubarin), nicknamed Phantom and Skyhawk.

The First Thread

After the penalty was stiffened, extensive searches were made by the anti-narcotics machinery throughout the country to put an end to this threat that had become particularly widespread among some young people. By means of these searches, the General Anti-narcotics Department was able to grab

the first thread which would lead to the international network, that is, the covername of the female leader of the gang in Egypt.

Maj Gen Sami As'ad, director of the General Anti-narcotics Department, drafted a complete report, which he submitted to Maj Gen Mustafa al-Shaykh, First Deputy Minister of Interior, and Maj Gen Husni Najib, Assistant Minister of Interior, giving his concept and plan for tracking down the activity of the gang leader who exercised extreme caution in her meetings with her henchmen and others. Certain methods available to the technical people in the Public Security Authority were used to make a record of all movements to ensure the success of the plan. In light of the plan which was drawn up, it was confirmed that the gang leader, through her henchmen, was making contacts with certain reliable people looking for a person working in the drug companies in Egypt to recruit for her purposes. He would agree to go abroad and, after being provided with all the wherewithal, would himself ship large quantities of pills or, following their arrival in Egypt, would take delivery of them for the company where he worked and help get them through customs, all in return for a large amount of money.

To ensure the success of this plan, contacts were made with Dr Ibrahim Badran, Minister of Health, and Dr Hamdi al-Hakim, Undersecretary of the Ministry, and agreement was reached that Lt Col Muhammad 'Abbas Mansur, head of the foreign activities and international smuggling section, would play the role of a pharmacist doctor and senior person responsible in one of the drug companies for importing and clearing, unopened, shipments of drugs from abroad. An office was prepared for him at the main office of a big drug company to help him play his role fully and avert any suspicions. During the intensive contacts which the gang leader and her henchmen were making to find someone to do this job, a plant was able to make her think that there was a young doctor named Sharif Nadir who wanted to get married and who probably would agree to do this job because he needed a large sum of money.

A Furnished Apartment in al-Zamalek

Out of concern for the success of the plan and the role of the doctor which he would play, Lt Col Muhammad 'Abbas Mansur rented a furnished apartment in al-Zamalek until his mission was completed for fear that he would be kept under surveillance by members of the gang who had reluctantly agreed that he would take delivery of shipments of pills and tablets that would be sent from Geneva, the capital of Switzerland, in care of the drug company where he worked in return for 20,000 pounds.

Contacts in Geneva

The anti-narcotics department men stepped up their investigations when they placed the gang leader's telephone under surveillance by permission from the appropriate justice of the court. They recorded three conversations on 29, 30 and 31 January between her and the leader of the international network in Switzerland, whose name was Albert, of Jewish nationality. She agreed with him on sending pill shipments in three batches

last week. These conversations defined the objectives of the international network and revealed its real leader who was supplying the gang leader.

Close Connections

Careful investigations under the supervision of Brig Mamduh Salim Zaki, commissioner of the narcotics department, Brig Ibrahim Hajjaj, chief of the information section, Col Fawi al-Malah, chief of the narcotics section in Alexandria, and Lt Col's Sayyid Ghayth, Muhammad al-Alfi and Kamal Mabir, inspectors in the narcotics department, established that the gang leader, whose name was Na'imah Muhammad, had for some years been married to a Syrian who runs some shops and had previously traveled to Geneva several times.

The First and Second Shipments

On the date set in the three earlier telephone conversations between the gang leader in Egypt and the Jewish leader in Geneva concerning the arrival of the first shipment of pills at Cairo airport aboard an international flight, the gang leader contacted Dr Nadir Sharif (Lt Col Muhammad 'Abbas) and told him the date the shipment was arriving. He went to the airport and took delivery of the shipment. Two days later he took delivery of the second shipment and then took care of transporting them to a villa in al-Ma'murah in Alexandria which had been rented for this purpose so that the pills could be disposed of.

An Urgent Telegram

Two days later, the leader of the network in Egypt received an urgent telegram from abroad containing some codewords to the effect that one of the underlings of the network's leader was on his way to Egypt after confirming the successful arrival of the two pill shipments. One of her henchmen was waiting for him at the airport. It was ascertained by checking his passport while he was going through the passenger terminal that his name was Henri Schmidt, he was a Swiss national, he represented the (Fibrgras) Companies in Europe and the Middle East and that his place of residence was Geneva. He left at once for Alexandria and stopped at the same villa in al-Ma'murah where the two pill shipments were hidden.

The following day, the right-hand man of the network's leader in Geneva arrived at the port of Alexandria. His name was Henri (Rubkasaykr), a Swiss national and owner of a plant for manufacturing motor launches in Switzerland. He had with him a private automobile and a recreational motor launch in which a third shipment of pills was hidden. He took it with him to the villa in al-Ma'murah and stayed there with his first colleague. In accordance with a previous plan, Dr Nadir Sharif (Lt Col Muhammad 'Abbas) volunteered to bring a waiter and cook from his apartment in al-Zamalek to wait on the foreigners at the villa, pretending to the gang leader that he was anxious for no one to discover anything, and she agreed at once.

The two were really Lt Col Mustafa al-Kashif and Lt Col Ibrahim Musa, inspectors in the narcotics department. They worked inside the villa for two whole weeks.

Raid on the Villa

At the scheduled time, 2200 hours, for movement of the three pill shipments from the villa, the young gang leader and some of her henchmen came to meet with the two foreigners. When they moved the cases of pills and loaded them in the [word illegible] of the cars parked in the villa's garden, a large force, commanded by Maj Gen Sami As'ad, director of the narcotics department, rushed them. It was a stunning surprise when Lt Col Muhammad 'Abbas (Dr Nadir Sharif) and the waiter and cook (Lt Col's Ibrahim Musa and Mustafa al-Kashif) revealed their identities. All members of the international network were arrested: Henri Schmidt and Henri (Rubkasaykr), Swiss nationals, Na'imah 'Ali and her husband, Muhammad Kabawar, a Syrian national, and her brother, an official. They seized the three drug shipments which had an estimated value of 4 million pounds, as well as the launch, the sum of 24,000 pounds representing a down payment by a dealer, a round-the-world open ticket belonging to the network's leader in Egypt and a letter addressed to her from the Jewish network leader, Albert, asking her to pay Henri Schmidt a large sum for the first shipment. They also seized three receipts for the three telephone conversations between her and the leader, Albert, in Geneva on 29, 30 and 31 January.

Ahmad Husni, first deputy of the prosecutor general's office in Alexandria, took charge of the investigation.

During the investigation, Lt Col Sami al-'Awani, chief of C.I.D. at Cairo Airport, managed to seize one of the persons, a Lebanese national, after his arrival and the arrival of one of the important elements of the network. All those arrested confessed to the roles they had played at the instructions of the leader of the network, the Jewish national, Albert, who lives in Geneva. The investigator ordered that they be put in prison without bail and that the goods seized be confiscated.

So ends a stirring story in which Egyptian officers were able to expose the methods of a dangerous international gang over a 4 month period of working within it.

8389
CSO: 5300

EGYPT

RAID NETS LARGE DRUG HAUL

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Feb 77 p 8

[Article by Husayn Ghanim: "Half Million Pounds Worth of Hashish and Opium Seized; A Smuggler Was Hiding It Under His Bed in His House in 'Abidin"]

[Text] The General Anti-Narcotics Department has seized a large shipment of Hashish and opium, worth about 500,000 pounds, in four bags which a smuggler from Alexandria was hiding under a bed in his new home in 'Abidin. The smuggler was able to escape following a wild chase and the prosecutor general's office ordered his wife jailed.

The security authorities' investigations and the information which they received showed that four big shipments of hashish and opium were smuggled from Beirut to Egypt by means of certain henchmen of known drug smugglers, using special channels and means employed in international drug smuggling operations to ensure the arrival of the shipments agreed upon specific locations.

In light of this information which reached Maj Gen Sami As'ad, director of the narcotics department, he assigned Brig Mamduh Salim Zaki, director of investigations, and Brig Ibrahim Hajjaj, director of operations to maintain step-by-step surveillance over the activity of the smugglers.

The investigations of Col Mahmud Fahmi and Lt Col 'Isam al-Tarsawi showed that the smuggler, Anwar Ibrahim Husayn, whose nickname was the "Jinn," was behind the smuggling operations.

Careful observations by Lt Col Mustafa al-Kashif and Lt Col Fathi 'Ayd showed that he was frequenting a known smuggler who had previously been arrested in a case that involved the bringing in of a shipment of drugs with a famous dancer and that this smuggler had a big role in distributing drugs in broad daylight.

"The Jinn" was careful to pick a time for pushing the drugs in the daytime at 1430 hours after the narcotics officers had left for their break.

At 1430 hours yesterday, a big force, led by Col Mahmud Fahmi, Lt Col 'Isam al-Tarsawi, Lt Col Tariq Salim and Lt Col Muhammad Sha'rawi raided "the Jinn's" house in 'Abidin and seized four large bags, containing hashish and opium, under the bed which he had prepared for distribution at that time. He was able to escape when he sensed the presence of the men of the force.

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IRAN

ACCIDENT LEADS TO HASHISH CONFISCATION

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Jan 77 p 18

[Summary] Yesterday a car dealer and his associate were arraigned in court on charges of transporting 205 kg of hashish. The first accused was Reza Marikhi from Esfahan, and according to details of the case, during July of last year, while on his way from Teheran to Esfahan in his B.M.W., he collided with a truck. In examining the accident, police found 205 kg of hashish in his car.

During the investigation, Reza confessed that he had obtained the hashish from the Afghani border and was heading for Esfahan to sell it there. On the way he was in an accident, whereby he became unconscious. His original claim to the police, who questioned him in Qom hospital, to which he was transported, was that someone had planted the hashish in his car while he was unconscious. This claim, however, was refuted when he was called in the hospital by an associate, Nazar 'Ali 'Abbasi, who inquired about the hashish while police monitored the telephone. Nazar 'Ali was subsequently also arrested.

CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

HEROIN ARRESTS--Five heroin addicts were arrested in Teheran with quantities of the drug. According to the narcotics administration's report, the following persons were arrested: Naser Purbezari, a 27-year-old weaver, with 4 gr of heroin; Nezam Mashiri, a 37-year-old builder, with a quantity of heroin; Behruz 'Al Hoseyni, a 22-year-old tailor, with a quantity of heroin; Reza Mirzaseh, a 35-year-old salesman, with a quantity of heroin; Shahram Khosrovi, a 19-year-old student, also with a quantity of heroin. [Excerpt] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 25 Jan 77 p 2]

HEROIN HAUL--Local narcotics authorities were successful in arresting a smuggler by the name of Ahmad Reza'i, and confiscated 4,750 kilograms [as printed - presumably meaning 4.75 kg] of heroin from him. During the ensuing investigation, two other persons together in an automobile were arrested. The car had Shahrud license #58963, and a search of the car resulted in 18 gr of opium and an opium smoking pipe being found. The two individuals, Qadam'ali Reza'i and Gholamreza Reza'i, were cohorts of Ahmad Reza'i. [Excerpt] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 2 Feb 77 p 2]

TABRIZ HEROIN ARRESTS--Tabriz authorities yesterday arrested two individuals, Akbar Dow'ijani and Majid Zaruripur, on charges of heroin possession. In searching the two, 30 packets of heroin weighing 50 centigrams were found. [Text] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 12 Feb 77 p 2]

CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

CONTROL OF POPPY PLANTING--The second phase of the control of poppy plantations began in the Afyon, Isparta, Burdur, Kutahya and Usak provinces today. The controls are being undertaken to determine if more land than permitted has been planted with poppies. Poppies planted in unauthorized areas will be destroyed and legal action will be taken against the trespassers. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 1 Mar 77 TA]

HEROIN SEIZED--The narcotics squad of the Istanbul Security Directorate has seized 5 kgs of heroin with a foreign market value of 7 million liras. The Narcotics Department chief, Mahmut Dikler, pointed out that this was the biggest heroin smuggling incident in the last 27 years. It is reported that 5 kgs of heroin was seized in a raid on a house in Istanbul's Beykoz District. Two persons were taken into custody in connection with the incident. Dikler added that the smugglers were making their final preparations to take the heroin abroad. He said that no amount of more than 1 kg has been seized in Turkey since 1957. He noted that the seized heroin was of a very fine quality. Pointing out that no heroin is produced in Turkey and there are no workers to do it, Dikler asserted that the heroin might have been brought from one of the Middle East countries. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 77 TA]

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

MASS RAIDS ON DRUGS NETWORK BY 800 DETECTIVES

Numerous Arrests

London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 27 Mar 77 pp 1, 40

[Text] More than 70 men and women were arrested yesterday when at least 800 detectives, some armed, raided houses and businesses to break up a drugs network active in England, Scotland, Wales and France.

It was one of the biggest anti-drugs operations ever mounted. There was close collaboration between the French police and the man in charge of operation in Britain, Det. Supt. Dennis Greenslade, head of No. 7 Regional Crime Squad based at Bristol.

Last night 25 people, including six women, were being held at Swindon police station, Wilts., headquarters of the operation.

All those detained were described as "well-educated, hippie types." A number of the network's drugs "factories" were uncovered by police.

In France, a young British couple were detained when French Crime Squad detectives surrounded a chateau at Tocane in the Dordogne area. British detectives were said to have been with French police during the raid.

Haul Worth Million

Detectives were refusing to disclose last night the full value of the drugs confiscated. But the black market value could run into millions of pounds.

The carefully planned arrests, carried out at 5 am, were the culmination of at least six months' detective work, starting with a special under-world tip in the South-west of England, said to be Devon or Cornwall.

Six of the country's nine regional crime squads took part in the operation. The other police forces involved were: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Dyfed, Powys, Glos., Gwent, Hants, Herts, North

Wales, South Wales, Strathclyde, Scotland, Thames Valley, Warwicks, West Midlands and Wilts, as well as the Metropolitan police.

Undercover surveillance was carried out and I understand some police officers infiltrated the drugs network.

A senior detective said that they had arrested everyone from the "directors" of the drugs network to the "office cleaners."

Det.-Supt. Greenslade said that there was no connection with the Triad, the Chinese secret society which runs highly organised opium and heroin operations in this country.

"Many of the people who have been arrested were linked together in some way," he said. "The raids on home and business premises brought in many different types of dangerous drugs."

Supt. Greenslade added: "The main object of the whole operation has been the detention and apprehension of manufacturers and distributors of LSD in Britain."

Six of the country's nine Regional Crime Squads took part in the operation.

Swindon police station was used as the headquarters because it was convenient both geographically and with its motorway access. Charges were not expected until tomorrow.

Court Appearances

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Mar 77 p 1

[Text] Thirty of 90 people who were arrested in mass police raids in England, Wales and Scotland during the weekend are expected to appear before a special court at Swindon, Wilts. in the next 40 hours.

The other 60 have been given police bail ranging between 10 pounds and 100 pounds to report back to police stations on specific dates for further questioning.

The raids were the result of a nine-month investigation by detectives into the manufacturing and distribution of the hallucinatory drug LSD.

The raids by 800 policemen from 16 forces, were simultaneously timed to start at 5 am on Saturday morning and they continued throughout the weekend. Some of the policemen were armed when they swooped on 60 addresses and premises.

The raids ranged from Strathclyde in Scotland, the midlands area, London and Home Counties, Devon, Cornwall and North and South Wales. Six of the nine Regional Crime Squads took part supported by local officers.

In charge of the entire operation was Det.-Insp. Dennis Greenslade of the No. 7 Regional Crime Squad which is based on Bristol.

19 Remanded in Custody

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Mar 77 p 17

[Text] Fourteen men and a woman were remanded in custody until Friday by a magistrate at Swindon, Wilts, yesterday on charges alleging drug offences. They included a doctor and a chemist.

A further three women and another man were each granted 500 pounds bail on similar charges, a condition being that they surrender their passports and report fortnightly to police. The appearances followed weekend police raids in England, Scotland and Wales.

Det. Supt. Dennis Greenslade, deputy co-ordinator of No. 7 Regional Crime Squad based at Bristol, did not oppose bail for the three women and a man who first appeared. They were each granted bail on their own recognisance. Six more unsuccessfully sought applications for bail.

CSO: 5320

'NO JAIL' PLEA FOR CANNABIS SMOKERS

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Mar 77 p 13

[Text] There was a 6-vote majority in the Lords last night against an attempt to make the smoking of cannabis a non-imprisonable offence.

An amendment moved by Lord Gifford (Lab.) designed to do this was rejected by 83 votes to 77 during report stage discussion of the Criminal Law Bill.

Lord Boothby, who is 76, startled peers by remarking that he has smoked cannabis. "It had no effect whatsoever, to my great disappointment."

He saw a greater argument for prohibiting cigarettes and alcohol but he himself would continue to smoke and drink heavily.

Government Promise

Lord Harris, Minister of State, Home Office, said that drugs were classified according to their seriousness. Cannabis came under Class B.

To take away the possibility of a prison sentence for this offence while keeping it as a possibility for Class C drugs a less serious group, would be anomalous and indefensible.

"In our view the amendment goes too far in proposing to remove the possibility of imprisonment, not just for a first and second offence but any number of offences on summary conviction."

He promised that the Government would seriously look into the possibility of meeting the point so far as a first offence was concerned.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

CANNABIS SEIZED--Cannabis worth nearly 50,000 pounds was seized by Crime Squad detectives at a house in East London yesterday. The discovery followed dawn raids at houses in the Greater London area, including Romford and Upminster. Six men were taken to Southend police station to help inquiries with a number of robberies. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Mar 77 p 1]

MARIHUANA IN PLANE HOLD--Marihuana with an estimated black market value of 30,000 pounds was found aboard a British Airways plane yesterday after it had been towed to the security area at Heathrow because of a bomb alert. The drug was found in two suitcases in the cargo hold of the aircraft which had been at the airport since Tuesday after a flight from Nairobi. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Mar 77 p 12]

CSO: 5320

END