

JPRS 68679

24 February 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 286

WORLD

WIDE

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET		1. Report No. JPRS 68679	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.	
4. Title and Subtitle TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS No. 286				5. Report Date 24 February 1977	
				6.	
7. Author(s)				8. Performing Organization Rept. No.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201				10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
				11. Contract/Grant No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above				13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
				14.	
15. Supplementary Notes					
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	
				20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	
				21. No. of Pages 171	
				22. Price A08	

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AUSTRALIA

DRUG-SNIFFING DOG ASSISTS CUSTOMS BUREAU

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Jan 77 p 7

[Article by David Hummerston in Sydney]

[Text] The three cellophane packets filled with hashish, heroin and cannabis in Buddha-stick form were cleverly hidden on the outside of the small car at the end of the bitumen car park.

Kojak, the german shepherd, set about his job quickly and efficiently.

In less than three minutes the dog had located the drugs--the hash behind a rear mudflap, the cannabis behind the left front wheel and the heroin invisible to the human eye in one of the car's jacking points.

To Kojak, it was all in a day's work. Like five of his brothers and sisters and other Bureau of Customs employees, he is rostered for an eight-hour shift five days a week.

He is one of a drug-detecting task force of six dogs which have been nurtured since three weeks of age under a unique "psychogenetic" program used only in Sydney.

Mr David Rayner, the supervising preventive officer with the detector dog unit of the bureau in Sydney, stresses that rumors about the dogs being addicted are completely untrue.

"The dogs are not rewarded by being fed drugs--they will not even taste a drug during their career," he says.

The bureau hopes to have dogs stationed at Customs control points throughout Australia within three years.

The dogs augment the Australian Customs prevention screen. "They are one of the most important tools or aids used in our drug investigations," Mr Rayner says.

In Sydney, the drug-detecting dogs are regularly used to search houses, airports, cars, ships and warehouses. Several of the dogs and their handlers have been flown interstate already by request when the bureau has expected a big illegal shipment of drugs somewhere in that State.

Police in some States are now including a drug-detecting program in their general dog training programs.

In some "busts," or raids, the Customs dogs have sniffed out hidden drugs in lawn mowers, garbage bins and light fittings.

Some of the dogs' outstanding finds so far, and the dogs are now only about eight months old, include:

A big quantity of hashish contained in a welded, enclosed metal case;

Fourteen marihuana seeds inside a jacket pocket inside a suitcase full of clothing at Sydney Airport;

Several double-bottomed suitcases containing a big quantity of hashish, and

A trunk full of cannabis buried several feet underground and covered in plastic and compost.

"Sickies"

It seems the dogs are almost infallible. But, like humans, they also have their off days (the bureau grants them "sickies" when they do not want to work.

Success, however, is coming more easily with the german shepherds the bureau is now using. It started using dogs for drug detection purposes in 1969 with Captain and Lady, two black labradors. They had moderate success with the two dogs but found that the hot weather affected the dogs' work dramatically--they just wanted to sleep.

In 1972, the bureau reviewed its dog training and found that the mine-dog wing of the Royal Australian Army Engineers Corps was doing a lot of research into dog training.

Maj George Hulse was sent to the United States to study training and breeding programs there--being mainly interested in the dogs detecting explosives.

After his return, Major Hulse wrote a book on the "Psycho-Genetic Breeding of Dogs"--a new method he adapted using canine psychology and genetics.

Using the Hulse method, the bureau did some selective breeding. The best sire and the best bitch were selected from separate top litters and these

were mated, giving pups that had characteristics including calm temperament, an inquisitive nature and intelligence.

Training of the pups starts at 21 days of age--months earlier than training programs in other countries. From this day a file is started on each dog, documenting everything from performance to diet habits.

On the 21st day the dogs are introduced to their future vocation--drugs. Each dog's handler (who is also specially trained) places a "stimulus," usually cannabis, openly on the ground in front of the dog's eager young nose.

The pup, which according to Mr Rayner is more a "ball of fluff than a dog," is urged to approach the stimulus from a distance of about a meter, a big task in itself for a dog of that age.

When the pup eventually arrives at the new scent he is praised by his handler and given his first solid meal--minced meat.

This happens three times a day, seven days a week for some time. Then the stimulus is hidden--simply at first, say under a piece of newspaper on the ground.

Hide and Seek

The game of hide and seek gradually gets harder for the dog. He is taught to retrieve or "paw" at his found target. Drugs including cannabis, heroin and cocaine are concealed in different types of packages--envelopes, transparent wrapping, cloth and foil.

"It's hard to beat them," Mr Rayner says. "We try to create as many variations as possible but they always seem to be able to track it down."

By the time the dogs reach about four months of age they are semi-operational. They are taken to warehouses, airports and into homes to get them used to the different environments in which they will have to work.

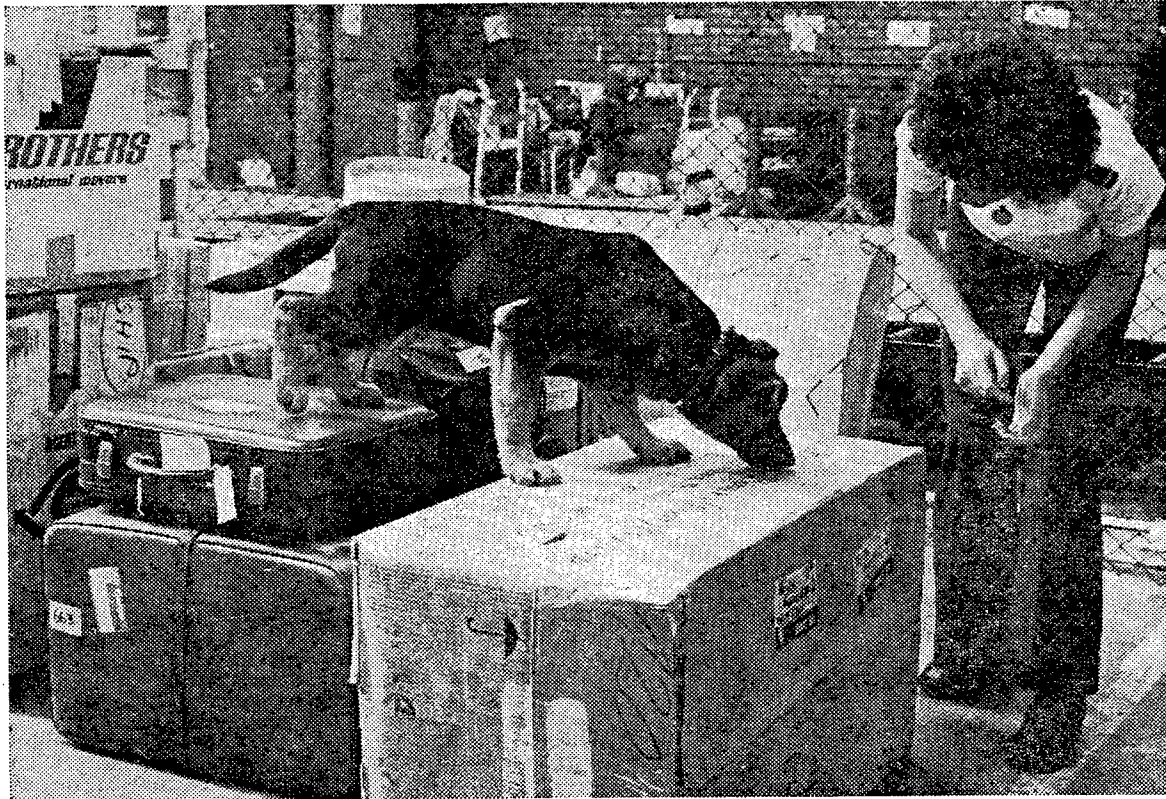
Soon afterwards the real work starts--inspecting conveyor belts laden with packing cases at airport freight terminals and warehouses and searching trains, ships and cars.

But, somehow, the work seems to remain primarily a game with the dogs. They thrive on work. Every now and then the Customs officers "plant" drugs in working situations to keep the dogs alert and to check that they are still working.

For David Rayner and the dog handlers with the bureau, the work does not stop then. There are more plans in store for future dogs.

Longer range projects include breeding and educating dogs to permanently man customs points in all the nation's capitals and using dogs to detect imported or exported native fauna.

The bureau in Sydney looks as though it has backed a winner. The dogs take fewer sick days than most employees--and they get paid with tender loving care, not cash.



A Customs preventive officer takes a drug-detecting dog through its paces in a freight terminal at Sydney Airport.

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AUSTRALIA

DRUG SCENE IN SCHOOL 'HIGHLY EXAGGERATED'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 21 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by Gerry Carman: "School Drug Scene 'Highly Exaggerated'"]

[Text] Drug squad detectives say the drug problem in schools is highly exaggerated.

The head of the squad, Inspector Roy Kyte-Powell, said yesterday periodic investigations had shown that in most cases the students were "big noting."

But while it was highly exaggerated in schools, the drug problem was worse than most people thought, Inspector Kyte-Powell said.

The latest figures showed that the number of drug offenders detected rose from 1,416 in 1975 to 1,935 last year.

Of these, 1,572--or 81 percent--were under 25.

"There are no specific bad areas," Inspector Kyte-Powell said.

"The most used expression is 'everybody is using it' but it's really just the people furthering the pro-pot propaganda saying that.

"Most of it is hearsay," he said.

While police were not yet "frothing at the mouth," heroin had become an area of growing concern.

The number of heroin traffickers charged had risen from one, four years ago, to 46 last year.

There were also 160 charges of using heroin and 129 charges of possessing the drug, but some of these overlapped.

Only one person was charged with selling cocaine.

"We have found that some traffickers are also users--they claim they sell the stuff to get money to buy it."

Individuals and small groups were involved in trafficking with no apparent single group controlling the business, he said.

Reliable sources said most of the heroin comes from Thailand through couriers operating from Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Other drugs, including cannabis, were also being imported but an increasing number of people were farming cannabis plants.

The present street price for a heroin capsule, enough for about three shots, was more than \$40.

But dealers were "doctoring" their merchandise to double their profits.

The sources said that some capsules contain as little as two percent of heroin. The rest is lactose, sugar and milk powder mixtures.

Wholesalers were charging up to \$35,000 a pound of heroin. An ounce cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000, depending on availability.

The drug squad's biggest single haul last year was two pounds of heroin seized from a house in Frankston.

Inspector Kyte-Powell said one area of success was the dramatic drop in armed robberies and burglaries of pharmacies.

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AUSTRALIA

INQUIRY INTO DRUG USE AND ABUSE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 Jan 77 p 3

[Article: "SA Launches First Major Drug Inquiry"]

[Text] The legalization of marijuana will be considered by Australia's first wide-ranging inquiry into drug use and abuse.

A Royal Commission set up by the South Australian Government will investigate the non-medical use and abuse of narcotic, analgesic, sedative and psychotropic drugs and "substances of dependence" excluding tobacco and nicotine.

The marijuana issue is not a specific term of reference for the commission. But State Government sources in Adelaide say it will inevitably be raised during the inquiry.

The sources stress that the commission itself will decide what form its investigations take within the terms of reference.

South Australia's Acting Premier, Mr Corcoran, yesterday said the commission's report would be a valuable document for all of Australia.

Use and abuse of drugs was a serious problem for all industrial societies, he said.

Professor Ronald Sackville will be chairman of the commission.

He is a professor of law at the University of NSW and was a member of the Federal Government inquiry into poverty.

Other commissioners appointed to the drug inquiry are Dr Earle Hackett and Dr Richard Nies.

Dr Hackett is deputy director of Adelaide's Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and a former deputy chairman of the ABC. Dr Nies is head of the social studies department at the South Australian Institute of Technology.

Under their terms of reference, the commissioners will be able to recommend changes to laws on the use and abuse of drugs and the provision of public education programs, preventive treatment and rehabilitation services.

They will report on the medical, social and other effects of drugs, the extent of abuse, what type of people use drugs and their sources of supply.

The effects of present laws on use and abuse will also be investigated.

The inquiry is expected to take 18 months.

Government sources say alcohol and nicotine were excluded from the inquiry's terms of reference because the commission would have dragged on for years if these were considered.

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AUSTRALIA

SHOPS SELL RECIPES FOR DRUGS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 2 Feb 77 p 3

[Article by Jo Wiles]

[Text] Recipes for homemade LSD, hash oil and hallucinogenic drugs can be bought at bookshops in Melbourne and Sydney, a symposium at Melbourne University was told yesterday.

A senior Government chemist said that in the hands of an enterprising drug-user the recipes could start a spate of illicit drug manufacturing.

Dr Ivars Dainis said the recipes were in American books which were freely available from bookshops catering for alternative lifestyles.

Some were photocopies from scientific and industrial journals. Others were written in laymen's language.

Dr Dainis, a senior chemist with the drug analysis section of the Department of Science, said recipes from America had been used already to start illicit heroin manufacture in Australia.

He told the Fifth National Symposium on the Forensic Sciences that Australia was the first country in which illicit heroin had been made from codeine tablets.

Enterprising drug-users had obtained recipes showing how to convert codeine tablets, bought without prescription from chemists, into morphine and heroin.

Evidence indicated a master recipe worked out by a "good chemist" had been used, with variations, by four operators.

Dr Dainis said four people had been jailed between March 1975 and April 1976 for illicit manufacture of heroin.

One came from Melbourne, two from Sydney and one from Cairns.

The Melbourne operator, the first to be arrested, had been making "black smack," a crude morphine which was extremely impure and sold for smoking purposes only.

The three other operators had succeeded in passing the morphine conversion stage and had made crude heroin.

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AUSTRALIA

DRUG SYNDICATE OPERATING THROUGH QUEENSLAND CITIES

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 23 Dec 76 p 1

[Article: "'Big Cash' Dope Ring"]

[Text] Queensland drug squad detectives and Federal narcotics agents are investigating a drug syndicate which they believe is operating through major Queensland cities and towns.

They believe it is operated by a number of businessmen with access to ready cash.

The businessmen are believed to be protected by a complex system of couriers and go-between men.

They are believed to be importing hard drugs from the "golden triangle" of Burma, Laos and Thailand.

Police and agents believe a buyer travels to these countries regularly and brings the drugs back hidden in luggage.

Investigators have a fair idea who the big-money businessmen are behind the syndicate.

They have arrested and prosecuted a number of the "smaller people" in the drug operation.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUG SMUGGLING BRINGS SEVEN YEAR SENTENCE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Jan 77 p 8

[Text] A young Victorian woman, who was employed to smuggle into Fremantle heroin valued at more than \$100,000, was sentenced yesterday to seven years' gaol.

This equals the heaviest terms imposed in WA for drug offenses, but two of these have since been reduced on appeal.

At Fremantle on 7 December last Jillian Gayle Boone (25) left the ship Turkmeniya, which had arrived from Singapore, with heroin taped inside a corset she was wearing.

She pleaded guilty last week to illegally importing 191.30 grams of heroin. It was 47 percent pure and enough to provide about 2,870 capsules valued at between \$35 and \$60 each.

She must serve two years before parole.

Judge Ackland told Miss Boone, comptometrist, of Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury:

"You admitted committing this offense for gain, though you told the narcotics agents you did not know how much you were to receive as your reward.

"Your counsel has urged that your object was to help your mother and brother financially.

"But your object does not in any way justify the means by which you sought to achieve it.

"Having seen your mother in court, I cannot believe she would wish to benefit from such a breach of the law."

The judge said that the use of heroin could result in degradation, crime and even death.

Miss Boone was young, previously of good character, intelligent and attractive. She must have known what she was doing.

"I can only regard with utmost contempt the man who employed you," the judge said.

He said that the maximum penalty was a fine of \$4,000 and 10 years' imprisonment.

The only proper penalty was imprisonment.

Two Gaoled

A young couple, who last week admitted importing heroin valued at \$17,150 for their own use, were sentenced yesterday by Judge Ackland to two years' gaol with a minimum of nine months before parole.

Martin William Shore and Gaylene Robin Eastham, both 22, had 32.7 grams of heroin in plastic bags in a sock buried in the garden of a house where they were staying on 12 November.

They admitted that the heroin was concealed in their clothing when they flew from Malaysia to WA on 25 October.

After being interviewed by the police on 12 November they were admitted to the emergency center of Royal Perth Hospital for treatment for drug addiction, the judge said.

"I am satisfied that you imported the heroin for your own use and that the offense was not committed for sale," he said.

Both had previous convictions for drug offenses and had been leniently treated the judge said. He had no confidence in their future.

(Before Judge Ackland. Mr G. N. Calder for the Commonwealth crown. Mr T. A. Walsh for Shore, Miss Eastham and Miss Boone.)

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUG DEALER GETS SEVEN YEARS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Dec 76 p 3

[Text] A judge said yesterday that three men were professional drug dealers and gaoled them for up to seven years.

Seven years is the heaviest term imposed in WA courts for drug offenses.

Similar sentences were passed on two Derby drug smugglers, but they have since been reduced on appeal.

Barry Richard Morse (29) company director of Edna Way, Duncraig, was sentenced by Judge Pidgeon in the District Court to seven years gaol with a minimum of four years before parole.

Morse had earlier been convicted of possessing 35.5 grams of heroin--worth more than \$8,000 on the street market--with intent to sell or supply it.

Detectives stopped Morse's car near a pine plantation and found the drug.

"You apparently do not take this drug yourself--the state of your fitness would confirm that," the judge told Morse.

The judge said that the amount of the drug in Morse's possession and the use of a story which the magistrate had found to be untrue pointed to Morse having the drug for further distribution.

There was abundant evidence to support the magistrate's finding.

There had been evidence before the judge that Morse was financing and aiding professional cannabis dealers.

That evidence had come from statements to police by dealers and in the course of investigations by Commonwealth and State investigating authorities.

This nullified evidence that Morse's action was a surprise to some witnesses.

Morse had been involved in cannabis distribution.

But he had decided to go further and obtain heroin for distribution in a manner Morse had not divulged.

Morse had obtained a veneer of respectability in running a legitimate health studio and in being fanatical in regard to fitness.

But he had been party to distributing a drug which he knew was destructive.

The judge said that he was bound to impose a sentence consistent with the legislature's intentions and the community's attitude to people who distributed drugs.

Long Sentences

Two other men were also gaoled for dealing in cannabis.

Salvatore Agostinelli (26), unemployed, of Keymer Street, Belmont, was sentenced to six years' gaol with a three-year minimum for possessing 3.6kg of cannabis with intent to sell or supply it.

Anthony Lucky Blitvich (24), unemployed, of Charles Street, South Perth, was sentenced to five years with a minimum of 2 and 1/2 years before parole for the same offense.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DETECTIVES RAID CAMOUFLAGED DRUG PLANTATIONS NEAR LORNE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Jan 77 p 5

[Article by Gerry Carman]

[Text] Drug squad detectives believe a Melbourne group may have harvested a marijuana crop before yesterday's record \$250,000 haul from camouflaged plantations south of Lorne.

Several thousand marijuana plants ready for harvest, and seedlings ready for replanting, were found on seven separate plantations 153 kilometers southwest of Melbourne.

Most of the haul was destroyed by police, except for samples for evidence.

The plantations, well hidden by dense scrub and netting camouflage, were from two separate areas about eight kilometers apart at Separation Creek, on the Wye River, and at Mt Meuron, near Kennett River.

The head of the drug squad, Inspector Roy Kyte-Powell, said yesterday's 6 am raid came after 13 days of constant vigilance in the area.

He said various sources had provided police with information. The first positive sighting was made by police aircraft on 11 January.

Previous Search

Inspector Kyte-Powell said police had searched the same area about 12 months ago but had found no plants.

Senior Sergeant Max Wells, who helped mount the raid, said most of yesterday's crop had been located three months ago. He said marijuana plants usually took four to six months to harvest.

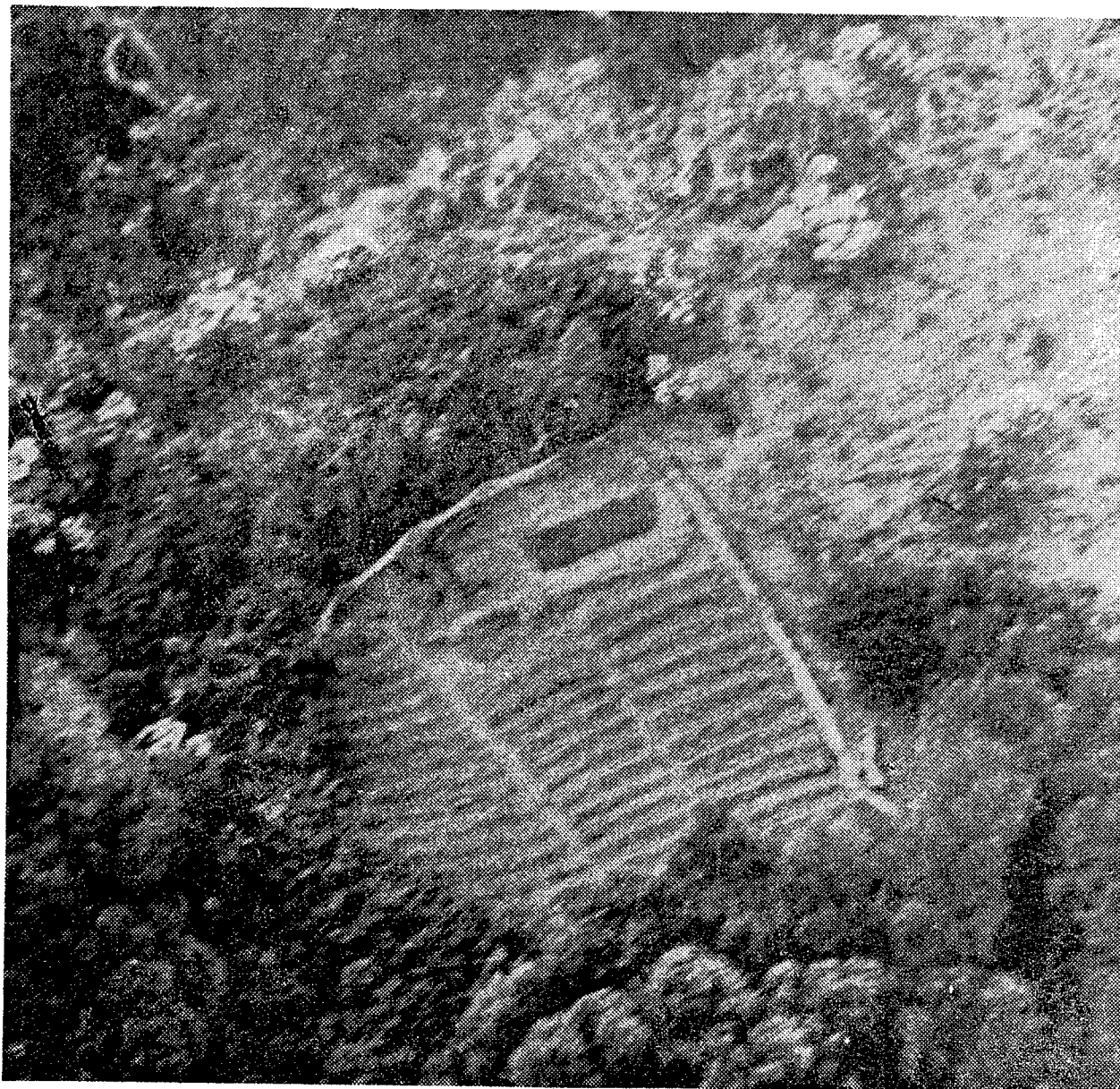
He agreed that a crop could have been harvested between the last search and yesterday's raid.

Both Inspector Kyte-Powell and Senior Sergeant Wells believe a group was involved.

"I don't know about a syndicate, but certainly more than one person is involved," Inspector Kyte-Powell said.

Senior Sergeant Wells said a migrant, a man about 42 from Melbourne, was held for questioning at the third plantation near Kennett River.

"He was taken by surprise and offered no resistance."



A police photograph clearly shows one of the marijuana plantations located near Lorne.

AUSTRALIA

POLICE SEIZE CASH, CANNABIS, YACHT

Nine Arrested

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Dec 76 p 1

[Text] The CIB drug squad has seized a record quantity of cannabis, arrested nine people--including three women--and seized a 20-meter yacht.

Detectives have taken possession of \$8,000 and 55kg of cannabis in Buddha-stick form which has an Australian street value of about \$450,000.

Those arrested are an American, three Sydney men, the female skipper of a yacht, two female deck hands aged 19 and 21, and two young male deck hands.

The yacht Zigeumer arrived in Broome on 4 December after sailing from Bali about 11 days previously.

The Zigeumer has been impounded at Broome.

The arrests were made after raids by drug squad detectives in the Christmas weekend on a suburban motel and two houses in Perth and Scarborough.

Concealed

All those arrested have appeared in court.

One man has been dealt with on a charge that was not directly connected with the main inquiry. The others are on remand.

The cannabis is alleged to have been brought into WA in the Zigeumer from Bali concealed in three surf sailors.

It is alleged to have been landed at Broome and taken to Perth in a hire car with the surf sailors strapped on a roof rack.

Det Sgt R. Whitmore, who is in charge of the drug squad, said yesterday that his detectives had worked with Commonwealth narcotics agents at Broome. Fourteen detectives had worked on the case for five days.

Those charged are:

Francis Albert Pithers (28), photographer, and Nicholas John Larkins (29), medical student, both of Palm Beach, NSW. They are jointly charged with possessing money from the sale of cannabis. They appeared in the Perth Police Court on 24 December and were remanded.

Phillip Broughton (27), landscape gardener, of Palm Beach, NSW. He was charged with possession of cannabis resin. He pleaded guilty in the Perth Police Court and was fined \$200.

James Robert Jones (27), business proprietor, of California, USA. He is charged with possession of cannabis with intent to sell or supply and possession of money from the sale of cannabis. He was remanded on bail.

Linda Jane Dugdale (31), skipper of the Zigeumer. She is charged with possession of money from the sale of cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to sell or supply. She was remanded on \$26,000 bail.

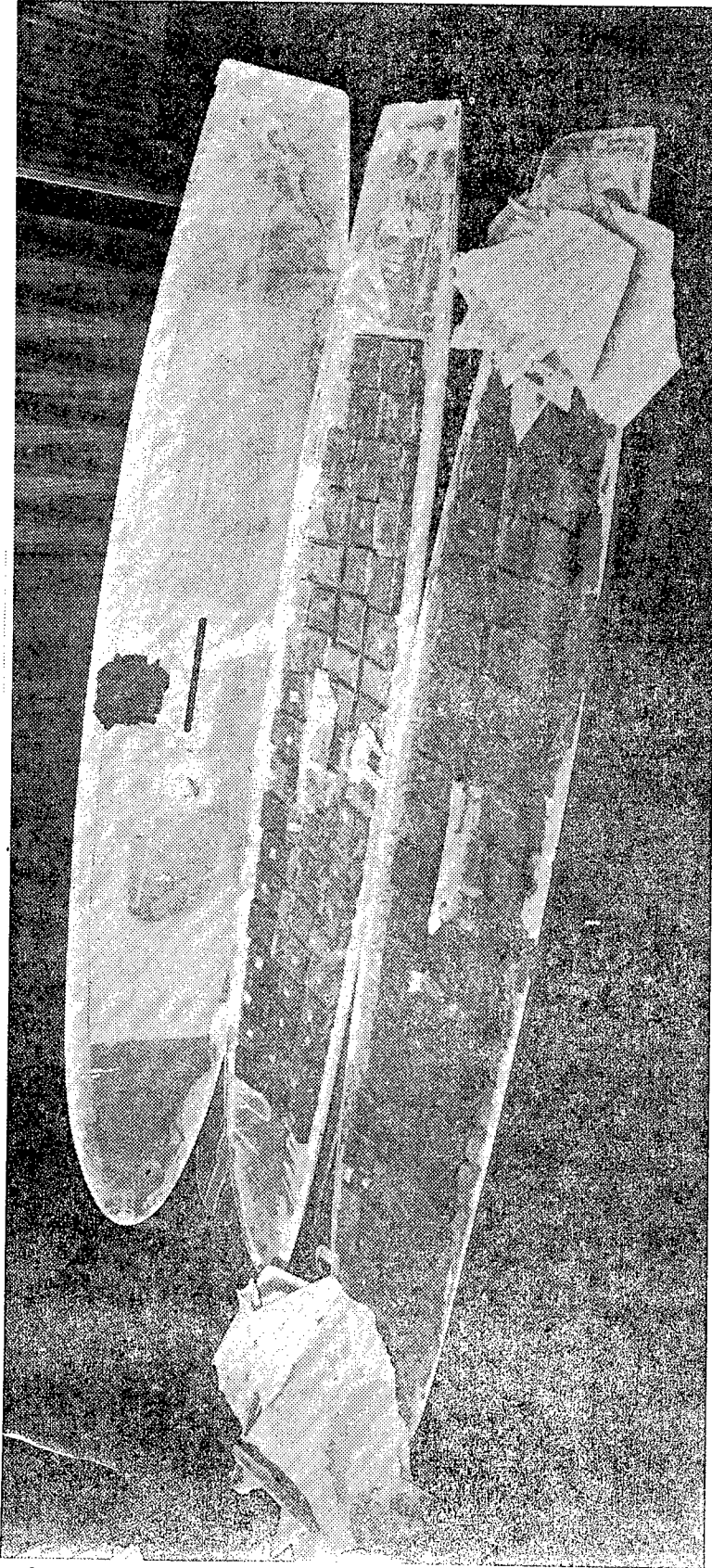
Sarah Helen Munster (19), deckhand. She is charged with possession of money from the sale of cannabis and was remanded.

Mary Lucinda Jones (21), deckhand. She is charged with possession of money from the sale of cannabis and was remanded.

Colin Johnson (22) and Brett Hayson (21), deckhands. They are jointly charged with having imported cannabis. Both appeared in the Broome Police Court and were remanded.

\$450,000 Drug Haul

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Dec 76 p 3



This was part of the big drug haul confiscated by drug squad detectives in the Christmas weekend. Cannabis, packaged in Buddha-stick form, was neatly stacked in three surf sailers. Detectives estimate the street value of the drug at \$450,000. It is alleged to have been brought into WA from Bali in a 20-meter yacht. Detectives have arrested nine people, including three women, and have seized a yacht which is anchored in Broome.

AUSTRALIA

THREE MEN CHARGED ON DRUGS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 12 Jan 77 p 3

[Article: "Fortune Found in Laundry Bag: Three on Drug Charges"]

[Text] Three men were remanded in custody after appearing in Manly Court of Petty Session yesterday on charges relating to \$35,700 found in a green garbage-bag at a Collaroy laundrette on Monday.

Ian Raymond Steed, photographer; Dennis Christopher Bevan, panelbeater; and Mark Carson Jones, farmer, all 27, of Stuart Street, Collaroy, were each charged with having \$35,700 which may have been reasonably suspected of being stolen, or otherwise unlawfully obtained, in premises at Pittwater Road, Collaroy, on Monday.

They were also charged with having in their custody \$15,023 suspected of having been stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained, and with possessing and selling Indian hemp at Collaroy on or about 10 January.

No pleas were taken.

Opposing bail, the police prosecutor, Sgt J. Greaves, said at about 10 am on Monday, a young woman left a green garbage-bag at the laundrette.

She told the laundry owner she would pick it up later that day.

The owner found the money in the bag and called police, who kept a surveillance on the laundrette. They questioned the woman when she returned to collect the washing.

She took them to a unit, where police arrested the men. "It is alleged in a record of interview that the defendants admit selling the drug," Sergeant Greaves said.

"They allegedly told police the Indian hemp was the remainder of a large amount handled by them in recent weeks. It involves a large sum of money.

"They have surrendered passports to police. We have fears they would not attend, if granted bail."

Mr G. Smyth, SM, refused bail and remanded the men to appear in Manly Court of Petty Sessions on 19 January.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

TWO CHARGED ON DRUG HAUL WORTH \$120,000

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Jan 77 p 10

[Article: "Two Charged Over Drug Haul Worth \$120,000"]

[Text] Melbourne, Tuesday--A man and a woman were charged in the City Court today with having brought cannabis worth \$120,000 into Australia in a suitcase.

A federal narcotics investigator said that a red suitcase containing 8.9 kg of cannabis had been found in baggage from a Bangkok-to-Melbourne flight on 7 December.

The cannabis, in the form of Buddha sticks, was wrapped in newspaper and sealed in large plastic bags.

Lloyd Fenner, 52, laborer, of no fixed address, and Marie Davenport, 30, restaurant manageress, of Fannie Bay, Darwin, pleaded not guilty.

A number of other charges relating to offenses under the Passport Act were adjourned to a date to be fixed.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

MILLION DOLLAR DRUG CACHE NEAR SEIZED BOAT

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 2 Feb 77 p 11

[Article: "\$1 Million Drug Cache Near Seized Boat"]

[Text] Perth, Tuesday--Cannabis worth an estimated \$1 million was found today near where a yacht from Bangkok was chased and drugs seized during the weekend.

About 135 kg of Buddha stick was found at Herald Bay, north of Denham today.

Narcotics officers, an inspector from the Fisheries and Fauna Department and three fishermen from Denham found the cannabis near Peron Point.

Several chaff bags of the drug have been brought back to Denham.

The yacht, the Lan Ling, was first sighted anchored off a beach east of the Shark Bay Peninsula on Thursday night.

On Saturday Customs Department narcotics experts flew to Denham.

On Sunday, in a combined operation with Fisheries officials and police, they chased and impounded the vessel. Two men and a woman, all New Zealanders, were arrested.

Later the three were charged in the Denham Police Court with having imported 80 bundles of Buddha sticks and were remanded.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUG RAID AT HOTEL, THREE ARRESTED

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 28 Dec 76 p 13

[Article: "Hotel Visit by Police Brings Drug Fines for Three"]

[Text] A Christmas Eve visit to a hotel by Licensing Branch police resulted in three men appearing in the Magistrate's Court yesterday on drug charges.

Before Mr Bougoure, S.M., were Colin James Benton, 30, fork lift driver; Kenneth John Weigel, 27, unemployed carpenter, both of the Bulimba Hostel, Bulimba, and Darryl William Joyce, 23, laborer, of Lancaster Street, Coorparoo.

Benton pleaded guilty to charges of having had tetrahydracannabinol, and a syringe for the administration of amphetamine sulphate.

Weigel pleaded guilty to a charge of having had diacetyl morphine, and Joyce to a charge of having had tetrahydracannabinol.

The prosecutor, Senior Sergeant F. M. Hannan, said police saw Benton smoking a cigarette at the back of the Camp Hill hotel.

Benton had admitted that the cigarette contained hashish.

Heroin

He said Weigel, who was with Benton, had a capsule of heroin. Weigel said he bought the capsule at Camp Hill shopping center.

Senior Sergeant Hannan said police saw Joyce sharing a cigarette with another person in the hotel car park. The cigarette contained hashish, he said.

Mr Bougoure fined Benton \$400; Weigel \$600 and Joyce \$250.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

MARIHUANA \$5 MILLION WORTH FOUND

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 7 Jan 77 p 9

[Article: "Marihuana Find of \$5 Million--Police"]

[Text] Sydney--A farmer appeared in Taree Court yesterday on charges of possessing and selling Indian hemp following a police raid on a farm south of Taree on Wednesday.

Police allegedly found a marihuana plantation on the farm with a value of several million dollars on the illicit market.

Bortolo Cascio, 47, of Nabiac, was remanded in custody until today.

A police spokesman said the Indian hemp plantation contained about 15,000 plants, some up to four meters tall.

Police also seized about 250 kilograms of the drug which had been picked and was drying out.

The total seizure was estimated at about \$5 million on the black market.

Cascio's brother, Caetano, was arrested by detectives in Kings Cross on Wednesday night.

The brother was questioned by drug squad detectives, and appeared in Sydney Central Court yesterday and was remanded on a charge of having had \$19,513 suspected of having been obtained illegally.

Charges

At Bankstown Court yesterday, Farad Hanna Taouk, 39, plasterer, of Condell Park, appeared on charges of having had and having smoked Indian hemp.

The charges followed a police raid on Taouk's home in Condell Park, yesterday.

Mr A. J. Reason, S.M., remanded Taouk to Bankstown Court on 3 February on \$200 bail.

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN NOW THE BIGGEST PROBLEM

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 20 Jan 77 pp 3, 8

[Article: "Heroin Now the Biggest Problem"]

[Text] The detection of heroin pushers and users in WA has become the major problem for the CIB drug squad, the head of the squad, Sgt Ron Whitmore, said yesterday.

"WA's first heroin arrest occurred in 1972," he said, "and that was considered quite an event.

"Since then, it has reached the point where we come in contact with heroin daily--hearing of it, knowing of it and arresting on it."

Sgt Whitmore also said that the quality of the drug being seized had improved dramatically.

A brown granular 30-percent-pure form, known as "Asian rocks" or "No 3," had once been the purest available.

This was shown to have changed last October with the seizure of a quantity of heroin that was white and 90 percent pure.

Because of departmental regulations, the WA branch of the Federal Narcotics Bureau was unable to comment on the situation.

Lethal

However, it is known that because of the lethal nature of heroin and the big amount now being channeled towards Australia, detection of the drug now occupies 90 percent of the efforts of the bureau.

On a national basis, the quantity of heroin seized last year showed a 150 percent increase on the amount seized in 1975.

A total of 15 kg was detected last year, compared with 6 kg in 1975.

Sgt Whitmore said that cannabis had now been relegated to second place in order of drug squad concern, but this did not mean that the flow of cannabis had declined.

Diluted

He said that there were grave dangers for people who became addicted to heroin. They could pay \$40 for a "cap" or capsule of the drug, which had been diluted with glucose, baking powder or even cleaning powder.

"The pusher will dilute the drug with anything that resembles heroin," he said.

"It is possible for him to start with 90 percent pure heroin and reduce it to two or three percent purity by the time it hits the street.

"Generally the people who are wheeling and dealing in the stuff are using it themselves and will sell diluted heroin to pay for their own habit.

"One girl was killed recently in Sydney when she injected herself with a capsule of pure cleaning powder which she had bought as heroin."

Sgt Whitmore said that heroin was known variously in the drug scene as "smack, H, and horse."

Most was coming to Australia from Asia. The 30 percent pure heroin, or No 3, originated mainly in the "golden triangle" of Thailand where the tribesmen who manufactured it did not have the equipment needed for further refinement.

"One pound, or 450 grams, of No 3 can be bought for about \$800 in Asia," he said. "And if you've got the nerve to carry it into Australia, it can be sold for around \$25,000 to the people prepared to "cap" it and distribute it.

"It is worth six times that amount, or \$150,000 to these people."

Sgt Whitmore said that 450 g of the 90 percent pure heroin could be broken down to two or three percent, it could then be worth anywhere between \$260,000 and \$750,000.

The drop-out type of person, who generally did not know where he or she was going in life, appeared the most susceptible to the risk of heroin addiction.

The person's intellect, schooling or upbringing had no bearing on the dangers involved. No one was protected.

He said he did not believe that doctors should be allowed to continue to give prescriptions for methadone tablets to addicts.

This had led to a situation where addicts were getting prescriptions of 25 tablets, each of 10 milligrams, over the chemist's counter and taking them in an improper manner or selling them at will.

"There is nothing to stop the addict crushing the tablets down, making a solution and injecting it straight into the bloodstream with a syringe that is also available over the counter," he said.

"There is also nothing to stop him selling the tablets--and the current street price for a methadone tablet is about \$5."

Sgt Whitmore said it was important that the administration of the methadone drug should be limited to one authority, such as the Alcohol and Drug Authority. Addicts requiring methadone should have to visit the ADA or one of its outstations and be seen to take the drug orally.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN ADDICTS BETWEEN AGES 15 AND 20

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Jan 77 p 5

[Article: "City Has Big Heroin Problem"]

[Text] Sydney: An NSW Health Commission report has disclosed that more than 1,000 young people in Wollongong are heroin addicts.

It also says that most of the addicts it is treating are between 15 and 20 and come from middle-class homes.

The commission revealed that it was treating 250 heroin addicts at its new addiction center, Kembla House, and the total wanting treatment had increased by 20 a month.

Replying to the report, Superintendent W. Sowerby of Wollongong said that the police regarded the drug problem in the city as very serious.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

EFFECTS OF HEROIN OVERDOSE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Dec 76 p 2

[Article: "Dead Girl Injected, Say Police"]

[Text] Four people had placed an unconscious girl in a cold bath and injected her with salt water in an effort to revive her from the effects of a heroin overdose which two of them had administered, Newcastle Court of Petty Sessions was told yesterday.

When she did not respond, they left her in a shelter at Newcastle Beach, by which time she was apparently dead, police alleged.

All four have been charged with having feloniously slain the girl, Colleen Joan Harris, 18, of Newcastle, on or about 18 December.

They are: Susan Shirley Connars, 22, of Fourth Street, Adamstown; Narelle Dianne Duffie, 19, of Fan Hill, Abermain; Vicki Ann McVea, 20, of Fourth Street, Adamstown; and Raymond Douglas Russell, 27, of Fourth Street, Adamstown.

McVea also is charged with administering heroin to Miss Harris, and with possessing and selling the drug.

Duffie also is charged with using heroin.

All these offenses allegedly took place at Adamstown on 18 December, except for one charge of possessing heroin which McVea allegedly committed on 27 December.

Russell also is charged with having sold heroin at Adamstown between 30 November and 19 December.

The police prosecutor, Sgt C. Naylor, told the court it would be alleged that Miss Harris was taken by the three other girls to an Adamstown house. There, all three had injected themselves with heroin and McVea had injected Miss Harris.

Later, Connars allegedly gave Miss Harris another dose. At about 5 pm--four hours after the first dose--Miss Harris had become unconscious and was placed in a cold bath.

"After that, Duffie injected her with salt water," Sgt Naylor said.

"Harris did not regain consciousness and it was noticed her lips were blue and she was getting cold."

The four then took her by car to Newcastle Hospital. There, they saw a police car and, about 20 minutes later, left her instead in the beach shelter. They had then called an ambulance, but at this stage Miss Harris apparently was dead.

It would be alleged the cause of death was a heroin overdose, and that Russell had sold a large quantity of the drug to the other defendants for a considerable sum of money a short time previously.

Mr D. Geddes, for Duffie and Russell, said they were living together and Duffie was pregnant. He said he believed their part in the alleged events was not of great consequence.

Mr J. Crocker, JP, refused bail for all four, and remanded them to Newcastle Court of Petty Sessions today.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

OPIUM WORTH \$50,000 HIDDEN IN RUGS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Jan 77 p 8

[Text] The CIB drug squad has seized a shipment of imported Indian rugs which contained an ingeniously hidden quantity of pure opium, with a street value of more than \$50,000.

The chief of the squad, Sgt Ron Whitmore, confirmed yesterday that the seizure was made in Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley, on Monday night.

Twenty-two batik wall rugs were involved.

It was alleged that they had been soaked in opium in India--before shipment to Australia--and had then been allowed to dry.

It was possible to recover the opium, which was in a relatively pure form, by boiling the rugs in water. The opium appeared as the water evaporated.

Sgt Whitmore said that the rugs were examined yesterday afternoon by the Government analyst who later reported recovering between 3.5 and 4 kilos of opium.

"This could be worth anywhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000 on the street," he said.

"But it depends very much on how the drug is handled after its recovery from the rugs."

Two men appeared in the East Perth Court yesterday morning, charged with possession of opium with intent to sell or supply.

Dale Harold McCabe (22) and Michael Allen Wood (23), both unemployed, of Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley, were remanded for eight days.

Wood is an American citizen.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

WOMAN HID HEROIN IN CORSET

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Jan 77 p 40

[Text] A 25-year-old woman yesterday admitted trying to smuggle heroin worth more than \$100,000 into Australia off a ship at Fremantle on 7 December.

The District Court was told yesterday that Jillian Gayle Boone had the heroin taped inside a corset she was wearing when the vessel Turkmenia arrived at Fremantle from Singapore.

The Commonwealth crown prosecutor, Mr P. B. Kirby, said that Miss Boone was searched by a woman customs officer.

She had told narcotics agents that she did not use heroin herself, but had been paid to bring the drug into Australia.

The 191.30 grams, 47 percent pure, would provide about 2,870 capsules worth \$35 to \$60 each on the street market, Mr Kirby said.

Miss Boone, a comptometrist, of Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury, Victoria, who had been living in Sydney, had no previous convictions, he said.

Asthmatic

Mr T. A. Walsh, for Miss Boone, said she was a chronic asthmatic who needed constant treatment.

Her motive had been to use the money she was to be paid to assist her mother and brother in Melbourne.

The distribution of the drug was to be carried out by the operators who arranged the prohibited import and Miss Boone was not involved in that aspect.

The woman's mother said that because of failing health she had to stop work. Her daughter had given her every penny she could and helped with her brother's education.

Her daughter had been asthmatic since she was a baby.

Judge Ackland remanded Miss Boone for sentence.

Another woman, Rita Pia Dilauro (21), of Sanoni Avenue, Dolls Point, NSW, pleaded not guilty to a similar charge and was remanded for trial in February.

Guilty Plea

Martin William Shore (22) and Gaylene Robin Eastham (22), both of Gaskin Road, Kenwick, pleaded guilty to a charge of importing \$17,150 worth of heroin.

Mr Kirby told the court that the house shared by the defendants was searched by narcotic officers on 12 November.

The officers found 32.7 grams of heroin inside three plastic bags in a sock buried in the garden.

Mr Walsh, for Shore and Miss Eastham, said that both defenders had become addicted to heroin while traveling in Asia where it was easily obtainable.

Shore and Miss Eastham were remanded for sentence.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN HIDDEN IN CASSETTES

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 15 Jan 77 p 8

[Article: "Drug Hidden in Cassettes"]

[Text] Three cassette cases inside a parcel at a Brisbane air cargo terminal contained heroin, narcotics agents told the Magistrate's Court yesterday.

A senior narcotics agent, Reginald Alan Standfast, said he saw John Crawford Horan walk into the terminal and claim the parcel on the afternoon of New Year's Day.

Horan, 24, and Dennis Ormond Tucker, 22, both of Crown Street, Holland Park, pleaded guilty to a charge of having had heroin reasonably suspected of having been imported into Australia.

Standfast said Horan told him outside the terminal that there was "some dope" in the parcel.

Tucker, who was with Horan, had said that the parcel came from Mackay, and that the heroin was "not very good."

Mr S. G. Quinlan, (for Horan and Tucker) said the heroin was for the two men's own use.

Mr Evans, S.M., fined the men \$500 each.

Mr S. G. Quinlan, of Quinlan, Miller and Treston, appeared for Tucker and Horan.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

MAN HELD ON HEROIN CHARGES

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 29 Jan 77 p 9

[Article: "Man Held on Drug Charge"]

[Text] A New Zealand man, 28, was remanded in the Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of having imported heroin.

Rodney Phillip Wakefield, laborer, was charged with having imported heroin into Brisbane on 27 January.

He also was charged with having possessed heroin.

The Commonwealth prosecutor (Mr B. M. Willis) alleged Wakefield arrived at Brisbane airport on an international flight with 113.4 grams of heroin hidden in underclothes.

Commonwealth narcotics detectives followed Wakefield to a Spring Hill motel. He told them the heroin had been obtained from Bangkok and Singapore, Mr Willis said.

He said the heroin was worth \$50,000 on the illegal market.

Duty solicitor (Mr J. Herlihy for Wakefield) said Wakefield had arrived in Brisbane for a three-week holiday.

Mr Latchford, C.S.M., remanded Wakefield in custody to 11 February.

No plea was entered.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN AND HASHISH SEIZED IN HOLLAND PARK

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 15 Jan 77 p 1

[Article: "Hashish Haul by Police"]

[Text] Heroin and hashish were seized from a Holland Park house last night after a raid by Drug Squad detectives and Federal Narcotics Bureau agents.

About eight people were being questioned by police early this morning.

A number of people will appear in the Magistrate's Court.

A police spokesman said it was believed a major heroin distribution point had been broken by the raid.

The raid was carried out by about 10 men, about 6:30 pm.

Capsules

The quantity of heroin had not been assessed last night, but it included about a dozen capsules and a number of plastic bags.

The police spokesman said a capsule sold on the street for about \$40.

He said police had a new policy of "cracking down" on hard drug dealers, instead of trying to catch numerous users. It was paying dividends.

He said this was a new policy of the Police Commissioner (Mr Lewis).

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

ILLEGALLY IMPORTED CANNABIS RESIN OIL FOUND

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 22 Jan 77 p 22

[Article: "'Pawn' in Drug Game Released on Bond"]

[Text] An American woman, charged with having 2,884 grams of illegally imported cannabis resin oil in her possession, was a pawn in a large game, Judge Gibney said in the District Court yesterday.

He released the woman, Cathy Ann Leveille, 22, of New Hampshire, United States, on a \$500 one-year good behavior bond.

Leveille pleaded guilty to a charge of having had in her possession a quantity of cannabis resin oil, which narcotics agents suspected had been illegally imported into Australia.

The Commonwealth prosecutor (Mr R. Kasper) said Leveille arranged for the delivery on 15 December last year to her Brisbane hotel room of two suitcases, one of which contained 2,884 grams of cannabis resin oil.

Narcotics agents had kept the suitcases under surveillance since their arrival in Melbourne on a flight from Bangkok, Thailand, last 1 December, he said.

Judge Gibney said it was obvious that Leveille played only a very minor role in the matter.

She had been aptly described as a "pawn in a large game," and has risked detection for very little gain.

It seemed virtually certain that Leveille would be deported as a result of the conviction, Judge Gibney said.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

TRIAL SLATED ON CANNABIS OIL CHARGE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 12 Jan 77 p 3

[Text] Sydney--A former New Zealand ski instructor, Robert James Ongley, was yesterday committed for trial in the New South Wales district criminal court on two charges of importing and possessing cannabis oil.

In the special federal court in Sydney yesterday, Mr Cooney, SM, found a prima facie case and committed him for trial on \$2,000 bail at the next district court sitting on February 1.

Ongley pleaded not guilty.

In two previous hearings the court was told that Ongley, aged 30, from Christchurch, New Zealand, was arrested at Sydney airport on June 9 after customs officers found about \$200,000 worth of cannabis oil in two suitcases.

It was stated that the oil was sealed in the plastic lining of typewriter and cassette cases which were inside the suitcases.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

COURIERS SMUGGLED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF CANNABIS RESIN

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 7 Jan 77 p 11

[Article: "Police Allege Man Pot Resin Gangster"]

[Text] Sydney--A man alleged to be one of seven people who smuggled millions of dollars worth of cannabis resin into Australia appeared in court here yesterday.

In the Special Federal Court, the Crown Prosecutor (Mr B. Doherty) said Michael Coker, 20, of Sydney, was one of a group which allegedly organized a smuggling ring involving couriers paid to bring cannabis into Australia hidden in false compartments in suitcases.

The seven-member group is believed to be comprised of Australians, Americans and Britons.

Mr Doherty urged Mr P. Coney, S.M., not to grant bail, and called for Coker to be remanded for three weeks while police sought the extradition of the other six alleged conspirators.

He said two were in jail in Britain.

Police had sought the provisional arrest of the others, three of whom were in Ireland, one in Singapore, and one in Britain.

Mr Doherty said if bail was granted it was likely Coker would not appear in court.

Absconders

"Two of the major conspirators had been arrested previously and had absconded from Australia on false passports," he said.

Mr Coney agreed to Mr Doherty's request and remanded Coker until 27 January. He said the safety of Coker had to be taken into account.

"One must be realistic," he said. "Violence does occur in the drug scene and nothing surprises me about what happens there."

Mr Doherty described Coker as a 20-year-old barman who lives alone in rented premises.

Sticks

He said the Crown had strong evidence that Coker had actively recruited couriers who carried the cannabis, in the form of "Buddha sticks" (a type of marihuana) hidden in suitcases.

Coker, he alleged, had met the couriers at airports at times, and taken the suitcases.

"There is evidence of the successful import of approximately 50 kilograms of cannabis by five couriers during 1975," he said.

"Another six couriers carried about 70 kilograms, but were apprehended."

"Evidence by one witness is that one of the conspirators said 40 couriers successfully had brought in 10 kilograms each during a six-month period in 1975."

Mr Doherty said the couriers were paid between \$2,000 and \$3,000 plus expenses, for each trip.

Couriers had been told that if they were caught legal assistance and bail would be provided and, if necessary, false passports.

"Four offenders, including two conspirators and two couriers, absconded bail last year for \$28,000," Mr Doherty said.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

IMPORTATION OF CANNABIS OIL

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 8 Jan 77 p 2

[Article: "Importer on Cannabis Oil Charge"]

[Text] An American importer, whom the Crown alleges was involved in a drug import deal, was remanded yesterday to Brisbane Magistrate's Court for committal proceedings on 21 January.

Sharon Elaine Denlay, 36, of Cemetery Road, Byron Bay, was charged before Mr Ashfield, S.M., that on 15 December she was knowingly concerned in the importation into Australia of cannabis resin oil.

In court yesterday, the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor (Mr B. Willis) said the four kilograms of cannabis resin oil had a street value of \$150,000.

Mr Willis said the oil arrived in a cane basket at Melbourne International Airport.

He said Denlay arranged for the oil to be sent to a Brisbane hotel.

He said Denlay was a United States citizen, involved in an import business, and traveled overseas regularly. He opposed bail.

Mr D. R. Horton, for Denlay, told the court Denlay had no previous convictions.

She owned a \$60,000 property at Byron Bay, had family ties in Australia, and imported South-East Asian artifacts.

Mr Ashfield granted Denlay \$4,000 bail in her own bond with a similar surety.

Mr Horton was instructed by J. S. Gilshenan and Luton.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

METHADONE NOW IN TABLET FORM

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Jan 77 p 3

[Article: "Methadone: Move To Bar Tablets"]

[Text] All WA doctors using methadone to treat drug addicts will be asked to stop prescribing it in tablet form.

The Alcohol and Drug Authority wants the doctors to prescribe methadone syrup to stamp out trafficking in the tablets.

The authority's chairman, Mr R. J. L. Williams, said yesterday that doctors who were registered with the Commissioner for Public Health to use methadone would receive free supplies of the syrup.

He was worried that heroin addicts who were now getting methadone tablets from private practitioners were abusing the system.

Addicts were using them as currency to buy other drugs and dissolving them to inject the solution, which heightened their effect.

He hoped that doctors would agree to use the authority's system of supplying the syrup in daily doses, which were taken by the addicts in the doctor's presence. This would remove the possibility of the syrup being injected, which was possible but not an easy proposition.

Mr Williams said: "We have to stop this trading in methadone tablets.

"We hope we can get this new system into operation by the end of the month.

"The trading worries us because methadone is getting into the hands of young people who have never even been on heroin and they are getting addicted to the methadone."

Mr Williams said that the authority did not supply private practitioners with the tablets at present. The syrup was made available free by the Commonwealth.

The new system would allow the authority to form a central register of methadone supplies in Perth.

The WA secretary of the Australian Medical Association, Mr R. G. Hayward, said yesterday that the AMA did not know of any doctors who were not conforming with the laws relating to the prescription of methadone.

Under the Poisons Act, doctors who wanted to prescribe methadone had to have the permission of the Commissioner for Public Health. It was an offense to prescribe more methadone than the commissioner permitted.

Mr Hayward said that the responsibility for dealing with offenses against the regulations rested with the Public Health Department, which had access to all prescriptions dispensed in WA.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

CANNABIS WORTH \$200,000--Sydney--Narcotic agents believe they have broken a drug ring after seizing cannabis worth \$200,000 last night. The agents, who had been watching the occupants of a house in an outer suburb of Sydney for some time, found the drug hidden in imported furniture. [Text]
[Melbourne THE AGE in English 26 Jan 77 p 3]

CSO: 5300

GOLDEN TRIANGLE--MAJOR SOURCE OF OPIUM

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Jan 77

[Series of articles by Kyaw Min]

[6 Jan 77, pp 1, 4]

[Text] Kengtung. Faint blue hills among mist-shrouded peaks. Ranges circle the town. White spires dot the landscape. In the valleys, the paddy-sheaves lay gathered in the fields. The roads roll up one hill and down another.

Against the sunny eastern horizon, the peaks and ridges are silhouettes. They cast shadows, ominous ones, on the western slopes and the valleys in between where mule tracks and footpaths crisscross and roads snake beside the mountain streams.

In the mountain villages live our brethren, the Shan, the Akhar, the Lahu and others. The tracks are their traditional lifeline, and this lifeline also pumps the venom into the insurgent-trafficker-smuggler.

There, on the eastern slopes of the mountains lie the roots of the narcotic problem. The plantations face east, where also lies the sanctuary and spawning ground.

In the late December sun, the poppy plants must be a span or higher, and soon the ideal climate will be nurturing them to display the innocent-looking purple, red, gold and white poppies, and then the green pods from which will ooze the creamy liquid, refinements of which will yield dangerous and deadly drugs.

These thoughts floated through my mind as I stood there in front of what was our temporary home. Someone came from behind and tapped my shoulder. "Let's get into the jeep. We'll see some friends in town. Ko Soe Thein is ready, too," said Ko Nyunt.

"Wait. Where's that Golden Triangle?"

"Somewhere thereabouts," he pointed to the northeast. "But what's so golden about it?"

"You're right. The insurgent-traffickers and those aiding and abetting with them get the gold. All we get is a bad name," I agreed.

'A Major Potential Source...'

The three of us climbed into the jeep which had brought us from the airport an hour ago. We sped toward our destination.

"I read in a foreign news agency report that Burma is a major potential source of illicit opium and opium derivatives," I began.

"That," said Ko Nyunt, "is an understatement. Our good land is a major potential source of what outside interests would sap illegally. You know, of course, what goes out."

"Well, there's opium to begin with. Gems, jade and minerals, teak and hardwoods, antiques including Buddha statues."

"Then, there's rice, beans and pulses, onions, potatoes, chillies, coffee seeds, tea and fresh vegetables. Elephants aren't too big, not to mention valuable draught cattle."

With us three enumerating what the insurgent-trafficker-smugglers take out of our country at the beck and call of alien interests, the jeep screeched to a stop in front of a downtown office. The man we were looking for wasn't there. We walked a few doors down and came across those equally interested and involved in the campaign against the drug menace.

'The Fight Will Continue'

Ko Nyunt introduced us to some of the Kengtung residents and told them we were out to get a close-up view of the problems.

They reaffirmed, recalling experiences, what we had studied. Today's narcotics problems are a legacy of the autocratic feudal administrations admitted by the colonial bureaucracy which rooted opium to their fiefdoms and the country's rugged terrain out there.

At the height of feudal supremacy under colonial rule, some Kengtung addresses boasted huge signboards identifying them as licensed opium dens and warehouses.

U Kyaw Maung, Chairman of the Party Subdivision Committee, joined us at lunch, and expressed confidence: "The fight against the drug menace, against insurgents and smugglers will continue. The Pyithu Hluttaw's March 1974 resolution started the ball rolling, and it will continue till the objective is achieved."

That, understandably, will take time and patience. Eastern Shan State's nine townships--Kengtung, Mongtung, Monghsat, Mongping, Monghkak, Mongyang, Tachilek, Monghpyak and Mongyawng--have all been associated with poppy cultivation. It had been a thriving business, with insurgent smugglers sponging on the cultivators.

'It All Began with the KKY'

Daw Kyu Kyu Mah, Hluttaw member from Kengtung constituency, was to confirm it when we met her that day.

"About 85 per cent of the peasants cultivated poppy and about 55 per cent got addicted," she said. "After the chieftains and insurgent-traffickers have been trying to maintain a stranglehold on the innocent people, the task seems uphill, but we must keep going."

"Remember, opium cultivation used to be allowed as licitly as the keeping of hogs or rearing of cattle. When the chieftains relinquished autocratic power, they were to be substituted by the Karkweyay. It all began with the Karkweyay," she emphasized.

True enough. When the KKY were formed under a contingency plan for 1964, they started systematically extracting opium from the region, and, in return, pumped arms and ammo and insurrection.

Trafficking was the KKY's speciality, and Lo Hsing-han, one time KKY leader and erstwhile "opium king"--who has been apprehended and convicted--set up a string of opium warehouses and heroin refineries which turned his 999 brand into the most infamous in Asia and beyond.

Township Drug Control Committee spokesman US Moses expressed satisfaction that so far 378 cases have received attention at the drug wing of the hospital there and that campaign work is making progress. However, in the Shan outback rehabilitation or keeping the cured from going back to opium or its derivatives is difficult.

In many hill villages opium has been the traditional panacea for any and all ailments. I was happy to note, nonetheless, a growing number of the area's population has become aware that the rebels are cheating them out through persuasion or intimidation--"Cultivate opium or else..."

Insurgent-traffickers go east for guns and the profits of opium. To the cultivators they give an assault rifle--M-16 or carbine--for a viss-ball of raw opium. With these weapons, they tell their prey, they must keep the law away.

One viss-ball also fetches K 1,400 to 1,500, and the per-acre yield is two viss.

After the Quarry

"As part of our national defence and security duties we handle the multi-coloured insurgents. Here in this area, you can't draw a line between an insurgent, a trafficker or a smuggler at any time. We go after the quarry, whoever disturbs the peace or adds to the drug menace," said 88 Light Infantry Division Commander Colonel Khin Kyaw Nyo when I called at his office.

"We are, of course, aided by the Party and Councils and the people of the respective areas. Public support in stemming the drug menace has been very encouraging."

[7 Jan 77, p 1]

[Text] From Kengtung, we hitched rides, and took a few hops which helped us understand what the locals mean when they say "They move like a shuttle."

They? Take no second guess. They're the insurgent-trafficker-smugglers, the one and inseparable lot.

Going after them there in the wilderness can be as bad as looking for a pin in a haystack. The terrain, the forests and the streams. Movement by road, which snakes, twists and turns with the streams and rivers, is slow and hazardous. Animal transports and hill tracks are also danger-prone.

"Only three weeks ago," said the driver of the jeep as we approached Tarlay between Mongkak and Tachilek, "the dacoits poured automatic-fire into a jeepload of Tachilek-bound travellers and looted whatever they saw." Among the group was a Rangoon couple visiting friends. The dacoits, the driver heard, had connections east of the border.

"Out here at harvest time, whether it is paddy harvest or opium harvest--insurgents raid the peasant villages and decamp with money or harvested stuff," said one Shan who had come along.

Looting isn't all. Extortion of "tribute," cattle rustling, ransom, rape and murder all along the border are not uncommon. Just cross a stream or a ridge, the natural demarcation, and the lawless find sanctuary. This story we were to hear repeatedly.

Sai Kyauk and Others

Around Tachilek and further south all along the border, fence-straddling insurgents are a dime a dozen. Any local knows their "shuttling" points just as he knows his own brother.

Sai Kyauk, a police station in-charge in Tachilek, went across the border on 7 February 1968, and he and his men have been making numerous forays since.

Khun Sar, a lieutenant of Lo Hsing-han, is also a "shuttle," as also late-arrivals among Lo's men, Phong Kyar-shin and Phong Kyar-pho. Lahu insurgent Pu Kyauk Lon and followers, Shan rebels Hsam Shan, Sai Naw Meng, Sai Pan and their men, KNU and expatriate figures and other shady political operatives move back and forth. For reasons best known to those who accept them, they enjoy sanctuary.

KMT Recruits

At Mae Salong, across the border, there is the KMT 5th Division. A recruiter, captain rank, has been active luring our youths.

His agents tell boys 14-15 years old of the rewards they would get once they got properly initiated among other ranks. They are offered 160 baht a month for doing menial duties. Under training, they are supposed to be.

For each recruit, the KMT captain gets 200 baht as commission, in addition to his salary.

"Only on November 14 (1976), there was such an attempt and the parents of two youths had to pay to secure their freedom," complains one Tachilek man.

What the locals said 5th Chin Rifles Commander Lt-Col Myo Nyunt would not disagree. He and his men have had a long record of having to go after the insurgent-trafficker-smugglers of different shades and descriptions.

'Shuttles' Further Confirmed

Tachilek Party Unit Chairman U Kyae Pe, and Tachilek Township People's Council Chairman Sao Nwe Aye with whom we spoke during a break at a meeting further confirmed that fugitives of the law, drug-traffickers, smugglers and all questionable characters, including spies and saboteurs and the expatriate groups do the shuttling with much ease and convenience.

When the KKY had their way, Tachilek roads used to creak under truckloads of opium going east to Mesai, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and beyond. Not anymore, after the KKY were disbanded.

But the unlicensed arms the KKY and other rebels have brought into the area, as also into other parts of the Shan State, still continue to pose problems.

'Tha-ka-hsa-phah'

Don't the peasants who have obtained automatics fight the dacoits and rebels off? That was what I wanted to know. The locals I met say they have enough arms and ammo to do so if they wish.

"Opium money had brought those guns in. The peasants actually acquired the guns for self-defence. Now we are helping them form tha-ka-hsa-phah, (၁၁၀၀), the anti-insurgent groups," revealed U Aik Tun, Tachilek Party Unit Committee member and also Pyithu Hluttaw member from the same constituency whom we met on the trip.

What the insurgents have been doing has stirred the peasants' indignation. They will eventually be organized as militia for better self-defence.

[8 Jan 77, pp 1, 4]

[Text] Monghsat airfield in the fertile valley brings back memories of the battles the Tatmadaw fought with the KMT in the early 50's. Half imbedded in mud is a concrete roller, one of many made and used by Li Mi and his men in constructing the strip. Planeloads of war supplies came through Thailand. The aircraft returned packed with opium. Monghsat opium caravans also made regular weekly trips east. Li Mi's men, from then to this day, continue to make trouble.

One fact clearly stands out. Without the KMT intrusion, the Shan State might have remained a relatively minor poppy-cultivating area. With their introduction, it has been transformed into one of the world's largest opium-producing regions.

A Monghsat man estimates the Mongton-Monghsat area annually produces upwards of 1,000 viss raw opium. The Pyithu Hluttaw's anti-drug campaign is slicing such figures. The terrain is difficult, so is proper registration. But progress has been made.

Each viss ball of raw opium fetches K 1,400 to 1,500 or any choice of modern automatics. The insurrectionists are funded by opium money. In turn, they ensure good opium outturn. It's a vicious circle.

Fence-straddlers Come and Go

The KMT caravans operate from points northwest of Kengtung and move in a southeasterly direction past Mongton down to the border at Nam-khio below Tachilek.

The Loi Maw rebels from west of the Salween cross to the east, past Wan-hkan, cross the Nam Hsim creek at or around Ta-aw and from northeast of Monhsat move to Nam-hkio on the border. Their alternate route is southward along the Kunmeng creek and the Salween, then southeastward through Tapaw, past Shikha and to the border west of the Nam-kuk creek.

Insurgent-trafficker outposts are right on the border. With the Tatmadaw in hot pursuit, they simply cross the border, then fire back with impunity.

A Case in Point

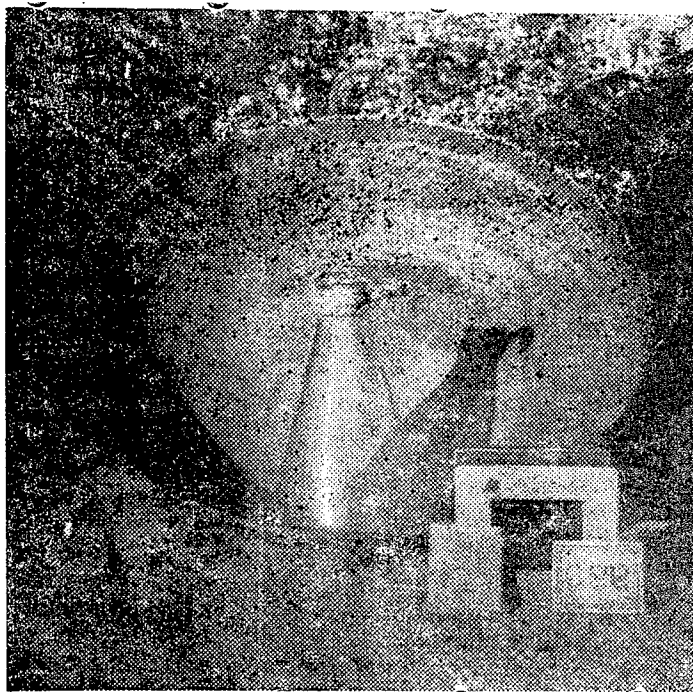
Take the Wan Loi-lam area operation as a case in point. Troops of the 49th Burma Regiment mounted that operation August 3-15, 1976. There were several skirmishes. The major engagement was on August 7.

That day, after putting up heavy resistance, the insurgents withdrew, only to make nine strikes before they were repulsed on August 9.

Heroin Refinery

On high ground, the enemy had established their camp with 42 sheds, in one of which was found enough evidence as to why they were so doggedly defending the position.

A large copper cauldron, a flask and "999" branding blocks (see cut) identical to those captured at Na Mun village when Tatmadaw men took the camp of insurgent-trafficker Aik Kaw in April 1976 were seized from the large shed.



Evidence of heroin refinery seized at Wan Loi-lam.

Just as those at Na Mun did, the Loi-lam insurgents crossed the border and were seen loading stuff into trucks. Then they began pounding our troops.

Our troops had to hold fire in order not to start a border incident.

These insurgent-traffickers, like the gangs of rebels and dacoits camped along the border, find convenient sanctuary right across.

The enemy suffered 10 dead at Loi-lam, 22 wounded. Captured were one carbine, one M-16, ammunition, one transmitter-receiver and important documents. Two packhorses were also captured dead. The camp was totally demolished.

The enemy at Loi-lam included a combined expatriate-Lahu insurgent-group, about 200.

'Danyawaddy' Strike

A combined striking column of the 59th Burma Regiment and the 65th Burma Regiment starting off from Mong Hawm, aided by men of the 61st Burma Regiment struck at the enemy's "Danyawaddy" camp on the border on September 15. The camp was taken the next day after enemy casualties, but the enemy which withdrew east of the border gave Tatmadaw troops a short barrage of 41mm and small-arms fire on September 19 and tried to retake the position the next day.

However, a stiff fight by Tatmadaw troops forced the enemy to withdraw with similar cross-border barrage the same day. The enemy suffered 2 dead, 10 injured. A hand-gun, a carbine and a stock of ammunition were seized. The combined Lahu-expatriates there have been active trafficking and smuggling.

Birds of a Feather

Those who crossed the border and easily enjoyed sanctuary in the case of these insurgent-traffickers whom the Tatmadaw gave chase at Wan Loi-lam and "Danyawaddy," only rest, regroup and give us more trouble.

They, and others of their lot, like the KMT 5th Division based at Mae Salong across the border, the KMT 3rd Division at a place locals here know as Htan-po, Sai Kyauk and his men of the SSA (Eastern Division) at Hwe Nam-hkun, Hsam Shan, Tan Htar and ex-KKY men at Mai Mow, SAA Sai Pan and his men at Peng-lon village--places with names familiar to locals--and Maha San and his men based near Mae Hong Son, are all birds of a feather. They flock together in opposition to the law, as insurrectionists and traffickers.

The same is true of four dacoit gangs--Tah Hpa and his men at Hin Taek, An Htu and his men at Wan Hawng, Eik Shan and his group at Pha-lyan-lon--who, working in collusion with the lawmen on the other side of the border, cross back and forth as they please.

Always the Case

It is always the case of the fence-straddler hitting at Tatmadaw troops and withdrawing into the sanctuary.

That reminds me of a youngster giving another a blackeye and then running off to mother. Any kid with a sensible enough mother would receive a good wacking.

Ours is not a case of toughie and mother. The politics of heroin is involved. Moreover, the problem of the insurgent-trafficker-smuggler is, I presume, an indivisible part of international politics.

[9 Jan 77, pp 1, 4]

[Text] "Shan rice, which, unlike the rice of the plains, is of a glutinous strain. In Kengtung, it retails at K 6.70 against a pyi of nga-sein transported there by road. The Shan measure is only three-fourths of a pyi."

We picked up a Lahu friend whom I had known for some time in Rangoon. He climbed into the jeep from the side. "Come for a close-up view of what's going on, I suppose. See for yourself what they've done to us," said he.

"Ko Nyunt was just talking about the price of rice..."

And before I could finish what I was saying, he gave a run-down of the housewife's woes, "Aw, rice isn't the only item that's gone as high as the mountains. Chicken goes at K 50 per viss, pork K 40, beef K 40. Duck is K 40 per head. It isn't sold by the viss. Chillies go at K 80 per viss, onions K 20, potatoes K 12, groundnut oil..."

"Stop, stop. Or I'll not come and have dinner at your place," I joked.

We went past the Independence Monument, the sports ground, the Police Station, the Hokhon Market on which the Kaw descend in the evenings, the cinemas, the Party and Council offices and the Town Development Office which serves as a sort of town hall.

"This is the central marketplace. Business starts at sunrise and it's almost deserted by noon," explained Ko Nyunt.

The Akhar, the Lahu, the Shan, the Shan-tayok, the Burman and all who have business there descend upon it.

"Noticed the Akhar, Ako, they are true traditionalists," my friend said. "Not like us Lahus. Some of us will readily wear any shirt or trouser of any colour, but not them. They keep to their black dresses and embossed silver decorations and headgear."

The Lahu add colour to the atmosphere with their multi-coloured, plaided and embroidered slingbags.

Breakfast midmarket. Piping hot rice-noodles afloat in soup enriched with soy sauce, pork strips added. Brisk trading was in progress, hill peoples and those from the plains shopping, selling side by side.

Average Citizen Has To Suffer

Oranges, damson, wild plums, fresh vegetables, dry goods and other provisions. One corner has synthetic fabrics and stuff smuggled in. The average Lahu, Akhar, Shan or any hill villager needs none of that. Because of the opium-for-guns or contraband for contraband deals with which the insurrectionists keep their gangs going, the average citizen has to suffer.

There is more to it than that. We are being sapped, drained of the very items we need in everyday life, and the scarcity thus created has led to the high cost of living.

Where there once was sparkle in the eyes of our brethren in the hills, gloom had set in. This because of the insurgent-trafficker-smuggler. We are combating the gloom.

Unlicensed Guns

How many unlicensed guns there are in Kengtung or in the region is anybody's guess. Attempts at bringing them out into the open have not been as successful as desired.

The root of the problem again is traced to money, drugs and drug-related crime. Gun-running insurgents spawn vice, foment trouble. When drug-thugs cross paths or fall out in the town's less seemly quarters, there's bound to be some gunplay and bloodshed. Others who'd have nothing to do with them know where not to go.

Vendetta would be a big word. Reprisal is good enough. These things have happened, but are being stemmed.

The 'Lahu' Who Never Was

We were joking and laughing at dinner one night when the report of a gun rented the air. Close enough. Ko Nyunt found out someone had slumped over with a gunshot wound at the notorious hsan godown goon. We'd be calling on a friend in town and we'd pass that way. Another close-up view?

Our jeep passed the scene. No sight of the victim. A vice squad man wanted a lift. Would we like to tag along?

It was, anyway, quite an experience. The morgue, the police station, a call at two addresses, at the victim's home which had already been ransacked, then to scene of crime and back home.

Drug-related crime, no doubt, the way it could be pieced together. Lok Loi, 37, was escorted up the hill after a dinner appointment. He got the 9mm slug in him, and police nabbed the two.

A Chinese alien, he showed up in Mongyang six years ago. Married a local Shan, moved to Kengtung later, then married another, took out an NRC as a Lahu. Had one wife in Mesai--as contact for his "business"--was visited by two men on horseback two days earlier. Then the reward. Second wife was away in Tachilek. For what?

Reliable Kengtung sources say an alien can get a National Registration Certificate "for as little as K 8,000 to 10,000" which means the stake could be higher. How about Lok Loi the "Lahu" who never was? He must have parted a handsome amount.

'Samar'--the New Connection

"The plane is coming in today. He's gone out there to look for samar," said the boy when we asked for his brother.

Samar, I am told, is a derivative of the word smuggler. Actually, samar is a carrier. Delivers items sent by contacts for a fee or a percentage of the profits. No questions asked.

"Some innocent-looking young girls sporting Juliet hairstyle are probably samar," said a downtown acquaintance. Then he qualified, "Probably, I say."

Of course, not all Juliet-hairstyled girls are suspect, and not all others who do not doll themselves up are to be ignored.

"Those who are first reluctant to act as samar fall into the rut eventually," he said. "There's money to spend, so why not?"

"Why not? Simple question, but it's a serious one. Will the samar be carrying P-4 and other deadly derivatives of the creamy white liquid. Some already are. You never can tell. It's up to those who must keep vigil to watch closely.

"Kengtung used to be a very pleasant place...they have messed it up," lamented a new-found friend.

Clusters of people emerged from the cinema after the late show. In the mess, these must find a diversion. And they don't go where drug-thugs go. Quietly, they hope for a drug-free, thug-free society.

[10 Jan 77, pp 1, 4]

[Text] Make no mistake. The Chinese connection, in the opium context, and with special reference to the politics of heroin in Southeast Asia, is the Kuomintang.

Transplanted into the Shan State by foreign interests for nefarious purposes after their miserable defeat, the KMT--or the remnants of the Nationalist Chinese army--strengthened the roots of the opium problem.

Li Mi and his men, under instructions of a power behind them, regrouped in the Shan State with the emergence of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and though the majority was forced out through military and diplomatic means, those that remained or found their way back into Burma pose a running sore to this day.

Tatmadaw troops, aided by the locals, are always on the lookout for them, to cut the lifeline of the drug menace of which they are very much an integral part.

Operation Ye-naing-aung

A several-pronged striking force of the troops of the Eastern Command, co-ordinated by the 88 Light Infantry Division, closed in on the KMT active around Point 7329, the highest peak in the Mongpyin area in Operation Ye-naing-aung in the period December 75-January 76.

Using a ploy, the Tatmadaw got the KMT to group at their strongholds, then systematically struck. Pockets of the KMT XII Division under Colonel Law Li were trapped, forced to surrender. Those who resisted were crushed.

In a dozen different skirmishes, the enemy suffered 59 dead, 90 captured and 66 surrendered. Thus the Tatmadaw silenced action of the KMT intruder-trafficker-smugglers in the Mongpyin area.

A large arsenal, with an assortment of 278 arms and ammo, and powerful communications sets with which they maintained contact with those KMT operating on the other side of the border, fell into Tatmadaw hands.

Two-Million-Dollar Heroin Pack

One of the KMT positions which fell included, among the cash, gems and others items seized, an eight-kilo pack of highly concentrated heroin. Chemical analysts say it was stronger than P-4, and estimate it to be worth at least two million US dollars.

The highly potent hard drug meant to bring them more guns and funds, points to the potentials of Col Law Li and his associates Aik Kala, Aik Chan and Aik Shan and what they might continue to do had they not been eliminated.

Raid on Loi Maw Opium Caravan

Loi Maw. The insurgent-trafficker-smugglers pose as big a problem as the mountain that is their namesake.

Originally the hills of Tanyang area in northern Shan State had been their stronghold. The disbanded Karkweyay naturally became a powerful subversive element. Once as strong as 1,000, the Loi Maw group now acts under orders of Hkun Sar, a lieutenant of "opium king" Lo Hsing-han, convicted of drug and subversion charges.

Shan, Shan-tayok and Wa adherents flock to Hkun Sar, and those of the KMT riding gun for his convoys include Chan Joo-shin and Lok Lian, graduates of Formosa Military Academy, with homes on the other side of the border.

Intelligence reports set the target. Some 250 Loi Maw men, 100 or more animal transport plus porters moving out from Pakwe. Opium caravan: destination east. Heavily armed. Date: 22 October 1976.

Tatmadaw troops in Eastern Command region set to work to intercept. Rushes were made to Mong Pu-awn, Mong Long, Ta-aw, Mong Hkuk, Mong Nim and points in between.

Troops scrambled for the raids clashed with the insurgent-traffickers at Wan-chan, Hwe-lit, Bu-kwa. Tatmadaw takes include enemy captured, surrendered with arms, animal transport put out of action, and seizure of arms and ammo and 79 viss opium and one kilo of No 3 heroin.

Terrain, intelligence and weather posing obstacles, the interception was not as effective as intended, but the seizures and delays caused the Loi Maw traffickers much hardship.

Considering that one mule costs K 15,000 and one M-16 the equivalent of one viss ball of opium, the strike meant a disadvantage. However, what is disappointing is that the insurgents crossed the Mesai over a ready-made temporary bridge and headed east on November 1.

Out east, they have their rest and recreation, procure more guns and other supplies to sell to the local insurgents or as source of income and will regroup and return via the footpaths and mountain trails.

The Loi Maw traffickers took the narcs and troopers by surprise by using the trail they had abandoned for almost three years. With the co-operation of locals, surprise raids have been stepped up, so much so that such route diversions are becoming common.

[11 Jan 77, pp 1, 4]

[Text] As I have said, the Loi Maw insurgents' opium caravan was last seen crossing the border eastward. So also the Wan Loi-lam area insurgents who crossed east after cleaning out their heroin refinery and even fired back from across.

Identical exit was made by the insurgents when the Tatmadaw columns struck at them at "Danyawaddy."

Advantageous Spin-off

BBC's Brian Eads often comes up with interesting commentaries. The one broadcast on 25 November 1976 said Thai authorities have given some 4,000 Burmese workers at the tin mines around Ranong eviction notice to leave by December 31, raising fears that without them the concessionaires would face total work stoppage.

This, he said, is in contrast with the easy sanctuary elements hostile to the constitutionally established government enjoy after crossing the border. Be they Karen, Shan, Burman or any other with the Tatmadaw in pursuit, the cross-border sanctuary is theirs.

It seems, Eads opines, some Thai authorities grease their palms in collusion with insurgents and smugglers engaged in trafficking or smuggling of gems, jade and any other contraband which keeps them operational, through the so-called revenue they collect.

Moreover, it may be gathered from the commentary that the various insurgent groups who enjoy sanctuary and hospitality across the border reciprocate by collaborating with the Thai armed forces in suppression of Thai communist groups. For this spin-off, the commentator reasons, they are willingly accepted by the Thai government.

'More Friend Than Enemy'

Brian Eads provides an instance: Soon after the October 6 coup, police arrested 21 Karens in Bangkok, for whose release Thai Armed Forces personnel intervened reasoning these people were more friend than enemy.

THE BANGKOK POST is a prestigious paper, and authenticity in all Thai publications has been given a boost with better controls after October 6.

Brian Eads must have referred to the police arrest reported in THE BANGKOK POST (15 October 1976) which said "Police yesterday afternoon raided a house on Soi Suthisarn in Bang Sue and arrested 21 Karens who are reportedly members of the Karen National Union.

"In the raid police seized three two-way radios, a .375 revolver, medical equipment, a Xerox (copying) machine and a typewriter.

"Eighteen men and two women were arrested as well as a six-year-old girl. Among those was Commander Arthur who was said to be the Union's public relations officer for foreign affairs."

Two motor-cycle patrolmen, it said, "informed by residents of allegedly suspicious activities in a nearby house" went there and "found some Karens sending a coded message through a two-way radio."

The Karens, the report says, told police "they had rented the house for the past six months and had been visiting ailing Karens who were receiving treatment in hospitals here...they were also buying supplies to take home to Burma."

The cops nabbed them, only to be told, as Eads says, they were more friend than enemy.

For six months those KNU men who entered through Mae Hong Son Province, were enjoying the hospitality there till the cops disrupted it. Friendly intervention, of course, restored the sanctuary on Soi Suthisarn in Bang Sue.

Interior Under-Secretary Damrong Sunthornsaratoon's words are not to be taken lightly. Briefing a seminar for "governors and Interior Ministry inspector-generals" (POST, 19 November 1976), he revealed the entry of some 30 armed Burmese in Mae Sariang District of Mae Hong Son Province, with 19 M-16s.

Damrong also "spoke of the various problems arising from the presence of the Kuomintang 93rd Division..."

A "Home and Regional News" section feature in the POST (20 November 1976) by Anussorn Thavisin reveals the activities of Shan rebel elements "one under the leadership of Chao Boon Tai and the SSA (Eastern Command) under the leadership of Chao Sai Kaew. The former is based in the border area near Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son provinces and the latter is based in the border area near Chiang Rai Province."

The report also says the rebels "under Chao Yod Fah will refuse to traffic in narcotics although in order to be realistic, it will allow opium caravans to pass through its area of influence."

Reason?

"We have to allow this for some time because it is our main source of revenue. If we try to stop the caravans from passing we would lose our income while the caravan would simply walk around our area and get through anyway."

The source said, Anussorn writes, the SSA is now collecting a tax of five per cent on opium and ten per cent on heroin.

Such rebels are useful buffers on the border, for, as Anussorn reports "the group (SSA) would also oppose communist forces which send patrols to within only one day's walk of the Thai border."

Anussorn also quotes an SSA source about "one Muser (Lahu) leader as being a communist agent which had been sent to create disunity among anti-communist Musers and Shan forces." He is "a distant relative of the Muser's spiritual leader, Pu Chong Luang, and is known as Ah Wei. He is reported to have gone to the communist-controlled town of Pang Sang in 1973...he recently returned saying that he had been dissatisfied with the communist CPB and as having nothing more to do with them. He had caused much disunity among the Muser leadership since his return, however, and reportedly incited Muser villagers to resist the authority of the Thai Government."

Ah Wei certainly is a dangerous fellow, inciting resistance of authority, but "his presence is reported to be tolerated by senior Muser leaders because of his blood relationship with Pu Chong Luang whose son, Cha-Uo, is now in effective control of the Muser forces."

Heroin 'Factories' on the Border

To help put the puzzle together, THE BANGKOK POST (21 November 1976) carries a front-page splash about a record seizure of 45 kilos of No 4 heroin in a swoop on a caravan in Mae Hong Son Province. Heliborne Border Patrolmen caught "the caravan of 50 fully laden mules and 20 heavily armed Chinese Haws and former followers of jailed opium king Lo Hsing-han," and in a subsequent raid on a nearby mountain-top, they found at least five deserted heroin "factories."

What is a bit confusing is that "Police said the 45 kilos of heroin probably took the factories about one-and-a-half years to produce."

Reliable Sources

The people we talked to on our trip to the eastern Shan State--the man in the street, those more familiar with the goings-on, the officials--this side of the border are all reliable sources who are concerned that our connection in the Golden Triangle has given us a bad name, and would like to stem the production and outflow of opium the best way they know how.

The information provided in the Thai newspapers is unquestionably authentic and helps a lot of people put two and two together.

The Pyithu Hluttaw of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, working in close conformity with the guidelines set down by the Lanzin Party, has been working for the realization of socialist objectives through sustained efforts in the political, economic, social and human development spheres.

In order that the benefits of better health, education and welfare, and chances of development of all parts of this Republic may be available simultaneously and on an equal basis, positive trends are being set, approaches made.

Then, attempts are being made to remove impediments, among them the menace posed by dangerous drugs. The Hluttaw's March 1974 resolution put the campaign on the road and it has been making progress, to the point of receiving international acclaim.

On the part of those steeped in spoiling the chances for a better tomorrow, there is money to be made, and money is their sole consideration no matter what the consequences.

There are occasions, as BBC's Brian Eads has pointed out, when those earning a living by the sweat of their brow are considered undesirable and to be evicted, it is ironic that political elements hostile to their home government can be put down as "more friend than enemy."

The war on hard drugs--nipping poppy in the bud, raiding insurgent-trafficker strongholds in the mountains or refineries, or interdicting caravans eastbound, is part of the national campaign being launched in the international interest. If, somewhere along the line, a link is broken, a fence remains unmended, then the negative elements will get the upper hand.

A close-up view of the situation and concerted action will help save a growing section of the human race from succumbing to the menace of dangerous drugs.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

ANTIDRUG PANELS IN GOVERNMENT UNITS TO BE SET UP

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Feb 77 p 13 BK

[TEXT] Kuala Lumpur, Sun.--Special antidrug committees will be set up in government departments to assist the National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM) in rehabilitating government servants involved in drugs.

Deputy law minister Encik Rais Yatim, who is also PEMADAM's president, said he would seek the cooperation of the chief secretary to the government to implement this program as soon as possible.

Drug abuse among government servants was on the increase and full cooperation from all sectors was required to wipe out the menace, he said.

Encik Rais was speaking at the launching of PEMADAM Damansara branch at the Sri Pahang Flats here this morning.

With the launching of this branch and another at Kepong in the afternoon, all parliamentary constituencies in the federal territory have PEMADAM associations with the exception of Sungei Besi.

Encik Rais added that he would ask for aid regionally and from international organizations like UNESCO to supplement PEMADAM's limited funds.

He also appealed to firms to give their support by becoming corporate members of PEMADAM with a yearly \$30 contribution.

PEMADAM was spending \$800 a day in the treatment of 200 patients at its two rehabilitation centers.

Encik Rais urged the people to "commit themselves to a total war against drug abuse."

"The problem is as serious as the security problem we are facing and will eventually weaken the resilience of society as a whole if steps to wipe out the problem are not taken immediately."

PEMADAM centers had been set up in all state in peninsular Malaysia and "the people are not alone in their fight against drug abuse."

Earlier, Encik Mohamed Kassim Shah who was representing the chairman of PEMADAM Federal Territory, said a number of programs had been planned for this year including informative talks on drugs, dialogs, courses and a mass rally and the setting up of small rehabilitation centers in the Federal Territory.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

ASEAN BODY TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 23 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 22 Jan--Indonesia wishes to invite Malaysia to join in a plan to get ASEAN countries together in a joint fight against drug abuse and trafficking in this region, BERNAMA reported Friday.

The body will be an apparatus to organize joint strategies against drug trafficking and smuggling based on the respective national experiences.

The visiting Vice-Chairman of the Coordinating Body for Execution of Presidential Instruction, Major-General Rustamaji Supopo, said that such an organization would build up a strong regional resilience against the drug problem.

According to Major-General Supopo the Philippines and Thailand have agreed that this is a good idea.

Major-General Supopo is accompanied on his visit here by Brigadier-General of Police, General Sukarjo Subadi, and Winoyo of the Indonesian Customs.

They will meet the chief of Narcotics Bureau here tomorrow to discuss the drug trafficking and smuggling problem.

With regard to the drug problem in Indonesia, Major-General Supopo said that the problem was just beginning. According to statistics 92 per cent of the victims were youngsters.

He said it was important for Indonesia to solve the problem at the present stage to ensure future leadership of Indonesia. NAB/AFP

CSO: 5300

REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HEROIN SEIZED, THREE HELD IN POLICE DRAGNET

Taipei CHINA POST in English 27 Jan 77 p 12

[Article: "Heroin Seized, Three Held in Police Dragnet"]

[Text] As a result of swift and well-planned action, one pound of heroin worth NT\$4 million was seized and three suspected drug traffickers were arrested in Taipei and Kaohsiung in a period of less than three days, the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice announced yesterday.

The three drug pushers, Yang Ho-cheng, 38, of Kwangtung; Chen Shu-yen, 45, of Kwangtung and a former overseas Chinese in South Vietnam; and Ms Cheng Yuehchiao, 31, of Kaohsiung, were turned over to the Taipei District Court after the interrogation.

In December last year, two investigators were put on the case after tip-offs by informers. Both officials of the bureau, disguised as drug addicts, mixed with hoodlums and gangsters in Taipei for about two weeks before the case was broken.

After successful infiltration of these underworld personalities, one of the detectives first approached Yang with a request for one pound of rough No 3 heroin.

Through Yang, Chen was introduced, accompanied by his common-law wife, Ms Cheng, and a transaction time was set for 22 January.

After Yang checked the sum of money with the disguised detective at the Astur Hotel on Linshen North Road they were supposed to pick up the drugs at the Chia Lin Hotel nearby.

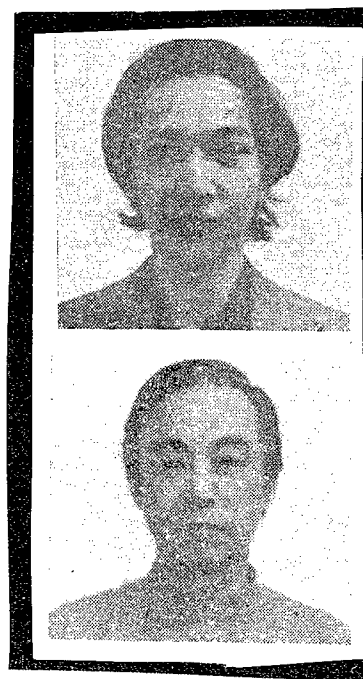
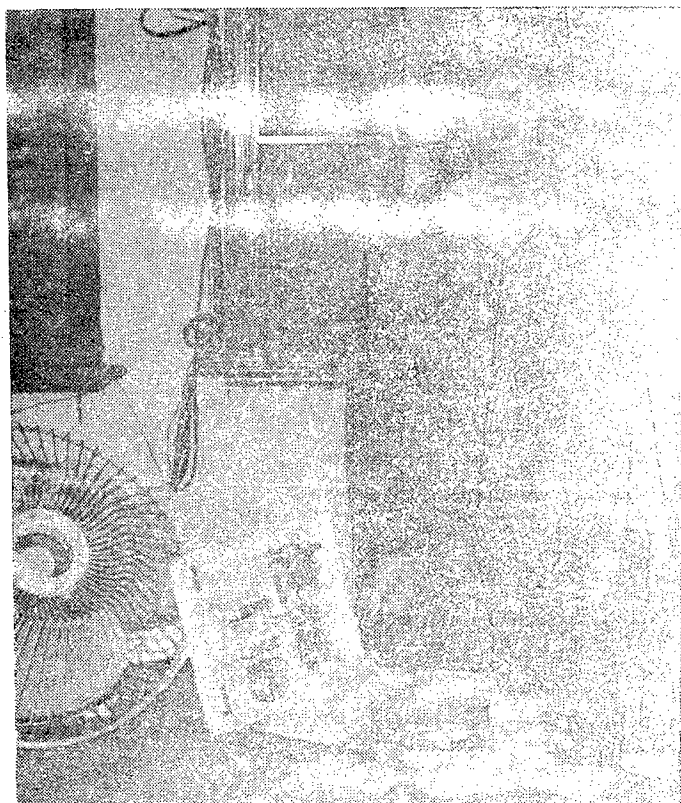
But after their arrival, Ms Cheng, who was waiting there, left when she suspected the police trap after seeing someone following Yang.

Their hands forced, the detectives arrested Yang and Chen immediately without the drug.

In a dragnet set up in Kaohsiung later Ms Cheng was arrested three days later at her father's home in the southern port city on 25 January with the drug haul.

Pictures show Yang and Chen below with Ms Cheng above with the drug recovered from under an electric fan.

Photos



CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

POLICE SMASH 'MAJOR' DRUG PIPELINE

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Feb 77 p 10 BK

[Text] Johore Baru, Thursday--Johore police here last night smashed a major drugs pipeline from the north with the arrest of three men and seizure of raw opium and morphine worth more than a million dollars.

The Johore officer in charge, criminal investigation, Asst. Commissioner Gian Singh, said the drugs were seized from a lorry coming from Province Wellesley in an ambush at the 16th km Jalan Scudai at 8.45 p.m.

The three detained are believed to be members of a drug syndicate. Their ages range from 20 to 30 years.

Acting on information received a police squad led by two senior officers laid an ambush as a spot in Jalan Scudai yesterday.

After waiting for more than five hours they sighted a lorry coming towards their ambush position and waved it to a stop.

On searching the lorry they found the drugs hidden in a secret compartment behind the driver's seat. The driver, codriver and attendant were detained.

The drugs were kept in ten 18-liter capacity tins and three packets in the compartment.

The drugs were in the form of six slabs of raw opium weighing 122 kg and three packets of morphine weighing 2.7 kg.

Mr Gian Singh said the 2.7 kg of morphine could be converted to 220,000 shots.

It is estimated that the black market value of opium is about \$1.4 million and the morphine if estimated at \$4 a short is worth about \$880,000.

The drug haul is believed to be the biggest ever made by the police so far.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

FATHER OF SIX GETS DEATH FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Jan 77 p 6 BK

[Text] Seow Koon Guan, 37, a father of six, was yesterday sentenced to death by the High Court for drug trafficking--the seventh man to be ordered to the gallows under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Seow, unemployed, was found guilty of unlawfully trafficking in 55.48 grams of diamorphine (heroin) at his one-room rented flat at Block 67, Ganges Avenue, last March 18.

At the end of the five-day trial, Mr Justice Chua, sitting with Mr Justice A. P. Rajah, said: "After considering all the evidence before us, we find that the accused threw out from his flat the paper bag containing the six packets of heroin.

"We further find that the accused was also in possession of the two packets of heroin found in the earthen pot."

Mr Justice Chua said that they had considered Seow's evidence and found that he was not a truthful witness.

"We must say that the accused has failed miserably to rebut the presumption," he added.

Seow's defense was that the two packets found in the premises were for his own consumption but he denied knowledge of the six packets.

He also alleged that it was possible someone could have "fixed" him up.

The court was told that a party of Central Narcotics Bureau officers kept observation of his flat that day from the top story of a block of flatted factories.

At about 7:10 p.m., Seow was seen throwing out the paper bag from the kitchen window when two officers burst in. The bag, containing the drugs, landed on a partially rolled-up bamboo chick of a flat on the second floor.

Defense counsel Mr Dennis Tan, assisted by Mr Charles Tan, submitted that throughout the evidence, Seow had admitted possession of those drugs (14.37 grams) for his own consumption, and that the prosecution had not challenged that he was an addict.

Seow, he added, had explained he had bought such a large amount as it was to last him for three weeks.

Counsel also said that Seow had in his evidence created a reasonable doubt on the six packets.

DPP [?deputy public prosecutor] Mr Loh Lin Kok submitted that the accused had given an unreasonable and improbable defense and he did not rebut the case of the prosecution regarding the way the six packets were thrown out of the flat.

He further said that Seow had not shown how he had been fixed up.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

DRUG-TRAFFICKING SAILORS--Two foreign crewmen were today committed to stand trial at the High Court for trafficking in drugs after a preliminary inquiry. (Prawet Chi Li), a Thai ship engineer, and (Adri Kuwu), an Indonesian chief officer, face two charges of trafficking in 22.37 grams of (?diamorphine) and 7.97 grams of morphine at Jalan Bukit Merah in August last year. One of the charges carries the death penalty. [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 10 Feb 77 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

FIRSTHAND REPORT ON OPIUM GROWING IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Brisbane THE COURIER MAIL in English 19 Jan 77 p 5

[Article by Paul Raffaele in Bangkok]

[Text] The illicit drug growing capital of the world has switched from Mexico to the Golden Triangle, a large chunk of ragged hill country at the intersection of Thailand, Laos and Burma.

That is the opinion of international narcotics detectives based in Bangkok.

In high mist shrouded mountains, primitive hill tribes cultivate huge tracts of opium fields virtually free of any government interference. Over 600 tonnes of illicit opium are grown each year in the Golden Triangle--enough to supply 20 per cent of the American market and one half of the European market with enough left over to satisfy smaller markets like Australia.

Now narcotics agents in Bangkok believe that Golden Triangle opium warlords are stepping up production to take over the billion dollar American market in the wake of the closure of thousands of illicit opium fields in Mexico.

Behind most of the opium production here is a shadowy, "Godfather," General Li, who once led his Kuomintang army in raids against China but who now rules over the world's largest illicit drug operation from a heavily guarded Burmese mountain fastness.

Perfect

In fact, the Golden Triangle is the perfect location for a James Bond thriller--a tiger infested wilderness populated by beautiful women, primitive opium growers, millionaire narcotics merchants, heavily armed private armies, Communist guerrillas, assorted insurgencies and several thousand impoverished villages perched on top of mountain ranges which connect Burma, Laos and Thailand.

I've just completed a week long journey into the Golden Triangle to investigate drug growing and trafficking.

Getting to first base was easy, with an overnight drive from Bangkok to Chiang Rai in the far north-west of Thailand.

The Chiang Rai district contains most of Thailand's major heroin factories and is also a major distribution centre for the illicit export of narcotics.

My guide was an E-kaw man, stocky as a mule and with a broad Mongolian face topped by a shaven skull. Most of the opium fields in the Golden Triangle belong to the hill tribes, about two million people of Chinese origin, who scorn and are scorned by the ethnic Thais, Laos and Burmese.

The yearly income per hill tribe family ranges from \$25 to \$150 and much of this money comes from the sale of opium which is not much more expensive than potatoes in the mountains.

We walked for two days into the mountains near the Burmese border. We scaled steep hills using extremely narrow paths where the jungle had often hidden the way to all but the local villagers. We walked only by day because tigers stalk the mountains at night.

After two days of walking, we reached our destination, an opium growing village near the Burmese border. At the entrance to the village hung the grisly skeleton of a dog offered to appease the jungle spirits.

Refused

The villagers at first refused to show me the opium fields because they thought I was a narcotics detective.

After a lot of persuasion I was led on a two-hour walk over a jungle track to the fields which nestled 1500 metres high on the side of a mountain.

The opium poppies were just beginning to bloom and a few tentative white, red and violet poppies had emerged from the green buds. The raw opium sap is extracted by slitting the fat green bud with a three blade knife.

The congealed raw opium is later collected, loaded onto tough pack mules and taken down the mountains in caravans guarded by as many as 600 men armed with M-16s, mortars and other sophisticated weapons.

The opium is delivered to illicit border factories where it is transformed into the potent 90 per cent pure No. 4 heroin.

The heroin produced by the border factories is smuggled down to Bangkok's teeming Chinatown from where hundreds of well paid international couriers smuggle the fine white power to all points of the globe.

Couriers smuggle the heroin into Australia by plane and by ship where it is sold on the local market and also distributed to Pacific cities and the west coast of the USA.

The profits involved are quite staggering. A kilo of raw opium costs \$40 in the Golden Triangle.

The refined heroin (the ratio is 10 to one) wholesales in western countries for about \$50,000.

Dealers then cut it down to 3 to 5 per cent pure so that the original kilo retails on the street market for close to \$500,000.

That is why more than 30 American and European undercover agents are working out of Bangkok to break up the drug rings.

Thai police are constantly arresting small time couriers but an important narcotics source here claims that the millionaire illicit drug merchants in Thailand are known but untouchable because they have cleverly concealed their involvement in drug trafficking.

The narcotics agents also know but cannot touch the immensely powerful opium warlords who rule their domains like emperors in the northeast of Burma. General Li, the opium Godfather is the most powerful but there are several other warlords constantly involved in a Byzantine shifting pattern of conspiracies and intrigues to dominate the lucrative opium market.

The Burmese government has just undertaken a major campaign to eradicate the opium fields but is hampered by its lack of authority in the northeast border areas. The Shan Liberation Army, an insurgent force in the northeast has offered the United States the entire Burmese opium crop for \$12 million.

The Shan can do this because they are the de facto government in that area. The Shan have just repeated the offer to President-elect Jimmy Carter.

The offer is certain to be refused reluctantly because the Shan intend to use the money to buy weapons for their fight against the Rangoon Government.

The Thai Prime Minister, Tanin Kraivixien, has just established a narcotics suppression department under his direct control and Thai border police have stepped up operations against the heroin factories using helicopters supplied by the United States.

In the most recent raid, the factory owners fled the scene before the raid, adding weight to a claim heard often here that top level Thai police are involved in the narcotics trade.

There has been a major shakeup in the Thai police since the October coup and the new police chief is dedicated to rooting out corruption and protectors of the narcotics trade.

The most encouraging results in the Golden Triangle according to narcotics agents here have come from the two crop replacement programmes run by the King of Thailand and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

Hill tribe villages are taught how to replace their opium crops with other high income crops such as coffee and temperate climate fruit and flowers.

'Medicine'

The crop replacement programmes however can only be expected to affect marginally the cultivation of opium by conservative villagers who have grown the drug for hundreds of years. They use it as a medicine, they use it as a drug and it is their major life support.

The crop replacement programmes at present cover just over one hundred villages. There are several thousand opium growing villages in the Golden Triangle and even if opium growing is wiped out in Thailand, it will still flourish in Burma where it is the crutch and the fuel of several revolutions.

But the most serious obstacle blocking the success of any opium eradication campaign here in the Golden Triangle is the traditional practice of opium smoking in hill tribe villages.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

MORE ACTION TO PREVENT LOCAL DRUG TRAFFICKING URGED

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 12 Feb 77 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Commendable Bid To Plug Drug Pipeline"]

[Text] Both police and customs officials have been showing extraordinary vigilance and efficiency in interrupting narcotics which many have attempted to smuggle abroad. During the past month case after case has come to the attention of the media and the officials responsible deserve special congratulations.

Everyone knows that the Western countries are deeply concerned about plugging the pipeline from the Golden Triangle to various destinations. They have been so worried about it that they are prepared to give both incentives and necessary aid to prevent the drugs from leaving Thailand to points abroad.

There are two ways of looking at it. The first is of course that the source--the opium production in the Golden Triangle--should be eliminated so that there will be no narcotics to transport. This is a difficult problem since almost everybody is agreed that the major opium producers are in Burma and that the Burmese Government is not strong enough to prevent opium production conducted under the supervision of rebels. But recently, the government in Rangoon has been waging serious war against this infamous traffic.

The second way of looking at it is that if the trafficking of narcotics to international markets is dried up by efficient police and customs officials, then production of opium in any large quantity will become unprofitable. Actually it would be ideal if both could be tackled at the same time but at present it seems that sealing up of the source is more difficult than preventing "export" to the lucrative markets in the West.

Following the present trend, we feel quite confident that the pipeline from the Golden Triangle could be plugged but that would pose a new problem, because drug traffickers used to big money are not going to quit that easily. While they will find newer ways of smuggling drugs to international markets, what we are primarily worried about is that they may try to expand the local market and our younger generation will become the target.

Already we have a problem with our youth as regards drug abuse and so while the police and customs officials are plugging the smuggling out of drugs, they must also be wary of local traffickers. We know the problem of production in the Golden Triangle is being tackled as speedily as possible, but we would like to see more action in preventing local trafficking.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

DRUGS FOUND IN 'CONTAINERS BEARING U.S. EMBASSY NAME'

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 4 Feb 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Customs officials at Don Muang Airport, with the cooperation of police dogs, this morning seized almost a ton of marihuana sticks in containers purportedly being shipped from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. The containers were about to be flown out by a Japan Air Line flight today.

A U.S. narcotics authority immediately denied that the shipment was in any way connected with the embassy and pointed out that such a deception could have been carried out by anyone. He further explained that the U.S. Embassy usually used American carriers, such as Pan American Airway, when sending off cargo.

Customs officials became suspicious of the 20 containers bearing U.S. Embassy name on the outer wooden crates, which arrived at the Thai international jumbo cargo warehouse yesterday afternoon. The crates were addressed to an individual in Beverly Hills, California. Customs men waited until this morning for the police dogs to "sniff" the crates before deciding to open them.

The police dogs Semo and Essen were brought in this morning at about 8:30 a.m. Semo and Essen, after smelling some containers, indicated that some drugs might be hidden inside. Officials then decided to open some containers, and marihuana was found inside.

Officials then opened all the 20 containers bearing the embassy name and found them to contain a total of 800 kilograms of marihuana sticks.

According to the customs officials who made the seizure of marihuana the cargo had been handled for shipment by an air freight firm.

Together with the airway bill, officials said they had found a letter, purporting to be from the U.S. Embassy and requesting that "the cargo be despatched without customs declaration."

Customs officials and U.S. narcotics authorities at the airport this morning were investigating whether the letter was a forgery.

Meanwhile employees of the shipping company were being questioned.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

DUTCHMAN ARRESTED WITH 990 GRAMS OF HEROIN IN BANGKOK

Accomplices in Paris

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 8 Feb 77 p 1 BK

[Text] A Dutchman, Piet van Breevoort, who was arrested with 990 grams of No. 3 heroin (brown sugar) in Don Muang Airport's transit lounge late last night, has been charged with smuggling narcotics into the country, police said today. The heaviest penalty for this offence is death, according to police.

He was on transit in Bangkok after arriving from Hong Kong on Thai International flight TG611.

Three hours later as he was to board Thai flight 094 for Paris, security officers checking passengers for arms and explosives found the heroin concealed between the lining of his overcoat, police reported.

After he was handed over to customs officials for questioning, Breevoort who speaks very little English, at first denied all charges but later confessed through a Dutch policeman who was at the transit lounge waiting for a KLM flight to Amsterdam.

Breevoort claimed that before the trip to Hong Kong he was unemployed and lived on 1,000 baht Social Security.

Last month, he said, the daughter of a Dutch coffeeshop owner where he used to work in Paris, allegedly hired him to carry diamonds from Hong Kong to Paris and promised to buy him a house after the diamonds were safely delivered to a man in Paris.

Last week, he left with the woman and her husband for Hong Kong and stayed for three days at the Ambassador Hotel where he was given the packets, he said.

Breevoort was surprised when customs officials found heroin instead of diamonds and gave police the names of his two Dutch accomplices. Thai police have sent a cable to Paris to arrest the two on their arrival as they left on the same flight as Breevoort was supposed to have left on.

Refusal of Bail

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Feb 77 p 5 BK

[Text] The Criminal Court yesterday granted the first 12-day detention period as requested by police investigators against the Dutch national, Piet van Breevoort, who was arrested on Monday with 990 grams of No 3 heroin (brown sugar) at Don Muang Airport's transit lounge.

The court also refused bail to Breevoort claiming that it might affect the case because he is suspected of being part of a big heroin ring.

Breevoort was later moved from the Crime Supression Division cell to Khlong Prem Light Jail.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POLICE SET ABLAZE 4,000 ACRE MARIHUANA FARMS IN NORTHEAST

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 13 Feb 77 pp 1, 7 BK

[Text] Nakhon Phanom--Sprawling marihuana farms covering over 10,000 rai in 12 villages were set ablaze in a massive ground-and-air 2-day operations which ended on Friday.

In an exclusive interview yesterday, Police Col Manat Sapsano, chief police officer of Nakhon Phanom, said more than 40 tons of marihuana were destroyed in the major operation. He estimated them to be about 30 million baht worth in the local black market.

The marihuana plots burned were a network of farms, some as large as two-rai plot each, he said.

The joint operation comprised provincial, border patrol and marine police. They were joined by anti-narcotics officials and Crime Suppression Division officers from Bangkok.

"The policemen involved numbered more than 100," he said.

The marihuana farms were located in 12 villages in two districts--Tha Uthen and Si Sarakham--mostly in areas near jungle streams.

Two helicopters were used in aerial surveys to locate marihuana farms.

"When we spotted a marihuana farm, the ground policemen will pour benzine and put it to the torch," Col Manat said.

"In principle, we should have seized the marihuana as evidence to prosecute cases. But that is impossible because there is so much marihuana in such vast areas. So, we decided to burn them," he said.

Col Manat said no culprits were arrested in the operation. Most of the farms were cultivated by local villagers, he said.

"Besides, the land on which marihuana was planted was officially classified as public land. So, we couldn't arrest anyone," he said.

He said previous attempts to clear off the marihuana villages by ground policemen ended without fruitful results. "Most of these farms were not accessible by road. And the plots were located quite a distance from one another," he said.

The first major aerial operation was conducted last month when about 57 tons of marihuana was burned, he said.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

MURDER LINK WITH DRUGS--A 30-year-old man was found dead with three bullet wounds in the head and a tube of heroin in his pocket, police said yesterday. Police quoted a witness as saying that the man had been kicked from a brown colored Mercedes Benz late Friday night behind the Tha Kua Withaya School in Khlong Toei--and shot at point blank range with a 9-mm pistol. Police speculated that the murder might be connected with drug trafficking.
[Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 13 Feb 77 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5300

STATISTICS DISPUTE ATTORNEY'S DRUG CLAIM

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 9 Feb 77 p 1

[Article by Brian Bannon]

[Text] An assistant Crown attorney told county court here Tuesday that Windsor has the worst drug problem in the province.

John Dietrich, arguing for a stiff sentence against a heroin addict convicted of robbery, told the court Windsor is second only to Toronto in the number of drug charges laid, and, with a population only one-tenth as large as Toronto, is burdened with half as many charges.

He said he knows drugs are being sold in high schools in the city.

According to 1976 police statistics gathered by THE STAR this morning, the actual figures show Windsor had between 1/4 and 1-5 as many drug charges as Toronto (about 860 compared to Toronto's 3,900).

An RCMP spokesman said much of Windsor's caseload is a result of border seizures.

Mark Willson, 27, of Columbia Court, was given a 10-month jail sentence Tuesday for the March, 1975, robbery of a Gulf gas station at Huron Line and Grand Marais Road in which an attendant was threatened.

Willson pleaded guilty to the charge, but his lawyer, George Yates, argued that the robbery was a "foolish escapade brought on by the use of drugs."

For two years since the robbery, his client has kept out of trouble, Mr. Yates said.

He argued that an accomplice was responsible for threatening the gas station employee with a gun.

Mr. Dietrich told the court other drug-users must not be encouraged by light court sentences to obtain drug money by robbery.

"The chance of a person ever kicking that habit (heroin addiction) is less than one per cent," he said.

Mr. Yates said a medical report prepared by Dr. John R. McKinnon of LaSalle warns that sending Willson to prison may bring him into contact with drugs again. The report says Willson may be off drugs now, he said.

In passing sentence, County Court Judge David Thomson told Willson his drug problem "was a problem you created."

Drugs, especially hard drugs, are "one of the most terrifying things in the community," he said.

CSO: 5320

SOCIOLOGIST WARNS JOURNALISTS AIDING DRUG TRAGEDY

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 27 Jan 77 p 3

[Text] Montreal (CP)--Journalists are contributing to "the rush to decriminalize or to legalize marijuana," a drug awareness symposium was told yesterday, an action which is "foolish, irresponsible, potentially tragic."

"I have observed, in particular in the past two years, a proliferating social use of marijuana by journalists--a group whose personal views have an insidious and pernicious influence on society," Ottawa sociologist Andre McNicoll told the symposium at John Abbott College.

"Marijuana-using journalists are a not-insignificant reason why the public remains profoundly ignorant of the recent scientific findings concerning the harmful effects of the drug."

Mr. McNicoll said he used marijuana for five years--"a period of my life marked by chronic unemployment, divorce, two psychotic breakdowns and the suicide of a friend as I stood by helpless because of my disturbance.

"The rush to decriminalize or to legalize cannabis (marijuana and hashish) must be opposed with courage and determination.

"We are witness today the result of the second phase of the acculturation of marijuana: the social, recreational use by ever-increasing numbers of journalists, educators, doctors, lawyers and legislators."

Published reports earlier this week said that at the traditional Speaker's party before Christmas a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, a Cabinet minister and several members of Parliament smoked marijuana.

"When we know the horrendous and nearly impossible to control problems caused by tobacco and alcohol--two less toxic drugs--we must ask ourselves if any complacency on our part is not a criminal act," Mr. McNicoll said.

CSO: 5320

PARENTS GET WARNING ON DRUG ABUSE

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 27 Jan 77 p 8

[Text] Essex--Drug abuse is still on the scene although newspapers are not headlining it as much as they did five years ago, the community services officer of the Ontario Provincial Police, Ron Morrison, told a drug seminar this week.

The seminar was sponsored by the parent-teacher advisory board of Holy Name School in Essex.

Corporal Vern Boeckner, of the Chatham OPP detachment explained the origin and effects of drugs through slides and films while Constable Gordon Renaud of the Essex OPP and R. G. Chisholm, vice-principal of Essex High School, gave information on the local scene.

The seminar, which was for parents only, attracted about 50 persons and one parent said the low attendance indicated people in Essex think there is no problem.

There is need for more reports of arrests in the local press to make people aware of the problem the parent said.

Corp. Boeckner advised the parents to know where their children are at all times as a means preventing their introduction to drugs.

"We see youngsters of nine, 10, 11 and 12 roaming the streets at night at all hours," he said.

"Their parents don't know where they are. I don't think we are strict enough in our homes. Perhaps we are not strict enough in our schools."

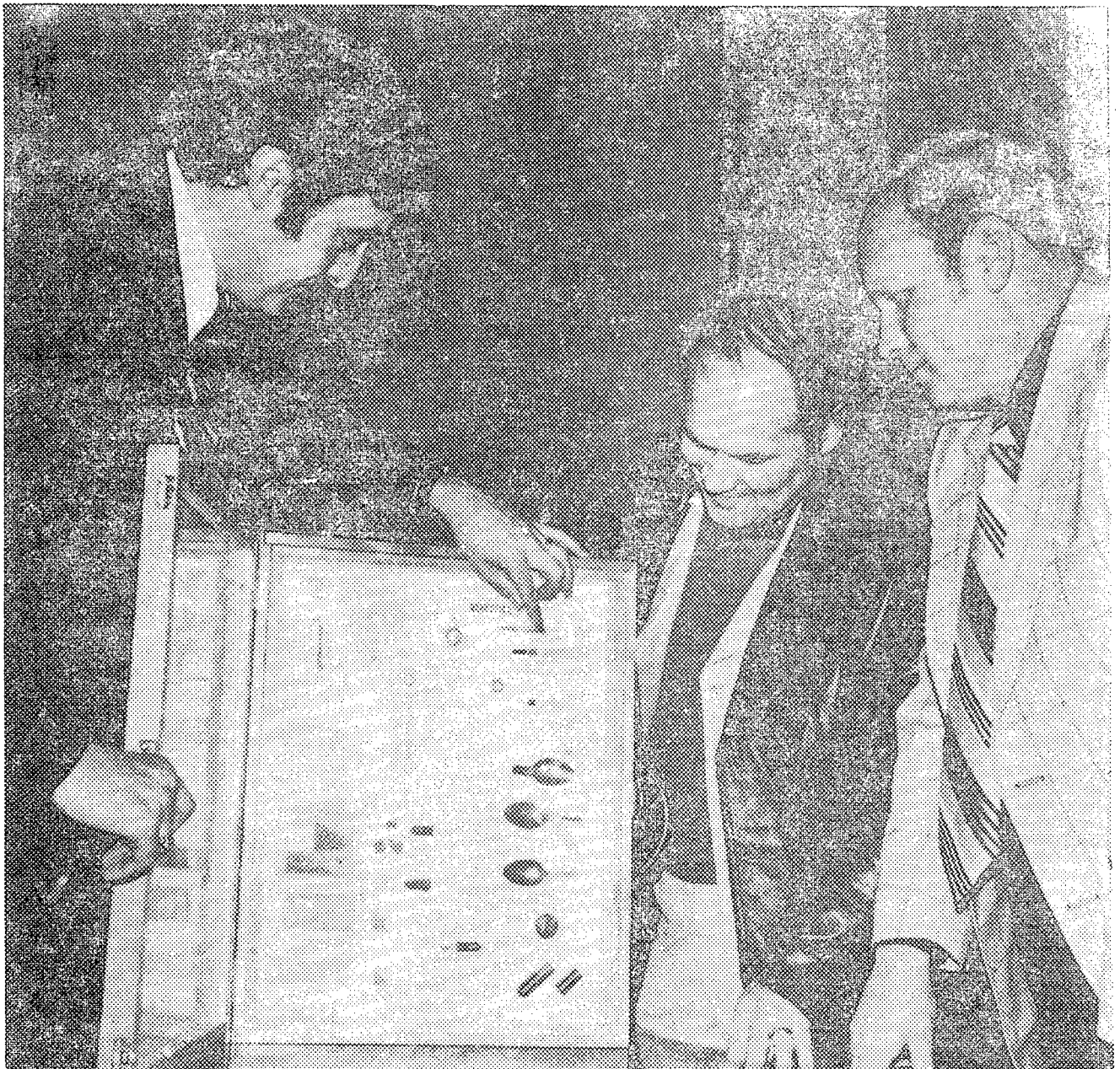
Corp. Boeckner warned that use of marijuana can lead to stronger drugs and then the parents are in real trouble by being permissive.

"In this country most of the charges in our courts are for marijuana use," he said.

He said a film has been prepared by the OPP with the co-operation of high school students for presentation in high schools.

The film depicts the results of what was meant to be an innocent weekend experimenting with drugs and will be brought to Essex High School in the first two weeks in February, he said.

Constable Renaud urged parents who need assistance or who see or hear anything suspicious to call the Essex force.



OPP Cpl. Rick Morrison of Toronto, Essex Police Chief Ed Primeau
and OPP Const. Gordon Renaud of Essex

PRISONER SAYS GOVERNMENT SHOULD SELL HEROIN

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 77 p 58

[Article by Gerry McNeil]

[Excerpt] Drumheller, Alta.--A man who robbed a Vancouver bank to raise cash for his \$300-a-day heroin habit said Tuesday that penalties for "victimless crimes" such as use of heroin and other drugs should be repealed.

Brian McCulloch, 34, made the suggestion as John Reynolds (PC--Burnaby Richmond Delta) sought ideas to cut down the number of people in prison.

McCulloch was a member of a prisoners' committee testifying before a Commons subcommittee which held hearings in the 10-year-old medium-security prison here.

He said illegal drug traffic and the efforts of users to raise money to pay for drugs account for a great deal of crime in Canada.

If heroin and other drugs were sold through government stores, associated crime--muggings, theft, violent fights for control of the illegal trade--would disappear, he said.

Mr. Reynolds said it would be a mistake to make use of heroin legal.

He asked McCulloch whether there was any guarantee he would not return to selling heroin when he is released later this year.

"None," the prisoner replied.

McCulloch said in an interview later that perhaps half the 470 men in Drumheller prison are there as a result of drug-related crimes, ranging from theft to murder.

About 9,000 men and more than 100 women are in federal prisons. Many of them are serving seven-year sentences for importing or selling illicit drugs.

Seven years is the minimum sentence a judge can impose on such cases.

A bill has been before Parliament for more than one year to remove mandatory minimum sentences. The same bill would make possession of marijuana a minor offence.

Guards and prison officials told the MPs small amounts of marijuana and hashish are smuggled into the Drumheller prison. Security Director Kenneth Lowden said no trouble results.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

CANADA STALLS ON MARIHUANA LAW

Ottawa THE SATURDAY CITIZEN in English 8 Jan 77 p 6

[Editorial by Leonard Shifrin]

[Text] The easiest way to move from the head of the class to its hindmost quarter is simply to stand still while the winds of change whistle by.

And that is exactly what Canada is managing to do on the issue of marijuana law reform.

In the late 1960s, when annual conviction totals for marijuana use in this country began their meteoric rise from the several dozens to the tens of thousands, Ottawa responded with the creation of the Le Dain commission to "inquire...report...and recommend."

In its 1972 report, three of the five commissioners proposed "the repeal of the prohibition against simple possession." A fourth went further, calling not only for decriminalization, but for government-regulated marketing of marijuana "under controls similar to those governing the sale and use of alcohol."

The fifth commissioner took the most conservative stance. He recommended that the prohibition on marijuana possession be continued "for the time being at least," but that the penalty be reduced to a mere \$25 for a first offence and \$100 for subsequent offences.

Even that most conservative view seemed dramatically liberal at the time.

But not for long.

U.S. Moved Faster

Less than a year after the Le Dain commission had reported, its U.S. counterpart, a highly conservative-looking group appointed by Richard Nixon and headed by a Republican ex-governor of Pennsylvania, released its findings.

Like the Le Dain commission, the Shafer commission found no evidence to support the scare stories about marijuana, and concluded that it was the law, not the drug, that was dangerous and harmful. It too called for the decriminalization of private possession and use.

In 1973, Oregon became the first state to act on these findings. Possession of up to one ounce of marijuana became punishable--on civil citation similar to a traffic ticket--by a maximum \$100 fine.

When subsequent studies of marijuana use in Oregon found no increase as a result of the new law, the conclusion that harsh laws are simply punitive, not deterrent, became inescapable.

Seven other states--Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota and South Dakota [as given]--have since followed Oregon's lead. South Dakota has even lowered the ante to a \$20 citation, putting marijuana use in the same category as double parking during rush hour.

Canada Sits Tight

Meanwhile Canada, which was first to blaze the trail in putting marijuana laws in perspective five years ago, has done nothing. The provisions which Gerald Le Dain (now a Supreme Court judge in Ontario) and his fellow commissioners found "grossly excessive" then remain so today.

Two years ago, in response to public pressure for action on the dust-collecting Le Dain report, Health Minister Marc Lalonde finally brought forward his much-delayed reform bill.

An embarrassingly modest step forward, it called for the present maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment for simple possession to be reduced to a \$500 fine for first offenders and \$1,000 fine for subsequent offences, with jail terms to be imposed only in default of payment.

The bill was introduced first in the Senate where, after extensive hearings, that notorious hotbed of radicalism was moved to liberalize several portions of it before passing it on to the House of Commons.

It then sat on the Commons order paper for 18 months, never being called for debate, and died when the parliamentary session ended last fall.

The demise of that bill should have led to the introduction of a new version in the present session. But thus far it hasn't.

That could be an encouraging indication that the Health Department is at work on a more realistic successor along the lines of those being adopted south of the border.

But sad to say, there is no evidence of that being the case.

Quite the contrary, health officials are apparently reluctant to push further than law 'n order hardliners in the Justice Department are willing to go, and the Justice Department sees no need to move at all.

It's not that the friendly folks in Justice are happy to see more than 25,000 young people convicted of marijuana possession annually, with 1,000 or more of them being carted off to prison each year. It's just that they think the only problem with the present law is that people persist in breaking it.

Paying the Price

A few weeks ago the U.S. Strategy Council on Drug Abuse, a top-level American government panel whose membership includes both the secretary of health, education and welfare and the attorney-general, noted that society pays a high price for the maintenance of strict marijuana laws, "high in terms of stigmatizing casual users with criminal records, high in terms of diverting limited criminal justice resources from other, more serious, matters; and high in terms of contributing to an atmosphere which nurtures disrespect for the law."

There is nothing novel about that observation. The Le Dain commission detailed it eloquently five years ago.

The only difference is that the Americans are acting on it.

CSO: 5320

DRUG UNDERCOVER WORK PRAISED BY JUDGE

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 29 Jan 77 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yorke Vickers]

[Text] Police didn't believe Adam Luk when he told them he knew something about the drug traffic, so the young Chinese persisted with a private investigation that led to the conviction Friday of two Hong Kong men as international heroin dealers.

For Luk, 24, the case climaxed six months of undercover work here and in Hong Kong, backed by police in the Far East after he had delivered a briefcase here containing \$5 million worth of heroin.

His efforts in Hong Kong, where he travelled with two Vancouver RCMP officers, resulted in the conviction of Wong Wah.

Wah was said to be the leader in a ring seeking heroin outlets in several countries including Canada and, particularly, Vancouver.

In county court Friday Judge D. T. Wetmore sentenced Ju Kong Cheng, 38, alias Ho Tin, and Hop Lau, 24, alias Lee Wing Kwong, to 18-year prison terms for conspiracy to traffic in heroin and importing the drug into Canada.

Luk, who is strongly opposed to the drug traffic, was the main Crown witness and Judge Wetmore said: "I am completely satisfied with the truthfulness and accuracy of Adam Luk in the evidence he gives of the dangerous activities he so bravely involved himself in from October 24, 1975, through six months of undercover activity in Canada and Hong Kong."

He also praised Luk as being "careful in his evidence and most meticulous in carrying out his activities, firstly as a lone undercover investigator and later as an agent of the police."

Luk's crusade began with his association with a third man charged in the conspiracy, Shih Shing Kwan, who escaped from Oakalla while awaiting trial and is still at large.

The indictment charges Kwan and the other two accused with conspiring with Wong Wah, the Hong Kong dealer, and other people, while Cheng and Lau were charged with importing, Judge Wetmore finding that they had the three pounds of heroin with them when they landed in Vancouver October 21, 1975.

Luk, who had known Kwan for a number of years, became aware in 1974 that Kwan was dealing in heroin and later that year went to the RCMP who, the judge said, either didn't believe him or did not take him seriously.

Judge Wetmore found that Luk appeared to go along with the proposition by Kwan, who once told him: "If you want to earn some money, you know, wait for my call. You know, the chance is coming. Just stay at home. Don't go away and I'll phone you."

Later, Luk was introduced to Cheng by Kwan and was given a briefcase containing slightly more than three pounds of heroin which Kwan asked him to take to his home and hide.

Luk then contacted police through his employer and the suitcase was subsequently taken to a motel after Luk pretended to be concerned at having it in his home.

He arranged for Kwan to have a key to the motel and Kwan was arrested after entering the motel and picking up the briefcase.

The other two accused were arrested after returning from a trip to Victoria and police found a notebook containing a Hong Kong telephone number in Lau's possession.

Luk testified that the two accused, Lau and Cheng, had told him they were part of an international conspiracy to traffic in heroin and gave him the name of Wong Wah as a person to contact if he (Luk) should join their enterprise for the purchase and delivery of drugs.

Judge Wetmore said this was one of the key pieces of evidence in the trial because Luk used this phone number when he eventually went to Hong Kong with a police escort last year to buy heroin from Wong Wah.

Wah was convicted in Hong Kong and sentenced to four years in prison.

The judge said that, according to evidence, the two accused and Luk discussed the difficulties they were having in importing heroin and also on quality and price.

They also told Luk he could join the business and it was at this time Lau gave Luk the phone number of Wong Wah as the man in charge of the business.

They also discussed the method of ordering and the code words to be used and told Luk that they were making this trip because eight pounds of heroin

belonging to their group had been seized in Vancouver the week before they arrived. Evidence showed a seizure was made on October 5.

Judge Wetmore said that, according to evidence, they talked of their group being "tough" and of killing others.

Defence lawyer William Kitchen and Thomas Fung suggested that the accused were merely acting as couriers but Judge Wetmore said he was satisfied they were here to elicit new markets for narcotics and had been given authority to deal in three pounds of heroin.

He said the accused were trafficking in heroin for a large reward, knew full well the risks they were taking and were not in any position to come to court and ask for sympathy.

Crown counsel G. C. Carruthers asked for a heavy sentence saying the men were part of a syndicate here to look for new business and establish new routes.

CSO: 5320

HASHISH IMPORTER SENTENCED

Ottawa THE SATURDAY CITIZEN in English 8 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by Peter Bakogee]

[Text] Patrick Mitchell, convicted last month of conspiracy to import hashish into Canada, has been sentenced to 10 years in jail.

Mitchell, 35, was found guilty by an Ontario Supreme Court jury of conspiring between May and December, 1974, to import about 130 kilos of hashish from Lebanon.

Mr. Justice Cory, in passing sentence Friday, instructed that the term be served concurrently with time Mitchell is now serving in prison.

Last spring, Mitchell was convicted of conspiracy to import cocaine and sentenced to 17 years in jail.

In June, he was found guilty of conspiracy to import liquid hashish and given a concurrent 10-year sentence.

During the five-week trial, the Crown's case centred on evidence of police informer Gary Coutanche. Coutanche said he had agreed to work with Mitchell in the scheme, but later co-operated with police.

He wore recording equipment concealed beneath his clothing, and agreed to have his telephone conversations with Mitchell intercepted and recorded.

Coutanche said his part in the scheme was to use his position as a freight handler at Ottawa International Airport to intercept the shipment before it went through customs inspection.

During the trial last month, co-defendants John Farrell and Brian Graham were found not guilty.

A fourth man, Lionel Wright, alleged to have been a conspirator in the scheme, did not stand trial.

He escaped from the Ottawa Regional Detention Centre last October and is still at large.

Before passing sentence on Mitchell, Mr. Justice Cory denied a defence motion to quash the conviction.

Lawyer David Wake had argued the evidence of this hashish conspiracy and the evidence of the cocaine conspiracy were essentially the same, and Mitchell had been tried more than once for what amounted to one offence.

Mr. Justice Cory said the cocaine and hashish plans constituted separate and distinct offences.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

TON OF HASHISH IN EVIDENCE AS DRUG TRIAL OPENS

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 8 Feb 77 p 11

[Text] Brampton--A ton of hashish in 16 bags was brought into court yesterday under guard by armed Peel Regional Police and RCMP.

The hashish is evidence in the trial of Robert Rowbotham, 25, formerly of Beeton. He is charged with conspiracy to import, conspiracy to possess for the purpose of trafficking and with possession of a narcotic.

He was charged jointly with four others in January, 1974. Last October, the other four pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to traffic and were sentenced to varying terms.

The drugs, valued at more than \$1.5-million on the street when seized, were first discovered by RCMP at Toronto International Airport on December 18, 1973. The drugs arrived in 16 crates addressed to Different Things Inc.

Federal Crown prosecutor Patrick Duffy told a 12-member Peel County Court jury that on December 28, 1973, the telephone of one of the convicted men, David Cripps, 30, of Mississauga, was wiretapped and the following day Rowbotham's telephone in Beeton was tapped.

He said wiretap evidence would be introduced at the trial.

The prosecutor added that the day before the five were arrested, Cripps was followed by police to Rowbotham's farm. Cripps and three others were arrested on January 8, 1974, in Mississauga and on the same day, Rowbotham was arrested in Beeton.

Last week, after a four-month voir dire hearing, Judge Steven Borins ruled admissible certain sections of the wiretap recordings made by police from December 28, 1973, to January 8, 1974.

The Crown prosecutor said he has 45 witnesses, but will not call all of them.

Defence lawyer Moishe Reiter also has several witnesses to call.

The trial is expected to last at least three months, both lawyers indicated. Prosecution evidence will continue today.

ARRESTS IN SIX COUNTRIES CRACK HEROIN RING

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 22 Jan 77 pp 1, 2

[Article by Larry Still]

[Text] After 17 months of world-wide sleuthing, two Vancouver police officers have succeeded in tarnishing the "Golden Triangle," Asia's infamous gateway to the world's heroin markets.

RCMP S.-Sgt. George Foulon and Vancouver city police Sgt. Ron Foyle travelled to Europe and Southeast Asia in their quest to smash one of the world's most pervasive heroin rings.

The two officers, members of the provincial Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit, worked closely with police in the U.S., Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Holland and Denmark.

The result of their operation, a CLEU spokesman said Friday, was the destruction of a Hong Kong-based heroin syndicate with outlets on four continents.

Spokesman Stan Shillington said Thailand police believe the gang has shipped more than 3,300 pounds of heroin to North America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

"When diluted with lactose and sold to addicts at Vancouver street prices, the 3,300 pounds of heroin could generate close to \$3 billion," Shillington said.

He stressed that there is no suggestion that the entire amount of heroin smuggled by the gang ended up on the streets of Vancouver.

Shillington said police in Bangkok and Hong Kong have alleged that the heroin was smuggled from the Orient in the linings of golf bags and overcoats.

He said the world-wide investigation started in August, 1975, after CLEU began probing the activities of a suspected high-level Vancouver heroin trafficker.

"What began as a local investigation by CLEU soon became international in scope," Shillington said.

As a result, 14 people have been arrested in six different countries and the investigation is continuing, he said.

Eight of those arrested, including two men already detained in Vancouver, have been named in a two-count conspiracy indictment sworn out in Vancouver.

The others named in the Vancouver indictment are being held in either Hong Kong, Bangkok, or Singapore, where Canadian authorities may start extradition proceedings.

It was the investigation of the alleged Vancouver trafficker, whom police suspected of importing heroin from Southeast Asia, that led investigators on the international hunt.

Working with overseas agencies, Foulon and Foyle followed the trail back to the Golden Triangle, the rugged, mountainous area at the junction of Burma, Laos and northern Thailand.

Authorities know too well that tribesmen in the remote Golden Triangle grow vast crops of poppies for harvesting between January and early March.

After harvesting, the poppy pods are allowed to "bleed" in a natural process that provides raw opium, which appears as white droplets before coagulating into a brown substance.

Traders travel by foot or mule among the villages buying the crops and transporting the raw opium to storage areas.

Armed mule or horse caravans then move out over remote jungle trails and transport the opium to clandestine staging areas near the Burma-Thai border.

There it is refined into morphine base or heroin and smuggled down to Bangkok and other southern ports for sale to local consumers or to international drug syndicates.

Police say an estimated half of the 600 to 700 tons of opium produced in the Golden Triangle each year is dispatched by drug syndicates to North America and Europe.

At a press conference Friday, the CLEU spokesman revealed the identities of seven Hong Kong nationals and one Vancouver resident named in the conspiracy indictment.

Charged with conspiring to import heroin into Canada and with conspiring to traffic in heroin are:

Chan Joe Wai, 46, of 843 East Georgia, who was arrested December 18, 1975, following seizure by RCMP of 10.7 ounces of heroin.

Wong Kwok Hang, 37, a Hong Kong resident who was a seaman on the freighter MV Pacific Rainbow when it docked in Vancouver last September and again in November.

He was arrested in Hong Kong and, escorted by S.-Sgt. Foulon was flown to Vancouver and arrived Friday.

Lui King, 46, and Lui Shun Ha, his 44-year-old wife, who live in Hong Kong and manage a Kowloon restaurant.

King was arrested in Hong Kong this week after he arrived there from Amsterdam. His wife was also arrested in Hong Kong as she was leaving for Macao. Both are held in Hong Kong.

Named as unindicted co-conspirators in the two counts are:

Pak Yok Lin, 51, the operator of the Ying Yuen Trading Company of Hong Kong. He was arrested last May in Bangkok, following the seizure of 4.45 kilos of heroin destined for Australia.

Leung Hung Kam, 34, a Hong Kong resident who was arrested with Pak in Bangkok and subsequently jailed for 20 years.

Lennox Elliott, 43, a Hong Kong resident who was arrested last January in Amsterdam following the seizure of nine pounds of heroin. He is now serving a two-year term.

Cheung Wan Hing, 52, of Hong Kong, who was arrested in Singapore last March after a courier was caught with 4.5 kilos of heroin in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Two other Hong Kong residents, Wong Gui Nam and Chern Lee Quan, are suspected of complicity in the ring but have not yet been arrested.

"It is alleged that those 10 named were actually involved or are associated with the Hong Kong-based syndicate," Shillington said.

He said the organization is divided into two groups, one responsible for finding buyers in foreign countries and the other for arranging shipments and controlling couriers.

"The 10 named in the conspiracy indictment are alleged to represent every level of the operation from the syndicate boss to the courier," Shillington said.

The Crown's allegation, he added, is that Pak heads the syndicate and Chern works as an associate out of Pak's office.

The Crown will further allege that Leung is Pak's lieutenant, Cheung is a courier-controller and Elliott is a courier.

He said the Crown also alleges that Lui is the distribution controller and his wife, Shun Ha, is an overseer of couriers.

The spokesman said the Crown alleges that Wong Kwok Hang and his brother, Wong Gui Nam, are intermediaries working for Lu and Chan Joe Wai is a receiver.

CSO: 5320

IMPOUNDING OF DRUG MAGAZINE AT BORDER CRITICIZED

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 25 Jan 77 p 48

[Editorial by Richard Labonte]

[Text] HIGH TIMES, impounded at the U.S.-Canada border earlier this month, is read by millions of Canadians and Americans.

Practicing much of what the magazine appears to preach could land many of its readers in jail.

But of all things pointing to the hypocrisy and futility of current anti-drug laws, the popularity and vigor of the publication--and of others, like HEAD and RUSH--leads the way.

Study after study shows that marijuana and hashish, in moderation, are no more harmful than tobacco and alcohol. A society which humors drunks and tolerates pervasive tobacco and liquor ads is practising a double standard when it condemns marijuana use.

Eight states in the United States have decriminalized (it's legal to use, but not to profit from) marijuana and hashish, and several more are sure to ease dope laws this year.

In Canada, action was promised three years ago by the Liberal government when it pledged a study of Canada's drug laws; it hasn't happened yet, and isn't likely to in the life of this Parliament.

HIGH TIMES was stopped at the border by application of section 422 of the Criminal Code, which makes it an offence to encourage anyone to commit a felony.

In the rather dated minds of Canadian customs officials, HIGH TIMES talks about drugs and so anyone who reads it must ingest drugs; the same logic would dictate that FIELD AND STREAM should be banned because it talks about rifles and fishing and so anyone who reads it must shoot to kill and poach in no-fishing areas.

Distressing

It's the double standard again, and a distressing one.

There has been some legal discussion as to whether application of that section of the Criminal Code in a passive situation (magazines don't incite orally, after all) isn't an insidious form of censorship.

Under the new interpretation, FIELD AND STREAM could probably be banned, if that sort of thinking were carried to illogical extremes; it certainly shouldn't be banned, of course, and neither should HIGH TIMES.

The marijuana magazines are a good example of how special-interest periodicals can flourish even while general magazine readership declines.

The men and women who run the magazine aren't dope-crazed hippies; they're aggressive business people who knew a lucrative market when they saw it, and are living quite comfortably off the mystique of marijuana.

Marijuana smokers are a giggly but sizeable minority of lawbreakers, an elite criminal class which knows that what it is doing is legally but not morally wrong.

Smoking for pleasure is a cult affair, and like all cults its members like to think they have special needs and like to have those needs catered to.

That's the function filled so profitably by the dope magazines, of which HIGH TIMES is the most successful and certainly the slickest.

The January 1977 issue, at a hefty 162 pages, contains what has become, in the past 2 1/2 years, a standard mix of features and departments--Whatever Happened to LSD? (it's still around, but harder to get); A Goose of a Different Color (they knew all about marijuana at Valley Forge); and, to tie the drug subculture in with the political subculture, a faintly disapproving analysis of the New World Liberation Front, the latest but still-active of California's action-over-ideology political movements; and discussions of health, law, films, records, books, style, psychoagriculture (a new field of study), and drug market quotations.

Dope Problems

An example of HIGH TIMES' measured approach to marijuana discussion shows up in Forum, where people's problems with dope are aired.

In answer to a letter from prospective parents who ask about the effect on a fetus of marijuana smoked by the mother, the editors make the point that "genetic research with cannabis in animals has been contradictory. Five research projects showed increased rates of birth defects" in animals. In humans, several studies have shown "above-normal rates of chromosome

abnormalities in pot smokers." But "it has been established that Aspirin, even in low doses, can double the average number of chromosome errors in human cells."

Medical research also indicates pot apparently does not cross the placental barrier, and immense quantities would have to be consumed before THC (the active ingredient in cannabis) showed up in a mother's milk. "There seems to be little to worry about about danger from grass during pregnancy, especially if use is only occasional."

But HIGH TIMES is a very cautious publication. The response closes with a stern warning: "Despite the lack of known dangers, we do not recommend using any chemicals during pregnancy. No medical or black market drug has ever been proven safe for the human fetus."

Does that sound like the counselling of a magazine dedicated to rotting the moral fibre of Canadians?

CSO: 5320

BRIEFS

SEVEN ARRESTED--Toronto (CP)--RCMP have seized drugs with a street value of more than \$60,000 and arrested seven men following a three-month investigation. Police said Tuesday they seized 982 grams of hashish oil worth \$50,000 and charged five persons with conspiracy to traffic in the drug. The five are Sammy Greenberg, 23, Robert James Brown, 27, John Bernard Duffy, 24, Raymond Channon, 26, all of Toronto, and Tom Braune whose age and address police did not know. Michael Schacnt and Manuel Mota, both of Toronto, have been charged with trafficking in 30 grams of cocaine worth about \$10,000 on the street. [Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 2 Feb 77 p 14]

DRUG LAWS REVIEW CONSIDERED--Ottawa (CP)--A review of laws respecting possession of marijuana and hashish will be considered soon by cabinet, Justice Minister Ron Basford said Tuesday. Mr. Basford said outside the Commons that he and Health Minister Marc Lalonde have been looking at possible changes to the law and department officials have been working on proposals. A bill passed by the Senate in 1975 recommended that possession of cannabis-derived substances be transferred from the Narcotics Control Act to the Food and Drug Act, which carries lighter jail penalties, but the bill never came before the Commons. [Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 2 Feb 77 p 42]

CSO: 5320

COLOMBIA

ESCAPED TRAFFICKER MAY BE BACK IN COLOMBIA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 3 Jan 77 p 10-A

[Text] Lima, 2 January (UPI)--The case of the Colombian drug dealer, Rafael Cruzat, who managed to escape under strange circumstances, has resulted in the arrest of two local lawyers and may lead to the involvement of other personages, depending on how the investigations progress.

The lawyers who have been served arrests warrants, issued by trial judge German Marzal, are Mario Barta Caverio and Raul Pena Cabrera, who several witnesses have testified as having intervened in various ways on behalf of Cruzat.

Escape

The Colombian trafficker, believed to be the head of an international organization that purchased cocaine hydrochlorate in Peru for shipment to the United States, escaped several months ago while being taken to the palace of justice to make a statement.

Cruzat, for reasons that Judge Marzal is investigating, obtained permission to go to the office of attorney Bartra, accompanied by a prison guard, and make a telephone call to Colombia.

When the defendant entered the elevator, one of his accomplices shot and wounded the prison guard, and Cruzat then took flight for parts unknown.

Probably in Colombia

It is presumed that Cruzat, who had been seized when preparing to make a shipment of cocaine in one of the organization's planes that landed at a secret airport on the country's north coast, is now in his native land.

Meanwhile, in the next few days Judge Marzal will summon the police chiefs to discuss matters and determine how Cruzat obtained the permission mentioned and other dispensations and whether it is true that he had a special fund of approximately \$200,000 for the purpose of facilitating his escape.

11532
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MORE COCAINE FOUND IN DEAD TRAFFICKER'S BODY

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Jan 77 p 5-A

[Article by Rodrigo Pareja]

[Text] Medellin, 1 Jan--The disconcerted and incredulous local authorities announced that additional plastic bags, filled with cocaine, had been found in the body of the North American woman who died here on 29 December.

The first discovery was reported on 30 December and had to do with 86 small containers, similar to bird eggs, that had been found in the intestines of Susan Mamville, 30, a native of Tennessee, United States.

That discovery left the authorities who fight narcotics traffickers in a state of perplexity and made it evident that the struggle is unequal in view of the audacity and imagination of the "mules."

Mamville died of poisoning when one of the small bags broke in her stomach. Had this not happened, those who pursue narcotics traffickers would now be being laughed at.

The authorities announced yesterday, the 31st, that other, additional bags had also been found in the foreigner's rectum, bringing the number of small containers filled with cocaine up to 110.

Search

Simultaneously with that discovery, authorities from Medellin and from the rest of the country were engaged in a feverish search for Walter Nicholls, who appeared to be Mamville's companion.

This person would be in a position to supply valuable information on the well organized chain of international narcotics traffickers who are resorting to the incredible method of swallowing small plastic bags of cocaine in order to be able to elude the action of the authorities.

11532

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKER'S ARREST--Medellin, Colombia, 12 Feb--It was reported here today that 63-year-old Maria del Transito Carvajal was arrested for possession of several kilograms of cocaine as she was about to board an airplane to the United States. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1409 GMT 12 Feb 77 PA]

F-2 NARCOTICS CONTROLS AT AIRPORT--Cali (from Ortiz)--The police F-2 narcotics control department revealed that arrangements were put into effect on a 24-hour basis during the end of the year at the Palmaseca international airport for the purpose of supervising the arrival and departure of persons at that air terminal in order to prevent any activity on the part of narcotics traffickers. A total of 20 secret agents trained in the control of narcotics traffic will be responsible for surveillance and will subject tourists' baggage to rigorous search. The office for the control of hallucinogenic drugs of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] also announced that it has put a specialized agency into operation at the airport mentioned. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 26 Dec 76 p 9-A] 11532

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS BROUGHT TO TRIAL--Cartagena, 25 December (by Dario Martinez)--Three persons were brought to trial by the first criminal court judge, Judith Camargo de Borre, following the investigation instituted into the traffic in cocaine discovered on board the flagship of the national navy during the cruise made last June. EL ESPECTADOR learned of this decision when it was issued late yesterday afternoon, bringing to trial Gilberto Arboleda Hurtado, Pedro Claver Hoyos, and Sergio Alvarez Carrasquilla, who were apprehended at the start of the investigative proceedings. They are being held in the national jail for persons under indictment, where they were notified of the decision. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 26 Dec 76 p 10-A] 11532

CSO: 5300

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

COCAINE HAUL--Two Mexicans have been arrested at Santa Maria Airport in San Jose in possession of \$3 million worth of cocaine. The Mexicans were on their way from San Andres Island, Colombia, to the United States. [Sercano Network] [San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1250 GMT 12 Feb 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

ARREST OF TRAFFICKERS--Alcin Camilo Garcia and Fernando Hidalgo Arizaga were arrested in Quito while selling cocaine. In another action, Farley Patricio Brionez Quiroz and Federico Bonifacio Ubillus Sanchez were detained in Portoviejo, Manabi, and found in possession of 115 envelopes containing cocaine base, ready to be sold. The latter are believed to be part of a powerful drug ring operating in the country. The police will continue investigating. [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Feb 77 p 10 PA]

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Quito--Interpol has seized 1.64 million sucres' worth of marihuana after capturing a drug ring that brought the drug from Colombia. The band, which included Gloria Amparo Restrepo Pelaez, Eugenia Maria Rendon Acosta and Alba Bonilla, among others, was headed by Beatriz Elena Montoya Rodas. The drug was brought from Colombia by various means and was sold at parties organized for this purpose. Another three persons, whose names have not been disclosed, have also been arrested in connection with this case. [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 4 Feb 77 p 10 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

REMISSNESS OF NUEVO LAREDO POLICE

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 10 Jan 77 p 3-B

[Text]"Have the Federal Judicial Police left...?", "Has the anti-drug campaign ended...?", "The attorney general of the republic has already forgotten Nuevo Laredo..."

Such insinuations are carried by word of mouth among the inhabitants of this frontier. The obvious fact is that the Federal Judicial Police agents suddenly broke off the campaign against drug trafficking. This campaign was launched by Pedro Ojeda Paullada, former attorney general of the republic. It produced good results for several years.

Numberless honorable citizens have stated to EL MANANA that the idleness of the federal authorities who have stopped their efforts to eradicate drug trafficking is inexplicable.

They told EL MANANA, "In previous months, it was practically established that the Federal Judicial Police were doing their duty. Although arrests of persons engaged in the distribution and smuggling of drugs did not take place daily, the arrests were frequent enough."

Other persons agree that during the last several weeks, the Federal Judicial Police have not made a single arrest. This indicates that they are not carrying out the instructions by the attorney general of the republic to incessantly combat the illicit drug business.

There is no doubt that the general public is uneasy due to the series of violent events which disturb the peace gained by the efforts of the persons who effectively struggled against gangsterism and drug trafficking.

One of the persons interviewed said, "The office of the attorney general of the republic must intervene in this matter to put an end to the abnormal events occurring in the city which harm the reputation of the port and disturb the peace of society as a whole..."

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

GENERAL INDIGNATION AT POLICE REMISSNESS

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Jan 77 p 3-B

[Text] The people of Nuevo Laredo are indignant at the conduct of the State Judicial Police agents who have not captured the murderer Jesus de Leon, alias "El Chiclé", another rowdy nicknamed "El Kaliman" and the people with them when they committed the triple homicide at "El Penon" ranch which belonged to the deceased Guillermo Chapa Castro, alias "Memo".

The State Judicial Police office has become a loafers' hangout. It is always crammed with indolent agents who are neglecting their duties.

Although they have sufficient identifying information on the assassins who murdered Guillermo Chapa Castro, alias "Memo", his son with the same name and another cowboy, investigations have been practically suspended as can be seen from the current state of the investigations of the murders.

Evidently, Ceferino Calderon Garcia, the chief of police, is notably remiss in suspending the fierce hunt which was made at the beginning for the killers.

Although traces of marihuana were found in several vehicles confiscated at the "El Cebollal" ranch belonging to murderer Jesus de Leon, alias "El Chiclé", the Federal Judicial Police intervention was also negative since there are no results.

The public indignation is fully justified since the failure to capture those murderers makes it evident that in Nuevo Laredo one has practically no security since honest citizens may be at any time victims of criminal actions and the criminals will remain beyond the reach of the law because there are no authorities to prosecute them.

8923

CSO: 2330

MEXICO

POLICE AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS PENALIZED

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 13 Jan 77 p 11-A

[Text] Pedro Gatica Estrada, the leader of the Single Union of Bureaucrats Serving the State, made a statement last night to EL BRAVO shortly after he presided at a meeting of the local union at the Pedro Saenz Gonzalez Municipal Auditorium, during which the main subjects discussed were the cases of Ricardo Zolezzi Cavazos, chief of the Judicial Police in this city, concerning whom insistent rumors are going around that he will be dismissed from his post and that of Constantino Cervantes, the former secretary of the First Court.

He said, "I am going to try to have a meeting on Thursday with Raul Albertos Betancourt to find out the exact status of our colleague Ricardo Zolezzi Cavazos, chief of the Judicial Police Group detached to Matamoros, so that we may know if he is to be transferred to the state capital or if they want to dismiss him from his position."

The state union leader said that if they wish to transfer to another place or to dismiss Ricardo Zolezzi they must give adequate justification for what they plan to do.

He said that if they do not have sufficient justification for removing Ricardo Zolezzi from the post he has held for many years, they cannot do so since he holds a key position from which he cannot be transferred except at his own request and if they wish to dismiss him from the Judicial Police, we also want to know the motives and reasons they have for doing so.

In reply to a question on the insistent rumors going around that Zolezzi will be removed from the position he is holding and that he would be replaced by Jesus Rodriguez, the former chief of the abolished DIE [Special Investigations Department], he said that this possibly is no more than a "tempest in a teapot". He expressed the hope that this would be the case but added that if the rumors are true "We will defend our colleague as far as possible since neither he nor any other key member of the state employee union may be transferred or removed from a position without sufficient cause."

Union leader Pedro Gatica Estrada reported that the case of Constantino

Cervantes is about to be settled and that he trusts that the decision will be favorable since they have presented all the evidence proving the innocence of Cervantes who was implicated in the shameful case of the shooting of professor Carlos Arias Gutierrez which resulted in his dismissal as secretary of the First Court along with some police chiefs, the dissolution of DIE and the firing of Juan Hector Garcia Benavides.

Pedro Gatica Estrada said finally that he is sure that the decision will be favorable and that subsequently Constantino Cervantes will be reinstated in his position of secretary of the First Court.

8923

CS0: 5330

CANADIANS WARNED DRUG RUNNING IN MEXICO HAS HIGH RISK

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 24 Jan 77 pp 1, 2

[Article by Malcolm Gray]

[Text] Mexico City--The No Smoking sign flicked on as the plane angled into the brown haze around the international airport. Joel Hately considered flushing down the toilet the two cocaine packages he had tucked under his jeans.

He was on his way back to Canada, just in time for Christmas, rolling along with three kilograms of cocaine from Lima, Peru.

Joel wasn't carrying that. The shipment was travelling in body packs under the loose clothing of two pretty young American women, mules they are called. A good term for carriers who take the biggest risks in drug smuggling and get the smallest cuts.

'It's Making Me Paranoid'

Changing planes in Mexico City meant going through customs. That couldn't be avoided as the usual flight he took back to Canada, KLM from Lima through the Caribbean, had been filled weeks before by Christmas travellers.

"I've been doing too much coke," he thought. "It's making me paranoid. Mexico City has never been a problem for me before. I got a \$30,000 shipment through here last month."

So Joel Hately of Lytton, B.C., held on to the last-minute gift from his Peruvian dealer, breaking his rule about carrying anything while accompanying mules on a run.

It was not the best move he had ever made. For the police at the airport quickly picked out and searched the two North American women on a plane filled with South Americans.

Even so, he would have got away if a soldier at the gate hadn't stopped him and brought him back to the room where the women were being searched.

The police put two and one together and Joel Hatelly's career as a drug smuggler was over.

"I was carrying \$3,000 in bribe money and the girls had \$1,000 each," he said in an interview. "We pulled that out but the police just waved their fingers at us and shook their heads."

Joel Hatelly has had time to polish the story of his arrest into anecdote for he was arrested in 1973 and has served half of a six-year-and-one-month sentence in a Mexican jail.

He is one of 13 Canadians--11 men and two women--imprisoned in Mexico. Most were arrested on drug charges, "an offence against health," it is called. For seven of them, 1973 was a bad year. They were arrested at the airport here trying to smuggle cocaine from Peru or Bolivia to Canada.

They are a continuing problem for both the Canadian Embassy here and the Mexican Government. For while there is little sympathy at the embassy for hard drug smugglers, they are still Canadian citizens entitled to what protection they can get for human rights violations.

The seven men held in Mexico City all tell of being tortured by the police when arrested, of having to pay bribes in prison for everything ranging from getting out of work to buying a soft drink or picking up mail.

That's the first culture shock--the second comes when prisoners find there is little the embassy can do about the torture charges.

"We've submitted the charges to the proper Mexican authorities and they told us that there was not enough evidence that the statements had been forced," said David Bickford, a young vice-consul who spends most of his time dealing with the problems of jailed Canadians.

Bad Publicity a Worry

"Usually, the Canadians don't speak Spanish, don't know who the arresting cops were or what time the investigations took place. And there are no witnesses around to see torture."

The Mexican authorities say that the North Americans were arrested on legitimate charges and tried fairly. But they are worried that bad publicity from a few widely reported cases will scare away tourists.

Such as that of Sharon Bethune, 22, of Richmond, B.C., who was held for eight months on charges of owning counterfeit U.S. money.

She was cleared of the charges and released last October but the man she was travelling with, Richard Terry, is still waiting to be tried.

They were on their way to Colombia, he said when arrested last February. Since then \$3,000 of the U.S. currency he was carrying has disappeared. He is charged with being in possession of \$12,000 in counterfeit \$50 bills.

A result of police corruption can be seen right on the central court of Santa Marta Penitenciaría, the maximum-security prison of the federal district.

There, on Saturday mornings, through the crowds of prisoners in navy-blue denim playing volleyball, the former police chief of Acapulco can be seen selling pork to other inmates. He was fired, along with 30 per cent of the Acapulco force, for corruption.

There are four Canadians serving time behind the rust-colored guard towers of Santa Marta. Two women are at the women's prison a few blocks away in a dusty, poor suburb on the outskirts of Mexico City.

Three other men are being held in the Reclusorio Preventivo del Norte, a new prison that with its inner courtyard of flowers and grass, poured concrete buildings covered with bright slashes of blue and gold paint could be a community college anywhere in Canada.

Three other Canadians are in jails outside of Mexico City. One man, Phillip Marachea, is in Tiajuana Jail, one of the worst in Mexico, for murdering a prostitute.

Two other men, Norman Piche and Daniel Beaulac of Montreal, are being held in the old but clean prison in Monterey in the north on drug charges. And, another Canadian, Daniel Matyk, is in a prison on Mexico's southern border for marijuana possession.

The usual descriptions applied to Mexican prisons--vermin-ridden, dirty, or corrupt--don't apply to the prisons in the capital where the Canadians are being held.

Les Fiegler is 26 now, a tall blond man from Calgary with something not usually seen on Canadian prisoners--a tan.

He has spent three years in prison after being arrested at the airport with 462 grams of cocaine. He was set up. The police were waiting with a passenger list and his name underlined in red ink. After they started slapping his wife around and threatened to rape her, Les Fiegler says, he told them he would sign a confession if they would let her go.

They did and that's how he got first-hand experience of Lecumberri Prison, or as everyone called it, the Black Palace.

The Black Palace isn't around any more. It was torn down a few months ago and the prisoners transferred to the penitentiary or the new Reclusorio del Norte.

Les Fiegler has mixed feelings about being in one of the showpieces of a reform movement trying to clean up Mexican prisons.

For at the Reclusorio, everyone is treated alike, a democratic ideal that in practice has left the North American prisoners remembering their days at Lecumberri with something approaching nostalgia.

Lecumberri would be a disgrace in any country. It was a prison where torture and beatings were routine, bribery was endemic and prisoners grew used to sleeping in excrement with rats all around.

But it was also a place where money could buy everything but freedom. Drugs, private cells with locks on the inside of the doors, daily visits, television and special food were available for the right price.

"Once you paid the price you were left alone all day," said Richard Terry. The price could be \$2,000 to get out of "work," meaning a guard would not get a prisoner up in the middle of the night to clean a courtyard with a wet cloth.

The commander of Lecumberri himself was jailed for the torture and extortion he regularly practiced on inmates and the new prison was staffed with new guards. As a result, bribery was greatly reduced although it is starting to creep in, as guards are paid low salaries.

Now a few pesos might change hands to allow a poker game to continue after lights out at 10 p.m.

For those who can afford it, the prisons in Mexico City can be fairly comfortable. The Canadians find it hard to adjust to the prison diet of rice, deep-fried beans, tortillas and coffee but they are allowed to buy their own fresh fruit and vegetables.

Les Fiegler gets \$100 to \$150 each month from his parents to buy food and clothing. That's about average for the Canadians in jail.

In some ways, Mexican prisons are more relaxed than Canadian institutions. For those who can afford a woman, or for prisoners with wives or girl friends, weekly conjugal visits are allowed.

A rumor that a new director at the women's prison might change the visits was enough to make Joel Hatelny marry one of the U.S. women who was arrested with him.

After the marriage ceremony and reception (dry) in the prison courtyard, the couple had a one-night honeymoon in the family-visit building, three stories of 8-by-8-foot bedrooms with rock music piped in.

The Canadian prisoners complain about inadequate rehabilitation programs, saying that learning to make shoes or leather belts isn't going to help them when they get back to Canada.

But jail treatment isn't their main complaint. Instead it is the slowness of the judicial system, ripoffs by lawyers, who got as much as \$30,000 in some cases in return for a promise of getting them off--and the refusal of the Mexican Government to grant parole to drug offenders.

Inmates jailed on drug charges are the only group of prisoners in Mexican jails not eligible for parole. They haven't been since 1971 when Mexico withdrew that privilege, co-operating with the U.S. Government's campaign on drug trafficking.

Last December, the Canadians joined 621 Americans, most of them in jail on drug charges, in a hunger strike that lasted almost a month. The strike was aimed at forcing the Mexican Congress to change the law allowing drug offenders parole. But Congress hadn't acted on the bill when the session ended December 31 and with a new administration under President Jose Lopez Portillo in office, parole for drug offenders isn't considered something requiring quick action.

It means just waiting out the time. The only way to reduce a sentence is through work time with one day off for every two days worked. But waiting is one of the first lessons learned by anyone in a Mexican jail, especially if his case is still to be tried.

The legal system is based on the Napoleonic Code and Canadians are shocked to discover that they are considered guilty until proven innocent. The length of time it takes for a case to be decided is another shock.

Prosecutors have one year before trial on a serious charge such as drug smuggling must be held. Anyone held on less important charges such as possession of marijuana (although here, too, a six-year sentence can be imposed), could wait six months in jail before the case was dealt with.

To the Canadian Embassy staff, the slow legal processes and the example of young Canadians serving long sentences should be a warning to other travelers that carrying drugs in Mexico is a dangerous and foolish business.

"I don't know why they do it," said one embassy official. "No, I do know. It's easy to think there isn't much risk when everyone on the beach is smoking grass, but it's still against the law and it could mean a long time in jail.

"There have been cases where one person was singled out of a crowd of people, all smoking marijuana, and arrested."

And once Canadians are in jail, the embassy staff can do little except bring in mail and money on monthly visits and make futile reports of torture to Mexican authorities.

There isn't much they can do about the crooked lawyers who take North American clients for everything they can get.

"It's hard to tell when a lawyer is going to do that," said vice-consul David Bickford. "We've had lawyers defend three Canadians in a row without complaints and then rip off the next one for no obvious reason."

Joel Hatley saw most of the profits from a successful drug run disappear as his lawyer pocketed \$20,000, giving, he says, little in return.

"We're not in the business of being brokers for lawyers," said Stuart Jackson-Hughes, one of the Canadian vice-consuls. The embassy has a list of lawyers who are willing to defend North Americans but it doesn't recommend particular lawyers or guarantee their performance.

"Sometime it works the other way too," said Mr. Bickford. "Many Canadians in the past haven't been too quick to pay money they owe lawyers after they get back to Canada."

The number of Canadians held in jails here is going down. When Mr. Bickford came here 18 months ago, there were 35 in jail. The 13 imprisoned now are a tiny part of the total jail population. But the Mexican Government is worried that Canadians will heed their appeal not to visit Mexico until accused persons get quicker trials and all prisoners are eligible for parole.

For tourism is down. Last year only 110,000 Canadians instead of the 150,000 expected visited Mexico.

"So foreign, yet so near," used to be a slogan used by the Mexican Government to draw tourists here. The embassy staff wants Canadians to realize that the laws, courts and jails are all foreign too.

CSO: 5320

MEXICO

'OPERATION CONDOR' BEGINS

Combined Effort to Fight Drug Trafficking

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jan 77 p 22-A

[Article by Roberto Martinez Montenegro]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 15 Jan. Tomorrow, at 0600 hours, thousands of soldiers and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic will start "Operation Condor," the objective of which is to combat the growing of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and marihuana in Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua, considered the "critical" states for these activities.

During a meeting which took place this morning in the 9th Military Region, the Secretary of National Defense, Gen Felix Galvan Lopez; the Attorney General of the Republic, Oscar Flores Sanchez; and the Governor of Sinaloa, Alfonso G. Calderon, drew up the plan to be carried out. Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo was appointed to coordinate the plan.

It was said that land, sea and air actions will be taken and will cover 80,000 square kilometers in the three states. Helicopters of different sizes will be provided for this purpose, along with light planes for the spotting of fields, herbicides for their destruction, a broad radio communications network, spare parts for the land vehicles and all of the materiel that may be requested for "Operation Condor."

The three states, Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua, make up the region where the greatest number of marihuana and poppy fields have been discovered.

Galvan Lopez said that the action is being taken at the direct orders of President Lopez-Portillo.

In this connection, the coordinator of the campaign for the three states, Carlos Aguilar Garza, stated in a speech that "the detection and destruction of marihuana and poppy fields is a fight against time."

He then explained: "At present, we have seven helicopters for spraying and four for the transportation of personnel. According to the aerial and land inspections which have been made, if in the space of 3 months and 10 days we do not destroy approximately 10,800 fields, we will have lost the war, as the drug traffickers will have been able to harvest and to traffic in the drugs."

He indicated that 10 additional helicopters and light planes are needed, as well as trucks. He reported that the herbicides are very effective in that they dry up the plants in less than 48 hours. He requested the establishment of an airlift and ground facilities and the creation of mobile supply bases.

The Attorney General of the Republic, Oscar Flores Sanchez, stated that the campaign also includes the arrest and investigation of persons who aid and abet drug trafficking from the cities.

"However," he emphasized, "it's better to do something than talk about it. The people are already tired of what has been repeated so many times and not carried out completely. Results will speak louder than words."

He said that one of the principal problems in putting an end to drug traffickers is that the people out of fear refrain from making concrete denunciations and fail to provide specific information which would permit the arrest of the criminals.

He asserted finally: "We hope the campaign won't last 20 years."

Anti-drug Campaign Stepped Up in North

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jan 77 p 23-A

[Article by Andres Vela Perez]

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 15 Jan. At the orders of President Lopez-Portillo and through a coordinated effort between the Secretariat of National Defense and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the anti-drug campaign in the northern and northeastern parts of the country will be greatly stepped up starting today.

To this end, a series of measures approved by the Chief Executive will be implemented with a view to the eradication of the scourge represented by drugs.

Gen Felix Galvan Lopez, Secretary of National Defense, during a technical stopover on his trip through the region, issued this statement at a meeting with generals and senior and junior officers of the 5th Military Region.

He said that in order to intensify the anti-drug trafficking campaign in Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua, a regional headquarters had been established which will be commanded by Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo.

He added that special troops had been sent to the contiguous areas of the three states mentioned, independently of the troops already assigned to the region to implement the orders of the President of the Republic.

Gen Galvan Lopez was accompanied by Oscar Flores, Attorney General of Justice of the Republic.

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CSO: 5300

ARMY: DEFINITE TIES BETWEEN DRUGS AND ARMS SMUGGLING

Operations Section Provides Arms and Drug Information

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Jan 77 p 1

[Article by Isabel Morales]

[Text] Drug trafficking is the activity which most promotes gunrunning in Mexico; in the last 6 years alone, the army has confiscated 1,424 long-barreled guns and 2,122 short-barreled guns, all of them illegally in the hands of drug traffickers.

According to a report prepared by the 3d Army Section, also known as the Operations Section, which is responsible for preparing training plans for army units, as well as the utilization and deployment of same, drug traffickers who take drugs out of the country by land, sea and air sell them abroad and receive payment in money and guns.

In turn, these guns are sold to gunmen who make payment for them in two ways: with money and principally, with the distraction of troops.

In the pursuit of drug traffickers and the locating of fields, the Secretariat of Defense annually spends a little more than 370 million pesos of its budget on salaries, supplementary clothing allowances, fuel and the expending of military equipment.

During this anti-drug trafficking campaign, from 1971 up until now, the army has destroyed 52,478 poppy fields covering an area of 23,766 hectares and 35,173 marihuana fields covering 12,204 hectares.

In the same period, 656 foreigners and 6,049 Mexicans were arrested and turned over to the competent authorities; 110 aircraft and 1,144 vehicles were confiscated from them; in addition to the guns already mentioned, 93,550 meters of hose, 178 pumps for the irrigation of the fields, 30 cans of liquid marihuana and 10 sacks of marihuana concentrate ready for processing. The following drugs were burned: 1,500 tons of marihuana, 2,270 tons of poppies, 415 kilos of opium, 240 kilos of heroin and 193 kilos of morphine.

Although the destruction of drug fields has increased yearly, according to the report, the drug traffickers are relentless in their efforts to obtain fabulous profits. "They are getting bolder every day, and their illicit activities are more difficult to uncover. By every means possible, they attempt to avoid the forces of law and order and when they are captured, on many occasions they secure their release in a few days."

After explaining the three plans which have been implemented to combat drug trafficking and, therefore, gunrunning, the report envisions an intensive indoctrination effort so that citizens will comply with the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law and, further, so that they will cooperate in all activities designed to increase the civic spirit of the people.

At present, the report goes on to say, units of the army and airforce are carrying out three action plans:

1. Plan "CANADOR" which includes the operations being carried out by all of the territorial commands with their own resources, except for the 27th, 9th, 10th, 21st and 35th Military Regions.

2. Plan DN-PR-2 which is being carried out by Military Regions 9, 10, 21 and 35. Contrary to the above-mentioned plan, this plan has the support of air resources provided by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

It is in these regions where the best results have been achieved, principally in the Sinaloa region, where the greatest number of helicopters and light planes are concentrated. These are used for the detection of poppy and marihuana fields and the transport of troops for the destruction of fields sown with drug plants.

3. The third plan has been implemented in the 27th Military Region--in Guerrero--in a special and permanent way.

From 1 May 1975 to the present, due to the permanent action of the army, it can be said that drug trafficking has almost been eradicated, as only 18 fields of poppies and 9 of marihuana have been discovered.

American Border Stores Sell Arms

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by Javier Zamora Cisneros]

[Text] On the Mexican-American border, the most frequently encountered contraband is clothing, food, perfume and electronic articles, as contraband arms are very difficult to detect, several sources stated yesterday.

This notwithstanding, there are many stores which sell guns in cities such as San Diego, California; El Paso, Brownsville and McCallen, Texas.

In San Diego, California, there are mainly 10 stores which sell guns, according to information supplied to EL DIA by the newspaper EL MEXICANO, Tijuana, Baja California.

In El Paso there are four shops which stand out; and, according to information provided by EL BRAVO, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, 2 months ago in McCallen, Texas, several United States nationals were tried in the counties of Hidalgo and Cameron for attempting to sell guns to Mexicans without any legal permit or authorization whatever.

The difficulty in locating contraband arms rests in the fact that in the northern states there are an indeterminate number of clandestine airports, particularly in Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas and Chihuahua, through which drugs can be exported and arms imported.

Similarly, it was noted that in the state of Texas, on the heels of the death of President Kennedy, a law was passed which prohibits the sale of arms to foreigners and United States nationals who fail to identify themselves.

The last confiscation of arms took place in Reynosa approximately 1 1/2 months ago from a Chicano named Trinidad Rocha who was arrested with nearly 4,000 cartridges for the following weapons: M-1, R-15, .45, .38 and 9 millimeters, according to a newspaper of that city, PRENSA.

Rocha lived in that border city in the state of Tamaulipas; however, a short time before his arrest, he also worked as an auxiliary police officer in Camargo. At present, he is under arrest in the Reynosa city jail.

The same publication also stated that approximately 7 or 8 months ago, several persons from the capital were arrested when they attempted to bring arms into the country; however, according to a statement made at the time by the customs administrator, they were taken immediately to the Federal District and turned over to the Federal Directorate of Security.

According to information obtained in the gun shops on the American side of the border, which sell guns, the best sellers are caliber .38 and .22 pistols, as well as 12, 16 and 22 gauge shotguns.

8143
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DRUG TRAFFIC-ARMS SMUGGLING CONNECTION ALLEGED

"Nonsense," Says Sicilia Falcon

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 pp 1, 12, 14

[Interview with Alberto Sicilia Falcon by Raul Calvillo]

[Text] Alberto Sicilia Falcon, charged by the American authorities as a drug trafficker and gunrunner, said that they are lying: "if they make those kinds of charges against me, let them present proof."

During an exclusive interview in North Prison by EL SOL DE MEXICO, Sicilia Falcon stated that "the United States federal drug administrator, Peter B. Bensinger, is trying to find a victim who is not from his country.

"He knows that if I were from the United States he would not make such bold charges because I would then sue him for defamation of character and slander, as he has no evidence upon which to base such charges. I have never had anything to do with drug trafficking, gunrunning or anything else."

Then he said that he had spent 2 years in Mexican prisons because of the negative publicity he received from the American authorities who were distressed over the fact that persons arrested in San Diego--and who were involved in those activities--had to be released because they couldn't prove anything against them."

He explained that it was childish to suppose that a person--such as he--29 years of age, had control over three continents, as has been alleged. "Now then," he added, "I only want them to prove some of the crimes they attribute to me. During the trial against me being conducted in the 3d District Criminal Court of this city, they have been unable to gather evidence against me. In spite of this, no judicial decision has been rendered."

[Question] Why do you think no decision has been rendered even though you have been in prison for 2 years?

[Answer] Because the judges are afraid. Since there is no evidence, if they were to release me, in the face of the publicity I have received at the hands of the U. S. authorities, everybody would think that I "had bought them."

"Everything Is Pure Fantasy"

[Question] According to information received from the neighboring country--Washington, 12 January (UPI)--you made a drug deal for \$250 million.

[Answer] I sure would like to have that money! Just let them tell me where it is! They can say that I am the King of England; but that is all pure fantasy. The only concrete thing they say is that I have such a sum of money and nothing more. They don't state in which banks the money is so that I can send for it.

[Question] They also say that you have a house "that resembles a fortress" in Tijuana and another house in Coronado, California; that the first of these houses is being cared for by one of your lieutenants--identified as Julio Bello Guinart--with two adult lions.

[Answer] What they say about the house in the United States is a lie. I don't have any property in that country. My house in Tijuana is an ordinary house and is not worth what they say. As for what Bello Guinart is doing, I have never in my life known a man by that name. Finally, with regard to the "adult lions," I am only acquainted with those in the zoo.

[Question] The foreign news agency quotes the United States DEA official to the effect that you and Gaston Santos, a well-known Mexican mounted torero, "made deals with American companies for the purchase and manufacture of guns including automatic rifles with grenade launchers--some of which were to be used in revolutionary activities in Central and South America."

[Answer] I am acquainted with Gaston Santos. I met him in Tijuana during a bullfight. I have made deals for fine horses--and I have proved that--and on that occasion, about 3 years ago, I liked one of his horses, we agreed to meet and we made a deal for several of his horses. That was the sum total of our "illegal activities."

[Question] How then do you explain the allegations of your trafficking in hundreds of kg of drugs and your having millions of dollars?

[Answer] They limit themselves to saying that. They could just as easily say hundreds of thousands of kg of drugs and billions of dollars. It would be nice if they would stop talking and prove it. I, too, could say what they are. But I would have to prove it.

Let Them Investigate: Gaston Santos

In a document sent to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Potosi torero Gaston Santos denies that he has any guns as claimed by an American official and as reported by a news agency.

The torero requests that the federal agency investigate this particular to clarify the situation.

In response to this request, Oscar Flores Sanchez, head of the federal agency, turned the matter over to the Directorate of Pre-Trial Investigations of his organization for immediate action.

Attorney General Begins Probe of Allegations

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jan 77 pp 12-A, 33-A

[Article by Alfredo Marron B.]

[Text] Yesterday, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic began investigations into gunrunning from the United States to Mexico, pursuant to a complaint which was presented last Wednesday to the United States Senate.

Torero Gaston Santos, who is named as one of the principal arms purchasers and is said to possess an arsenal large enough to equip 1,500 men, told the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic that he is in no way implicated in this case and that he be subjected to any investigation the government might desire.

Raul Mendiola Cerecero, chief of the Federal Judicial Police, said that he was awaiting orders for the organization which he heads to initiate the pertinent investigations in connection with the arms traffic. "For the moment," he added, "I am not completely informed on this subject."

Gaston Santos, in a document sent to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, stated that he possesses no kinds of guns and at the same time requested that an investigation be started.

This agency reported that with regard to the complaint presented before the American Senate--in it, large landowners, drug traffickers and groups of activists are charged with illegally bringing thousands of guns into the country between 1972 and the present time--the Directorate General of Pre-Trial Investigations of that same agency had started the appropriate investigations, although it was only familiar with news accounts.

No Arms, Drugs Connections in Guadalajara Say Officials

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 29-A

[Article by Eduardo Chimely]

[Text] Guadalajara, Jalisco, 14 Jan. The coordinator of the permanent anti-drug campaign, Agustin Peniche Alvarez, and the commanders of the Federal Judicial Police, Jose de Jesus Meixueiro Kuntzy and Heliodoro Valencia, stated today that "no gun running has ever been detected in Guadalajara."

Both Peniche and the federal agents, assigned to region 4, which comprises the states of Jalisco, Colima and Nayarit, said that during the 15 days since they had assumed their posts, only 12 pistols of different calibers had been confiscated at the checkpoints installed on the highways.

When they were questioned about the charge that there are arsenals in Mexico which were obtained in exchange for drugs, Agustin Peniche stated that there is no basis for such allegations, as it is the responsibility of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic to conduct an investigation, in the event there are concrete charges.

He added that in region 4, which comprises the states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Colima, no arms shipments have been detected, nor has anyone been arrested with large amounts of drugs.

Peniche said that there are permanent checkpoints, supported by the army.

"We took over our jobs a short 15 days ago," he indicated, "and we have specific orders concerning our anti-drug trafficking activities."

Galvan: Unemployment Aggravates the Problem

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 15-A

[Article by Isabel Zamorano]

[Text] Secretary of National Defense Felix Galvan, said yesterday that unemployed persons living in the border region are those principally responsible for arms trafficking, from which they obtain a lot of money. However, although the illicit introduction of arms does not represent a serious problem, the army will intensify the anti-drug smuggling campaign, not only in those regions, but throughout the country.

Interviewed in the Palacio Nacional, Galvan Lopez gave assurances that there are no private armies in Mexico and no guerrillas, because the arms being brought into the country illegally are individual acquisitions not intended to supply arsenals.

The Secretary of National Defense visited President Lopez-Portillo to inform him of the results of the anti-drug traffic campaign which has been intensified during the past few months in some regions of the country, including Chihuahua.

President Lopez-Portillo authorized the dispatch of troops to the critical regions to get to the root of the problem.

As for the arms traffic, Galvan Lopez said that smuggling is in response to the permanent anti-gun running campaign being conducted as well as to the closing of the gun shops in Mexico. This results in a loss of opportunity on the part of Mexicans to satisfy a national craving: ownership of a gun.

Arms Registered

Galvan Lopez reported that from 1970 to the present, 52,851 guns of different calibers had been confiscated throughout the country. A registry of 1,783,375 guns is being maintained with permits issued by the competent Secretariat.

The general recalled that the registration of a gun does not imply the right to carry one, but rather the right to have it in the home for self-defense.

Later he explained that the anti-drug campaign is intimately linked to the anti-gun running campaign because on many occasions it is the drug traffickers who are most interested in owning guns and obtain them illegally.

Galvan Lopez stated that up until now the Secretariat of Defense has been lenient and has only taken guns away from persons who possessed them illegally; however, the law also calls for arraignment and penalties for those who violate the law. The anti-gun running campaign will be permanent throughout the country and those responsible for it will act with greater rigor.

Guerrillas? No!

According to the Secretary of National Defense, there are no guerrillas. There are those who assassinate, murder, rob and attempt to bring about chaos, grouped under various names, "let them call themselves what they will"; however, they are not classified as guerrillas, as the latter respond to an ideal, are organized, wear uniforms and have established passwords.

There are those who cause problems in the country, call them what you will; however, they are in no way guerrillas, he observed.

As for the fight against drug trafficking, he said that the troops assigned to the triangle located between the states of Durango, Chihuahua and Sinaloa where the terrain, climate and conditions are suitable for crops, had been given equipment and modern material to stop drug trafficking.

He added that the Secretariat of National Defense will continue to fight drug trafficking in the rural areas, while the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic will do so in the cities; however, both will operate in close collaboration, in accordance with the plan which exists on the national level.

8143

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

AUTHORITIES DESTROY DRUGS

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 3-B

[Text] More than 6 million pesos worth of marihuana and heroin were destroyed yesterday in the yard of the "Macario Zamora" military quarters in the presence of civil and military authorities and reporters of several local news media.

Juan Munoz Sanchez, the third state district court judge, authorized the destruction of the drugs placed at his disposal in several proceedings before his court.

He gave detailed information on the drugs seized in the following cases:

140 packets of marihuana were seized from Curtis Russel Dantin, Proceedings Number 101-975; 510 kilograms of marihuana seized from Maximiliano Salinas, Proceedings Number 95-976; 366 kilograms of marihuana seized from Kenneth Leo Simpson and others, Proceedings Number 74-976; 416 kilos of hashish seized from Javier Fernandez Perez, Proceedings Number 109-976; 3,176 packets of marihuana, Proceedings Number 119-74 against Ramon Vazquez Delgado; and 1,045.35 grams of heroin seized from drug trafficker Lorenzo Torres Solis and others, Proceedings Number 211-976.

The public function at which these drugs were destroyed was at 1530 hours in the yards of the military quarters with the sanction of Juan Munoz Sanchez, third district court judge; Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinoza, federal public prosecutor agent; Dr Eduardo Takasity Elizondo, director of public health and other civil and military authorities.

8923

CSO: 5330

BRIEFS

ARRESTS FOR GLUE SNIFFING--Yesterday at the corner of Algarrobo and Roble streets in the General Mariano Matamoros suburb, the municipal police arrested the following youths for sniffing glue on a thoroughfare: Pedro Alfonso Franco, 18 years old; Ernesto Lozada Gonzalez, 18 years old; and Jorge Moreno Perez, 17 years old. The three youths live in that suburb. Residents of Algarrobo, Cedro, Balsas Abedul and Lopez Mateos streets have made complaints against these three youths and others for gathering on the streets of the suburb to inhale glue and to scandalize. [Text] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 13 Jan 77 p 11-A] 8923

NEW CUSTOMS SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR--Former police inspector Roberto Morales Garza took office yesterday as administrator of the Ciudad Miguel Aleman customs office during a ceremony without precedent in this community. More than 200 persons were present, most of them from Matamoros. Roberto Morales Garza replaced Faruk Fallad Zelk who was transferred to Mexico City. [Excerpts] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 10-A] 8923

NEW HEAD OF FIRST DISTRICT, MONTERREY--Francisco Javier de la Rosa will return today as the chief of the First District with headquarters in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. The post will be turned over to him by Leopoldo Ramirez Limon, director general of customs and other officials of the under secretariat of investigations and fiscal execution. He replaces Carlos Sandez. Francisco Javier de la Rosa had previously held this post in the First District which is under the general directorate of customs. From this post he was transferred to the Fifth District with headquarters at Cozumel, Quintana Roo. De la Rosa is well known in this region where he had worked in the State Fiscal Office at Valle Hermoso and in this city. A group of friends from this city came to the swearing in ceremony. [Text] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 10-A] 8923

CHIEF JUSTICES OF COURTS SELECTED--Mexico, 3 Jan (SED)--Today during its 1977 annual plenary session, the Federal District Superior Court selected Salvador Martinez Rojas to be its new chief justice. In reply to a question on the thirst for justice of the people of this city, Martinez Rojas said, "That is what has always been called for so we are resolved to satisfy that need of the Mexican citizens." The Mexican Supreme Court

selected Agustin Tellez Cruces to be its chief justice for 1977. Tellez Cruces replaces Mario G. Reballedo. The new chief justice of the Mexican Supreme Court spoke of possible reforms of the laws protecting individual rights and of the organization of the judicial branch to modernize and to bring up to date numerous legislative aspects. (editor's comment)--Agustin Tellez Cruces was a strict Nogales District Court judge who is remembered with affection and esteem. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 4 Jan 77 pp 1, 4] 8923

NAVY JOINED STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS--Mexico, 3 Jan--Adm Ricardo Chazaro Lara, secretary of the navy, announced that President Lopez-Portillo approved a vigorous plan for the federal government to begin immediately a struggle against drug trafficking. At the end of a meeting held at the National Palace for that purpose, the secretary of the navy said the navy will fully contribute to this struggle by watching the territorial waters and the 200-mile economic zone. He said that in the joint effort, the secretariats of government, defense and labor will also work with the prosecuting attorneys, the Federal District department and the general staff of the office of the president. Besides, Chazaro Lara announced that the navy has a specific plan to increase vigilance of our coasts and to struggle against pirates. He will present the plan for consideration at his next meeting with President Lopez-Portillo. In reply to a question on the number of ships and plans to increase this, Chazaro Lara said, "At present, there are no definite plans on this. I believe that we will soon need more units." [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 4 Jan 77 pp 1-2] 8923

HEROIN COURIER ARRESTED--Mexico, 3 Jan--Chiquinquira Quiroz de Londono, a Colombian drug trafficker with criminal records in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, was captured at Mexico City International Airport with 4.5 kilos of pure heroin hidden in a secret compartment of a suitcase. The woman arrived on Argentine Airlines flight 370 from Bogota, Colombia. At the airport waiting room, the Federal Judicial Police agents noticed that she was very nervous so they inspected her baggage. In a secret compartment of her suitcase, the federal agents found the drugs in five polyethylene bags. At the office of the federal public prosecutor, the prisoner said that she came to Mexico to deliver the drugs to a Mexican she had met in Bolivia who invited her to Mexico and promised to take her on a pleasure trip to Hermosillo, Sonora. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 4 Jan 77 p 4] 8923

TRAFFICKERS GET PRISON SENTENCES--Yesterday, Luis Garcia Romero, the second district court judge, sentenced six convicted drug traffickers. The following sentences were decreed: 5 years and 10 months imprisonment and a fine of 5,071 pesos to Jose Raymundo Valdez Garcia, alias "El Sapián," 20 years old; 8 years and 6 months imprisonment and a fine of 7,245 pesos to Antonio Soto Ramirez; 8 years and 6 months imprisonment and a fine of 7,245 pesos to Rodolfo de la Cruz Salas; 7 years imprisonment and a fine of 5,478 pesos to Jeronimo Banda Leyva; 2 years and 4 months imprisonment

and a fine of 805 pesos to Ruiz Briones; and 7 years 10 months imprisonment and a fine of 5,635 pesos to Margarito Rodriguez Pedraza. This gang sent marihuana to Nuevo Laredo from Apatzingan, Michoacan, Saltillo, Coahuila, Monterrey and Dr Arroyo, Nuevo Leon. They were arrested on 25 November 1975 because two drug addicts informed as to who their suppliers were. Several arms belonging to the prisoners were seized. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 1-B] 8923

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Mexico, 11 Jan--A gang of four drug traffickers was captured by the Federal Judicial Police when they were boarding a Ferrocarril del Pacifico train in Culiacan, Sinaloa, for Mexicali, Lower California. They were carrying a total of 10 kilograms of heroin worth 30 million pesos on the black market. The prisoners are Sofia and Ana Esparza Lopez, Maria de los Angeles Lugo and Guadalupe Quintero Ortiz. Each woman carried 2.5 kilos in small polyethylene bags attached to their legs. The Federal Judicial Police had been investigating for a month the activities of the Esparza Lopez sisters because they had evidence that they were engaged in drug traffic. When they were arrested at the Culiacan railroad station, the four women denied that they were transporting drugs. However, they were taken to the office of the federal prosecutor where the drugs were found by the matrons who searched their clothes. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Jan 77 p 6-B] 8923

GANG OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS IMPRISONED--Yesterday Cayetano Hernandez was the acting third district court judge due to the absence of the incumbent judge Luis Garcia. He decreed the imprisonment of Lorenzo Torres Solis, alias "El Pajaro," Jose Luis Castillo Q., Virginia Mora Alejo, Maria de la Luz Gomez de Castillo, Elodia Alcorta de Torres, Dora Gomez Garcis for crimes against public health by the possession and traffic of drugs. This is a case in which Lorenzo Torres Solis, Elodia Alcorta de Torres, Jose Luis Castillo, while in La Loma jail for crimes against public health, directed a well organized gang consisting of the latter's wife Maria de la Luz Gomez de Castillo and other women. The women brought drugs from Sinaloa and contacted American drug traffickers. The drugs were delivered to Virginia who transported them to the buyers who came from the U.S. When one of the latter was arrested in Houston, Texas, he disclosed how the gang operated and the federal agents got on Virginia's track. This is how it was discovered that from inside the jail, in an almost shameless way, the two drug traffickers directed the drug traffic. The gang of drug traffickers seem to have very good contacts since an array of lawyers represented them. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Dec 76 p 8-B] 8923

TRANSFERS OF JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICERS--Reliable sources reported that numerous changes are about to be made in the Nuevo Laredo Federal Judicial Police detachment. Soto Silva will take office tomorrow in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Luis Soto Silva will go tomorrow Monday to Reynosa, Tamaulipas to take over the post of chief of the Federal Judicial Police group there. Soto Silva is also a strong candidate for the post of federal commander in Nuevo Laredo. Oscar Flores Sanchez will make the decision. [Excerpts] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Jan 77 p 8-B] 8923

CUSTOM SERVICE ADMINISTRATORS NEW ASSIGNMENTS--At the General Directorate of Customs, the following assignments of custom service administrators were made: customs inspector Javier Guzman Padilla to the custom service at the International Airport; Mariano Escobedo to that at the city of Monterrey; Alberto Arango de la Huerta to that at Tuxpan, Veracruz; newspaperman Luis Gutierrez y Gonzalez to that at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and finally customs inspector Manuel Aguirre Tostado to that at Acapulco, Guerrero. [Excerpt] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Jan 77 p 1-A] 8923

JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICERS TRANSFERS--EL DIARIO was informed that the Federal Judicial Police ordered Jesus Godoy Garcia and Francisco Fernandez Marin to report to the capital and took them off duty here in view of their failure to carry out their assignments in the struggle against drug traffickers and other federal crimes. Carlos Ariza San Vicente and Julio Reyes Loera arrived here as the new Federal Judicial Police agents. They are expected to work better than their predecessors. [Excerpts] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 8-A] 8923

NEW JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICERS--Tomas Garcia de Hoyos, the new chief of the State Judicial Police Group in this city and two of his men, Francisco Tovar and Hector Castillon Ibarra, were introduced yesterday by Noel Munoz Pineda, chief of the Municipal Traffic Police, who represented Capt Raul Lemuel Burciaga. They were introduced to the authorities of the Public Prosecutor and Public Defender offices and to those of the Coahuila Court of Justice, including the state attorney general, the Penal Court and Civil Court judges, the Civil Court attorney and Municipal President Santos Medina. [Excerpt] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 1-B] 8923

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Jose Luis Hinojosa Salinas, Victor Manuel Flores, Ricardo Gonzalez Montes and Celso Cantu Chapa will be turned over today to the Coahuila District Court. Carlos Araiza San Vicente and Julio Reyes Loera of the Federal Judicial Police arrested them after they had placed on board of special boats a considerable part of more than two tons of marihuana. Evidently this was not the first job of exporting marihuana by these drug traffickers. They were not discovered by the previous Federal Judicial Police agents who were dismissed for not acting against federal crimes committed at this frontier port. The Federal Prosecutor office is silent as to the investigations it is making. The Guadalajara, Jalisco, authorities seem to have been exhorted to arrest the suppliers of the large shipments of marihuana seized by the Federal Judicial Police. [Excerpt] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 8-B] 8923

GOVERNMENT NEGLECT OF SALINA CRUZ BEACHES--Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, 10 Jan--The beaches of this port are utterly neglected. Large piles of rubbish are everywhere. Up to now, the authorities have done nothing to keep clean the beautiful places which are tourist attractions. The judicial police

should send personnel to expel the drug addicts who publicly, in full daylight, take all kinds of drugs causing a degrading and shameful spectacle to visitors. [Excerpt] [Salina Cruz EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 11 Jan 77 p 1] 8923

GANG OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS IMPRISONED--The appeal against their imprisonment order decreed by the third district court judge made by the presumed drug traffickers Lorenzo Torres Solis, Gualberto Urtuzuastegui Acosta and Jose Antonio Ozuna Ruelas was rejected by the Unitary Court of the Fourth Circuit with headquarters at Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. Juan Munoz Sanchez, the regular third district court judge, provided this information. He said that those three persons are imprisoned by court orders for allegedly committing crimes against public health by possession and trafficking of heroin. In this same case, proceedings are also made against Jesus Chavarria Velazquez, Juan Quiroz Lopes, alias "La Chumacera," Jesus Rivera Reyna and Roberto Lara Martinez. All of these persons are members of a gang of drug distributors which has practically been broken up by the Federal Judicial Police agents who seized heroin which they had ready for distribution. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Jan 77 p 3-B] 8923

HEROIN COURIER ACQUITTED--Elidia Alcorta de Torres, wife of the notorious drug trafficker Lorenzo Torres Solis, alias "El Pajaro," yesterday at 1530 hours left the Municipal Jail where she was held since the end of December when she was implicated in illicit activities of other women engaged in acquiring and selling heroin. Luis Garcia Romero, the second district court judge, ordered yesterday the immediate release of Elidia Alcorta due to the disappearance of evidence requested by the lawyers Jose Angel Valdez Reyna and Alfredo Garza Guajardo in which the accused was considered legally innocent. The Federal Judicial Police arrested Virginia Mora Alejos with several ounces of pure heroin in her possession which she had acquired in Sinaloa which was to be delivered to Lorenzo Torres Solis, alias "El Pajaro." Elidia Alcorta de Torres was later arrested since she was said to be involved in the drug traffic but, as was said above, her legal innocence was established and she was set free due to the sophistry of her lawyers. [Excerpts] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Jan 77 p 3-B] 8923

DRUG TRAFFICKER RELEASED--The Unitary Court of the Fourth Circuit with headquarters in Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, definitely confirmed the order for the release granted Roland Ayala Garcia who was captured after a warrant for his arrest was issued charging him with crimes against public health. The confirmation of the release was granted after the federal public prosecutor agents disagreed with this order and appealed to the Unitary Court. Ayala Garcia was mentioned in the proceedings made against the drug traffickers Raul Javier Sanchez Pena and Ruben Mendoza Lizarraga. These two men were arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents near the city of Camargo, Tamaulipas, while transporting to Reynosa a truck loaded with

several tons of marihuana. After they were intensively interrogated about the drugs, they confessed details as to who owned the drugs and who were involved in the business. On this basis, the warrant was issued for the arrest of Rolando Ayala Garcia who was released for lack of sufficient evidence in spite of the objections of the federal attorney. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Jan 77 p 3-B] 8923

ARMS SMUGGLER IMPRISONED--Reyes Acevedo Correa was imprisoned yesterday after formal proceedings were begun against him at the Second State District Court for attempting to introduce ammunitions clandestinely in violation of Article 84-I of the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law. When the customs guards checked his automobile, they found on the front seat in full view two television sets and a tape recorder but when they made a careful search, they found hidden under the seat several boxes of ammunition of different calibers and other merchandise. Reyes Acevedo admitted that the boxes of ammunition belonged to him. [Excerpts] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 3-B] 8923

DENIAL OF ARMS TRAFFICKING BY FRONTIER INHABITANTS--Jose Luis Vazquez Cantu, president of the National Chamber of Commerce, said, "Unemployed residents at the fronteir are not engaged in firearms trafficking as Felix Galvan, secretary of defense, stated in Mexico City." He added, "Those who engage in this illicit activity live in the center of the republic." In reply to questions made by EL MANANA, Vazquez said, "It would be unwarranted to say that all unemployed residents here engage in that illicit activity because of few of them do so." He elaborated on his views of the statements made by the secretary of defense. He said, "The customs authorities confirm my statements because when they discover smuggled arms, the owners of the arms always live in cities at the center and south of the country and almost never are residents of frontier areas." He said, "I realize that in Nuevo Laredo some people may engage in this activity, but the vast majority of the unemployed persons are honest and hard workers who have committed no crimes other than not having work." [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Jan 77 p 1-B] 8923

NEW PUERTO CORTES NAVAL COMMANDER--Mexico, Federal District--Yesterday at 2245 hours when taking off from Puerto Cortes, Lower California, an MP-301 Mexican navy plan swerved to the right and fell into Magdalena Bay, Lower California. Rear Admiral Jose Guardado Dominguez, commander of the Fourth Naval Zone with headquarters at Paz, Lower California, the pilot of the airplane Navy Commander Aurelio Cruz Saavedra and Dr Oscar Arnoldo Detmex died during the accident. Rear Admiral Guardado Dominguez had gone to Puerto Cortes to turn over the command of the Puerto Cortes post to Navy Captain Luis Olguin Fernandez. [Excerpt] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Jan 77 p 1-1] 8923

NARCOTICS CONFISCATION--Mexico, 13 Feb--After a 15-day investigation the Mexican federal police siezed 136 kg of cocaine and 5 kg of heroin and arrested three drug traffickers at the Tijuana airport, where they had arrived aboard a private plane en route to the United States. No further information has been released, apparently in the hope of making new arrests. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1721 GMT 13 Feb 77 PA]

DRUG HAUL, TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--Culiacan, Sinaloa Mexico, 9 Feb--The Sinalda authorities today reported the seizure of 43 tons of marihuana and 2 grams of cocaine and the arrest of a U.S. citizen, who goes by the names Joe Walker and Raul Gonzalez in connection with this case. Prior to Walker's arrest the authorities had seized another 8 tons of marihuana stashed in a trailer found in a ranch located near this city. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 10 Feb 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

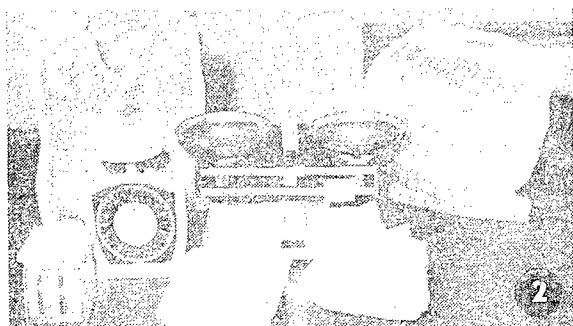
COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Jan 77 PA

[Text] Members of the Narcotics Division of the National Department of Investigation have arrested the members of an international drug ring. They seized 1 kg of cocaine worth more than 250,000 balboas and raided a service station in which special compartments were built into cars to transport drugs from Panama to the United States. Colombians Favio Tavares Alvarez, his brother Arturo Tavares Alvarez and Luis Gonzaga Buitrago Girardo, as well as Panamanian Aurora Jaen de Arango have been arrested. The authorities seized the cocaine at Mrs de Arango's home in La Chorrera.



Taller donde se preparaban los autos.



Material usado en la venta.



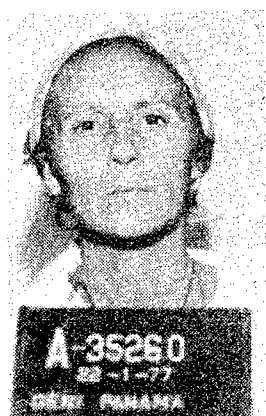
La droga decomisada, un kilo de cocaína.



FABIO TABARES
ALVARES



LUIS GONZAGAS
BUITRAGO GIRARDO



AURORA JAEN
DE ARANGO.



ARTURO TABARES
ALVARES

Key:

1. Service station where the automobiles were prepared.
2. Equipment used in making sales.
3. One kilo of cocaine which was confiscated.

PANAMA

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS NABBED--San Jose, 11 Feb [ACAN-EFE]--Mexican citizens Benito Gutierrez Mejia and Pedro Guzman Collins were arrested today at the Juan Santamaria International Airport, located 20 km from San Jose. Two and one-half kg of cocaine were found in their possession. The two men were coming from the Colombian island of San Andres and were on their way to San Salvador. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0257 GMT 12 Feb 77 PA]

DRUG TRAFFICKER'S ARREST--Narcotics agents at the Tocumen International Airport captured Robert James Coutts when they found 2.5 kg of cocaine paste in his possession at his arrival from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on Tuesday morning. The 29-year-old Canadian said he had bought the drug in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and was planning to take it to Canada. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Jan 77 pp 1, 2-B PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

COCAINE PEDDLER ARREST--Alfonso Williams Ordinola, age 34, was arrested near his home in Callao while in possession of 80 small packages of cocaine paste which he was attempting to sell. Ordinola said he got the narcotic from another trafficker who is still being sought. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 77 p 77 PA]

COCA POSSESSION ARREST--The Civil Guard has arrested Domingo Morales Requena, 42, for possession of 5 kg of coca found in his residence in the process of being made into cocaine paste. Other material used in the processing of cocaine was also confiscated during a police raid on Morales Requena's home. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 1 Feb 77 p 10 PA]

COCAINE PASTE DISCOVERY--In a successful raid using police dogs, the Civil Guard in La Victoria uncovered a cache of 50 packages of cocaine paste which had been hidden by Manuel Barrios Chavez. Several persons involved in the traffic of marihuana and cocaine were arrested as a result of the police raid. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 77 p 34 PA]

COCAINE-PROCESSING LABORATORY--Arequipa, Peru, 31 Jan--The police have discovered a cocaine laboratory at a house owned by Romualdo Apaza Fuentes, 16 km from the town of Juliaca. The police also found several coca grinding mills and an unspecified quantity of semi-processed plants. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Feb 77 p 29 PA]

COCAINE PASTE HAUL--Lima, 1 Feb--The police have arrested a gang of cocaine traffickers and seized 104 kg of cocaine paste at Tingo Maria airport, north of Lima. Two of the gang members are Mexican and nine are Peruvian. The police also seized \$30,000 which the traffickers had hidden in a well in the town of Vegigal, where the gang operated. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 9 Feb 77 PA]

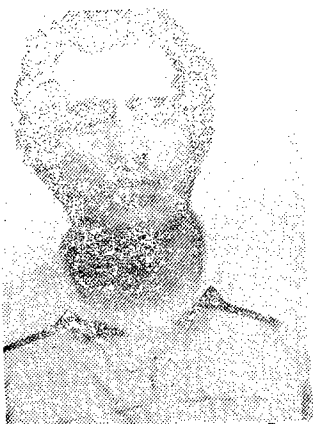
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

MARIHUANA CACHE FOUND, THREE ARRESTED

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 27 Jan 77 p 26 PA

[Summary] In the largest marihuana haul in Venezuelan police history, the authorities confiscated a cache of marihuana weighing over 1 ton and valued at over 3 million bolivares in a garage at the Los Gomez estate in the Tanaguarena residential area. In connection with the discovery, the authorities arrested Rene Marichales Diaz, 32, considered chief of the band in Venezuela; William Leon, 20, a distributor, and Henry Ramon Martinez, alias Cara e Guante. The police are actively searching for Hermes Morales, alias La Napa, a Colombian, who is considered to be the "top chief" of the drug ring.



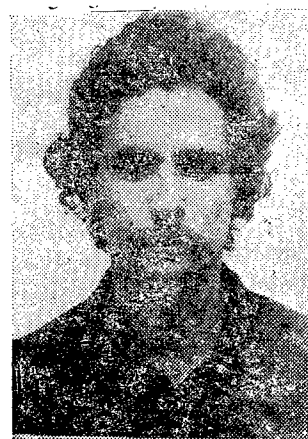
Hermes Morales (a) La Napa,

Hermes Morales



Henry Ramón Díaz Martínez, otro
de los miembros de la poderosa

Henry Ramon Diaz Martinez



POLICIA JUDICIAL
CARACAS
ESTRATEGIA 12875
William León, uno de los encarga-

William Leon



Dr Manuel Molina Gasperi, Director of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] and Police Commissioner Oscar Rivero Gottberg, reporting on dismantling of the ring and the largest confiscation in Venezuelan police history.

CSO: 3010

ANDORRA

BRIEFS

ANDORRA DRUG ARRESTS NOTED--The police force of the principality of Andorra, whose total strength was recently increased to 40 men, arrested 50 persons during the last few days. Some 30 of the prisoners, including rich merchants and the sons of the Andorran grande bourgeoisie of business, were remanded to prison. This is the first real judicial police operation carried out in the principality. The investigation was started a week ago after the arrest of an Andorran citizen who was transporting 600 grams of heroin. This led to the discovery of large amounts of drugs and hallucinogens. Several bars and nightspots in Andorre-la-Vielle were closed. The Andorran police force is no longer dependent upon the viguiers (representatives of the two co-princes, the President of the French Republic and the Bishop of Urgel), but upon the General Council of the Valleys. On 15 January 1972, the Andorran police received an auxiliary justice mission which is empowered to delegate authority to it. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jan 77 p 24] 8143

CSO: 5300

DENMARK

BRIEFS

SENTENCE FOR DRUG RUNNER--Copenhagen--An Australian, Michael John Miller, 28, has been jailed for eight years in Copenhagen for heroin smuggling. He was caught at Copenhagen Airport with 6.8 kg of heroin on his way from Kuala Lumpur to Amsterdam. He has appealed against the sentence. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Jan 77 p 5]

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

DRUG USE UP AGAIN IN NICE

Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jan 77 p 13

[Article by Michel Kajman]

[Text] Nice--"Big Anti-drug Roundup in Nice: 66 Arrests." Just because a sensational and inaccurate headline in a local newspaper has brought gripes from those in the know, just because a division inspector was reprimanded by his superiors for having placed himself in the limelight, must we conclude therefrom that there is nothing new under the feeble winter sun on the Cote d'Azur?

No: the consumption of drugs by young people is once again cause for concern as it was in 1970 because it is sharply increasing, according to the specialists, and is assuming new and disconcerting forms. The fight against drugs, at least the non-repressive activities, is being organized in this bay city which has only angelic aspects.

Bernard, age 22, appeared timidly before the judge to tell him his problem. He is one of the hundred young people, from 18 to 25 years of age for the most part, who over the past 3 months have been charged in four different drug cases.

Charged but free, like some of his companions, he is disturbed: "What bothers me most is the police record. Will what I tell you be put in it?" Reassured on this point by the judge, Bernard recounts his commonplace Odyssey as a petty "drug addict": "I admit...I fell into it; I let myself be carried away. Once a week, the night before my day off, when I was working.

More often during my vacations, I would shoot up." He got started in 1975 with cocaine--to "give it a try" and to be a good buddy--"tripping" was followed by "fixes" of "brown sugar"¹ at 100 francs a dose until viral hepatitis, then police charges, pushed him into making the big decision: "I'm going to try to stop." In the meantime, his girlfriend left him. "She didn't understand."

Bernard's story isn't very pretty, but it is the story of the elite of the "drug addicts" and of a lucky person. Never "burned", with the occasionally fatal risk entailed in the purchase of bad "drugs," never forced to "rip off" other youths to obtain money to pay for his bag, Bernard was not completely enmeshed in the drug scene.

An Alarming Evolution

How many of his less fortunate companions in Nice are "hooked?" We can get an idea of the number by comparing several evaluations in a sector in which there aren't many statistics. On the one hand, the narcotics squad of the Alpes-Maritimes compiled 6,000 files for that department from 1969 to 1976. If we consider the number of files set up during the large summer migrations, the number of drug addicts in Nice and its environs recorded in 7 years seems to be quite clearly lower than that figure. On the other hand, police sources call attention to the "alarming estimates" for the city of Nice alone where from 1,000 to 3,000 young drug addicts reportedly were added to the list of several hundreds who have been on the books for a long time.

Since the end of the "snow" (heroin) laboratories and the dismantling of the connections in 1970, explains examining magistrate Michel Zavaro, "a disturbing proselytism has developed which at first affected the groups of hashish smokers and then the youths of the petite bourgeoisie sectors and finally the working class in the old or new poor districts of Nice."

Of all of these districts, why was only the Vallon des Fleurs--consisting of a dozen H.L.M.s [middle priced housing units] north of Nice--been designated the principal focus of drug addiction? Perhaps it is because the officers of the drug squad were told to strike there first although they had just as many reasons to hit the districts of Ariane, Las Planas, La Madeleine, Saint-Roch--not overlooking the center of the city? Perhaps it was a good idea to quickly call the people's attention to a cleaned up area because they still had the stench of certain cesspools in their nostrils? In any event, it is not only in that area that small scale dealers were arrested and described to the indignant public as powerful importers.

"Swamped"

As division chief Albert Mourey, chief of the judicial police service, puts it, "Our men have to jump in everywhere." He adds, expressing the feelings of the local drug squad (11 members in 1970, nine in 1976), "We are swamped by drugs."

Nearly a year ago, drug consumption increased in a spectacular way in Vallon des Fleurs. According to Mr Zavaro, "The year 1974, unless we were quite naive, was a year of great difficulties in the supply sector. But the following year, and particularly 1970, were the years of generalized 'brown

sugar.' Everyone was buying it for 350 francs a gram in Belleville, for 50 to 100 francs per gram in Amsterdam. That merchandise cut into from six to 18 doses produces 1,000 to 1,200 francs per gram in the Nice marketplace."

"Brown sugar" isn't the only drug sold in Nice but it represents 90 percent of the market. The rest comes from shipments of poor quality heroin from Thailand cut with a fast-acting barbiturate. Cocaine and LSD have practically disappeared entirely; however, nothing precise can be said about the consumption of amphetamines. The innumerable products utilized by the large number of persons addicted to multiple drugs are exempt from any investigation whatever.

Drug usage accompanies classical juvenile delinquency like a shadow. House-breakers and thieves work with drug addicts who are seeking funds to purchase drugs.

Pierre, age 18, who seems to be 3 or 4 at most, is a living example of this kind of evolution to which Nice does not lay exclusive claim: "I knew how to use a lockpick, and I was a good pickpocket," indispensable skills which permit him to shoot up heroin and "brown sugar," as he has done since the age of 14, without getting into selling, which he found dangerous, and because of his inability "to swipe money from papa to buy drugs." In the Nice cafe where he quietly sips his grenadine, he stares intently at the very pale and pinched face of a young blond girl with a fixed look, the signs of a heroin "shoot." "It's as if I were looking at myself."

Prevention and Assistance

Less spectacular than repression and quite unsuitable for victory bulletins, the efforts to help drug addicts shake the habit, like everything else, have evolved in Nice in number and diversity. Rev Gaston Claudel is not alone anymore. For the past 11 years, he has attempted to help drug addicts out of addiction--in whose midst he often lives--who wish to kick the habit, those who are sent to him by families or hospitals. The 10 rooms in the main building of Jeunesse-Assistance [Youth Assistance Center], the four apartments which he rents in the city and the ten or so cooperating families which spell him in his efforts are no longer enough. According to this individual who is alienated in his own way and who turns down public funds, a solution must be found for everyone who seeks his help. "I freely use those resources which do not have a good press: centers of accelerated professional training or temporary agencies."

For some, it is the opportunity for a choice which leads them to a job; for others, it is the means of quickly accumulating a stack of pay slips which permit them to escape from the toils of justice. The essential thing is that something--even the securing of a driver's permit--serves as a point of departure for reentry into society.

Strangely, this man from Vosges is demanding that Nice be "whitewashed." According to him, the city has unjustly been accused of all the ills. He points to Amsterdam, "that Jerusalem of drugs." as the origin of the present situation in Nice.

Compared with the daily tours de force of Reverend Claudel, that of Judge Zavaro looks like a revolution. With a team, in February 1976, he created an organization designed to help former drug addicts find themselves. The four educators of the Anti-drug Fight Committee (CLCD) give eight former "drug addicts"--15 perhaps in a while--to go through the various stages which can lead them from dependence to autonomy or to assumed marginality. Between the apartment in the Ariane district and the flour mill in Bendejun, 17 kilometers from Nice, Judge Zavaro hopes to establish a network which will lead young people to an exit toward life, as certainly as drugs had forbidden them such an exit.

The day and night counseling service maintained by the Pontin reception center and the start of operations by an outpatient team whose task it is to fill in the gaps in treatment, both as regards prevention and follow-up, complement the series of private and public actions coordinated by the Specialized Departmental Committee for Action and Defense Against Drug Addicts; this committee is subsidized by the council general whose budget includes a special line for the anti-drug fight.

What's new in Nice? The opportunity offered to a fraction of the ever-growing corps of young drug addicts of saying with a little more assurance than previously: there is a chance of kicking the drug habit.

FOOTNOTES

1. "Brown sugar," or heroin number 3, is a mixture of incompletely refined heroin (25 to 35 percent) and opium alkaloids (morphine, codeine), to which caffeine and at times a little strychnine have been added.

8143

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

JAIL TERM FOR CULTIVATING CANNABIS

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 15 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] A 35-year-old man who admitted cultivating cannabis was yesterday sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and placed on probation for a year.

He was Dennis Michael Sean O'Neill, a salesman, who appeared in the Auckland Magistrate's Court yesterday before Mr J. B. Bergin, SM.

Counsel for O'Neill said his client was a good citizen and there was no suggestion he was dealing in marijuana.

Mr Bergin said O'Neill had an extensive operation with 28 plants, cuttings with sprouting roots and three paper bags with cannabis of various stages of dryness.

The magistrate said it would be silly to condemn the importation of cannabis yet tolerate local cultivation of it.

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN, CANNABIS CHARGES--An Auckland man admitted three heroin charges when he appeared before Mr D. B. Pain, SM, in the New Plymouth Magistrate's Court yesterday. The charges were of possessing a needle and syringe for administering heroin and possession of heroin on December 28 and using heroin on December 27. Webster Graham Stephens, unemployed, elected trial by jury on a charge of possessing for sale 143 sticks of cannabis and a quantity of heroin. On this charge he was remanded on bail for the taking of depositions on February 8. He will appear on February 9 for sentence on the first three charges. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 6 Jan 77 p 4]

BAIL ON HEROIN CHARGES--Two young women appeared before Mr J. W. Bain, SM, in the Auckland Magistrate's Court yesterday, charged with importing heroin. A 28-year-old Blockhouse Bay woman was allowed bail of \$500, with one surety, and a 21-year-old woman of no fixed abode was also allowed bail of \$500 with two similar sureties. Both women, who were allowed interim name suppression, were remanded until February 9 for the taking of depositions. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 6 Jan 77 p 4]

CSO: 5300

SPAIN

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED AT BORDER--Gerona, 22 Dec (LOGOS). The Civil Guard of the border enclave of La Junquera discovered 1,200 grams of pure cocaine worth 42 million pesetas carefully hidden in the motor of a Ferrari tourism automobile. The driver was arrested, as well as a travel agent, both of whom are Belgian. They are Neiscen Andre Roger and Rene Julien, natives of Namour. The prisoners are presumed to be the owners of the shipment which was found in four packets and which had been purchased in Peru for subsequent distribution to several towns in the southern part of Spain. The Civil Guard also found a revolver containing five bullets with the drug which, according to the driver, they were carrying for their own protection. [Text] [Madrid YA in Spanish 23 Dec 76 p 67] 8143

INTERNATIONAL DRUG RING CAPTURED--A ring of international drug traffickers was dismantled during a joint action carried out by the Special Drug Brigade of the Directorate General of Security in collaboration with Interpol-Berne. The prisoners were engaged in sending cocaine to Switzerland. One of the prisoners, Jose Manuel Melcon Mingo, is alleged to be a drug trafficker and user. The following were confiscated from him: a baggage check from the checkroom of the Lausanne (Switzerland) railroad; a checkbook from the Union of Swiss Banks; two letters sent by a Colombian woman named Patricia Antezana who is implicated in this international ring of traffickers and who was also arrested; and 700 grams of cocaine. Victor Sergio Dimoff, age 23, was also arrested in Spain. The other members of the ring were arrested in Switzerland. In another action, Angel Bernal Alfaro, age 34, and Inocente Baratas Lizama, 21, was also arrested. They are charged with drug trafficking and use. Three bars of hashish were confiscated from them. [Text] [Madrid YA in Spanish 26 Dec 76 p 38] 8143

HEROIN SEIZED IN MADRID--Two Thai and one Chinese subjects are being questioned in connection with illegal trafficking in more than 7 kilos of heroin. In this connection, the Spanish section of Interpol was apprised by the Interpol unit in Brussels that a Thai alleged to be a member of a heroin trafficking organization was traveling to Madrid by air. On that same day, said subject, who was identified as Arpanproek Chaiyaporn, and a woman named Yampi An Pachari, who was accompanying him, also of Thai nationality, were arrested at

the Barajas airport by agents of the Central Drug Brigade. As the result of investigations, it was determined that both persons had entrusted part of their baggage to Santiago Joy, a Chinese national, who was subsequently interrogated. The baggage consisted of two suitcases with false bottoms which contained 7.3 kilos of heroin number 3, better known as "Brown Sugar." At present, the proper legal steps are being taken; and interrogation of the three prisoners is continuing. [Text] [Madrid YA in Spanish 8 Jan 77 p 34] 8143

CSO: 5300

NEW TRIAL ORDERED ON DRUGS LOOPHOLE CASE

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 4 Feb 77 p 6

[Text] An apparent loophole in the drugs law relating to cannabis revealed by an Appeal Court ruling last month, may be closed as a result of a new trial ordered by the court yesterday.

A local government clerk, Kevin John Goodchild, who was cleared last month of being in possession of cannabis leaves and stalk, must stand trial again, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, said.

The charge, possession of cannabinol derivatives, was originally made against Goodchild. But the trial judge ordered it to remain on file and not to be proceeded with without the Appeal Court's leave.

Goodchild's conviction of possessing cannabis was quashed on January 13 because appeal judges ruled it had not been shown that cannabis stalk and leaves came from the "flowering or fruiting tops" of the plant, possession of which is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Derivatives Charge

Mr Michael de Navarro, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told Lord Widgery that a decision on the cannabinol derivatives charge could clear up the drugs law.

Lord Widgery, sitting with Mr Justice Talbot and Mr Justice Slynn, said the court was anxious that the "cold point of law" raised by the charge should be decided as soon as possible at Portsmouth Crown Court, where Goodchild was originally convicted.

The appeal judges certified that their decision allowing Goodchild's appeal raised a point of law of general public interest, but adjourned the Director of Public Prosecutions' application for leave to appeal to the House of Lords, to await the outcome of the new trial.

Goodchild, 19, of Biggin Walk, West End, Fareham, Hants, had been given a six month suspended prison sentence and fined 100 pounds by Portsmouth Crown Court on July 1. That sentence was set aside by the Appeal Court when it quashed the possession conviction.

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

POLICEMEN ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING--Two Birmingham policemen were among six men who appeared in court yesterday accused of drug smuggling. Sgt Christopher Norman James, 30, of Bridgeman Croft, Castle Bromwich and Det-Con Thomas Keogh, 30, of George Road, Erdington, appeared with four other men charged with illegally importing more than 1 1/2 cwt of cannabis resin into Birmingham Airport on December 30. They were remanded by the Birmingham stipendiary, Mr John Milward, until February 14 on bail of 5,000 pounds each, with one surety each of 5,000 pounds. The drug has an estimated market value of 85,000 pounds. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 11 Jan 77 p 3]

CANNABIS CONCEALED IN FURNITURE--A three-piece suite which arrived at Heathrow from Kenya on August 8 was found by Customs to contain cannabis worth about 70,000 pounds on the black market, said Mr Andre De Moller, prosecuting at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday. Hone Rogers, 23, of Park Avenue, Willesden Green, who was arrested when he went to collect the furniture, admitted two charges of being concerned in the importation of the drug. He was jailed for 18 months. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Feb 77 p 15]

DRUG PLOTTER'S SENTENCE CUT--A six-year jail sentence on Charles Escott, an ex-Customs officer, for his part in a drug smuggling conspiracy, was cut to three years by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Escott, 51, of The Crescent, Sandgate, Folkestone, was jailed at Canterbury Crown Court last May. The appeal court dismissed appeals by 62-year-old Margaret Redding and her daughter, Victoria, 27, of Queensway, Dymchurch, against prison sentences for their part in the conspiracy. Mrs Redding is serving two-and-a-half years and her daughter four-and-a-half years. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 2 Feb 77 p 3]

CSO: 5320

END