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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
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CONTENTS

PAGE

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

Attorney General Wants No Criminal Penalties for Marihuana Use (THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 13 Dec 76)	1
Pros and Cons of Marihuana Use Debated (THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, various dates)	3

BURMA

Heroin Dealer Caught in Rangoon (BOTATAUNG, 20 Jan 77)	27
Briefs	
Heroin in Keng Tung	28
Heroin Seizure on Shwebontha Street	28
Heroin in Myitkyina	28
Heroin Seizure in Mergui	28
Heroin Seizure in Shwebo	29
Heroin in Myitkyina	29
Heroin in Mergui	29
Heroin in Lashio Township	29
Arrest in Kyaukme	29

INDONESIA

Jakarta Paper Views Illicit Narcotics Trade (SUARA KARYA, 15 Jan 77)	30
---	----

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Drug Offenders To Lose Passports (S. C. Cheah; NEW STRAITS TIMES, 17 Jan 77)	32
---	----

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

SINGAPORE

'STRAITS TIMES': Police Smashed All Drug Rings in Singapore (THE STRAITS TIMES, 14 Jan 77)	34
Total 1976 Drug Seizure, Arrests Reported (THE STRAITS TIMES, 17 Jan 77)	36
Briefs	
5-Year Sentence for Trafficker	37
5-Year Sentence of Drug Peddler	37
Drug Peddler Sentenced to 5 Years	37
Reduction of Drug Case Sentence	38
Court Fine for Heroin Smoker	38

THAILAND

Foreign Affairs Role in Drug Suppression Cited (Editorial; CHAO THAI, 17 Jan 77)	39
Background on New 'Golden Triangle' Narcotics Kingpin (BANGKOK POST, 23 Jan 77)	41
55 Kilos of No 3 Heroin Seized in 30-31 December Raids (Various sources, various dates)	44
Joint Thai-Malaysian Ring Differences in Figures Photo Published	
8 Kilos of Heroin Seized From Europe-Bound Couriers (BANGKOK WORLD, 4 Jan 77)	46
17.3 Kilos of Heroin Bound for Hong Kong Seized (BANGKOK POST, 5 Jan 77)	48
Police Raid Nets 2 Kilos of No 3 Heroin 6 January (BANGKOK POST, 7 Jan 77)	50
Narcotics Agents Arrest Four Persons With Heroin (BANGKOK WORLD, 22 Jan 77)	52

CANADA

Drug Smuggling by First-Class Mail Increasing (THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 3 Jan 77)	53
---	----

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Repealing Drug Laws Better Than New Prisons, Group Told
(THE VANCOUVER SUN, 20 Jan 77) 54

Two Facing Drug Charges in Wake of International Investigation
(THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 24 Jan 77) 55

Briefs

Four Released on Bail 57
Drug Move Planned 57

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA

Briefs

Cocaine Traffickers Arrest 58
Marihuana Plantation 58
Marihuana Haul 58

ECUADOR

Briefs

Narcotics Trafficker Arraigned 59

MEXICO

New Government Campaign Against Drugs Begins
(Various sources, various dates) 60

New Anti-Drugs Campaign Announced
JLP Orders New Anti-Drugs Measures

Durazo Begins Restructuring Mexico City Police
(Jorge Reyes E.; EXCELSIOR, 4 Jan 77) 63

JLP Signs Off on New Anti-Narcotics Plan
(EXCELSIOR, 2 Jan 77) 65

Troops, Traffickers Clash in Michoacan
(Angel Sanchez M.; EXCELSIOR, 6 Jan 77) 67

Briefs

Colombian Trafficker 69
Traffickers Arrested 69
Drug Addiction Center 70
Involvement of U.S. Officials 70
Marihuana Plantations Destroyed 70
Narcotics Confiscation 70
Drug Haul, Trafficker Arrests 70

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
PERU	
Briefs	
Drug Traffickers' Arrest	71
Narcotics, Currency Smuggling Control	71
NEAR EAST & AFRICA	
IRAN	
Five Kilos of Pure Heroin Discovered (ETTELA'AT, 22 Dec 76)	72
Discovery of 15 Heroin Packages (ETTELA'AT, 22 Dec 76)	74
Youths Entertain Girls With Heroin (ETTELA'AT, 25 Dec 76)	75
SYRIA	
Big Batch of Hashish Confiscated, Burned ('Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kafri; AL-BA'TH, 4 Nov 76)	76
WESTERN EUROPE	
AUSTRIA	
Police Break International Drug Smuggling Ring (DIE PRESSE, 8 Feb 77)	80
DENMARK	
Briefs	
Narcotics Arrest in Copenhagen	81
GREECE	
Cypriot-Flag Ship Captured With 11-Ton Hashish Cargo (M. Alexandridis, G. Oikonomeas; ELEVTHEROTYPIA, 8 Jan 77)	82
Lebanese Arrested in Hashish Cargo Case (K. Stavropoulos, T. Lambos; AKROPOLIS, 9 Jan 77)	86
Ship Captain Claims Mafia Connection in Hashish Case (G. Karagiorgas; TA NEA, 10 Jan 77)	89

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Authorities Continue Investigation of Narcotics Case (G. Komis; TA NEA, 10 Jan 77)	92
Police Find Gloria Captain Has Smuggling Record (Georg. Komis; TA NEA, 11 Jan 77)	95
NORWAY	
Three Arrested for Smuggling Heroin in Western Norway (AFTENPOSTEN, 20 Dec 76)	97
Briefs	
Narcotics Case in Floroe	99
Foreigners Expelled in Narcotics Case	99
UNITED KINGDOM	
Heiress Jailed on Heroin Smuggling Charges (THE CITIZEN, 12 Jan 77)	100
Rock Music Star Convicted on Cocaine Charge (THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 13 Jan 77)	102
Gang Unsuccessful in Drug Smuggling (C. A. Coughlin; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 8 Jan 77)	103
Loophole in Law Makes Cannabis Leaf Legal (Terence Shaw; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 14 Jan 77)	106
Briefs	
Prisoner Attempts Smuggling	109
Drugs Charge	109

AUSTRALIA

ATTORNEY GENERAL WANTS NO CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR MARIHUANA USE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 13 Dec 76 front page

[Text] Criminal penalties against marihuana use in NSW will be abandoned late next year, if the plans of the State Attorney-General, Mr Walker, are adopted.

Anyone caught smoking or possessing small amounts of the drug would be subject only to a minor fine and the present criminal offence would be dropped.

Imprisonment would be abolished.

Mr Walker has revealed his plans for the decriminalisation in an exclusive interview with the Herald Investigation Team.

The changes would not apply to those charged with selling marihuana or with having amounts considered excessive for personal use.

Though drastic, the changes would, in one sense, recognise what has become widespread practice in Sydney courts for some time.

Figures extracted by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr M. F. Farquhar, show that Sydney magistrates now impose an average fine of \$60 to \$80 and avoid any jail sentences although the offence still goes on the person's criminal record.

The present maximum penalty for possessing or using marihuana is a fine of \$2,000 and two years' hard labour.

Mr Walker is confident of getting a recommendation for decriminalisation of marihuana use from the reconstituted NSW parliamentary joint committee on drugs and then sees his task as convincing the ALP, parliamentary Caucus and Cabinet that they should ease the law.

He told HIT he expected to be in a position to legislate "by late next year" although he also expects some problems with the Opposition-dominated Legislative Council.

He considers that, while there would be widespread and adamant opposition to such a change, a majority of people would be in favour.

The State ALP's platform is not clear on Mr Walker's proposal.

It does call for more severe penalties for drug pedlars rather than drug users, compulsory treatment centres, more flexibility in allowing bonds and separation of marihuana from hard drugs in the Poisons Act.

But it does not refer specifically to any easing of the law on marihuana users.

"It is my personal point of view that people who smoke marihuana should not be sent to jail," Mr Walker said.

'Less Harmful'

"It is far less harmful than alcohol and tobacco. This is shown by the huge weight of medical evidence."

Mr Walker said that if there were no doubts about marihuana "I would come out and say legalise it.

"But there are doubts, particularly when it is combined with alcohol.

"I am concerned with its effect on the mind's motor functions and on some psychiatric problems.

"...I think to legalise it would lead to it being promoted by commercial interests and I would hate to see that happen."

Mr Walker said that marihuana use, as a victimless crime, would be an appropriate matter for decriminalisation.

Marihuana use was now "extremely widespread" and any attempt to strengthen the law against it would be held in ridicule and contempt by the younger generation.

Mr Walker said he believed life imprisonment was "a very appropriate sentence" for pedlars of heroin and other hard drugs.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

PROS AND CONS OF MARIHUANA USE DEBATED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 13, 14, 15, 16 Dec 76

[13 Dec 76, p 7]

[Text] Marihuana is a harmless social lubricant which creates a feeling of euphoria, taps the well-springs of creativity and heightens the perception and enjoyment of good music, art, literature, food and sex.

Marihuana destroys brain cells, exposes people to disease, reduces men to impotence and leaves all its users psychologically scarred or wallowing in a dulling nothing-matters torpor.

The two claims are diametrically opposed, yet persuasive arguments are mounted for both.

Within the 5,000-year history of marihuana, it is hard to find documented evidence that anyone anywhere has actually died from the effects of smoking, drinking or eating it.

Thus, if the number of deaths directly attributed to it can be taken as an effective measure of destructive power then it pales into insignificance when compared to such drugs as alcohol and tobacco.

In September, 1974, Senator James O. Eastland, chairman of a United States Senate subcommittee set up to investigate the marihuana "epidemic" and its impact on the country's security, published a startling report that took the case against marihuana much further than ever before.

This Eastland report quickly established itself as the latest, most comprehensive and definitive case for the anti-marihuana lobby the world over.

Set against it is the Jamaica Study, an intensive investigation funded by the National Institute of Mental Health of the United States Government.

This study examined the effects of extremely heavy and prolonged consumption of marihuana in Jamaica and found virtually no harmful effects.

Like the Eastland report in reverse, the Jamaica Study has become the standard reference for marihuana's advocates.

Though the debate has now largely polarised on these two documents, there is a vast scientific bibliography of more than 2,000 works on the drug--starting with the British Government's Indian Hemp Drugs Commission in 1894--in which either side can find support for almost any argument.

On a medical and scientific basis, there is wide agreement that other drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and the hard narcotics are definitely injurious to human health. Similar agreement on the effects of marihuana has not been achieved.

The authoritative Consumers' Union of the USA, after a major review of the subject, was able to go only so far as to say: "No drug is safe or harmless to all people at all dosage levels or under all conditions of use."

And a report, the fifth, by the dispassionate and highly reputable United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare on "marihuana and health," released earlier this year, does not give marihuana the clearance that some might have hoped for.

But neither does it "support the fear and irrationality that still characterise some public debate about marihuana," according to the Australian Health Department's National Drug Information Service.

In delivering his findings, Senator Eastland made no bones about the line his committee took.

He said that evidence taken by the committee "could play a role in reversing a trend towards national disaster" and counter widespread acceptance of the "myth of harmlessness" of marihuana.

While he said that the subcommittee made no apology for the deliberately one-sided nature of the hearings, it was able to attract as expert scientific witnesses some of the most eminent drug researchers in America and six other countries.

Based on this expert testimony, the Eastland committee came up with seven principal findings:

THC, the principal psychoactive factor in cannabis, tends to accumulate in the brain and gonads and other fatty tissues in the manner of DDT.

Marihuana, even when used in moderate amounts, causes massive damage to the entire cellular process.

Tied in with this tendency to accumulate in the brain and its capacity for cellular damage, there is a growing body of evidence that marihuana inflicts irreversible damage on the brain, including actual brain atrophy when used in a chronic manner over several years.

There is also a growing body of evidence that marihuana adversely effects the reproductive process in a number of ways, and that it poses a serious danger of genetic damage and even of genetic mutation.

Chronic cannabis smoking can produce sinusitis, pharyngitis, bronchitis, emphysema and other respiratory difficulties in a year or less as opposed to 10 to 20 years of a cigarette smoking to produce comparable complications.

Cannabis either alone or with tobacco has a worse effect on the lungs than tobacco alone and is "pre-cancerous."

Chronic cannabis use results in deterioration of mental functioning, pathological forms of thinking resembling paranoia and a "massive and chronic passivity" and lack of motivation--the so-called amotivation syndrome.

All of these findings led Senator Eastland to the conclusion that marihuana use "would make a large population of marihuana users a serious political danger because it makes them susceptible to manipulation by extremists."

The Jamaica Study was conducted over 18 months of 1970 and 1971 but its findings were not published in detail until last year.

Jamaica was selected for the survey because marihuana, in a much stronger form known as "ganja," had been used there by a big proportion of the working class population since its introduction from India 130 years ago.

In Jamaica, the drug is regarded not only harmless but as a panacea for a whole range of ailments and is even given to children in tonic form.

The study was made by a team of 39 anthropologists, doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, statisticians and historians and their assistants.

Initially, more than 2,000 people from seven separate communities were surveyed and examined but eventually the researchers selected a group of 30 marihuana smokers and 30 nonsmoking controls for extensive hospital study.

The smokers had been using the drug for an average of 17 1/2 years (some started as early as eight years old) and smoked, on average, seven "spiffs," marihuana cigars, a day, giving them a daily intake--because of its far greater potency--equivalent to 50 to 100 marihuana "joints," the common user's term for a marihuana cigarette. A heavy smoker in Australia would seldom consume more than three "joints" a day.

Even the critics of the Jamaica Study within the Eastland committee conceded that portions of it, when pieced together, appeared to give marihuana the nearest thing to a clean bill it has ever received in any report.

"It found no evidence of chromosome breaks, no evidence of brain damage, no evidence of lung damage, and no significant physical or psychological abnormality in the 30 marihuana smokers tested compared with the controls," said the Eastland committee's senior analyst, Mr David Martin.

The Jamaica researchers themselves concluded: "Our findings do not provide any evidence that marihuana use is a causal factor in anti-social behaviour, whether defined as aggression, crime, insanity, moral degeneration or reduction of the work drive."

Both studies have been critically examined in the Australian context by the NSW Health Commission and the country's only marihuana research team, headed by Associate Professor G. A. Starmer, of the pharmacology department of Sydney University.

In a lengthy submission to the NSW parliamentary committee on drugs last year, the commission tabled a detailed analysis of the Eastland findings by Dr G. B. Chesher, who works with Professor Starmer.

Dr Chesher was critical of the basis on which the Eastland committee conducted its investigations and reached its conclusions.

He said that the "broad spectrum" technique employed by the Eastland committee to review the available scientific evidence involved the selective omission of any findings which contradicted the main intent of the senator's report--"even when these contradictions were made in his hearings by his carefully selected witnesses."

"Notably absent from his panel of experts were some of the most active researchers in the study of cannabis in the United States."

Dr Chesher said he had been told by one researcher that the choice of witnesses was calculated to produce the desired effect.

"Attempts to control the use of cannabis by the falsification of scientific evidence cannot succeed and can only drive the marihuana-using subculture to further extremes of disbelief and mistrust of scientists and politicians," he told the parliamentary committee.

Dr Chester took each of the seven principal findings of the Eastland committee and analysed them in the light of current worldwide research.

On the accumulation of cannabis in the body, he agreed this did occur but added the rider that "the clinical significance of the accumulation of the

drug is not known." Other commonly used drugs including valium and librium also persisted in the body, some of them for much longer than the 27 to 57 hours attributed to cannabis.

On cellular damage, Dr Chesher said the implication of proof was quite unjustified and much evidence existed to the contrary. The same techniques used to claim this against marihuana could equally be used against aspirin, caffeine and several antibiotics.

On the claim of irreversible brain damage, Dr Chesher said that much of the evidence came from a British neurologist, Dr A. M. G. Campbell and his associates, whose conclusions had previously been criticised by other commissions of inquiry and even by one of the other expert witnesses appearing before the Eastland committee. This other witness, Dr Robert Kalody, had said that in the 10 cases cited by Dr Campbell as evidence of brain atrophy, all 10 men had previously used LSD, eight had also used amphetamines, several had roin [heroin?] or morphine, four had significant head injuries and one had a previous history of convulsions.

On the adverse effect to reproductive processes, Dr Chesher said there was no scientific justification for such a definitive statement. "Much contradictory evidence exists, interpretation of the data is difficult and the experimental techniques in some cases have been strongly questioned," he said.

On respiratory difficulties, Dr Chesher said, "Until this evidence is published in the scientific and medical literature and has been critically examined by the medical and scientific community it is premature to comment upon it."

On marihuana smoke being more damaging than tobacco smoke and "pre-cancerous," Dr Chesher said that while marihuana did contain carcinogenic material, possibly equivalent to the tar content of the strongest Australian cigarette, a marihuana consumption rate equal to 20 cigarettes a day would be "extremely rare."

On the "amotivational syndrome," Dr Chesher said the Eastland committee had come up with no new evidence. The Jamaica Study had found no such symptom and neither had several studies among university students.

In his evidence to the NSW parliamentary committee last year, Dr Chesher said he strongly believed that the use of marihuana in the community must be contained.

"If present trends are allowed to continue, drug abuse will be the major cause of death within a few years.

"But the drugs involved are the legal, socially acceptable ones, alcohol and tobacco, and not cannabis, the narcotics or the hallucinogens."

The number of deaths due to all illicit drugs was minute in comparison to those due to alcohol, he said.

In much the same way as Dr Chesher had systematically questioned the findings of the Eastland committee, so also did the powerful Consumers Union of the USSR in March, 1975.

Using similar counter-evidence, a long article in its journal "Consumer Reports" concluded that the Eastland report, like others before it, had failed to prove that marihuana was either harmful or harmless.

The Eastland Committee's senior analyst, Mr Martin, in a "staff study" to enable the committee to defend its findings against the mounting criticisms, accused the Consumers Union of employing "the techniques of dis-information" and selective editing in its "apologia" for marihuana.

But he conceded that there were areas where consensus had not been possible because the research to date had been inconclusive and because equally reputable scientists appeared to have come up with contradictory findings.

"This is so with the question of brain damage, damage to the respiratory system, hormonal imbalance, reduced immune response and the danger of genetic damage," he said.

"In the case of hormonal balance and reduced immune response there has recently been considerable confirmatory research--perhaps not quite enough to speak about the emergence of a consensus but certainly enough to suggest the beginnings of a consensus.

"A similar situation exists with regard to the findings on the psychological effects of marihuana. On some points there is a broad general consensus; on other points, equally reputable scientists have come up with completely contrary findings.

"There is general agreement that marihuana results in poor concentration, mental confusion and a marked impairment of short term memory and the ability to transfer items from short term memory to long term memory storage.

"What this adds up to is that the regular use of marihuana seriously impairs cognitive ability.

"There is also general agreement that it results in a serious slowing of the time sense, often produces hallucinations and can, at strengths commonly consumed today, bring about serious psychotic episodes."

Mr Martin reported that the greatest differences within the psychiatric community on marihuana centred on the effects of long-term use.

Similar concern has been expressed here by Mr Simon Hasleton, a psychologist at Sydney University and a member of its marihuana research team, in evidence to the Australian Senate's Standing Committee on Social Welfare.

He told the committee in September that the drug could pose dangers for some people suffering from existing psychiatric disorders, epilepsy, diabetes and some heart conditions.

Pregnant women, especially in the first three months, should not smoke marihuana.

"I am not saying it is any worse than using tobacco--or indeed, alcohol--but I would suggest to somebody who is pregnant that she should not have any drug load if she can avoid it, just on general health grounds," Mr Hasleton said.

In the wider community perspective, Mr Hasleton pointed out: "In my view, a wide range of informed opinion would subscribe to the view that while it cannot be shown that moderate cannabis use poses risks to health beyond those which are obviously accepted by the community in other areas, the higher levels of use are possibly hazardous on a variety of grounds."

The Health Commission, in its submission to of the seven principal [committee], admitted its disproportionate concentration on marihuana but said this was caused by the controversy surrounding it rather than its importance relative to other drugs. [sentence as published]

[14 Dec 76, p 8]

[Text] In October 1973, Oregon became the first State in the United States to decriminalise the private use of marihuana, and other States watched and waited for the result.

Possession of an ounce or less became a civil violation punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100 instead of the jail sentence which had been more usual previously.

Offenders were given the equivalent of a traffic ticket, thus avoiding arrest and a conviction record, perhaps the most severe long-term consequence of conviction because all too often it meant much reduced employment prospects.

The following year, a survey commissioned by the privately funded Drug Abuse Council showed that of 802 Oregon residents interviewed, nine per cent were current marihuana users but only 0.5 per cent had started using it following decriminalisation.

Mr J. Pat Horton, District Attorney for Lane County, which takes in Oregon's second largest city, Eugene, in a summation of the year-long experiment, said:

"Decriminalisation has, in fact, prioritised police work into areas of violent crime and crime against property.

"When possession of small amounts of marihuana was a crime, we found that police officers allocated a disproportionate amount of their time to the apprehension of those individuals.

"Currently, law enforcement officers spend more time in the area of violent crime and, thus, better serve the community."

There was, he said, growing recognition of the fact that police were truly serving the interests of the citizens rather than trying to enforce unenforceable laws.

The relationship between young people and the police, Mr Horton continued, "has improved substantially... The community leaders of tomorrow no longer need fear the threat of criminal convictions on their record for engaging in behaviour that is socially acceptable in many quarters."

At the same time, he said, the backlog of cases awaiting trial had been reduced by one-third, and the jail population "was now made up of serious felons rather than young people accused of possessing small amounts of marihuana who usually had no other criminal history."

Acceptance of the new legislation in Oregon had been overwhelmingly positive, "especially among middle-aged people who have children in...high schools."

"An attempt by a small number of people in the State to restore criminal penalties for possession was overwhelmingly defeated. Virtually every candidate for office and every incumbent in the State of Oregon, when questioned on the new decriminalisation law, has indicated publicly that he favoured such legislation and would vote...to continue it.

"By all measurable standards," he said, "decriminalisation was a comfortable transition, signifying fair play to the individual and widespread acceptance by our electorate."

'Political Operation'

Since then, four other States, Alaska, California, Colorado and Maine, have followed. At least ten more States have introduced bills to decriminalise but these have not yet been passed.

The Oregon experience is well-known to the NSW Attorney-General, Mr Walker, who personally favours decriminalisation of marihuana.

While he does not view marihuana in the same way as other prohibited drugs, he does not go so far as to favour its outright legalisation.

He is highly critical of some of the more outspoken conclusions reached in overseas investigations, especially the two most recently publicised reports that take distinctly opposite sides--the US Senate's Eastland Committee, which comes down heavily against marihuana and the Jamaica Study quoted by supporters of decriminalisation.

"My feeling is that the Eastland committee was a typical American political operation, slanted in the extreme, completely unbalanced, biased and prejudiced," he told the Herald Investigation Team.

"That's not just my opinion, it is also the opinion of the NSW Health Commission, which said so in its submission to our State parliamentary committee on drugs."

He also had similar doubts about the Jamaica Study--which investigated very heavy use of marihuana by the island's farm workers--but reported virtually no ill-effects.

"If there were no doubts about marihuana I would come out and say legalise it. But there are doubts, particularly when it is combined with alcohol," he said.

He would like to see more results coming out of research and had personal objections to marihuana being smoked, regarding it as another health problem of similar dimensions of tobacco.

Mr Walker said he did not subscribe fully to the proposition that marihuana users generally were listless dropouts or victims of the so-called motivation syndrome because it was unclear whether marihuana was a cause or effect of this condition.

"Certainly most of the (marihuana-smoking) people I have studied lacked the traditional drive. If you spread that through the community, the social effects might be considerable."

He is at present organising a major seminar to be held in Sydney next February on victimless crimes. Marihuana use is expected to be one of the principal topics.

"My general philosophy is that drug addiction is a health problem and not a matter for the courts or jails of the land," he said.

"No one's addiction is solved by throwing them in jail." In line with this he has asked the NSW Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr M. F. Farquhar, to investigate diverting marihuana users and other drug users away from the normal system of criminal justice.

This would be similar to the present diversion scheme applying to most drink-driving, intoxication and vagrancy offences.

Mr Farquhar has already had preliminary talks with Health Commission experts and is now organising a committee to formulate the diversion program for drug-users.

Likely members include the commission's adviser on alcohol and drug education, Dr Robert Webb, the head of the Drug Squad, Detective Sergeant Ken Astill, the Director of the Probation and Parole Service, Mr Ken Lukes, the Professor of Behavioural Science, Newcastle University, Professor Tony Vinson, and possibly members of the NSW Parliamentary Committee on Drugs and one or two interested clergymen.

By early next year, Mr Farquhar hopes to have organised substantial premises somewhere in the inner city as a base for the diversion scheme.

This would be used to assess cases sent on from the courts and to handle at one time up to 200 outpatient and some inpatient drug users and addicts.

Smaller centres would be set up on the edge of the inner city in such areas as Redfern, Glebe and Woolloomooloo to handle about 25 cases each.

Health Commission clinics along similar lines are already established at Bondi and Manly and another one is due to open shortly in Chatswood.

While more detailed programs would be established for hard drug addicts, marihuana users would more likely undergo an education program and exposure to alternate, more natural forms of release and relaxation.

On present thinking, a report would be sent, after a period of about eight weeks, to the original magistrate involved, who would then decide, on the basis of how well the person had accepted diversion, whether to have it continue under some form of bond arrangement or proceed to an ordinary conviction.

"But in such cases, he would have to avoid jail sentences. That is out of favour in these cases now," Mr Farquhar said.

Jail sentences for marihuana use are rare in Sydney already.

According to Mr Farquhar, they have been abandoned almost totally as a deterrent.

An arrest for marihuana use or possession, where the amount is small enough to be considered for merely personal use rather than for sale, will now attract a fine of only \$60 to \$80.

In some country centres, an arrest might still result in a jail term but this is becoming rarer.

Trafficking in marihuana or any other prohibited drug can attract up to \$4,000 in fines and 10 years' hard labour.

In drug offences generally, the proportion sent to jail in NSW declined from 17.2 per cent in 1971 to only 6.7 per cent in 1974.

"We have relatively severe penalties available and advice that marihuana is quite dangerous, moderately harmful and harmless," Mr Farquhar said.

"In those circumstances, it could be said we (magistrates) have played it 'cool,' formulating our own sentencing policy and keeping it fluid.

"The average fine imposed is about \$125. This includes some substantially larger fines for peddling and possession of substantial quantities.

"In the area of smoking itself and possession on a modest scale, the fines have been markedly less.

"...On the total evidence sifted through by recent committees, one can forecast that the use of cannabis, other than distribution and substantial possession, will attract lesser penalties than those currently prescribed.

'Worthwhile Investment'

"However there must always be the problem of the final sanction when treatment is either avoided or refused. I see little prospect of all criminal sanctions being repealed--much more likely is the creation of alternatives."

Mr Allan Viney, the Liberal MLA who chaired the NSW parliamentary committee until its dissolution before the May election, considers decriminalisation as a too simplistic catchword.

"We have to ask the questions 'what does society want and how is this best achieved,'" he said.

"I don't believe the maximum penalties should be changed: if anything they could be increased.

"That is fine, as long as we don't lay down minimum penalties."

Mr Viney is greatly attracted by the diversion idea or, as he prefers to term it, "pre-trial disposition."

"It would be harder and would cost more but it would be a worthwhile community investment," he said.

And the greater cost could be met and even surpassed by a novel but serious idea Mr Viney has which would impose a government tax on all seizures of illicit drugs.

The tax revenue earned from the scheme would be channelled into drug education.

Mr Viney tends to play down the political dangers for any party which might try to raise money from substances such as marihuana and heroin and likes to stress what he sees as the definite and positive advantages.

If his line of thinking was followed, the government would impose a tax equal to the street price on all confiscated drugs. This would be in addition to any court-imposed penalty.

For example, if a person was arrested in possession of a pound of marihuana, he would face a tax of \$480 at present prices.

On marihuana itself, Mr Viney sees two major stumbling blocks in the way of any moves to reduce legal sanctions, though he considers such sanctions can be by-passed by the diversion or "pre-trial disposition" scheme.

Variable Potency

The first is the highly variable potency between different batches of the plant. One "deal" of marihuana might contain only half of one per cent of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive ingredient) while another might be as high as five per cent or even more.

The second is that Australia is a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations, which bans marihuana in signatory countries.

Because of this, Mr Viney argues, a State such as NSW could not pass drug laws in conflict with Australia's international obligations.

But he is not guaranteed unanimous support for his views from the Opposition benches of State Parliament.

More than two years ago, a Country Party MLC, Mr Geoffrey Keighley, made a long parliamentary speech in which he spoke out strongly against existing laws and in favour of reducing the penalties for marihuana use.

"The treatment of cannabis, under our laws, has its impact on the State Budget through police costs, judicial and law administration costs, and corrective service costs," he said.

"Additionally, there are costs to those...caught using it and immeasurable effects on the careers of those prosecuted."

He told the Council that, lest any of its members thought the subject did not concern him, it was estimated that cannabis was probably used by more than 500,000 Australians.

Extensive study of the subject, he said, had convinced him that cannabis was relatively harmless when compared with alcohol and cigarettes, and he discounted the possibility that it was a stepping stone to harder drugs.

He concluded by urging that cannabis use be removed from the Poisons Act, inserted in the Summary Offences Act and that the whole question of sanctions become the subject of urgent investigation by a government committee.

In the past two years, Mr Keighley has changed his views only slightly. Now he favours outright decriminalisation.

For those who use it in the privacy of their own homes or grow it for personal use, he believes there should be no penalty.

He added: "I would be in the minority in the Opposition parties though I can think of a few other members of the Country Party and the Liberal Party who would share my opinion almost exactly.

"Others probably would if they had had the benefit of reading the evidence on the subject which I have read," he said.

Governments throughout Australia are in the process of formalising the sharp distinction seen between those who use and those who sell drugs.

A recent meeting of Federal and State Attorneys-General in Canberra agreed to impose maximum penalties of \$100,000 and 25 years' jail on drug traffickers.

The only exceptions are Queensland, where Cabinet has already approved a life sentence, and Victoria, where the Minister for Health, Mr Houghton, considers a 15-year jail sentence more appropriate.

'Not Too Uptight'

Though NSW has agreed to the increased penalties, there will be no rush by the government here to implement them.

Mr Walker, the man who would have to bring in the legislation, considers life "a very appropriate sentence for the pusher of heroin" but is giving greater priority to other legislative changes.

"If that pusher is also an addict you can't treat that person--who has pitiful health problems and no control--the same way as a cold, calculating businessman," he said.

For use of illicit drugs generally, both the political and judicial attitude is clearly changing from punishment to treatment.

Mr Farquhar: "I prefer not to become too uptight about the use of drugs. It is certainly a matter for the most serious concern and not for panic.

"It is well to remember that it falls far short of achieving the proportions of alcoholism and we appear not to be too uptight about that."

[15 Dec 76, p 8]

[Text] While there are deep divisions in the Australian community over the use of marihuana, there is evidence that among users of the drug it is waning as a symbol of protest or defiance.

Even among non-users close to the marihuana scene, researchers say, there is a tendency to treat marihuana as "another social lubricant," on a level with alcohol or tobacco, despite its illegality.

The wider use of the drug over the past 10 years has been an influence on attitudes. The number of regular users in Australia is, of course, not known. But an estimate of 400,000 made by a Sydney psychologist is accepted as reasonable by others who have made a study of marihuana use.

For the purposes of his estimate, regular use was taken to mean use at least once a month.

Researchers have told the Herald Investigation Team that people tend to fall into two distinct camps on marihuana.

There are those who are totally opposed even to a softening of laws on marihuana, and those who take the opposite stand.

A lecturer in psychology at Sydney University, Mr Simon Hasleton, who has conducted several surveys of marihuana use and attitudes to its use, believes there is evidence that this polarisation of opinion has extended to researchers whose normal role would be to provide scientific evidence on which objective judgments may be made.

And this, he believes, is why it is, as yet, impossible to get consensus on virtually any aspect of the debate.

One extensive survey commissioned by Mr Hasleton in 1973 and conducted by ANOP showed that attitudes towards marihuana are closely related to those on a wide range of "permissive" issues.

The study showed that, generally, church goers, those who are conservative, politically and otherwise, those with less formal education and the older generation tend to be most opposed to the more liberal approach to issues such as homosexuality, abortion, prostitution, divorce, and marihuana.

The Liberal MLA for Wakehurst, Mr Allan Viney, who was chairman of the NSW Parliamentary Joint Committee on Drugs, told the HERALD: "This tremendous

polarisation of opinion about cannabis became very clear to the committee very early in our research.

"It seemed to me that whenever any research was published throughout the world, the media, for instance, would divide into two camps. Those who were pro-marihuana would be looking for any scrap of evidence to justify their attitude, and those opposed would look for the reverse.

"We wanted objective truth, but it is hard to find. Pot is the answer to the world's problems on the one hand. On the other, it is the cause of the world's problems."

Many Smokers Also Drinkers

On the evidence presented to his committee, Mr Viney is convinced that there are positive dangers associated with marihuana and that if society were seen to be encouraging its use by decriminalisation these dangers would increase.

His views might be summarised thus:

The dangers of alcohol and tobacco are well known. It would be wrong to compound these dangers by adding a third drug to the range of social euphorants, particularly when:

There is now clear evidence that many who smoke marihuana also drink, and a mixture of the two, he says, is a dangerous cocktail, especially:

For drivers and those who get in the way of drivers who also smoke marihuana, drink alcohol, or take both. This third worry is shared by almost everybody on both sides of the marihuana debate. Even those who have been most outspoken in their support of decriminalisation have expressed the view that marihuana and driving do not mix.

Marihuana users gave evidence to Mr Viney's committee that they had driven while "stoned."

One of these witnesses, a 23-year-old labourer who had been using the drug for 10 years, said he believed that those who smoke will smoke and drive in the same way that others drink and drive.

He added: "It does not tend to speed you up; if anything you go a lot slower. If you have passengers in your vehicle then you adopt greater caution because these people are terribly close to you...you feel responsible for them."

Several other marihuana users have told the HERALD that not only do they drive while they are "stoned" but that driving becomes more pleasurable under the influence of the drug, as do food and music. Like some drinkers,

they believe that their driving ability is improved but the weight of expert-evidence is that temporal judgment (awareness of time) is impaired by marihuana and therefore ability to drive is almost certain to be impaired.

Because of the difficulty in detecting marihuana in the body, nobody knows how many accidents might have been caused by marihuana.

But the British medical journal LANCET told in its April, 1976, issue how a 19-year-old railway signalman died instantly when his car, on the wrong side of the road, was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry.

Marihuana was found in the car and an autopsy on the driver revealed a high level of THC (the active ingredient of marihuana) in his blood.

Despite this obvious danger, even strong opponents of marihuana believe that it is now virtually impossible to retreat to a society that is marihuana free. They now argue for containment, holding the line against wider use.

Others, including members of a team of Sydney University academics who have studied the drug for five years, are convinced that, within 10 years, it will be legalised and freely available, even though some of them are opposed to this.

Their conviction is based upon the view that:

It can never be totally eradicated because it can be cultivated so easily in Australia or obtained through many who already use it;

That, for better or worse, it is accepted to a large extent by people in almost every section of society;

That marihuana represents a health hazard no greater than and, they believe on present knowledge, less than alcohol.

Category of Chronic Users

The estimate that 400,000 Australians are regular users is based upon complicated extrapolation by Mr Hasleton of surveys by himself and others in Sydney and Melbourne, figures supplied by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and figures from overseas.

In a recent submission to the Australian Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, Mr Hasleton said this research indicated the drug was being used at least once a month by about 10 per cent of the 18-35 age group and by some unknown and smaller proportion outside this age group.

About three per cent, he estimated, would use it at least 10 times a month and slightly less than one per cent of the 18-35 group would use it 100

times or more a month--putting them into the category of chronic users who are almost permanently "stoned."

The evidence, he said, also indicated that about half of all those who tried marihuana never used it again.

His estimate of the amount of marihuana consumed in Australia is at least 30,000 kilos a year, with an estimated retail value of \$30 million.

Mr Hasleton's research has led him to the conclusion that the concept of the marihuana smoker as a long-haired, work-shy dropout is no longer valid.

"I know of medical specialists, senior and eminent people in their chosen fields, members of both sides of State and Federal Parliaments, and members of the legal profession who have smoked marihuana.

"I know of policemen, school teachers, academics and a number of people prominent in the commercial world.

"To find responsible people who smoke or who have smoked marihuana you need go no further than your own building in Broadway. And I am not suggesting it is any different from any other large business company," he said.

In the United States there is now evidence that marihuana use has lost its earlier radical revolutionary status, and there are many valid parallels here.

According to a recent technical bulletin prepared by the National Drug Information Service of the Australian Department of Health during the past five years, cannabis use in the United States has changed character.

"Marihuana was originally associated with the counter-culture movement among young people and early use often involved opposition to more traditional alcohol use.

"As use has spread to involve larger numbers and more conservative elements, it has lost some of its traditional antiestablishment symbolism."

Over the years, the names used for marihuana have changed. A marihuana cigarette once a "reefer," is now a "joint." The word "pot" is only fashionable now with non-users, while users prefer "grass" or simply "dope."

Because of the illegality of smoking dope, a "silly kind of code" (as Mr Hasleton says) or a kind of masonic symbolism (as it is generally described by others) has developed within the marihuana culture to allow users to identify each other.

Various examples of this code have been quoted to the Herald Investigation Team.

One concerned a group of about six young men discussing marihuana in a bar. Two in the company launched into a tirade about the evils of drugs.

Ten minutes later when the conversation had drifted to another subject, one of the men, sensing that there had been a certain empathy with his own view of marihuana from at least two of the others, sent out a cryptic message that went something like this:

"My wife and I got through half a gallon of ice-cream in Centennial Park on Sunday. Then we watched the sun setting over the trees. Fantastic."

Two others picked up the signal and told the first of their own preferences, one for a particular sweet and the other for fresh mangoes which he enjoyed, he said, in "a moment of peace and tranquillity."

The conversation, totally innocuous to the two anti-marihuana men, showed to the first that the others were on his level. They were marihuana smokers.

The discussion had been simply about the enjoyment of food, which, according to marihuana smokers, is so heightened under the influence of a "joint" that simple childhood sweets seem like nectar.

Craving for Bizarre Food

This phenomenon is known in the marihuana culture as "the munchies," a hunger, almost a craving, for food--often in bizarre combinations.

Sometimes the smoking process is bypassed completely and the marihuana is put directly into cakes, biscuits or pies.

The Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare was even told of one case where it had been used to stuff a chicken.

There is a broad social distinction between marihuana smokers and those who use hard drugs.

Sociological research and evidence to expert committees have both shown that, with exceptions, marihuana has become a middle class drug, used by people who accept the usual responsibilities and limitations of society and who otherwise lead traditionally fulfilling, functioning lives.

By distinction and again with exceptions, hard drug users are generally lower down the social scale with minimal education and limited prospects, people who might seek to escape what they see as a deadend existence.

But a disturbing link between the two is through the pedlar.

Often, the person who sells marihuana for profit can also supply the harder drugs such as heroin, cocaine, LSD and methedrine.

Many experts, including drug squad detectives, are becoming increasingly worried about this common pipeline.

With an unexplained scarcity of marihuana in Sydney at the moment, they are concerned that some users, who might otherwise never go past marihuana, might be tempted by their usual supplier to experiment instead with other more dangerous substances.

[16 Dec 76, p 8]

[Text] In a NSW country town a fresh-faced young man was arrested as he went about his normal day-to-day business--selling marihuana.

The young man--we will call him Tom--is said to have had in his possession about four pounds of freshly cured "grass."

According to an account given to the Herald Investigation Team by two separate sources, the marihuana was worth about \$1,900 on the streets but, by the time Tom got to court, its weight had mysteriously shrunk to four ounces and its value to \$120.

Instead of a jail sentence for selling drugs, Tom received a hefty fine for being in possession of an amount of marihuana which his lawyer was able to claim had been for Tom's personal use.

And Tom was not going to complain that two weeks after his arrest his bag was back on the streets in the care of a new seller--a relative of the policeman who had arrested him.

The marihuana, it is claimed, was of a high quality because of the care taken in its cultivation and because of the fertiliser which had been used on the crop.

This fertiliser had also imparted a distinctive odour which, together with its unusually dark colour, made it instantly distinguishable from inferior varieties.

One of the two people who recounted this story to the Investigation Team was a man who claimed that he grew the marihuana in question and who actually produced samples to try to demonstrate how distinctive it was.

While the truth of this story would be difficult to establish, it bears striking similarity to others told to the HERALD by marihuana users, solicitors, barristers, academics and even a Sydney judge.

The judge, who talked to the HERALD on the condition that he was not identified, has told of a case in September involving two teenage boys, one the son of a friend of his.

What happened, he said, was that the house in which the boys were living was raided and searched for drugs by two policemen.

Though there was evidence that marihuana had been used in the house, there was nothing to implicate the two youths. It appeared more likely that flatmates who had recently moved had been the users.

Said the judge: "During the search of the house, the policemen--who were not from the Drug Squad--found about \$250 in cash. This was 'confiscated,' stolen if you like, and the youths were told to think themselves lucky that they were not being charged with a drugs offence.

"The boys were naturally very upset about what had happened, but they decided it would not be in their best interests to make any kind of formal complaint.

"Knowing the people involved and having heard their story I am satisfied of the truth of it. I understand it is the sort of practice which is happening more often now because courts are taking a more lenient view of marihuana offences.

"Some police officers think it is just not worth the hassle to charge kids, so they are imposing on-the-spot fines so to speak."

Mr Allan Viney, Liberal MLA for Wakehurst and former chairman of the NSW Parliamentary Joint Committee on Drugs, which was dissolved before the State election, is convinced that some policemen are reaping a rich reward from marihuana.

"Those prepared to profit from drugs would be very much in the minority, but I have no doubt that some policemen are in on the act," said Mr Viney.

"In any large group you will always find a small percentage which is corrupt and which spoils the image of the rest.

"I don't think it is the Drug Squad, for which I have great respect, so much as the D and V boys--the drugs and vice officers attached to the divisions.

"There are not so many areas nowadays where the police can get a quid, so those who are inclined that way get it from drugs. Unfortunately, some are into hard drugs such as heroin as well as marihuana."

Mr Viney was not told by the HERALD of the case of Tom, but he volunteered: "What happens is that a kid gets busted for possessing maybe three pounds of marihuana. It gets to court and the charge is possession of 1 1/2 pounds or perhaps just a few ounces."

Some of the evidence heard by his committee and information which he had received from other sources convinced him, he said, that much of the marihuana which is not accounted for simply goes back on the streets again.

A Sydney barrister, Mr Dean Letcher, who is defending some of the people arrested during the recent police raid on a commune at Tunttable Falls, believes that the sort of practice described by Mr Viney happens "far too frequently for coincidence."

"And when you get to court with a case like this, what can you do? Jump up and down and tell the judge that the police are telling lies, that your client didn't have a couple of ounces in his possession, that he had 1 1/2 lb? Hardly.

"What happens to the other pound and a bit that was not accounted for? Draw your own conclusions."

Mr Letcher, who has extensive knowledge of drugs cases, claims also to have been told by clients on many occasions of money "going missing" during police searches of homes.

The NSW Attorney-General, Mr Frank Walker, who was a member of the Viney Committee, said also that strong evidence of police involvement in selling marihuana had been heard in camera by the committee.

The judge also spoke of police involvement in selling confiscated marihuana. "There are obviously serious abuses by the police, perhaps encouraged by the fact that there is no central system for detailing drugs seizures, no central registry," he said.

"People assume that seized marihuana is destroyed and much of it may be, but there is no procedure that is open to public scrutiny to ensure the systematic destruction of marihuana.

"Arresting officers merely keep the stuff in a locker. Receipts are seldom, if ever, given to the people from whom marihuana is confiscated.

"Courts seldom order its destruction and it is my belief that large quantities of marihuana go back on the market again."

But the judge did not share Mr Viney's view that policemen are involved in selling hard drugs.

"There may be the odd exception, but in general the police seem to have a pretty sensible attitude towards addictive narcotics at least. I never hear any suggestions of policemen selling hard drugs," he said.

"I must also point out that when I speak of abuses in this area, I believe they involve police outside the Drug Squad.

"I am not saying that individual Drug Squad officers might not at some time or other have been involved in these sorts of practices, but I believe the Drug Squad in general is pretty sound.

"From about 1970 onwards, I began to observe a considerable improvement in the quality of the officers on that squad, and now I believe they are a pretty decent and intelligent bunch of blokes."

The NSW Drug Squad has been able in the last few years to demonstrate, from the point of view of detection and convictions, remarkable success in its war against abuse of drugs of all sorts.

Last year, 3,286 people were prosecuted for marihuana offences--almost double the number of convictions for the previous year.

In 1966, the year of the drugs "explosion" in this State, according to the officer in charge of the Drug Squad, Det-Sgt Ken Astill, the number of convictions for marihuana offences was 57.

Det-Sgt Astill attributes this success to the "streamlining of our investigative arm and a vigorous departmental educational program in the handling and detection of drug offenders, coupled with an efficient squad of men."

"Having an honest, efficient, intelligent and loyal squad of men makes all the difference," he said in a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee.

In addition to the number of people arrested for possession of marihuana, the Drug Squad has also been responsible for locating hundreds of marihuana plantations, some small, but many very large.

In 1974, for instance, 111 plantations were detected and convictions resulted in almost every case.

Last year ended with the seizure of a 12.7 hectare (31.5 acres) plantation, said to be worth about \$20 million, at Colleambally, near Griffith.

These seizures may explain the fact that, for the last few months, there has been a scarcity of marihuana in Sydney.

What little is available is either of poor quality or more expensive than usual. The HERALD has been told that regular users have recently been asked to pay \$30 for half an ounce of "good grass."

At last, it seems, inflation has hit the marihuana market. For as long as most users can remember, an ounce of marihuana--a "deal"--cost \$30.

The 18-strong Drug Squad might have cornered and destroyed much of the crop that would have fed the demand of the last few months.

Det-Sgt Astill, appointed head of the squad in May, 1974 would have been prepared to talk to the HERALD only if authority was sought in writing from his superiors and if he was permitted to study written questions first and approve the report afterwards.

Improvement in Squad

But, in his submission to the Parliamentary Committee in February this year, he told of his concern about marihuana--"the most popular illicit drug...and the one about which most misinformation exists."

In this submission, he pointed out that he was not a psychologist, doctor or academic. His expertise, he said, was based on observation of drug users and practical experience, rather than research or reading.

His view of marihuana was that it not only was a highly dangerous drug, but a menace to public health, safety and welfare--and "a calling card to hard narcotic use."

For instance, there was evidence in police records both locally and from abroad that 80 per cent of all convicted hard drug users said they had started with marihuana.

"They started with pot and graduated to some other drug," he said. But he added: "That does not mean to say that 80 per cent of all pot smokers will graduate to hard drugs."

Det-Sgt Astill who told the committee that he did not classify marihuana smokers as criminals as such, said that he could see big problems arising if marihuana was decriminalised.

He believed decriminalisation would lead to a reduction in the price of marihuana and an increase in the number of users, resulting in an increase in the number of hard-drug takers.

Had he heard about private marihuana parties attended by "so-called respectable people, persons in the professions and others"?

"I would say there are such people and if we hear about them they will get busted," he said.

But prosecution was not automatic with everyone found in possession of a small quantity of marihuana.

In the case of young first offenders, the police more often than not exercised an unofficial discretionary power which enabled them to give a strongly worded caution without prosecution.

"If they are old offenders they are charged, but if they have never been in trouble before they are invariably cautioned, officially. They are not finger printed. They do not appear before a court, but invariably they are fronted before a police officer in the presence of their parents..."

The police "got no medals for arresting juveniles," he said. The usual procedure was that they were lectured--"and we do not beat around the

bush." There was a remarkably high percentage of success with young people, he added.

With other first offenders, although prosecution was almost certain, the police also did as much as possible to help.

"Everybody bends over backwards to help the drug user if he is not a pusher. We do the same. If he is just a user and nothing more, and we can do something to help in his rehabilitation, we do it.

"...if the offender is not incorrigible or is not a chronic abuser, we are only too happy to help him in any way we can. A lot of people think that when a pot smoker is arrested he goes to jail.

"I do not know of any pot smoker who has gone to jail first up," he added.

But this did not mean that he would encourage lesser penalties for drug offenders.

"From my own personal point of view, any permissive or irresponsible attitude on the lessening of penalties for drug offences should be discouraged and condemned."

On that point Det-Sgt Astill was quite emphatic.

What the Police Think

Before publication, the HERALD supplied a copy of this report to the Acting Police Commissioner, Mr Mervyn Wood, who is due to assume permanent control of the NSW Police Force on January 1 next year.

Speaking through a spokesman, Mr Wood stated: "We have read the article and we don't believe the allegations contained in the script to be true. If they are true, we would welcome any evidence that you have being brought to our attention so that it can be properly investigated."

The spokesman was asked if Mr Wood's comments referred to allegations made by the judge as well as others mentioned in the article.

He replied: "It refers to the report in general without selecting any one part of it."

He then qualified this by saying: "Many things you say in there are quite true and favourable to the police."

But in reference to allegations of impropriety contained in the report, the spokesman said: "Once they are published, they tend to destroy the police image. You may believe them to be true because you have accepted the word of some persons, but we do not."

Discussing the question of police misconduct, he said: "With eight and a half thousand people involved in this force, there's bound to be one or two bad apples. But we are as concerned as anybody else to find out who they are and prosecute them."

BURMA

HEROIN DEALER CAUGHT IN RANGOON

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 20 Jan 77 p 7 BK

[Text] Rangoon, 19 Jan--Acting on information, members of the Crime Prevention Branch of the Rangoon Division police force laid in wait near the junction of Maha Bandoola and Shwedagon Pagoda Streets in Latha Township, Rangoon, yesterday and seized three packets of heroin worth 1,500 kyats from U Soe Thein alias Hoke Swan of No 520, Kawliya Street, 13 Ward in South Okkalapa Township. U Soe Thein resisted arrest and had to be subdued before being searched.

It was learned that the police were tipped off that Hoke Swan, under different aliases, had established contacts in the Shan State, Moulmein and Pyapon and was dealing in heroin in Latha Township.



U Soe Thein alias Hoke Swan

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN IN KENG TUNG--Keng Tung, 18 Jan--A customs squad while searching car No HSA/2216, owned by the road transport corporation and driven by Ko Tin Aung, found three 1-kilogram packets of heroin. The car had gone from Keng Tung yesterday to Taunggyi. The driver was arrested and charged. It was learned that the heroin seized is worth more than 100,000 kyats in the market. [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 19 Jan 77 p 7 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE ON SHWEBONTHA STREET--Rangoon 19 Jan--Acting on information, subinspector of police U Kan Myint and party of Pabedan police station searched the staircase of No 242 in Shwebontha Street at 0930 today and arrested two persons selling heroin along with six packages of heroin worth 20 kyats each. They were 30-year old Esoof Alias Than Ngwe of No 148, 37th Street, and 27-year old Maung Zaw Win of No 82, Bo Aung Gyaw Street. Pabedan police station has taken action against them under section 6 (b) and 10 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 20 Jan 77 p 2, 7 BK]

HEROIN IN MYITKYINA--Myitkyina, 15 Jan--Acting on information, station officer U Hla Win of the Kachin State Police Intelligence Service, subinspector U Chan Khaw and party, accompanied by some witnesses, searched the house of U Ko Lay of No 100, Myoma Ward, Myitkyina, under the direction of chief of Kachin State People's police force at 1400 yesterday and seized eight packages of heroin weighing about 1 ywe [.0003 lbs] each, one penicillin bottle of heroin, and two pieces of raw jade weighing about 1 viss [3.60 lb] each. Action has been taken against U Ko Lay under Sections 6 (b) and 10 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and Section 6 (1) of the Public Property Protection Law. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 22 Jan 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN MERGUI--Mergui, 16 Jan--Under the narcotics suppression plan launched in Mergui, subinspector U Win Maung and a party from the city police station last night raided the house of notorious opium den operator Daw Ngwe Tin in Kangyi Ward and found 13 packets of Thai (Kingpetch) or No 3 heroin. Daw Ngwe Tin has been charged under the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 24 Jan 77 p 6 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN SHWEBO--Shwebo, 13 Jan--A combined force of the army intelligence and the people's police force, accompanied by the ward people's councillors, searched the Indian temple near the railway station in Shwebo yesterday and seized three large packages of heroin and .5 tical [.018 lb] of opium. Ko Ebo, caretaker of the keys of the temple, was arrested, and action has been taken against him. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 25 Jan 77 p 6 BK]

HEROIN IN MYITKYINA--Myitkyina, 6 Jan--On the night of 5 January a special patrol unit of Myitkyina's Police Station No 1 searched the first class passenger wagon of the Myitkyina-Mandalay special mail train and seized a package of heroin and some cigars from wagon guard Aung Thein, Maung Myo, Tin Aung and Maung Than. They also seized another package of heroin hidden in the lampshade of the toilet. [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 14 Jan 77 p 6 BK]

HEROIN IN MERGUI--Mergui, 3 Jan--Acting on information that some suspicious strangers were lodging at the house of Maung Tin Win in Myothit Ward, People's Councilor U Thaung Tin and party of the same ward searched the house with the help of ward people's councilors and fire fighters at 2000 on 1 January. They then arrested the house owner, Maung Tin Win, and Maung Hla Tun alias Hla Aye from Kyaukha Village, Palaw Township, and Aye Kyaing from Mathe Village, Bokpyin Township, along with one .22 pistol, seven bullets, about 2 ywes [.0006 lb] of No 3 heroin and heroin smoking equipment. They turned them over to the Myoma Police Station and action has been taken against them under sections 19 (A) and (F) of the Arms Act and Section 6 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 15 Jan 77 p 6 BK]

HEROIN IN LASHIO TOWNSHIP--Lashio, 31 Jan--Lashio Township people's councillors and a police force headed by Sub-inspector U Hla Myint, with the help of ward councillors and people's militia, at 1600 today sent a person to buy 652 kyats worth of heroin from notorious Nan Hla Yin and at the same time raided her house at No. 194 Man Ai Street in Aung Mingala ward, Lashio. The search party seized a liquor bottle half filled with heroin powder, 10 small packets of heroin and 21,000 kyats. During the raid, Non Hla Yin, who was conducting the transaction, broke a large medicine bottle containing heroin and threw it in the gutter in front of the house. Non Hla Yin, 24; her husband Sai Khin Maung, father U San Paung and mother Daw Khan Maw were arrested and charged under section 6 (B) and 10 (10) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 4 Feb 77 p 6 BK]

ARREST IN KYAUKME--Kyaukme, 30 Jan--Due to the efforts of the police force headed by city police station officer U Sai Aung, a notorious woman who was distributing heroin in Kyaukme was arrested yesterday and evidence was confiscated. The woman was Ma Hmuay Aye, 30, who resides near the No. 2 High School in Tilin Ward. Seized from her were five small packets of heroin each valued at 25 kyats, small plastic bags for wrapping heroin and a camera she had traded for with heroin. Action has been taken under sections 6 (B) and 10 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 8 Feb 77 p 6 BK]

INDONESIA

JAKARTA PAPER VIEWS ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRADE

Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 15 Jan 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Jakarta--Although Indonesia is not a major target of narcotics trafficking, there is a possibility that it will become such a target once its people's prosperity has improved as a result of successful development. The targets of the illicit narcotics trade are now Western Europe and America, where the people's standards of living are high. This is understandable, because the price of narcotics is very high.

The chairman of the antinarcotics section of the coordinating body for the implementation of Presidential Instruction No 6/71, Police Brig Gen Dr Sukardjo Subadi SH [Master of Laws] in a special interview with ANTARA in Jakarta on Friday [14 January] listed two reasons for a country to become a target of illicit narcotics trafficking--a high degree of prosperity and strong purchasing power of its people who can afford to pay a high price for their needs. Thus narcotics trafficking will flow into places where the purchasing power is strong.

Also, people who have lost touch with their societies will become victims of narcotics trafficking. This happens in advanced industrialized countries where many members of society are frustrated, because they cannot adjust to their environment. Illicit trade in narcotics will flow into societies where such conditions prevail.

As a country which is making efforts to improve the living standards of its people, Indonesia is not free from the possibility of becoming a future target of the illicit narcotics trade.

Narcotics abuse is an international problem. In this connection Indonesia will not deal lightly with the narcotics problem, because Indonesia does not want to be like its neighbors--Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries--where 70,000 to 150,000 of their small populations of a few millions have become victims of narcotics trafficking. In this context Indonesia is determined to step up coordination among various departments and agencies in the coming year aimed at total elimination of the abuse of and illicit trade in narcotics.

There now are 10,000 registered drug addicts and this number is increasing quite rapidly. In view of this, the chairman of the antinarcotics section of the coordinating body for the implementation of Presidential Instruction No 6/71 has urged the people to be more conscious of this narcotics danger. "The people's great consciousness of the narcotics danger and their effective participation in the elimination of this danger will greatly contribute to the antinarcotics program," Police Brig Gen Dr Sukardjo Subadi SH said.

Sukardjo said that one favorable factor for Indonesia is that it is not located on the international route of illicit narcotics trade. "We are situated adjacent to the American-Southeast Asian-European route," he said. At most, Indonesia is only used as a storing place. But with the enforcement of the antinarcotics law, there is a great risk involved for those who dare to store narcotics in Indonesia.

There has been indications of a new Southeast Asia-Australia route. In this connection, Indonesia may well be affected by its consequences.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN DRUG OFFENDERS TO LOSE PASSPORTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Jan 77 p 11 BK

[Article by S. C. Cheah]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sunday--About 350 Malaysians remanded in other countries for drug offenses will have their passports confiscated when they return to Malaysia. But these people who will have been tried already in those countries, will not have to stand trial again here.

But the government will also put them under police surveillance and they will not be allowed to leave the country again.

Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim said this in an interview after addressing members of the Malaysian Tae-Kwondo Association (MTA) in a seminar on drug abuse here today.

Encik Rais, who is also the president of the National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM), said that from next month, an "emergency hot-line" would be set up at PEMADAM's new service center and headquarters at Bukit Petaling here.

This "hot-line" would enable drug addicts or other to telephone the center up midnight for help. The center would act as a "half-way" house for drug addicts.

Encik Rais said some schools would be given guidelines to check drug abuse in their schools.

"We have to tailor our programs carefully, so that they will not be counter productive," he said.

For instance, talks given to schoolchildren on anti-drug abuse would be conducted by people approved by the government.

"The idea is not to highlight drugs unnecessarily, which might result in schoolchildren trying drugs out of curiosity," he said.

Earlier, addressing members of the MTA, he urged civic organizations and associations to help PEMADAM fight drug abuse.

He also outlined PEMADAM's main objectives this year:

- To launch a membership drive to include international organizations, companies, schools and members of the public;

- To establish PEMADAM in every state, particularly in Kelantan, Trengganu and Penang, which do not have a center yet;

- To establish more rehabilitation centers; and

- To identify centers of drug operations, concentrating on Perak, Selangor and Penang.

"In Kuala Lumpur, police have identified 86 spots of drug trafficking," he added.

He said the four drug rehabilitation centers in Batu Gajah, Kuala Kubu Baru, Bukit Mertajam and at Johore Baru were inadequate.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

'STRAITS TIMES': POLICE SMASHED ALL DRUG RINGS IN SINGAPORE

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Jan 77 p 10 BK

[Text] All established drug trafficking syndicates operating in Singapore have been smashed, according to authoritative sources yesterday. They dismissed reports that the republic is now a major drug haven.

The sources said that intensified action by enforcement officers here, coupled with the stringent drug laws, had put all organized drug gangs out of action.

The sources were commenting on press reports that Singapore is now on the international heroin network map, as several of its nationals have been caught overseas for trafficking in drugs.

Only last week, convicted heroin queen May Wong, 30, an ex-Malaysian model, claimed that she had worked for a gang called Overlords who reportedly supplied heroin to London.

She claimed that the gang had been responsible for the murder of her billion merchant father in Singapore in December 1971, and that she had joined them with the hope of tracing the killers.

Sources, however, dismissed her claims as "sheer nonsense" as all the people responsible for the murder had been arrested, resulting in seven men being hanged.

They said that since the early 70s, enforcement officers from the police, customs and Central Narcotics Bureau had stepped up their vigilance against big time drug traffickers here.

And between 1974 and last year, at least a dozen organized drug syndicates, including those with international connections, were discovered and smashed.

Several "hardcore" traffickers, some of whom were millionaires, were also detained under the criminal law act.

Established heroin gangs gradually stopped their operations here.

Six people have so far been sentenced to death here for drug trafficking since last July, when the first offender was given the death penalty.

Sources, however, said that though major syndicates had stopped operating here, small time pedlars had sprung up rapidly to cash in on the lucrative trade.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

TOTAL 1976 DRUG SEIZURE, ARRESTS REPORTED

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Jan 77 p 8 BK

[Text] The Central Narcotics Bureau [CNB] seized a total of 15 kilos of heroin last year, valued at more than \$600,000 in the local blackmarket, it was learned yesterday.

The CNB is believed to have also seized 26 kilos of raw opium, 11 kilos of prepared opium, two kilos of morphine, a kilo of cannabis and 171 tablets in the same period.

Sources, however, said that the heroin haul was believed to be only one-fourth of the quantity that was smuggled into Singapore last year.

They said that although established trafficking syndicates here had been broken up as a result of relentless crackdown, smalltime operators had sprung up rapidly to replace them and they were the ones posing problems to drug enforcement officers.

According to the sources, about 6,000 drug abusers were arrested last year, of whom more than 4,500 were caught for suspected heroin offenses.

The increased availability of heroin was attributed to the growing number of smalltime pushers who were cashing in on the lucrative trade.

As a result, said the sources, the number of heroin traffickers caught had also increased. In 1975, [as published] 36 people were convicted for heroin trafficking.

Though the exact number of people arrested last year for such offenses were not immediately known, sources reckoned that about 150 drug traffickers had been caught in that period.

They said the smalltime operators obtained the drugs from across the causeway.

Sources said that although the CNB was aware of the existence of the operators, total clampdown was impossible as new groups of traffickers were ready and willing to take over from those that were caught.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

5-YEAR SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKER--A bar waitress who tried to sell drugs to a Central Narcotics Bureau officer was sentenced to 5 years in jail in the subordinate court today. (Joan Fo Lum) was found guilty of trafficking in 0.45 gram of heroin in (World) Road last year. [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 2 Feb 77 BK]

5-YEAR SENTENCE OF DRUG PEDDLER--A man who sold heroin to a narcotics officer escaped before he could be arrested, but the officer returned a week later and succeeded in detaining him, a district court heard yesterday. Yesterday, Lee Chwee Min, 32, was jailed 5 years with 5 strokes of the cane when he pleaded guilty to trafficking the drug in Ophir Road on 8 Dec. Lee was also sentenced to 2 years' jail for having a heroin-stained cigarette and 6 months' jail for consuming the drug, the sentences to run concurrently with the trafficking charge. He has two previous convictions for drug offenses. The court heard that Lee approached Central Narcotics Bureau officer, Mr Lee Phui Yan and offered to sell him drugs. The officer paid him \$7 for a phial containing 0.10 gram of diamorphine (heroin). But just as he identified himself, Lee ran away. The officer returned to the same place in Ophir Road on 17 Dec and recognized Lee who was there again. This time the officer succeeded in arresting him and recovered from him a heroin-stained cigarette. Lee was sent for a urine test, which showed that he had taken the drug. Lee pleaded guilty to all the three charges. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIME in English 22 Jan 77 p 10 BK]

DRUG PEDDLER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS--Two narcotics officer, who were looking out for suspected drug traffickers in a block of flats, were completely taken by surprise when a drug peddler walked up to them and handed over a packet of heroin "for no rhyme or reason." The peddler merely inquired if one of them was "Ah Ter's" friend and when one of the officers nodded his head, he was handed the packet containing 4.13 grams of heroin, a court heard yesterday. In the dock was Bobby Ho, 30, a part-time salesman, who was jailed for 5 years with 5 strokes of the cane when he pleaded guilty to trafficking drugs in Toa Payoh on 8 Dec, last year. Inspector Edward Scully, prosecuting, told the court that the narcotics officers, Lio Keun Chai and William Porter, were keeping observation on the groundfloor of Block 55, Lorong 5, Toa Payoh at about 12.55 pm that day. Then "for no

rhyme or reason" Ho approached them and asked if one of them was "Ah Ter's" friend. When Lio nodded his head, to his surprise, Ho gave him a plastic packet containing a powdery substance which was later ascertained to be heroin. Lio took the packet and identified himself but before he could detain Ho, he put up a violent struggle and dashed away. The two officers gave chase and managed to catch Ho in the waiting room of a clinic. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jan 76 p 7 BK]

REDUCTION OF DRUG CASE SENTENCE--An ice-water vendor, who was jailed 7 years by a district judge last September and ordered to be given 12 strokes of the cane for pushing drugs, had his sentence reduced to 5 years' jail and 5 strokes of the cane by the high court yesterday. Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin, hearing the vendor's appeal against sentence, agreed with his counsel, Mr Thomas Tham, that in all the circumstances of the case, it was "improper" for the trial judge to impose a sentence "much more" than the minimum of 5 years and 5 strokes. Low Boon Hock, 33, had pleaded guilty in the district court to trying to sell 0.08 gram of heroin to a plainclothes policeman in Weld Road on 12 May last year. Low was also sentenced to another year's jail for unlawfully having 0.24 gram of the drug in three phials which he had concealed in a nearby drain. Arguing the appeal, Mr Tham said that the minimum sentence prescribed by law was already very harsh in itself so that there must be other aggravating circumstances to warrant any sentence in excess of the minimum. In this case, his client had pleaded guilty and cooperated with the police. He had also not been convicted for drug trafficking before, counsel said. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Jan 77 p 5 BK]

COURT FINE FOR HEROIN SMOKER--Abdul Rahman Bin Abu Hussain, 23, was fined \$600 by a magistrate yesterday when he pleaded guilty to having a heroin-spiked cigarette in front of a house in Paya Labar Road on 16 December at about 3:45 P.M. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Jan 77 p 9 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROLE IN DRUG SUPPRESSION CITED

Bangkok CHAO THAI in Thai 17 Jan 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "A Complicated Problem"]

[Text] Last week the government appointed an antinarcotics committee to coordinate narcotic-suppression work which is currently being carried out by various concerned government agencies, including the Police Department, Interior Ministry; the Customs Department, Finance Ministry; and the Public Health Ministry. The Coordinating Committee is composed of both cabinet ministers and experts from the concerned departments.

We feel that this committee--like others before it--will end up dealing with only the superficial aspects, such as tracing the sources of narcotics production, checking the flow of drugs, encouraging opium growers to switch to other crops, and curing and rehabilitating drug addicts.

The committee, it seems, will not go to the root cause of the problem and wipe it out entirely. We say this because we realize that the problem of narcotics is, to a certain degree, linked with international politics, and we believe that the Foreign Ministry should be given some role in solving this problem.

First of all we must understand that of all the narcotics sold around the world, less than 10 percent comes from Thailand. More than 80 percent is from sources other than Thailand, especially the Burmese part of what is known as the Golden Triangle. Thailand is only the transit route for the drugs, be they heroin or opium or even the acetic acid and hydrite used for processing the heroin. This is the reason why the Thai people have become victims to drug addiction.

The real cause of the problem is related to the political situation in Burma. The liberation movements in the Shan, Wa and Karen regions are fighting the Burmese Government for autonomy in administration. In order to have weapons to fight the Burmese Government, the liberation movements need huge sums of money, and there is no other way for the people to earn the money other than

producing and selling opium and heroin on the world market. The United States is aware of this, which is why its aid to the Burmese Government for narcotics suppression is more substantial than that given to Thailand. For instance, it gave 18 helicopters to the Burmese Government for use in narcotics suppression, whereas the Thai Government got only 8 helicopters.

We therefore hold that international politics can play a role in the suppression of narcotics. We must study the policy of the Burmese Government in solving the problem of its rebel groups. We must also consider whether the issue of the rebel movements in Burma, and of people of different nationalities seeking autonomous rule, should be brought to the attention of the United Nations. We therefore beg the government to look at the entire problem from a broader perspective.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BACKGROUND ON NEW 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE' NARCOTICS KINGPIN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jan 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Khun Sa, who is engaged in a battle with Burmese Government forces inside Thai territory, is the kingpin of the narcotics trade in the "Golden Triangle," boundary junction of Burma, Thailand and Laos.

He has not only replaced Lo Hsing Han, who was sentenced to death in Rangoon, but has become probably the biggest merchant of all time in opium and its most destructive derivative, heroin.

Khun Sa, also known as Chang Chi-fu, is the 45-year-old offspring of a "Haw" (Yunnanese) tribesman and a Shan mother. Although he was born into Burmese society, he speaks Chinese, the language used in the opium trade in the region.

Brought up among the poppies, he proved to be an apt student in the opium business, amassing a fortune by the time he was 27.

He has built up his own army to protect his own caravans and to hire out to rival drug dealers. The considerable profits he makes are ploughed back into his business and used to equip his army with modern weapons.

Thai intelligence sources report that the army comprises 400 mercenaries. With their families, the group totals around 700. Their arsenal includes M-16s, M-79s, recoilless rifles, mortars and other weapons which have been smuggled from the Indochina battlefields.

Before Gen Ne Win came into power, Khun Sa saw an opportunity to enlarge his army and strengthen his own position by making it available for use by the Burmese government. Since Khun Sa's army was used to combat other opium gangs, Rangoon closed its eyes to his own operations.

It was alleged that he even used Burmese Army trucks to transport opium from his headquarters at Loimaw to the Burma-Thailand border.

However, when Gen Ne Win rose to power, Khun Sa declared his opposition and took his opium army to the Burma-Thai border. He changed his mind in 1967 and offered to co-operate with the Ne Win government. As a result, Khun Sa held sway over the Shan States. But in 1969, Gen Ne Win considered Khun Sa, who had grown tremendously powerful, to be a threat to the authority of Rangoon, which had failed to set up an effective infrastructure in the area.

The Burmese Government arrested Khun Sa and imprisoned him in Mandalay. His army was taken over by Chang Shu-chuan, another rich Chinese opium trader, who started calling the troops the "United Shan Army."

When Khun Sa escaped from jail last year and regained full charge of the army, he retained the name, pretending to fight for the independence of the Shan States. Thus, he has a convenient "respectable" facade for his narcotics trade.

He set up base in hilly, forested terrain in Ban Hin Taek, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai, two kilometers within the Burmese border and ten kilometers from the district seat. It is an area difficult of access to government forces.

Thai official sources report that Khun Sa's army has joined with the mainland intelligence unit of Taiwan which the Thai Government had ordered disbanded, following establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

Top officers of the unit which was supposed to have been conducting espionage and sabotage activities in south China were flown back to Taipei but the men numbering about 200, refused to leave, saying they would cross the border into Burma.

However, the unit hovered around the Thai border at Mae Chan and are now allegedly engaged in opium trading with Khun Sa's army. About 100 armed men have been sent to Mae Or in Mae Hong Son Province.

Khun Sa has exerted efforts to bring the disaffected minorities of Burma together.

According to European reports, Khun Sa transported 50,000 kilograms of heroin refined from 500,000 kilograms of opium from the "Golden Triangle" to Europe last year.

The Khun Sa connection became known in Europe following the recent arrest in Rome of a 33-year-old Amsterdam heroin dealer. The arrest took place in what was discovered to be the headquarters of the heroin transit trade from the Golden Triangle to Europe.

The strike in Rome was highly significant to the Dutch narcotics-fighters because it blocked for the time being the route taken by the heroin couriers --Hong Kong-Bangkok, Bangkok-Rome, Rome-Amsterdam.

The Amsterdam dealer is believed to be a key contact man between suppliers in Asia and buyers in Holland. He is the first white man arrested in Europe with connections reaching to the "Golden Triangle."

The recent visit of Dutch Justice Minister Andreas Van Agt emphasizes the importance of the connection.

On January 18 Burmese forces struck out at a portion of Khun Sa's army inside Burma and pursued it to the Thai border at Mae Chan, Chiang Rai.

Helicopter-borne Burmese troops were despatched to head off the retreat. They dropped into Thai territory and Khun Sa's men were caught in a pincer move--until Khun Sa's forces based at Ban Hin Taek moved in behind the air-dropped Burmese forces resulting in a big battle.

Thai border police asked both sides to stop fighting and Bangkok sent orders that both the Burmese Government forces and Khun Sa's army be asked to leave Thai territory.

Meanwhile, a top-level Thai delegation headed by Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun and General Kriangsak Chammanan, secretary-general of the prime minister's advisory council, prepares to leave for Rangoon on January 25 to discuss mutual border problems and to assure the Ne Win government of Thai friendship and co-operation.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

55 KILOS OF NO 3 HEROIN SEIZED IN 30-31 DECEMBER RAIDS

Joint Thai-Malaysian Ring

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 31 Dec 76 p 1 BK

[Text] Narcotic Suppression Center police smashed a joint Thai-Malaysian drug trafficking ring which planned to smuggle the biggest-ever amount of heroin found here to Europe during this New Year's holiday.

In a series of raids last night and early this morning, police arrested two Malaysians and six Thais and seized 55.6 kilos of No 3 heroin worth about 1,668,000 baht on the local market.

The No 3 heroin is known as "brown sugar" and is popular among Europeans. The price of "brown sugar" in Europe is 30 times more than here.

Acting on a tip-off that this international ring planned to take the opportunity of the several holidays during this New Year to send a string of carriers to smuggle the heroin to Europe, narcotics police at Don Muang Airport arrested two Thais carrying 2.6 kilos of No 3 heroin last night.

The two men, Amarin Sae Tang and Sakrin Sae Tang, were arrested while they were about to board a plane for Barcelona, Spain.

Acting quickly upon information given by the two arrested brothers, police raided a house at Kasem Samran village in Soi 71 off Sukhumvit Road last night and found another 45 kilos of heroin.

Police arrested the house owner, Mr Sukit Sae Lim and two others identified as Suthat Anothai and Santi Sae Ju.

They then rushed to the Rose Hotel on Suriwong Road and searched rooms occupied by a Thai and two Malaysians, Mr Lucha Sae Lim, Mr Lee Swee Onn and Mr Tang Chong Ngnana and found about eight kilos of the same type of heroin in their possession.

Police said that the two Malaysians, Mr Lee and Mr Tang, were the financiers of this drug ring while Mr Lucha acted as middle-man between the Thais and Malaysians in the ring.

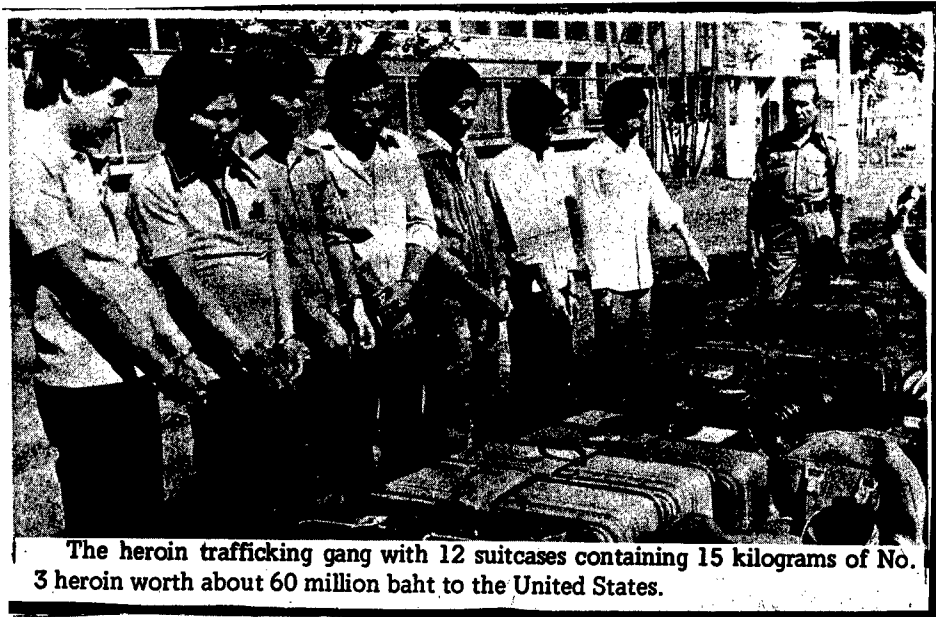
The operation is ranked one of the most successful since the amount of heroin confiscated by police as the largest drug haul ever made in Thailand.

Differences in Figures

[Editorial Report] Bangkok's three English-language morning newspapers on 1 January carried front-page reports on the smashing of the drug ring reported in the BANGKOK WORLD 31 Dec story. However, the newspapers do not agree on the amount of heroin seized. The BANGKOK POST says 20 kilos were seized, the NATION REVIEW says 10 kilos, while the MORNING EXPRESS says 15 kilos. In a page 16 story the Thai-language DAO SIAM also reports 15 kilos were seized.

Photo Published

Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 1 Jan 77 p 1 BK



THAILAND

8 KILOS OF HEROIN SEIZED FROM EUROPE-BOUND COURIERS

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 4 Jan 77 p 1 BK

[Excerpt] Customs officials late last night arrested two Malaysians as they were about to board two separate planes for Rome and seized five kilograms of No 3 heroin ("brown sugar") found hidden in the false-bottom of a suitcase.



Sim Chin Tek watches as a Customs official pulls out a plastic bag containing the five kilogrammes of No. 3 heroin from his false-bottom suitcase.

They were identified as Sim Chin Tek (26) and Ooi Hooi Ke (29).

Customs officials led by chief customs officer Navy Lt Anan Phanannot at the departure lounge became suspicious of Sim, searched his suitcase and found the heroin as he was about to board an Alitalia flight.

Later, the officials wanted to search Ooi's suitcase as he was seen earlier talking to Sim, but Ooi's suitcase had already left on a Thai International flight which had left 45 minutes before while he was being questioned.

The officials have contacted the airline to send back Ooi's suitcase as they suspect that there might be heroin hidden inside.

The two Malaysians reportedly entered Thailand before New Year through the Sadao checkpoint in Songkhla and picked up the suitcases in Bangkok.

In another incident, customs officials arrested a Hong Kong Chinese, Fung Yu Tong, on New Year's Eve as he was about to board a Singapore Airlines flight for Rome. He was found carrying three kilograms of No 3 heroin in a false-bottom suitcase.

The two Malaysians and the Hong Kong Chinese are believed to be couriers for an international heroin trafficking ring operating between Malaysia, Thailand and Europe.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

17.3 KILOS OF HEROIN BOUND FOR HONG KONG SEIZED

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Jan 77 p 1 BK

[Excerpt] Alert Don Muang Airport customs officers yesterday arrested a Thai woman and seized 17.3 kilograms of No 3 heroin which was delivered to her on the tarmac as she was about to board a China Airlines flight to Hong Kong.

Earlier on Tuesday night, officers arrested two Malaysians who they said were attempting to smuggle 5 kilograms of heroin to Rome in a false-bottomed suitcase.

Miss Wanphen Sirikun (32) was arrested at planeside at about 2.55 p.m. after picking up an overnight bag and a woman's shoulder bag containing the drug from the driver of a van.

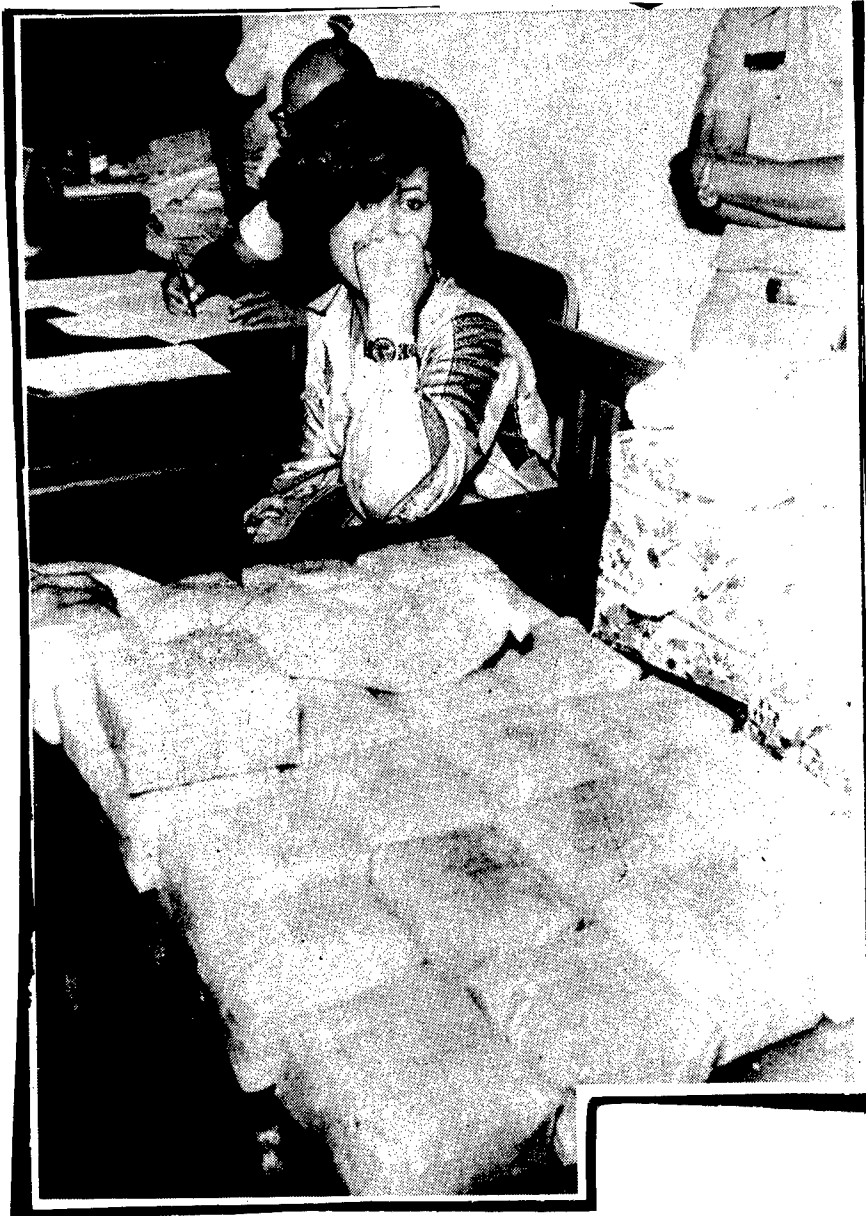
Nothing had been found in her suitcases that had been checked through customs, but as she stepped out of the airport transit bus which took her and other passengers to the plane a Thai International van drove up.

Customs officer Wirat Thepphithak said he saw the woman walk to the van and pick up two bags that were given to her. The vehicle then sped away.

He asked for a search of the bags and quickly discovered they were packed with heroin.

Miss Wanphen is said to be a sister of Siri Sirikun, who was arrested by narcotics agents at the Dusit Thani Hotel October 5 last year with 8 kilograms of No 4 first grade heroin.

Police are now looking for the driver of the Thai International van.



Pretty Wanphen Sirikun with the 17.3 kilograms of No 3 heroin which she is said to have collected from a van on the airport tarmac as she prepared to board a Hong Kong-bound flight.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POLICE RAID NETS 2 KILOS OF NO 3 HEROIN 6 JANUARY

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Jan 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Crime Suppression Division [CSO] police arrested a Thai of Chinese descent and found two kilograms of No 3 heroin worth about 70,000 baht at the Prince Hotel on New Petchaburi Road yesterday afternoon.

The man was identified as Chin Atsaniwuthikon (45), owner of Kasem Phanit Stationary Shop in Soi Sitthiphon, Samsen Nai in the Din Daeng area.

The CSD squad led by Pol Maj Phairot Thong-in, which had been posted at the Prince Hotel since last Wednesday, saw Chin in a Fiat 1500 drive into the hotel at about 4 p.m. yesterday.

Chin was later seen carrying a wooden box into the hotel. The police squad then pounced on him and conducted a body search. On inspecting the box, which was covered in velvet, a small doll was found.

Chin was later taken to the CSD headquarters for further questioning. When police examined the wooden box carefully a special compartment under the velvet was discovered, containing the two kilograms of No 3 heroin.

The police squad then went to the Kasem Phanit shop and discovered Chin's passport which revealed that he had traveled to Hong Kong and Rome before.

Chin later confessed that he was hired to take the heroin to a "contact" at the Prince Hotel for 10,000 baht cash.



Chin points out the heroin hidden in a special compartment of a wooden box which he was carrying when police caught him yesterday.

Chin points out the heroin hidden in a special compartment of a wooden box which he was carrying when police caught him yesterday. Behind him are plain-clothed policemen.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NARCOTICS AGENTS ARREST FOUR PERSONS WITH HEROIN

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 22 Jan 77 p 2 BK

[Text] Three men and a woman were arrested yesterday afternoon after they handed over one kilo of first grade No 4 heroin to undercover narcotics agents outside the AUA Language Centre on Ratchadamri Road.

They were Plum Plengsiang, a first grade official of the Telephone Organization of Thailand [TOT], Sgt Prasong Nimdi, chief security guard at the Bangkok Bank head office, Nopphadon Phosuk and his sister Mrs Bunsu Phosuk.

The four arrived at the rendezvous at about 5.15 p.m. in a TOT van driven by Plum.

After parking the van the four, seeing the undercover narcotics agents, handed over the heroin neatly packed in three plastic bags.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

DRUG SMUGGLING BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL INCREASING

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 3 Jan 77 p 5

[Excerpt] In the two-year period between March, 1973, and March, 1975, customs officers made 36 drug seizures at Toronto International Airport. The street value of the drugs was \$10,003,500.

Smuggling of drugs by first-class mail from outside Canada is increasing. In 1975, customs officers made 56 seizures at the Toronto post office.

The problem, according to Mr. Angel Stambolis [a Canada Customs intelligence officer], is that customs officers cannot open first-class mail on reasonable and probable grounds. If the suspect mail contains a few ounces of a prohibited drug, they can ask the person to whom the letter is addressed for permission to open it.

Permission is usually given but the person invariably denies knowledge that the letter contained drugs and cannot be prosecuted.

If the person to whom the letter is addressed refuses to let customs open it the post office must deliver it unopened. At that point, the RCMP might raid the recipient's home with a search warrant and try to find the drug after the recipient has opened the letter.

CSO: 5320

REPEALING DRUG LAWS BETTER THAN NEW PRISONS, GROUP TOLD

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 20 Jan 77 p 22

[Excerpt] Prince Albert (CP)--Repeal of federal drug laws might solve more problems than construction of new prisons, a special Commons sub-committee was told Wednesday night.

"The majority of drug laws should be decriminalized," Jim Coflin, executive director of the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan, told committee members at a public meeting. "The drug problem is not a criminal one."

Coflin told Erik Nielsen (PC--Yukon) it was his personal view the government should sell drugs such as heroin and marijuana.

Earlier, James Phelps, 34, Prairie region director of the Canadian Penitentiary Service, said drug laws contribute to the steady growth in the numbers of imprisoned men and women.

He indicated in an interview he feels the drug situation is a medical rather than a criminal problem and should be treated as such.

W. P. Oleniuk, regional official, said drug related crime--theft, murder, assault--accounts for a high percentage of those in Prairie prisons.

The Prairie region has a \$27 million operating budget and employs 1,400 people to look after 1,800 prisoners.

CSO: 5320

TWO FACING DRUG CHARGES IN WAKE OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 24 Jan 77 p 8

[Text] Vancouver (CP)--Vancouver police are holding two people for court appearances in the wake of an international police investigation launched in Vancouver 17 months ago into a heroin-trafficking syndicate responsible for distribution of 1 1/2 tons of the drug, with an estimated street value of about \$3-billion.

Stan Shillington, spokesman for the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit, said on Saturday that the investigation reached a climax this week with the arrest of three people in Hong Kong.

Canadian authorities have charged Lui King, 46, his wife Lui Shun Ha, 44, and Wong Kwok Hang, 37, all of Hong Kong, and Chan Joe Wai, 46, already in jail here, with conspiring to import and traffic in heroin.

Lui was arrested in Hong Kong last week after arriving there from Amsterdam. His wife was arrested by Royal Hong Kong police as she was leaving for Macao.

The two are being held in Hong Kong where they face charges laid there. Vancouver police are holding indictments for them.

Mr. Shillington said Wong, a seaman, was located on a ship in Pakistan and was returned to Hong Kong. He was flown voluntarily to Vancouver and was arrested when he arrived at noon Friday.

Thailand police have stated they believe a drug syndicate has shipped more than 1,500 kilos of heroin out of Thailand and Hong Kong, Mr. Shillington said.

"There is no suggestion that all of this came to Vancouver, but to give you an idea of the vast amount of money this involves, 1,500 kilos or 3,300 pounds when diluted with lactose and sold to addicts at Vancouver street prices, would generate close to \$3-billion."

Mr. Shillington said 14 people have been arrested in six countries since last January. The investigation included the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Royal Hong Kong police and police in Thailand, Singapore, Holland and Copenhagen.

Six co-conspirators are named but not indicted in the case, Mr. Shillington said. No attempt was being made to arrest and charge them.

Police said Pak Yok Lin, 51, owner of the Ying Yuen Trading Co. in Hong Kong, was arrested in Bangkok in May after police there seized 4 1/2 kilos of heroin bound for Australia. He apparently has since disappeared.

Leung Hung Kam, 34, of Hong Kong is serving 20 years in jail in Bangkok for exporting heroin. Lennox Elliot, 43, an Englishman living in Hong Kong, is serving two years in jail in Holland for importing heroin.

Mr. Shillington said Cheung Wan Hing, 52, of Hong Kong was arrested in Singapore after a courier was arrested in Copenhagen with 4 1/2 kilos of heroin.

Also named but not indicted were Wong Gui Nam, a Hong Kong resident and brother of Wong, and Chern Lee Quan, also a Hong Kong resident, who has worked for the Ying Yuen Trading Co. It is believed that both are in Hong Kong.

Police said heroin was distributed in Canada, the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia.

CSO: 5320

BRIEFS

FOUR RELEASED ON BAIL--Four persons jointly charged with possession of 357 caps of heroin for the purpose of trafficking appeared in provincial court Monday and were immediately released following a bail hearing. John Eccles, 31, of 1779 West Georgia, was granted \$2,500 cash bail. His wife, Karen, 20, also of 1779 West Georgia, was released on her own recognizance. Frank Temple, 36, of no fixed address, was granted \$1,000 cash bail, while Gregory Hodgson, 25, of 5757 Willingdon, was released on his own recognizance. The heroin allegedly seized by drug squad officers in the 1600-block East Hastings early Saturday is valued at \$11,000 on the illicit market. Judge Nick Mussallem remanded the four until next Monday. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 4 Jan 77 p 25]

DRUG MOVE PLANNED--Health Minister Bob McClelland said in Victoria Wednesday that he will implement "positive moves" before the summer toward cutting down heroin addiction in B.C. He said that he was impressed during a recent visit to Japan that through government programs demanded by the public, heroin addiction had been decreased from about 40,000 in the 1950s, down to only 34 in 1975. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 20 Jan 77 p 12]

CSO: 5320

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARREST--Pasto--The Colombian police today seized 20 kilos of cocaine carried by three women arriving from Ecuador. The drug was concealed in false-bottomed suitcases carried by Teresa de Jesus Caicedo, Anatolia Sanchez Andana and Tulia Rodriguez Vargas. [Bogota Circuito Todelar in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jan 77 PA]

MARIHUANA PLANTATION--Bucaramanga, 24 Jan--Colombian army troops reported the discovery of a vast marihuana plantation in Carare on the border between Santander and Antioquia Departments. The plantation covered 15 hectares of a heavily-wooded region that was impossible to locate from the air and was discovered by troops patrolling the area to track down guerrillas. No arrests were reported. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2350 GMT 29 Jan 77 PA]

MARIHUANA HAUL--The authorities today confiscated a cache of marihuana worth several million pesos near the town of (Puerto Lleras Meta). The cache was found at the farm of Roberto Arias Maldonado, where there was also a plantation of some 4 hectares of the drug ready for harvest. Some (?ten) persons were reportedly arrested in connection with the find. [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Feb 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER ARRAIGNED--Patricia Seminario de Aguayo, a Peruvian who was arrested when 29 grams of cocaine were found in her possession while traveling between Lima and Guayaquil, has been arraigned on narcotics charges. In her first deposition, she alleged that a fellow traveler asked her to hold several plastic objects and that when it was discovered that her papers were not in order, customs officials searched her luggage and found the plastic bags containing the cocaine paste. [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 11 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

NEW GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUGS BEGINS

New Anti-Drugs Campaign Announced

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Jan 77 p 3

[Text] The secretary of navy, Adm Ricardo Chazaro Lara, said yesterday that nine federal offices drew up a joint plan to fight drug traffic.

During a meeting held at the National Palace a concrete plan which was not made public was submitted for consideration. The secretary said that the president of the republic approved it and it will go into effect immediately.

The secretary of national defense, the secretary of government, the national attorney general, the attorney general of the Federal District, the head of the Federal District department, the secretary of navy and the secretary of labor and social welfare attended that meeting.

When Chazaro Lara left the meeting that was held in the presidential office, he said that his secretariat will collaborate by guarding against drug traffic in the territorial sea and the 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

He also reported that ship construction will increase with the objective of getting maximum utility from coast-guard cutters by combining them with air surveillance from Albatross airplanes.

JLP Orders New Anti-Drugs Measures

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 4 Jan 77 pp 1, 13

[Text] According to the official announcement made public in the Sunday newspapers, President Lopez-Portillo outlined a tough plan against drug traffic which will be put into effect immediately. It is a serious matter. The priority that the

new government has given it demonstrates this as do different facts which must be considered.

The origins of the situation that exists now are confused. Probably our relations with the United States or at least with part of the U.S. Government will be strained in the future. The fact that there is no unified government policy in the neighboring country is perhaps the most important key in determining the degree of difficulty that Mexico will face in drug affairs.

More than 4 years ago the acute stage of this problem began for Mexico. President Ford very directly and explicitly put pressure on Mexico through "Operation Interception." We all recall those weeks as a good example of how difficult and humiliating North American authorities can make Mexican passage through the border posts.

From then until 8 November 1975 there were talks between high-level officials of both governments. On that date an agreement was reached between the Mexican attorney general and Kissinger's principal adviser for drug affairs, Sheldon B. Vance. U.S. government sources said that they gave Mexico two airplanes and 38 helicopters. They also revealed that they had established a force of at least 42 special agents here.

Then an extraordinary problem arose--the agreement worked too well. In a few months more North Americans were in Mexican jails than in any other country in peacetime--possibly 600. Almost all of them were sampling the free hospitality of our prisons precisely as a result of police work against drug traffic.

For more than 40 years a secret government has operated in the United States. Its power is much greater than that of the official public administration. That secret government consists of different criminal organizations like the Mafia--of Italian origin--in alliance with politicians at all levels including members of Congress, governors and even a vice president or president. This secret government controls illegal government concessions, prostitution, gambling, extortion and drug traffic.

So that the reader can have a vague idea of the total value of its operations in this last category, drugs coming into the United States from Latin American countries like Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru reached a total value of 91.25 billion pesos in 1975 (made

public in several reports at the beginning of 1976). This was distributed in the following way: 62.5 billion pesos for marihuana, 12.5 billion pesos for heroin and 16.25 billion pesos for cocaine. The reader can estimate the present figure at more than 150 billion pesos; that is, about \$7.5 billion.

Such an important business seems to have led to relentless pressure on Mexico to free the imprisoned North Americans and to well-organized campaigns to discredit Mexico and hurt tourism.

There will be time to reflect on all this later. We all must consider that the plan put into effect by Lopez-Portillo--which involves the attorneys general, the secretaries of government, national defense and navy and other officials--merits maximum attention and support from the people.

7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DURAZO BEGINS RESTRUCTURING MEXICO CITY POLICE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Jan 77 p 26-A

[Article by Jorge Reyes E.]

[Text] After announcing a total restructuring of the police department into 10 Police and Traffic battalions, the director of this organization, Gen Arturo Durazo Moreno, revealed the appointment of five area chiefs to posts that were already held by others.

The police chief stated with regard to the reorganization that there would be rotation of the personnel of the 10 battalions. This action involves the transfer of police officers from one battalion to another, in accordance with a general exchange system.

Durazo Moreno explained that the reorganization was effective 1 January.

He released this information after appointing the five area chiefs. During the same ceremony, he confirmed the appointments of two chiefs to their present positions.

The new appointments include: Lieut Cols Salomon Uriostegui Rodriguez, to Xochimilco, vice Leon Manzano Morales; Jesus Diosdado Espinosa, to Tlalpan, vice Jesus Marquez Rodriguez; Gildardo Garcia Perez remains in Benito Juarez, vice Fortunato Almada Chacon; Jose Suarez Guerrero, to the Coyoacan area, vice Luis Valiente Vargas; and Rodolfo Bazan Morales, to Venustiano Carranza, vice Fernando San Martin Arteaga.

The police officials whose appointments were confirmed are: Cols Alfonso Frias Ramirez, Gustavo A. Madero and Roberto Martinez Valencia, of the Cuauhtemoc police station.

The director of the Police and Traffic Department gave information afterward concerning personnel changes in the 10 battalions.

For example, he said that personnel of the 3d Battalion which was stationed at the Miguel Hidalgo police station were reassigned to the Cuauhtemoc police station, previously in the hands of the 4th Battalion.

He then explained that the same type of rotation had occurred with the 9th Battalion assigned to Iztacalco replacing the 21st Battalion whose personnel were shifted to the Venustiano Carranza police station.

Other changes involved the following battalions: the 10th assigned to Xochimilco was transferred to Tlalpan; the 16th based in Tlalpan was moved to Xochimilco; the 17th, previously assigned to San Nicolas Contreras, was transferred to Tlahuac; the 13th, assigned to Tlhuac, was moved to San Nicolas; the 6th, in Alvaro Obregon, was shifted to the Benito Juarez station; and the 7th, assigned to Benito Juarez, was transferred to the Alvaro Obregon police station.

8143

CSO: 3010

JLP SIGNS OFF ON NEW ANTI-NARCOTICS PLAN

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Jan 77 p 1,6

[Text] A strict and far-reaching plan for a national fight against drug traffic, in which the federal Ministry of Justice and that of the Federal District would participate, along with the Ministries of the Interior, Defense, and the Navy as well as the Presidential Staff, was approved yesterday by the president for immediate implementation.

The plan was submitted for the consideration of the executive branch during a work meeting at the National Palace with the heads of the above-mentioned departments, those of the Ministry of Labor and the Presidential Secretariat, and the leaders of the Department of the Federal District.

The activities which each one of these entities will carry out in the fight against drug traffic were determined: the destruction of marihuana and poppy crops, the location and elimination of clandestine laboratories which manufacture morphine, purify cocaine, and make amphetamines, as well as action against drug dealers, their agents, and the growers who supply the raw materials.

Also discussed and approved was the coordination of efforts among the members and the organization of the personnel of these departments in the urban areas as well as rural and border areas, in addition to mass media and airports, in order to find these facilities or runways which are used in clandestine operations.

Other Matters Discussed at the Meeting

In addition, the secretary of the Navy, Admiral Ricardo Chazaro Lara, and the chief of the Department of the Federal District, Professor Carlos Hank Gonzalez, made statements with regard to their respective departments upon leaving the meeting with the president.

Hank Gonzalez, after referring to the fact that they had dealt with matters relating to the programs and activities of his department, indicated that the case of the new fares for the Metro has not yet been resolved definitively, and that they will not be publicized or implemented until they have been approved, "if they are approved at all."

The secretary of the Navy, Admiral Chazaro Lara, informed the press that his department will cooperate with the Ministry of Fishing in the struggle against piracy in the maritime economic zone, so that that zone may be utilized to the utmost. He also stated that at their next meeting he will submit to the president for his consideration the plans for maritime surveillance and labor drawn up by his ministry.

He added that even though there are no plans to increase the number of ships in the fleet, it is necessary to do so, in spite of the fact that in the shipyards of Veracruz and Salina Cruz patrol units are being constructed. Two of these vessels have already been delivered, and another eight should be delivered this year to reinforce the similar ships which were made in England.

For the surveillance of the maritime economic zone, he said, maximum use will be made of the units which the Navy has. This effort will be combined with air surveillance by the "Albatros" planes belonging to the Navy.

8926

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TROOPS, TRAFFICKERS CLASH IN MICHOACAN

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 6 Jan 77 pp 25-A, 28-A

[Article by Angel Sanchez M.: "Five Drug Traffickers, Two Soldiers Die in Shootout"]

[Text] Uruapan, Mich., 5 Jan--Five drug traffickers and two soldiers died in a shootout at the Mesas del Terrenate Ranch in Tepalcatepec.

This occurred the last week of December but the news was withheld due to the fact that other people involved in drug traffic in the state were being investigated.

It was officially reported that the drug traffickers and poppy growers killed were Rafael Larios and his brother Juan, Maximiliano Maldonado and his son Modesto and Reyes Mendoza.

The federal authorities said that they knew that there were 65 fields of poppies at the Mesas del Terrenate Ranch. Soldiers were sent to destroy them.

The report added that when the soldiers arrived at the fields, twenty people armed with shotguns and machine guns started shooting.

Once the situation was under control, Jose Luis Gonzalez Gutierrez, Jose Maria Mendoza Barajas, Jose and Celestino Villalvaso Lopez, Cristobal Ochoa Garcia, Carlos Cardenas Campos and Rafael Pulido Chavez were arrested.

Another Foreign Trafficker Arrested

The Federal Judicial Police also reported that a U.S. drug trafficker and arms and ammunition smuggler, Raymundo Gibson Lee, was arrested on the Patzcuaro-Ario de Rosales Highway.

Some 370 bullets of different calibers were found in his van. Gibson Lee confessed that he tried to exchange the ammunition for drugs and that he had already made one trade. They found 3 kilograms of marihuana among his belongings.

The agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Marco Antonio Ramirez Carrera, explained that the U.S. man had begun "operations" in the state of Sinaloa and had recently come to Michoacan.

7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKER--Colombian Chiquinquira Quiroz de Londono, a drug trafficker with a record in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, was arrested at the international airport in this capital with 4½ kilos of pure heroin hidden in a suitcase with a false bottom. Chiquinquira Quiroz arrived on Aerolineas Argentinas Flight 370 from Bogota, Colombia. In the airport agents of the Federal Judicial Police noticed that she was very nervous so they searched her luggage. In the false bottom of the suitcase the federal agents found the drug in five polyethylene bags. At the Federal Public Ministry the arrested woman said that she came to Mexico to deliver the cocaine [as published] to a Mexican whom she met in Bogota. He had invited her to Mexico and promised to take her to Hermosillo, Sonora. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Jan 77 p 26-A] 7717

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Yesterday agents of the Federal Judicial Police arrested two hoodlums identified as Javier Castaneda Bello and Pedro Eduardo Guzman Maldonado. The two criminals nicknamed "El Tom" and "El Chabelo" are considered the most dangerous drug suppliers and gangsters operating in Ciudad Universitaria. Guzman Maldonado said that he has been involved in drug traffic since 1967 when he entered Preparatory School No. 5 in Coapa. He added that a resident of the state of Guerrero--whose name he does not know--has for some time supplied them with marihuana at 20 pesos per packet which they later sell for 200 or 300 pesos to students and other addicts at "the islands" at UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico]. Both confessed that they had robbed several students and tourists with two other hoodlums--"El Polo" and "El Charro"--who were arrested for robbery. The two men confessed that they were students at the university and had been marihuana addicts for 10 years. Both participated with other hoodlums in attacks and robberies of students, professors and

tourists. Meanwhile the Federal Judicial Police said that their arrest is another step in the constant campaign to eliminate crime at the university. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Jan 77 p 27-A] 7717

DRUG ADDICTION CENTER--Dr Ramon de la Fuente is the new director of the Mexican Center for the Study of Drug Addiction; he replaces Dr Guido Belsasso. Dr de la Fuente is professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine at UNAM, former president of the National Academy of Medicine, WHO representative to the International Drug Council and a member of the UNAM Government Council. He is the author of many scientific works in the fields of psychiatry and mental health and is a member of the national association. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 6 Jan 77 p 3] 7717

INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. OFFICIALS--Mexico City, 28 Jan--The evening newspaper DIARIO DE MEXICO reported here today that U.S. officials are involved in the illegal traffic of drugs from Mexico to the United States. The newspaper quoted 10 Mexican drug traffickers on trial here who have implicated U.S. customs and Treasury Department agents. According to the report, this is already being investigated by the FBI. The newspaper report notes that one of the U.S. officials involved in the smuggling of drugs has been identified as Newton Philips of the Treasury Department. According to the newspaper, Philips came to Mexico to organize the smuggling of drugs to the United States. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0043 GMT 29 Jan 77 PA]

MARIHUANA PLANTATIONS DESTROYED--Mexican Federal Judicial agents destroyed 15 marihuana plantations on the banks of the Piaxtla River. About 7 tons of the weed, valued at several million pesos, were ready for harvesting. [Mexico EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 25 Jan 77 p A10 PA]

NARCOTICS CONFISCATION--Mexico City, 5 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexican police have seized marihuana, heroin and cocaine valued at more than \$1.5 million during an operation conducted in Sonora state. The seizures were made in different parts of the state from drug traffickers who were trying to distribute the drugs to the U.S. border. High caliber arms and counterfeit dollars also were taken from them. [Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2122 GMT 5 Feb 77 FL]

DRUG HAUL, TRAFFICKER ARRESTS--The Federal Judicial Police have seized a total of 660 grams of heroin and 3 and 1/4 tons of marihuana, valued at approximately 5 million pesos on the black market, during operations in three border cities. Several persons were arrested, to wit: Rogelio Cabello, Juan Vasquez Sanchez, Lauro Medina Gallegos and Roberto Flores Aguilar, in Nuevo Laredo; Eduardo Esquer Alverado, Abel Maya Inda, Jesus Manuel Barnet Valenzuela, Eduardo Moreno Medina and Leonardo Naranjo Sepulveda, in Nogales; Pablo Huerta Chavira and Efren Orlos Beltran, in Tijuana. [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 29 Jan 77 p 10 PA]

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Peruvian investigative police officials have reported the arrest of a band of drug traffickers who had sold more than 1 million soles in cocaine paste to youths. Those arrested in Cullpas, El Tambo District in Huancayo are: Pieper Vides Urec Yariagano, 21; Guillermo Chuco Vizcarra, 44; and Flora Cauchumani Mendoza, 24. Humberto Lopez Santos and Godofredo Unsihuay Carhuallanqui escaped and are being sought by the police. [Lima CORREO in Spanish 14 Jan 77 p 7 PA]

NARCOTICS, CURRENCY SMUGGLING CONTROL--A new control system, in charge of the Peruvian investigations police [PIP] has been introduced at airports, ports and the customs stations at the northern and southern borders to check the smuggling of drugs and foreign currencies. All controls have been tightened considerably. [Lima Radio America in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 Jan 77 PY]

CSO: 5300

IRAN

FIVE KILOS OF PURE HEROIN DISCOVERED

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Dec 76 p 22

[Text] Five kilos of pure heroin and 120 kilos of suspicious powder, similar to powdered milk, usually used in mixing with pure heroin, were seized by the officials of the Drug and Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department.

Some time ago the officials of the Drug and Narcotics Bureau noticed that some notorious smugglers were sending heroin from Shahroud to Teheran periodically. As they had already made reconnaissance of the itinerary, they took surveillance measures. They surrounded and stopped the Paykan sedan, license plate number 96717 Tehran-L, on the southeast of Teheran. The police had already made reconnaissance of the car.

Upon inspecting the car they found 4 kilos 750 grams of pure heroin and 120 kilos of unidentified powder, used in mixing with heroin, which was confiscated. The narcotics were hidden in concealment devices in various parts of the vehicle.

Ahmad Resa'i, driver of the vehicle, underwent interrogation and confessed that he had been carrying heroin from Shahroud to Teheran periodically to put it at the disposal of some special people.

Ahmad Reza'i, who had been carrying a dagger and mace for possible attack on policemen, was turned over to the Imperial Iranian Armed Forces, together with his file, for prosecution.



Ahmad Reza'i carrying 4 kilos 750 grams of heroin

9044

CSO: 5300

IRAN

DISCOVERY OF 15 HEROIN PACKAGES

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Dec 76 p 22

[Text] Shiraz--The car washer of the redlight district of Shiraz, carrying 15 centigrams of heroin, was arrested by the officers of the Drug and Narcotics Bureau of Shiraz Police Headquarters.

Asghar Hoseyni, the car washer of the redlight district of Shiraz, who had a hand in selling and distributing heroin for some time, had hidden five packages of heroin under the bricks of the parking lot.

Three 19 and 20-year-old youths were also arrested, in one of the houses located in Golestan Avenue in Shiraz, for having 15 centigrams of heroin, 8 grams of opium and a quantity of sleeping pills. The three, who had been banished by their families, had previous records for pocket-picking and gambling.

9044

CSO: 5300

IRAN

YOUTHS ENTERTAIN GIRLS WITH HEROIN

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Dec 76 p 22

[Text] The policemen of the Sixth Police Station in Teheran arrested two youths whose neighbors had complained that they were entertaining two 17-year-old girls with heroin.

The youths, called Hasan and Javad, had taken two girls named Zahra and Zohreh to their house, located on Shah Reza Avenue, the beginning of Kurosh-i- Kabir Avenue. They had kept them in their house for 1 week. The neighbors, who had become suspicious of them, notified the police station of Teheran. Two nights ago one of the investigation officers of the police station went to the house and found one of the girls, Zohreh, using heroin. The police officer took them with the heroin and other devices to the police station. Zohreh said to the police: "I ran away from my father's house in Shiraz 25 days ago. Ten days ago I came to Teheran. A few months ago I had got acquainted with Zahra in Shiraz, and I had her address in Teheran. So, when I came to Teheran I went to her house. Last week Zahra gave me Hasan's address and asked me to go there and wait for her. In the afternoon Zahra came to Hasan's house and said that she had a quarrel with her father and that she did not want to return home. As both of us did not have any place to go, we have been living in Hasan and Javad's house.

A file was opened for the youths' case in the police station and was sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Teheran accusing them of keeping girls, under 18 years of age, and persuading them to use narcotics.

The duty inspector put the two youths in prison, after making necessary investigations, and issued the required interlocutory decree.

9044

CSO: 5300

SYRIA

BIG BATCH OF HASHISH CONFISCATED, BURNED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 4 Nov 76 pp 5,2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kafri: "AL-BA'TH Witnesses the Burning of 4 Tons of Hashish"]

[Text] The night was cool and everything was quiet. As the waiting dragged on, doubt began to creep into the minds of the customs men of the Hissiyah district who were scattered around the edge of the valley, lying in ambush behind the rocks. Could the information be false? But then came a definite movement which stopped the thoughts passing through the men's minds as their nerves came awake. Far away through the thick darkness, figures appeared moving slowly and leading several mules along together. Hushed voices could be heard urging the procession on.

The men of the customs patrol deployed quickly and ordered the smugglers to halt, but the smugglers answered with a thick hail of machine gun fire. The mules started and ran in different directions. There was no other alternative than but to respond to the smugglers with violence, and the ensuing exchange of machine gun fire lasted almost an hour. Aided by the darkness of the night and the mountainous area, the smugglers escaped leaving behind them 1,420 kg of hashish loaded on the backs of the mules.

New Methods?

The men in the patrol relaxed. None of them had suffered any injury and the ambush mission had been a success. The night was 30 October.

On the way back, one of the men in the group asked himself, "Why did the smugglers depart from the traditional method? After all, fast modern vehicles are what they usually use."

But then he smiled, realizing that his question had been naive. "When have the smugglers' methods ever stayed the same?" he asked. "They are changed and renewed constantly."

As soon as the general commander of the al-Nabk police had arrived at headquarters and examined the quantity of confiscated hashish, there was news of

more possible large-scale hashish-smuggling operations. The commander and his men proceeded to check over and compare the information. But the police commander did not forget to commend the men of the Hissiyah district for the efforts they had already made.

The Depository for Confiscated Drugs

Next the confiscated hashish was transported to the customs depository in Damascus and added to other confiscated drugs including opium, cocaine, heroine and more hashish, all of which in various forms were piled up in the depository.

Hasan Yusuf, superintendent of the depository for confiscated drugs, told us this: "The quantity slated to be destroyed is the result of 24 cases and was seized from June of this year to the present. The latest amount seized is comparable in quantity to that confiscated by the Criminal Security Branch for Combatting Drugs of the al-Zabdani area which amounted to 1,268 kg. The remainder was obtained in separate operations nationwide. All of the confiscated drugs were listed as smuggled in by 'unknown persons' except for those seized in the al-Zabdani incident in which B. ' and his accomplices were arrested."

Only 4 Tons?

What might the seizure of this quantity of drugs in so short a time mean for a country such as ours?

A second question: Has ours become a drug-using country after having become a point of transfer?

And yet a third question: Have the bloody events in Lebanon contributed to the increased sale of drugs? Or has tourism been another factor contributing to this?

Of late, the customs officials, together with the men of the Criminal Security [Branch] for Combatting Drugs, have been very active and have been able to check the movements of some smuggling rings.

But this is not to deny the emerging seriousness of the problem and the exposure of new dimensions to the drug-smuggling phenomenon. For it is possible that our country is now using drugs, or that this is what is being planned for us. There could be persons working towards inaugurating just that, which is a sign that there are contributing economic, social and psychological factors present.

Perhaps the report that some young people under 30 years old are taking drugs is confirmed and supported by the evidence on record against some youths and the large quantities of drugs which have been seized in the country.

Undoubtedly, the repeated confiscation of quantities of hashish must be considered a grave matter when measured against the quantities confiscated in

years past. This is especially true in view of one opinion that out of every 10 smuggling operations only 1 operation is blocked. Thus how many smuggling operations have escaped confiscation?

Is Lebanon the Source?

The evidence indicates that the wholesale exporter of the drugs is Lebanon, either with the aim of exporting the drugs abroad or supplying them for local consumption. It is well-known that a smuggler travelling from Damascus to either Egypt, Saudi Arabia or Europe is searched less thoroughly at international points of entry than if he had departed from Beirut, 'Aqabah or Amman. The drug sellers have taken advantage of this fact and have excelled in their analysis, making our country a point of transfer as an initial stage before becoming a drug-using country, particularly since they know the right way and the right time to go about this. They have been assisted by the same thing that has hindered their movements, namely the blood strife in Lebanon. "When the camel dies, let the jackal eat its fill!"

In addition, it is said that there is a demand for drugs in our country on the part of some of the well-to-do and high-ranking tourists from the Gulf and elsewhere. And why should we not encourage tourism?

Why Destroy Them?

"From time to time we collect a quantity of hashish," reported the director of the Damascus customs bureau. "Considering that it is very difficult to utilize this drug for health purposes, the instructions require that it be destroyed in high-temperature cement ovens.

"I have learned that the customs administration offered to sell some of the opium, cocaine, heroin and the like to (farmax), but the offer was not accepted for some unknown reasons. I don't know why these drugs have not been sold to medical laboratories abroad."

Mr Baghdadi continued, "The destruction is carried out in the presence of a committee composed of the public prosecutor, the superintendent of the Damascus customs bureau and the chief of the customs police."

To another question, Mr Baghdadi replied, "The hashish passes through our country with a return to smuggling activity for one of several reasons:

1. A successful growing season and successful processing.
2. The "need" in Europe, America, Egypt and the Gulf states.
3. A rise in prices.
4. Possibly, the occurrences in Lebanon have encouraged the unemployed and some reckless individuals to smuggle drugs.

The Punishment?

Customs law sets the fine for smuggling or possession of drugs at 4 to 16 times their actual value. But there is also a prison sentence since the offense is a criminal one, not just a customs violation.

The customs evaluation of kilogram of hashish is 6,000 Syrian pounds, however the actual value on the black market can go into the tens of thousands

Modernization of the Customs Organization

Concerning this point, Mr Baghdadi, director of the Damascus customs bureau, said this: "The customs organizations have been outfitted with the most modern radio sets to insure rapid communication between the different customs districts in the country, and other new instruments have been furnished. We have some men who have played special roles outside the country in combatting drugs."

The truck was moving along slowly, sacks of hashish piled up in back. At the edge of the cement oven in (Damir), the entire load was emptied and burned in the presence of the authorized committee.

In spite of the assurances of Mr Baghdadi that ours is not a drug-using country but only a transfer point, and that our men are on the lookout for smuggling rings--still, I am growing more and more fearful.

I wonder if our country really is turning into a drug-using country? This is what we are afraid of, and herein lies the gravity of the situation.

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CSO: 5300

AUSTRIA

POLICE BREAK INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING RING

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 8 Feb 77 p 12 AU

[Unattributed Linz article: "Wine District as a Turntable: Two Tons of Hashish Smuggled to Germany"]

[Text] The Upper Austrian Security Directorate has succeeded in breaking an international drug ring which had smuggled a total of two tons of hashish from Turkey to the FRG via Austria in the past 3 years.

By arresting last September 24-year old Herbert Higlberger, who had sold minor quantities of hashish in Gmunden District, the police finally traced the two main actors: 43-year old truck company owner Peter Wolauschegg from Steyrermuehl and his 49-year old colleague Josef Steiner from Gross-Schweinbarth in lower Austria's wine district. It was possible to arrest both of them on 4 November.

They confessed in the meantime to have carried drugs from Turkey via Spielfeld to Steyrermuehl since March 1973 and to have hauled them from there to Gross-Schweinbarth. There the "stuff" was taken over by the 34-year old German citizen Stefan Hartl, who finally carried the hashish in a specially modified automobile to the FRG. An international search is in progress against Georg Hartl, who has succeeded for the time being in escaping the police. Another accomplice, 31-year old driver Anton Kreiml, is currently in a CSSR jail on a charge of "smuggling people."

CSO: 5300

DENMARK

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS ARREST IN COPENHAGEN--Danish narcotics police arrested four foreigners in Copenhagen carrying 5 kilograms of heroin worth 5.5 million Danish kronor. Danish police authorities expect several additional arrests in the next few days. The police believe that a major international narcotics organization is behind the smuggling. [Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 7 Feb 77 LD]

CSO: 5300

GREECE

CYPRriot-FLAG SHIP CAPTURED WITH 11-TON HASHISH CARGO

Athens ELEVTHEROTYPIA in Greek 8 Jan 77 p 3

/Article by M. Alexandridis and G. Oikonomeas/

/Text/ Korinthos, 8 January--The greatest blow on a worldwide scale against the smugglers of the slow death was struck by frogmen and men of the Isthmia Coast Guard who seized 11 tons of choice hashish valued at 3 billion drachmas. Up until now the greatest success of anti-smuggling authorities abroad was the seizure of 3.5 tons. The hashish was confiscated on the Cypriot-flag ship Gloria which was transporting it to the heroin laboratories of Antwerp.

The hashish cargo, for which two Turks are being detained and two Lebanese are being sought, was confiscated following a coordinated operation by men and frogmen of the Isthmia Harbor Corps. It is now tightly stored in three rooms of the Isthmia Coast Guard Headquarters and is being guarded "like the pupil of an eye."

The 750-ton ship left Beirut on 2 January with the hashish as its only cargo. It had a crew of three Greeks "Captain Nik. Xanthopoulos and crewmen Vas. Zois and St. Bouzikis) and two Turks as passengers--Arif Polat, 41, a farmer, and his nephew, Resit Polat, 21, a painter.

The Isthmia Coast Guard had received relevant information 2 months ago. Its authorities were alerted 3 days ago and were reenforced with men from the Multiple Use Unit (frogmen of the Harbor Corps). The Gloria arrived at 1900 hours 2 days ago. Promptly, officers of the Port Corps and about 15 frogmen headed by Captain Nik. Kleiosis boarded the ship which at the same time was being accosted by a coast guard patrol boat. The men started immediately to search the Gloria in whose holds they found piles of bags filled with narcotics and covered with embroidered canvas.

The captain and the two crewmen surrendered immediately but the two panic-stricken Turks had locked themselves in a cabin and refused to open the door despite the repeated orders of the officers in French and English. To frighten them the frogmen began shooting in the air while at the same

time one of them was lowered to the outside of the cabin and was able to break its window. Terrorized, the two Turks opened the door, waved a white handkerchief and surrendered. The cabin was searched and in a travel bag the officer found 2 Browning 32-caliber pistols, three cartridge clips and 665 bullets, 650 of which were in sealed boxes. The two were taken to the Coast Guard Headquarters and men were posted on the ship to guard the cargo.

Yesterday morning men of the Harbor Corps transferred to three coast guard offices 10,775 kilograms of the hashish found on the Gloria. In the meantime, port master Lieutenant Athanasios Pouris was concluding the preliminary interrogation of the five arrested persons.

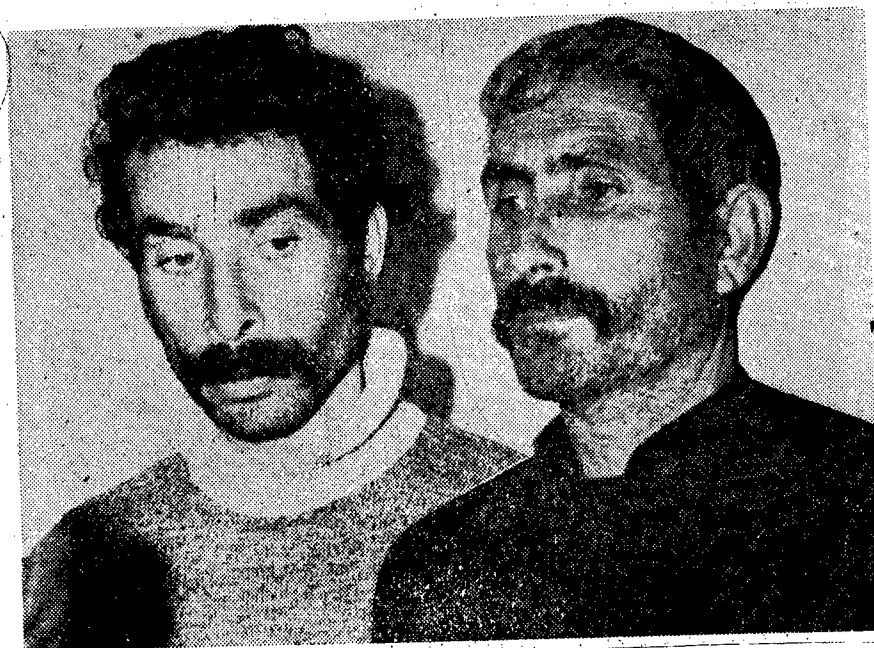
According to reports, Captain Nik. Xanthopoulos stated in his deposition that the two Turks met him in Beirut and asked him to take them to Germany together with a cargo of silk fabrics. He insisted that he knew nothing about the hashish cargo.

On the other hand, Arif Polat and Resit Polat claimed in their deposition that they had reached an agreement with the captain--who speaks Turkish--to take them to Germany where they would work for Arif's brother. In their identical depositions both Turks claimed that neither the cargo nor the weapons found in their cabin belonged to them.

"As soon as the ship docked," stated Arif Polat, "the captain who had just been released from prison where he served 5 years for murder told us to change cabins and to lock ourselves in because the police would search the ship. Indeed we did lock ourselves in and as soon as the police started firing we surrendered. I cannot understand why the captain did us such a disservice. I have seven children to feed... I know nothing about the hashish.

At 1430 hours yesterday the two Turks were brought handcuffed before Korinthos Court of Misdemeanors prosecutor Dim. Khristofyllis who charged them with illegal possession of narcotics and illegal possession of weapons. He then referred them to investigating magistrate G. Kalamidas who late in the evening ordered their detention. On the contrary, the captain and the two crewmen, Vas. Zois and St. Bouzikis, were not referred to the prosecutor but were detained at Coast Guard Headquarters.

During their appearance before the investigating magistrate, the two arrested Turks looked morose and out of their minds. They refused to answer questions by reporters and only repeated their statement that they "knew nothing."



The 2 Turkish
"escorts" Resit
Polat and Arif
Polat.



Bags of hashish piled
on benches of Coast Guard
Office.

If the Hashish Is Burned...

Korinthos, Saturday, 8 January--The confiscation by the Isthmia Coast Guard of the large quantity of hashish creates a "problem." What will happen to the 10,775 kilograms now under guard in three large offices? Usually, large quantities of confiscated narcotics are burned in furnaces. Such was the procedure a few months ago in Aspropyrgos where the police burned a large quantity of hashish.

We asked the port authorities about the fate of their...treasure and the answer was negative. Well, if the usual procedure is followed and the hashish is burned, the whole of Greece will have the opportunity to smell, without charge, the fragrance of the forbidden and very expensive narcotic.

Rich Rewards

The men of the Isthmia Port Authority could not hide their joy and pride yesterday at their unique success in world annals--as they themselves characterized it. They guarded the cargo religiously and no one could go near the guarded ship without special permission by the port master.

Their joy is justified. The members of the group which discovered the hashish cargo will divide among themselves about 40 million drachmas in accordance with a relevant law in force for the anti-narcotic squads.

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CSO: 5300

GREECE

LEBANESE ARRESTED IN HASHISH CARGO CASE

Athens AKROPOLIS in Greek 9 Jan 77 pp 1, 13

[Article by K. Stavropoulos and T. Lambos]

[Excerpt] The harbor police arrested yesterday morning at Neon Faliron the owner of the 11-ton illegal hashish cargo and the brain of the "slow death enterprise." He is Antoine Surur [Za'rur?], 30, a Mafia agent from Tsouni, Lebanon, and a resident of Beirut. The Interpol and the Lebanese police had been mobilized for his arrest. The harbor police located him yesterday morning and arrested him in the Bianca Beach Hotel of Neon Faliron where he had stayed since 5 January.

The preliminary interrogation of the "godfather" of narcotics brought to light that Surur had arrived in Piraeus on 5 January to keep track of the [motorship] Gloria and to issue final instructions as to the destination of the cargo of death. His passport showed that he had visited Greece many times in the past.



Antoine Surur [Za'rur?] being taken to the prosecutor.
Photo Source: I VRADYNI in Greek 10 Jan 77 p 1.

No other details were given following the interrogation of the Lebanese smuggler. But exclusive AKROPOLIS reports reveal that Surur had collaborators in Piraeus who are now being sought after by the police. The Lebanese smuggler was taken to the Isthmia Coast Guard Headquarters where he was originally interrogated by port master Lieutenant Athanasios Pouris. He had in his possession 80,000 drachmas and many foreign bills. Yesterday afternoon he was taken to the prosecutor of Korinthos. In the meantime, both the motorship which is under Cypriot registry and the hashish cargo continue to remain in the Corinth Canal for lack of orders regarding their fate. It was reported that the motorship Gloria is owned by the Delkomar Co. whose offices are at 133 Filonos Street, Piraeus. The hashish is stored in three warehouses at the Isthmia Coast Guard and is guarded by armed guards.



Packed hashish bags on a bench outside the port master's office.

It was announced yesterday that the boat will be thoroughly searched for the second time by port authorities in order to make sure that there is no more hashish in other parts of the boat besides its holds.

Turks Are Denying

The two Turkish smugglers being held in the Korinthos police station continue to claim that they have no connection whatever with Gloria's illegal cargo and that they were ordered to escort the expensive embroideries as far as Belgium whence they would go to West Germany for the purpose of finding work. When the port offices asked for the names of those who gave them orders the two Turks avoided giving direct answers saying that they did

not remember names and faces. At the same time, they could not justify the fact that they were armed with two automatic Browning revolvers. Their argument that they were armed in order to protect the embroideries fell of course on deaf ears.

One more problem occupying the authorities is whether the cargo was indeed simply passing through Greece or whether part of it was destined for the illegal domestic market. The motorship Gloria, however, was being closely watched by coast guard patrol boats from the moment it entered the Greek waters. One night the Gloria was forced by a storm to drop anchor near the old Serifos mine (instead of at Milos) but even there it was continually watched by unseen harbor guards from behind rocks at the shore.

The Captain Talks

Yesterday morning and before the cargo's owner was arrested, the Gloria's captain Dimitrios Xanthopoulos said in part during an exclusive interview with AKROPOLIS that he had fallen victim to smugglers and that he was not afraid for his life...

"Antoine Surur brought to me the bill of lading which I signed. Later he brought the two Turks whom I accepted without searching them. Had I done so I would have established the existence of the revolvers.

"During the trip the two escorts of the merchandise were very quiet and at no time became subject to suspicion. They talked to me and to the crew saying that they were going to Germany in search of their fortunes. I did not know anything about the 'trap' set by the frogmen. When we arrived at the Corinth Canal the port authorities boarded the boat and began asking questions: 'At Antwerp where would you deliver the merchandise?' they asked.

"I don't know," I said. "The bill of lading stated 'by order of' which means that I would unload the bags in warehouses where one of the 15 agents, with whom the company owning the ship cooperates, would pick up the cargo. In any case, I am telling you that I have nothing to fear because I have not taken part in the whole affair. To the very last moment I believed that I was carrying embroideries."

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CSO: 5300

GREECE

SHIP CAPTAIN CLAIMS MAFIA CONNECTION IN HASHISH CASE

Athens TA NEA in Greek 10 Jan 77 pp 1, 3

[Article by G. Karagiorgas]

[Excerpts] Now the Mafia will strike! This is the belief of Greek captain Nik. Xanthopoulos as well as of those who know how the merciless law of that organization operates. [This belief was expressed] while Antoine Surur, the "brain" of hashish smuggling--as the merchant marine minister characterized him--was detained yesterday by joint agreement of the investigating magistrate and the prosecutor of Korinthos. Surur, 30, was arrested Saturday following a warrant issued by the investigating magistrate.

At first Surur denied everything but finally admitted that he supervised the loading of the hashish cargo in Beirut. He knows English and French fluently and he is a shipping agent. He supplies various ships among which is the Cypriot [motorship] Gloria. According to reports he has made "useful" disclosures.

Surur arrived in Athens by plane last Wednesday and registered in the hotel where he was arrested. According to prearrangement the Gloria was expected to arrive in Piraeus the same day. He wanted to make sure that all was well and if, after taking on supplies, the ship would continue its trip. But due to heavy seas the ship was delayed and the following afternoon it arrived at Istamia [Corinth Canal] where the harbor agents were waiting for their very impressive "operation" which at the same time is exceedingly peculiar.

Questions

It is peculiar because many questions were raised concerning the role of the captain (his file is full of criminal cases for systematic smuggling of narcotics), the port authorities of Cyprus, the crew and the operation for capturing the motorship Gloria.

Regular Loading

The state security authorities have been investigating for 2 days the case of the 11-ton hashish cargo on various grounds. According to our information:

1. Messages have already been sent to Lebanon to ascertain whether the hashish cargo was loaded under normal conditions or was stolen from warehouses during the period of street fighting.
2. Whether the services rendered by Gloria's captain N. Xanthopoulos are legal or not.
3. The whereabouts of Gloria's owner Ilias Velkiadis and whether he was ever prosecuted.
4. Whether Gloria's captain was prosecuted or deported from Malta where he resided from time to time.
5. If the "escorts" of the 11-ton cargo were the two Turks inasmuch as during the transportation of cargoes of narcotics the leaders of the smugglers usually take exceptional measures to protect the "merchandise."

Consignees

6. Who is or who are the persons designated as cargo consignees and were their names stated in the shipping documents as the captain of every merchant ship which transports any type of cargo is obligated to do?
7. An investigation was also made in order to ascertain how the Gloria whose destination was Antwerp arrived all of a sudden in the Corinth Canal. If it changed its course because of bad weather, when and which maritime offices did it notify and did it send any messages to the consignees?
8. Whether the cargo was weighed and by whom and under what conditions was it weighed for ascertaining if indeed the weight of the hashish loaded in Beirut remained the same after its confiscation by the Greek authorities.
9. The appropriate authorities issued also a directive for finding out why the chief of the harbor police, Captain Kyrikos, was not advised about the presence of a smuggling ship and about the relevant operation for its capture and why the chief of the frogmen, Lieutenant Commander G. Perides, knew nothing about the operation.

Who Will Receive the Reward?

10. Finally, the question is being debated as to who are entitled to the 5 percent reward in accordance with the law on informing on smugglers. It was made known that the price of hashish in the Middle East is fixed at 30,000 drachmas per kilogram. Thus, the percentage reward for the whole confiscated quantity is 15 million drachmas. According to the existing law this amount must be divided among the informer and those who confiscated the cargo.

In the present case, the informer--the Gloria captain, that is--will collect most of the amount and the rest will be shared by the leaders of the group

[which confiscated the cargo] or, that is, Captain N. Kleiosis who presently is director of port organization, Commander D. Kazantzis who is presently serving in the Registration Office of the Seamen's Retirement Fund, and Lt. Commander And. Birliarakis dean of the Khandia School of Engineers, who was accidentally in Athens on leave.

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CSO: 5300

GREECE

AUTHORITIES CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTICS CASE

Athens TA NEA in Greek 10 Jan 77 p 3

/Article by G. Komis: "The 'Whys' Concerning the Hashish Case"

/Excerpts/ The preliminary investigation regarding the biggest quantity of narcotics ever uncovered by the Greek anti-smuggling authorities has been concluded formally. And while the judicial authorities are already broadening their investigation in an effort to uncover and arrest additional "brains," the assertion the captain of the motorship Gloria made to a newspaper yesterday that he betrayed his collaborators and surrendered his ship to the harbor authorities for patriotic reasons sounds very childish. It is for this reason that there emerge many "whys" which somehow obscure the importance of the success the authorities achieved in their struggle against the smugglers of the slow death. These "whys" are:

1. Why did not Xanthopoulos--whose file in the Merchant Marine Ministry Security Office is loaded with criminal cases as a result of his having for years now smuggled narcotics and cigarettes abroad--show his patriotism in the past? It should be noted that he was sentenced by the Italian Justice to 5 years' incarceration for smuggling.
2. Why did the Cypriot port authorities allow Gloria's voyage with a crew of only three men? Is it possible for a ship to realize at 7 miles per hour a long trip--perhaps a month long trip--in the 9-Beaufort gale that prevailed recently as far as northern Europe passing through the dangerous Mediterranean and the dreadful Bay of Biscayne with a crew of only three men?
3. Moreover, how did the crew agree to such a trip knowing they would be continually on stand-by? The captain would be at the wheel, one of the crew at the engine and the other at the wireless continually for 1 month without even 1 hour's sleep. Is it possible?
4. Did this crew ever wonder if the Lebanese embroideries that constituted the ship's cargo were worth the trouble and compensation for such a sacrifice? Or could it be that they knew about the true nature of the cargo and that their hardship would last only 3 days until they reached the Corinth Canal?

5. Why was the leader of the "assault team" not a member of the harbor police under the Merchant Marine Ministry as was the group of frogmen whose chief, however, knew nothing about the operation?

The answers to these questions will undoubtedly be given by the investigation which is to follow and by the information to be derived in the meantime if the second Lebanese is arrested. He is now at large, his name is Munah Qismat and he is not in Greece.

The "Brains"

According to his arrested collaborator, Qismat is in Beirut. A warrant for his arrest has been issued and the police in all Mediterranean countries have been notified. Both of them may not be the "brains" behind the smuggling as various newspapers reported yesterday.

The "brains" are other persons who will remain forever unknown as happens in all such cases. It could be that the real "brains" are those to whom the cargo was consigned and who are unknown to the investigators as well as to those arrested. The bill of lading which accompanied the hashish cargo--or better, the "embroideries from Lebanon"--did not mention any consignee. It only stated "to order." This means that the captain would deliver the cargo at Rotterdam or Antwerp depending on the order he would have received while at sea. Then the authorized Mafia representatives would go to the port and claim the cargo.

"We cannot strike at the heart of the organized smuggling ring of the slow death," said Harbor Corps Captain N. Kleiosis who organized the 'war operation' for the capture of the ship. And he added: "We cannot strike because there are persons in high places who are hiding behind these rings."

"I Am Not Afraid"

At any rate, Captain Xanthopoulos seems to fear nothing as he himself confided a year ago to an appropriate authority. "I am not afraid of anything," he had said. "I am a smuggler and I have the best lawyers who are defending me in Italy. Among them is the present Premier Andreotti who has defended me successfully in the past."

Xanthopoulos has offered in the past to cooperate with the Ministry of Merchant Marine. His offer was accepted. But the ships he informed against proved to be innocent and did not carry contraband cargoes. Thus, his confidence increased and he betrayed the very ship he captained. He is now waiting for a reward of 80 million drachmas. But it is possible that he will finally receive the rest of the amount approved by the Ministry of Finance for 1976 for such cases. Press reports say that the amount is very small.

What, then, is his benefit? Without doubt the authorities will find out after first ascertaining if the cargo was indeed weighed carefully,

if it weighs 11 tons and no less, and if some people for unknown reasons have stolen part of it.

The hashish is still in the Isthmia Coast Guard warehouses and will be transferred within a few days to the criminological museum in Athens where it will remain until the order for the confiscation of the ship and the cargo is issued in which case the fate of the latter will be finally decided.

As concerns the two Turkish passengers--an uncle and his nephew--whose detention has been ordered because of contradictions during the preliminary inquiry, it may be proved during the regular investigation that they were not at all involved in the case. They may have boarded the ship as stowaways in order to find their fortunes as emigrant-workers in Europe and thus became involved without realizing it. They may have told the investigating magistrate the truth and perhaps the two Browning revolvers and the 665 bullets belonged to the captain.

The case of the Gloria was without doubt a victory for the port authorities. Let us hope that it will not prove to be a Pyrric one.

Inquiries

Korinthos, 10 January, from our correspondent--Antoine Surur, 30, a Lebanese and the brain of the hashish ring was held in custody with the charge that he possessed, imported and distributed narcotics. His passport showed that he had visited Greece six times recently from Beirut, the last time on 5 January or 48 hours before the Cypriot motorship Gloria arrived. The Lebanese master smuggler had in his possession dollars and other foreign bills whose total value was 80,000 drachmas. In his briefcase the authorities found correspondence with foreign banks and offices in Beirut.

Surur is a well kept, very smart man who at first claimed that he did not know anything. At 2030 hours 2 days ago he was interrogated in the office of the Korinthos investigating magistrate G. Kalamidas in the presence of assistant prosecutor A. Oikonomou. The inquiry is continued under the supervision of the Navplion appeals court assistant prosecutor D. Khristofyllis who has been overseeing the entire case since last Thursday while waiting for the arrival of the motorship Gloria.

Disclosures

Despite the lack of an official announcement, there are reports that notwithstanding his claim that he knows nothing, Antoine Surur knows a lot and that he has made important disclosures. A new interrogation will take place today during which Antoine Surur will confront Captain Xanthopoulos, the two Greek crewmen and the two Turks who escorted the cargo.

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CSO: 5300

GREECE

POLICE FIND GLORIA CAPTAIN HAS SMUGGLING RECORD

Athens TA NEA in Greek 11 Jan 77 pp 1, 13

[Article by Georg. Komis]

[Text] According to an announcement yesterday the authorities are investigating the possibility of a connection between the 11-ton hashish cargo which was confiscated at the Corinth Canal and the cases of armed piracy, gun smuggling from Lebanon, cigarette smuggling and a whole cycle of comparable charges and cases. More specifically, as a result of the confiscation of the 11-ton hashish cargo, various reports have reached the authorities which are either related or are totally unrelated to the hashish case. Thus:

1. In 1973 a ship with a Greek captain forced the motorship "Alexandros" to stop its voyage in the open Italian sea under threat of arms and to surrender its cargo of 1,380 cases of cigarettes (it is unknown if the cargo was contraband).
2. Last August the motorship "Marriana," flying a Panamanian flag and having a Greek captain, was arrested by the Italian harbor authorities for transporting contraband cigarettes to Naples. The captain succeeded in escaping but the rest of the crew is in Italian prisons serving various sentences. The captain was sentenced in absentia to 5 years' imprisonment.

The same report states that the captain is sought after by the police of many countries for various crimes and especially for smuggling cigarettes and guns. We were unable to find out the names of the captains included in the aforementioned report. It is not even known if the above two cases are part of a cycle which may include the hashish case.

With regard to the motorship Gloria we were given the following information:

The normal investigation now being carried by the prosecutor of Korinthos aims at scrutinizing the above reports for the purpose of finding out any other persons who are hiding behind the hashish case and the role each one of them has played.

Multinational Company

The prosecutor is also trying to identify the shipowners because the ship belongs to a multinational company. This fact provided the shipowners with the possibility of changing continually the registry of the ship which, according to the Greek authorities, undoubtedly did not fly the Cypriot flag in the past.

As concerns Captain Xanthopoulos, he too is a shipowner, but he does not own the motorship Gloria. According to reports which have reached the appropriate authorities he is a stockholder in the motorships "Anna Maria" and "Saad" and in the yacht "Pussycat."

The comparison of the report that one of the previous owners of the motorship Gloria had smuggled arms into Lebanon with the other report that the hashish filled bags bore the official Beirut customhouse seal with the indication "Cheese, Lebanon," leads to the suspicion that perhaps the 11-ton hashish cargo was exported by the Lebanese authorities in order to buy guns for Lebanon with the money from the sale of the hashish. But this comparison of the two reports leads also to another suspicion: that the captain and the crew know that something was wrong since the bags were marked with the word "cheese" and the bill of lading referred to "embroideries."

In any case, additional reports point out that something is wrong with this case because absolutely at no time ever do smuggling boats sail through the Corinth Canal. They always sail in international waters to avoid suspicion and in any case they follow a course around the Tainaron Cape. Undoubtedly, the investigators are facing a very difficult road ahead.

New Important Information

Korinthos, 11 January, from our correspondent--The Lebanese chief smuggler, Antoine Surur, and the two Turks who "escorted" the 11-ton hashish cargo were again brought yesterday at 1830 hours before the Korinthos investigating magistrate Kalamidas. The defendants were interrogated first separately and afterwards in confrontation with each other in the presence of the Navplion appeals court assistant prosecutor D. Khristofyllis. Following the supplementary questioning both the investigating magistrate and the assistant prosecutor refused to answer questions by reporters.

But according to reports, the new interrogation of the three smugglers brought to light important information.

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NORWAY

THREE ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING HEROIN IN WESTERN NORWAY

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Dec 76 p 5

[Article: "New Heroin Confiscation: Three Arrested in Western Norway"]

[Text] Three persons were arrested Friday and Saturday on Stord and in Bergen, suspected of heroin smuggling. The police have altogether confiscated 19 grams of heroin. Heroin was found on two of the arrested persons, both of whom are foreigners, while a 22 year old girl from Stord is suspected of having been in possession of heroin. Some hashish was found at her home. The police do not yet know where the heroin comes from. Those implicated say that the poison was intended for their own consumption, but the police suspect that they have been selling heroin among foreign workers at Stord Shipyards.

The two foreigners who are arrested, an American and an Australian, are both around 25 years old. The Norwegian girl and the American were arrested on Stord Friday night. The American lives on a houseboat where a number of foreign workers live, and 9 grams of heroin were confiscated in his cabin. The Australian who was taken Saturday before noon tried to escape the district eastward with a train. It is not known where he had intended to go. At his home 10 grams of heroin were confiscated.

As mentioned, no heroin was found at the girl's place, but it was because of her that the police started the arrests. She has been under observation for a long time in connection with narcotics, and during this observation it was found that she was often together with the other implicated persons.

Police Chief Lars N. Zachariassen at Hordaland police station tells AFTENPOSTEN that the suspects will be brought to the magistrate's court on Monday with a request that they be jailed. They will at first be charged with illegal possession of narcotics. The chief of police also says that the case has been given the highest priority, and that Hordaland police station is cooperating with the sheriff on Stord and the narcotics department at Bergen police station about the case. In view of the continued investigation, he will not comment further on the case.

According to what AFTENPOSTEN has found out, the police are for the time being without special leads in the case except for the fact that the foreigners were in possession of heroin. They have been very untalkative to the police and maintain that the heroin was only for their own consumption. Nothing has been said beyond this.

For the time being it is not known where the heroin came from, but the police are working on the theory that the material which was confiscated on Stord and in Bergen belongs to the same party as the 5 grams which were recently confiscated in Haugesund. In that case, the heroin confiscated in Bergen involves heroin no 3, or so-called "brown sugar," a material which contains approximately 35 percent heroin. It was also "brown sugar" which the police in Asker and Baerum confiscated on Fornebu on 4 December.

Chief of Police Zachariassen does not want to say at present what the quality of the confiscated heroin was. "For the time being we do not know the extent of the case and find it best not to give out too much information at this time," he said.

The police suspect that heroin and other narcotics have been sold among foreign workers at Stord Shipyards, and a series of persons at the shipyards have been interrogated in order to clarify this if possible.

8958

CSO: 5300

NORWAY

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS CASE IN FLOROE--Twenty-five youths in Floroe have been interrogated in connection with a larger narcotics case, which is now being unravelled by the police. During the house search on Friday and Saturday, 81 grams of hashish and 9 hashish pipes were confiscated. Police assistant Thor-Erik Johansen in Floroe tells AFTENPOSTEN that this is the largest narcotics case in the Floroe district, and charges may be made for use, possession, and sale of narcotics. 'On Sunday six persons were in custody, and the investigation will continue with all efforts,'" says Johansen. The police discovered the narcotics during an investigation of another crime, and the police got authorization by the court to carry out house searches. Police assistant Johansen hopes that the discoveries this weekend have given the narcotics subculture in Floroe the fatal wound. Altogether house searches have been carried out in the homes of five persons, and Johansen states that there were no special difficulties in finding the hashish. According to what AFTENPOSTEN has found out, there is no talk about abuse of other narcotics. The youths are aged from 17 to 25 years. Two years ago the police in Floroe cleared up another narcotics case, but this one was on a smaller scale. [Text] [Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Dec 76 p 5] 8958

FOREIGNERS EXPELLED IN NARCOTICS CASE--Stavanger, 19 Dec (NTB). A hash party in Stavanger has ended with fines, imprisonment, and expulsion of two foreigners. Police division chief Ragnar Anfinssen tells Stavanger AFTENBLAD that the case is being investigated and that it may have ramifications. The foreigners had brought the hash from the Netherlands. They got through customs at Sola without difficulties. Ragnar Anfinssen says that the control has been tightened up both at Stavanger Airport and on the many oil supply ships which operate on both sides of the sector line in the North Sea, when they come to Norwegian harbors. In the Stavanger district it is primarily oil activity which has led to the necessity for a tightened control. [Text] [Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Dec 76 p 5] 8958

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

HEIRESS JAILED ON HEROIN SMUGGLING CHARGES

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 12 Jan 77 p 63

[Text] London (UPI)--A sobbing Malayan heiress who said she joined an international drug smuggling ring to track down her father's murderers was sentenced Tuesday to 14 years in jail on heroin smuggling charges.

Shing May Wong, 30, and her 27-year-old boyfriend were given identical sentences after admitting to peddling heroin. The attractive heiress claimed she did so only because she wanted to track down the murderers of her father, a Singapore bullion dealer.

Her search for revenge led her to join an international drug ring called the Overlords, where she met her boyfriend, Li Mah.

"Golden Spoon"

In sentencing the heiress, educated at Britain's top girls school, Roedean, Judge Michael Argyll told her:

"You were born with a golden spoon in your mouth. You have taken by way of education as good as anything, if not the best, this country has to offer.

"But you and those with whom you worked have become spreaders of crime, disease and corruption and even death."

Argyll also sentenced 12 other members of the Overlords to a total of 75 years in jail for conspiracy and supplying or possessing heroin.

The judge said he meted out the harshest sentences to Wong and Mah because "you were undoubtedly the ringleaders."

Different Stories

The smuggling trial turned up two very different stories of Wong's life.

One story the jury heard said she left her rich family, husband and children to become a nightclub hostess in Singapore, where she could track down her father's murderers.

She then infiltrated the drug ring in a further attempt to find them.

The other story showed Wong allegedly banking up to \$1,500 a day from heroin dealing in London's West End and making frequent trips to Singapore with specially built suitcases crammed with money, which she replaced with drugs in the Far East.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

ROCK MUSIC STAR CONVICTED ON COCAINE CHARGE

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 13 Jan 77 p 15

[Text] Aylesbury, England (REUTER)--Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richard was convicted of possessing cocaine and fined \$1,290 here yesterday. He was cleared of a charge of possessing LSD.

Stunned silence from Rolling Stones fans in the public gallery greeted the guilty verdict from the jury at Aylesbury Crown Court at the end of a three-day trial. Mick Jagger was present at the hearing.

Richard, 33, who had pleaded not guilty, heard the verdict impassively. He was ordered to pay \$430 towards prosecution costs.

Judge Lawrence Verney said he did not feel imprisonment was merited even though Richard had previous drug convictions. The rock music star was singled out by police for a drugsearch after his Bentley limousine was in an accident, Sir Peter Rawlinson, a former British attorney-general acting for the defence, told the court.

Richard was accused of having cocaine in a tube attached to a silver necklace found in his car after the accident last May. The tube was used for sniffing the drug, police said.

Richard maintained that the necklace did not belong to him and that a quantity of LSD in a small piece of paper in his pocket could have been put there by a fan.

The judge said Richard had every chance to dump the evidence if he had known he was in possession of LSD and cocaine.

"There is some support for his contention that he knew nothing in the fact that he did nothing," the judge said during his summing-up.

But Judge Verney said getting rid of the drugs may not have occurred to Richard, who was worried because his young son, Marion, was also in the accident.

CSO: 5320

GANG UNSUCCESSFUL IN DRUG SMUGGLING

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 8 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by C. A. Coughlin]

[Excerpts] A "carry on" gang of drug smugglers who never managed to bring anything into the country were sentenced at the Old Bailey yesterday. One of the ringleaders confessed to the police: "We must be the worst smugglers you have ever met."

Recruited and led by two small-time criminals, Charles Winston Sharp, 39, and Ronald John Kelly, 43, the London group planned to move into the big-time drugs racket.

But through sheer incompetence three trips organised to Morocco failed, and no drugs ever reached England.

For the first time in April, 1975, the bunglers bought a Volkswagen Caravanette because it was supposed to have a hiding space between the engine and petrol tank, but they bought the wrong model and there was no hiding place.

One of the gang, Michael Fitzgerald O'Brien, 28, lost his nerve and abandoned the vehicle in Morocco. He had travelled there with another of the accused, Mrs Alma "Bunny" Harman, 45, and her two children, posing as a family on a holiday. They all flew back.

Courier Caught

On the second trip, Spanish border police found 60 lb of cannabis resin, worth 40,000 pounds sterling on the black market. The courier involved was jailed for 12 years in Spain.

On the final journey the gang bought two Hillman Minx cars because they had hidden compartments near the front wing. Police heard of the plan and watched every move.

The cars, one costing only 64 pounds sterling, were said yesterday by Judge Karmel, QC, to be "crying out" to be stopped and examined by customs because they were so dilapidated. They were lucky to reach their destination in Morocco, said a detective.

While smuggling 35 lb of cannabis worth 15,000 pounds sterling over the mountains in Morocco, the team were stopped by armed Moroccan police who demanded a 700 pounds sterling bribe.

They settled for 400 pounds sterling, two gold rings and a camera. But one of the smugglers stole back the rings and the angry policemen took a further 200 pounds sterling from them in travellers' cheques.

Acting on Tip-off

Then as the gang drove through the Spanish frontier the drugs were seized by customs men--acting on a tip-off from the Moroccans.

Finally one man not in court, called "Sparks," disappeared with all the money he had been given to buy drugs.

Sharp and Kelly, who had been under surveillance, were arrested at Heathrow on the way to Spain and found to be carrying more money than allowed under currency control regulations. Most of it was impounded.

All the accused pleaded guilty to the illegal importation of drugs into Spain.

Sharp, unemployed, of Clapham Manor Street, Clapham, was jailed for three years; Kelly, driver, of Danebury Avenue, Putney, three years; O'Brien, unemployed, of Heyford Road, Mitcham, two years; Alan Donald Edwards, 33, welder, of Hazel Avenue, Bellfields, Guildford, two years; and Raymond Charles Larner, 29, hod carrier of Harling Court, Battersea, was jailed for three years.

Leonard James Poole, 27, company director, of Corrance Road, Brixton, who provided 1,000 pounds sterling finance for the trips, was given a two-year sentence suspended for two years and fined 1,500 pounds sterling; Robert Walter Clarke, 34, window cleaner, of Grantham Road, Stockwell, was jailed for 12 months suspended for one year; and Mrs Harman, of Onslow Road, West Croydon, was also given a 12-month sentence suspended for a year.

Hopeless Incompetents

Passing sentence, the judge said that at first it appeared the gang was involved in international drugs smuggling but that was not the case because the accused were "hopeless incompetents."

Sharp and Kelly, convicted criminals, had thought that they could make some easy money by smuggling the drugs from Morocco.

Judge Karmel added: "You went out of your normal criminal activities to move into the drugs rackets but you did it so incompetently that no drugs were ever successfully imported. Unfortunately in the course of your activities you recruited other people."

CSO: 5320

LOOPHOLE IN LAW MAKES CANNABIS LEAF LEGAL

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 14 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by Terence Shaw]

[Text] Dozens of prosecutions for illegal possession of cannabis plant leaves may have to be dropped as a result of a Court of Appeal decision yesterday that mere possession of the leaves is not an offence.

Unless the decision is upset on appeal to the House of Lords, the Government is expected to come under pressure to block what could become a considerable loophole in the law controlling use and possession of the drug.

In a reserved judgment in a test case yesterday, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges quashed the conviction of a 19-year-old local government clerk who had admitted possessing fragments of cannabis leaf and stalk.

Mr Justice Slynn, who read the judgment of the court, said that for a conviction for illegal possession of cannabis under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, it had to be shown that the material seized by the police was part of the "flowering or fruiting tops" of the plant.

The test for conviction was not simply whether cannabis resin could be extracted from the material.

Enthusiastic Welcome

In laying down this ruling, the court set aside a six months' suspended prison sentence and a 100 pounds sterling fine on Kevin John Goodchild, of Biggin Walk, West End, Fareham, Hants, at Portsmouth Crown Court last July for possessing the drug and possessing it with intent to supply.

An application by the Crown for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was adjourned to allow time for consultation by prosecuting lawyers.

The Appeal Court's ruling was enthusiastically welcomed yesterday by Release, an organisation which has been campaigning for the possession and use of cannabis to be made legal.

A spokesman said they hoped the prosecution would neither appeal nor try to pursue alternative charges against Mr Goodchild of possessing cannibinol derivatives, a Class A controlled drug offence that carries higher penalties on conviction.

Charges against Mr Goodchild alleging such an offence were left on the file at Portsmouth Crown Court and the issue whether possession of leaves amounts to possession of cannabinal derivatives has not been tested.

The spokesman said they understood that at least 80 prosecutions for possessing cannabis leaf were awaiting the outcome of yesterday's test case. Some police and prosecuting authorities had already stopped prosecuting in these cases.

"It is to be hoped that all prosecutions involving cannabis leaf, stalk and seeds will be abandoned and that the authorities will use this opportunity to conduct a controlled social experiment in the use of marijuana," said the spokesman.

Difficult To Prove

Giving judgment Mr Justice Slynn, who sat with Lord Widgery and Mr Justice Forbes, said there was much to be said for the trial judge's ruling that the definition of cannabis in the Act as the "flowering or fruiting tops" meant the whole of the plant above ground.

"Moreover, if, as now appears to be the case, the smoking of cannabis leaves is now prevalent and the leaves contain some of the required active chemical ingredients, it is not easy to see why the Act should not include leaves."

It might be difficult for the prosecution to prove that leaves without flowers or fruits came from the flowering and fruiting tops of cannabis plants.

The explanation, said the judge, might be that the legislation had not been changed to take account of the knowledge that the leaves, through the hairs had cannabis resin and their use as a drug might be of more recent origin.

In a similar case the court also allowed an appeal by Paul McMillan, 22, a meat cutter, of Whinlatter Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria, against his conviction at Carlisle Crown Court last May of being in possession of cannabis leaves.

A 15 pounds fine was set aside and McMillan was awarded his appeal costs, estimated at about 500 pounds to be paid from public funds. His application for leave to appeal against conviction on another charge of possessing cannabis resin was refused.

Last night an appeal to the Government to take action to block the loop-hole by adding cannabis leaves to the list of banned substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act came from Prof. J. W. Fairbairn, professor of pharmacognosy at the London University School of Pharmacy.

Prof. Fairbairn, a leading expert on the study of the drug, said he had been pointing out for six years that cannabis leaf was not covered by the definition in the Act and that the law should be tightened up.

He agreed that if cannabis leaf was banned it would put Britain out of line with the definition of cannabis in the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, under which defined cannabis as the flowering or fruiting tops, excluding the seeds or leaves unless accompanied by tops.

He believed that cannabis leaf had been left out of the definition because when the law was drafted, it was not known that the leaf could be active. Recent research had enabled scientists to identify the substance more readily.

More people were now growing cannabis illegally and using the leaves because the plant rarely flowered in this country. He hoped the Government would now act quickly to cover this point so that there would be "an even law applying to everybody."

It was a question of the law having to catch up with what the scientists had discovered, said Prof. Fairbairn.

Last night legal experts believed that the change making cannabis leaf a controlled drug could be made by statutory instrument tabled by the Home Office and that it would not require amending legislation.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

PRISONER ATTEMPTS SMUGGLING--A prisoner returning to Camp Hill Prison, Isle of Wight, after four days leave pending a parole release, intended to smuggle drugs in with him. But police arrested Anthony Augustus Headley, 21, when he left the Portsmouth ferry. Headley, formerly a butcher in London, admitted at Newport Court to possessing cannabis and LSD. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment to run concurrently with his present term. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 8 Jan 77 p 5]

DRUGS CHARGE--George Rodney, 24-year-old son and heir of Lord Rodney, was one of eight people who appeared at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with drug offences. They were all allowed bail in their own recognisance of 250 pounds until Feb. 10. Rodney, a book salesman, of Pembroke Road, Kensington, faces charges of possessing cocaine, amphetamine and diamorphine, and another charge of supplying diamorphine. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 14 Jan 77 p 2]

CSO: 5320

END