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8 September 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

No. 318

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MAFIA CONTROLS DRUGS IN AUSTRALIA

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Jul 77 p 3

[Text]

Mafia elements are being blamed for a thriving drug industry in Australia which has suddenly become a hot political issue.

In the past three weeks, a consignment of heroin worth A\$500,000 (about HK\$2.5 million) has been seized at Sydney airport, an anti-marijuana campaigner has mysteriously disappeared, three people are reported to have died from drug overdoses within 100 miles of Sydney, and there is growing pressure for a royal commission into the drug problem.

The New South Wales Government yesterday offered a reward of A\$25,000 (about HK\$125,000) for information that would help investigations into the disappearance of anti-drug campaigner, Mr Donald Mackay.

Today, local businessmen said they were prepared to try and raise a further A\$1 million (about HK\$5 million) reward to solve the mystery.

But the trouble has been a wall of silence from people in the Riverina area where Mr

Mackay lived. Police say that there is no doubt Mr Mackay's disappearance was staged to set an example for anyone who dares to stand in the way of the "Mr Bigs" who control the Australian drug scene.

Police claim that mafia-style elements are running the Australian drug industry. The Riverina region has been the scene of flourishing marijuana crops where the great majority of farmers are Italians.

Journalists working on the Mackay disappearance story have been warned not to dig too deeply into the Riverina drug scene. One prominent local politician, Mr Tom Erskine, a friend of Mr Mackay, now lives behind elaborate security precautions at his Griffith home.

The Griffith drug-growing industry is believed to have started about four years ago to supply marijuana throughout Australia and is now estimated to be an industry worth more than A\$150 million (about HK\$750 million) a year.

- AFP.

POLICE INVOLVED IN DRUG SALES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 5 Aug 77 p 21

[Text]

Mr Thomas Erskine, a Country Party MLC from Griffith, said yesterday that parts of the NSW police force were involved in drug trafficking.

He was speaking on the adjournment motion in the Legislative Council.

"Our community knows that in the past a small section of the police has been involved in drug trafficking," he said.

Drug trafficking in Griffith had led to the disappearance of Mr Don Mackay.

"I am sure that a great number of people saw the death of Don Mackay as a threat."

He said Mr Mackay had become involved in the fight against marihuana when, in 1973, he had seen people caught growing marihuana in the Griffith area let off with light penalties, while penalties for smoking marihuana were more strictly enforced.

"Don Mackay saw the growers and sellers of marihuana as the criminals in our society," he said.

"Mr Mackay's concern for youth led to his early disappearance and presumed death."

"Don Mackay had wide community support in the Murrumbidgee area and it would have been only a matter of time before he would have taken his seat in either the State or Federal Parliament."

The Leader of the Government in the Council, Mr Landa, said the Government already had indicated that it would be tightening laws on the growing of marihuana.

Mr Erskine knew this and had used the opportunity to make a political speech denigrating the present MLA for Murrumbidgee, Mr L. Gordon, and the Labor Government in general.

"The growing of marihuana and the use of drugs is not something which has sprung up in this State in the last 18 months," Mr Landa said.

"This Government has moved with full speed and diligence to ensure that any changes in the law are made in the proper way."

CSO: 5300

NARCOTICS DEATH FIGURES DOUBLE, DRUG SOURCE WELL KNOWN

Addict Dies Every 2 1/2 Weeks

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 1 Aug 77 pp 1, 3

[Article by Graham Williams]

[Text]

The death rate from narcotics has more than doubled in NSW in a year, along with the growth in the traffic in hard drugs — especially heroin.

On average, one person now dies every 2½ weeks from an accidental overdose of narcotics — usually heroin — compared with one every six weeks in 1975.

The growth in heroin abuse is only the tip of a growing drugs iceberg.

There is a strong rise in the numbers of young people who from the age of 12 drink heavily, smoke marihuana and tobacco and take pain-killers, tranquillisers and anti-depressants.

A 16-year-old youth went into a coma after "popping" 30 "Mandies" — the sleeping tablet Mandrax — now popular with young drug users throughout the State.

"Kids find the cheapest way to get drunk is to put two Mandrax capsules in a glass of wine — they can get Mandrax for 20 cents each in the illicit market," a Western Suburbs drug worker said.

"Out here they're trying anything now — a lot sniff aerosol cans and glue,"

A 17-year-old youth became so addicted to a cough mixture that he ran up a \$78 bill at a chemist's shop for the mixture in two weeks recently.

The young are experimenting more than ever before with an astonishing array of freely available drugs — and those who are bored, lonely, insecure, maladjusted are prime candidates to become addicts.

Heroin abuse is now extending more than ever before into the middle and upper class areas. New research shows that 43 per cent of heroin users in Wollongong belong to the upper and middle, socio-economic groups.

The narcotics problem is still small compared to usage of alcohol, analgesics and marihuana but is growing at a significant rate.

The number of heroin users has increased markedly in the outer Western Suburbs

— especially the Blacktown and Penrith areas — Cronulla-Sutherland and the Eastern Suburbs, and in Newcastle, Wollongong and Canberra.

The chief of the ACT Vice Squad, Detective Sergeant Denis Craft, says Canberra has had a 100 per cent rise in heroin usage in the past year.

"We just can't control it now," he said. "There are myriads of outlets for the stuff. It's no respecter of classes: students, public servants, unemployed — there are addicts in all groups."

In Wollongong, the Kembla House Drug Addiction Centre has 400 addicts on its books — half of them heroin addicts — twice as many as a year ago.

Four a day turned away

The We Help Ourselves (WHO) drug rehabilitation centre at Cronulla has detoxified about 700 heroin addicts in the past three years and now turns away up to four a day because it can't accommodate them.

"We're trying to cope with an explosive growth in heroin addicts," its executive director, David Gordon, said. "We only have 24 beds here, and as soon as one patient leaves, there are two or three waiting for his bed."

The number of drugs inquiries received by the Wayside Chapel, Kings Cross, has doubled in the past year to 176 a month — about 90 of these personal calls by addicts and the rest telephone inquiries.

"But this does not indicate that the usage of drugs has doubled in a year — what it shows is greater awareness and desire to contact us," said Mr Bill Crews, the chapel's crisis centre director.

The Newcastle Youth Service, has also seen a big rise in drug addicts, but its director, Mr Bill Plaizier, said they covered a wide range of drugs, largely alcohol.

"Many kids will use anything for kicks now. Heroin is a growing problem, but some addicts try mixing heroin and alcohol," he said.

"Mandrax is sold in large quantities here too and some youngsters take 20 at a time. They just don't realise the dangers. We had two young people in a coma from them."

"Alcohol is really pernicious, though — we're getting full-blown alcoholics at the age of 13 to 14. I've seen several teenage alcoholics who consume 300 grams of alcohol a day — equal to about 20 middies of beer, and 120 grams a day is enough to cause tissue damage."

Most heroin addicts have passed through the alcohol phase and have experimented with a wide range of drugs.

"The heroin addicts are very catholic in their tastes," said a Canberra doctor who

is currently treating 25 heroin addicts in her private GP practice.

"Most start on alcohol at the age of 12 or so, if they're male, or on sleeping tablets at about the same age if they're girls."

"They've tried hallucinogenic drugs, marihuana, barbiturates and so on."

"They abuse all drugs."

Another Canberra doctor said many heroin addicts had come to Canberra from NSW in the hope they would get doctors there to prescribe them heroin-substitute drugs such as pethidine and methadone, used to wean addicts off heroin.

The growth of the availability of drugs corresponds with a 120 per cent rise in the number of accidental deaths from drugs — in three years.

In 1974, 30 people in NSW died from accidental drug doses, 4 of them from narcotics. The figure rose to 54 deaths in 1975 (9 from narcotics) and to 68 last year (22 from narcotics).

Prices Standard, Best Place To Buy

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, in English 2 Aug 77 p 3

[Article by Paul Sheehan]

[Text]

Two hundred metres from the NSW headquarters of the CIB, next to the police car park in Campbell Street, Surry Hills, is one of the best-known places to buy heroin in NSW.

It is a group of fibro office buildings known as the NSW Health Commission, Brisbane Street compound. On average, about 80 people with drug problems go each day to No 5 building, the Brisbane Street Drug Dependence Service.

Many are addicts who go for their regular intake of methadone, which the commission administers as a means of weaning drug users off heroin.

Hotels are sale points

But some are apparently attracted to the centre for other reasons. Members of the Health Commission staff and the NSW Drug Squad privately agreed last week that some drug pushing took place there.

They said this was inevitable everywhere that addicts congregated in any numbers.

The Brisbane Street centre is only one of many places which has a reputation as a drug-selling point and which was mentioned during many interviews last week with drug users and sellers.

Most such venues are hotels frequented by large numbers of young people and situated in the beachfront suburbs or on the western arterial roads.

Many of the reputations appear deserved.

Last Friday night, during a visit to an inner-city wine bar frequently mentioned as a drug source, acquaintances told me I could buy that night marihuana at \$30 an ounce; a quarter of an ounce of hashish for \$30, or acid at \$4.50 a small tablet.

Yesterday, after a week of inquiries among drug users, I had discovered two sources of heroin, including one which also offered cocaine.

Any transactions would have taken place in private homes, one in North Sydney and the other in an undisclosed suburb.

The contacts for hard drugs were not found in hotels or bars but in the "friend of a friend of a friend" network. This is the method in which most drugs are distributed.

The key to obtaining drugs at public venues is to have a contact who is regular patron. Drug users avoid dealing with strangers, because it is an industry where guarantees of a

good quality product have to be taken almost completely on trust.

At both places where after casual inquiries I was offered drugs, I knew a regular customer would could ask around; at the two places where no drugs were offered I knew no one.

The chairman of the NSW Health Commission, Dr Roderick McEwin, said last week that he was not surprised drugs were in plentiful and easy supply.

"In any area where large numbers of young people are gathered, in any suburb, be it upper, middle or lower income, drugs will be distributed," he said.

The consensus is that marihuana is available to anyone who wants it.

Prices for marihuana have stayed remarkably stable over the years. Impervious to double-figure inflation, the standard deal of supplying marihuana to the smoker is one ounce at a cost of \$30 — as it has been for nearly 10 years.

This suggests that the availability of marihuana is increasing steadily. It is grown extensively throughout NSW, in pot plants in inner-city buildings, in suburban back yards, in semi-

rural market gardens and in secluded country fields.

Heroin is a different matter. It is far harder to get, far more dangerous and more dubious in quality.

Heroin is a white powder in its pure processed form but is invariably doctored with either glucodin, saccharine, quinine, strychnine — anything that does not look too obvious. Even cleansing powder has been used.

Known in the past as "smack," heroin is now being referred to as "rock" and described as pink, black, grey or white rock, according to the colour when it reaches the small dealers and consumers.

The highest quality heroin available in Sydney is pink rock.

The standard measure is a "cap" of heroin, and it comes in vitamin capsules or wrapped in aluminium foil. It usually is a powder but is often in the form of small granules or a combination of granules and powder known as "salt and pepper."

The standard measure for dealers is a gram of heroin, which is usually broken into four or five caps, each costing about \$30.

Discounts available

As always in the drug market, bulk purchasing, whatever the drug, means big discounts. So a small dealer can pay \$90 to \$120 for a gram and pay for his own cap by selling the remaining three or four caps.

The availability of large amounts of marihuana and drugs obtained through pharmacies, and peer-group pressure to experiment further, makes interest in heroin very high among some young people, although most I spoke to are frightened of it.

A drug counsellor on the South Coast said last week that after a film depicting young heroin addicts, many of whom died from drug overdoses, was shown on the South Coast, there was an upsurge in the local demand for drugs.

"They are like soldiers going off to war," he said.

"They like the thrill of living close to the edge. They think it will never happen to them and they will stay in control."

Airplane Used in Smuggling Heroin In

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Aug 77 p 7

[Article by Tim Dare]

[Text]

SOMEWHERE out over the Arafura Sea the pilot of the twin-engined light aircraft makes a slight correction to course and heads for a desolate point on the north Australian coast.

He is near the end of what is surely one of the least risky jobs available to any soldier-of-fortune. It may be one of the highest-paid, too. He is bringing in a cargo of cannabis that will be worth at least \$200,000 when it reaches the street pedlars.

If it has been a routine flight (and pot pilots have done the trip so often that the whole operation is pretty much routine by now) then the pilot can intersect the Australian coast where he chooses. There are thousands of kilometres of coastline between Broome and

Cairns, all but a few of them vulnerable to the smuggler. His plane can make the final leg from Papua New Guinea or Timor with enough fuel left to range far into the Australian continent.

He flies in without being seen by anyone, or even by the radar, if he is willing to fly low enough. Getting the stuff down isn't too difficult either, if preparations have been thorough. No need to risk a Customs search at any of the small airports.

The land above the Broome-Cairns drug line is peppered with several hundred abandoned air strips that most people forgot after Japan surrendered in 1945. Most of the strips were constructed to prevent an invasion: the irony now is that they are assisting a different kind of invasion.

The open land there is vast and monotonous, but modern navigation aids are so accurate that the pilot can home in on

one tree if he really wants to. And out from behind it will come a battered Land-Rover as the plane brakes hard on a rough, unsealed runway that has been little-used for decades.

There is no body or building in sight; the Land-Rover will go south with the drug, the pilot north to, say, Darwin, to check an empty aircraft through Customs.

The strips have long since disappeared from aviation maps, but that doesn't stop the drug runners finding them. A former bush pilot who has flown a great deal in the out-

back told me that smuggling would be virtually hazard-free.

And the Federal Narcotics Bureau, despite its aerial searches, patrol boats and land parties, hasn't a hope of stopping it, he said. Because of the vastness.

The smugglers are so intent on the enormous profits they can command in Australia that they will land on beaches if necessary. The ordinary cannabis, or flowering tops, comes from South-East Asia, and 28 grams (an ounce) costs up to \$30 in Sydney. Hashish and hashish oil are brought in from the Middle East and Indian sub-continent; the oil sells for \$25 to \$30 a cap, according

to the police drug squad in Sydney.

Smugglers are using yachts as well. Dozens of yachts have been intercepted by search parties in the past two to three years in territorial waters, mainly off Western Australia. A trawler was also stopped near Darwin.

The sailors sometimes have difficulty getting their haul ashore without arousing suspicion. One gang brazenly sent its illicit cargo from Derby (Western Australia) to Sydney on a commercial flight. Most of this consignment was seized in Sydney.

Some of the yachts and crews are Australian, and sometimes the craft have been forfeited by their owners after seizure. Aircraft owners and pilots have yet to suffer, however, because none has been caught on Australian soil.

The Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, the umbrella body for all counter-

measures, acknowledges that it cannot cover all of Australia.

It also says that the traffickers are very well organised, at source and in this country. The hashish found in cases of pickles from Lebanon is one example . . .

The department has its preventive service conducting air patrols and sea search-and-inspection missions. Its coastal air and sea operations support group co-ordinates patrols in remote areas of the land, sea and air. The Narcotics Bureau co-ordinates all efforts by the Bureau of Customs against drugs, locally and overseas. It has an office in the Australian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and co-operates with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the US, India and Middle East countries.

Yet ask the department how many men it has employed in its impressive-sounding anti-drug structure and the response is a polite refusal. Is there a war against drug smugglers that demands such secrecy, or is it a skirmish by a few who are up against a phantom enemy whose size can only be guessed?

The department doesn't even want to think what the total volume of imported drugs might be. Americans believe that up to 90 per cent of drugs dispatched get through the US screen.

Heroin is the heart of the hard-drug problem, and the amount seized trebled between 1973 and 1976.

Australia's heroin comes from the golden triangle of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia. Again, an irony. The Americans came to Indo-China in the 60s to "save" it. When they went home, so did the prevail-

ing heroin market. Australia, rich and nearby, seemed to beckon.

Heroin, powder or grain, is so concentrated that one courier can effectively conceal 2-3 kg on — or a smaller mass in — his person. And that is how they do it, using commercial flights and counting on the flood of other passengers to overwhelm Customs officers.

The Drug Squad has not pierced the heroin network. All it can say is that "the general belief" is that many small organisations are operating.

Heroin is not difficult to purchase in profitable quantities in South-East Asia. Some of the "organisations" importing it are small co-operatives of addicts who pool the proceeds of their robberies to send one of their members overseas. They buy cheaply, use some themselves, sell the rest.

There have been 37 seizures in the past two and a half years, but dropping a waterproof package over the side of a ship at sea, or in Sydney, Newcastle or Port Kembla harbours, must be child's play at night.

The NSW Police say that all detectives handle drug matters. The strength of the specialists — the drug squads — is, however, just 34 people.

They at least were game to tell us.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

INQUEST INTO HEROIN DEATH--Police alleged in Southport Coroner's Court yesterday that a Gold Coast man died from an overdose of heroin which he had not taken himself. Detective-Sergeant J. McDonnell told Mr L. O'Connell SM, that his investigation into the death of Mr Peter Maxwell Evans, of Kirra, in November last year had convinced him that the dose was not self-administered. The drug had been injected on the inside of Mr Evan's right forearm, he said. Mr Evans had been right-handed. A post-mortem had shown that the injection had not been given by force because of the nature of the puncture and the lack of bruising and bleeding. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 2 Aug 77 p 3]

CSO: 5300

POLICE SEIZE HEROIN IN LOIKAW

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 5 Aug 77 p 2 BK

[Text] Loikaw, 23 July--Over 10,000 kyat worth of heroin--the biggest quantity ever discovered in this town--was seized in Loikaw last night. Acting on a tip that some heroin packages had arrived at Solatee Teashop at No 57 Thedar Street in market area, Loikaw, a team of policemen composed of Myoma station commander U Hla Tun and others and led by Loikaw Township People's Police Force commander U Khin Tun, accompanied by ward councillors, searched the teashop at 2030 on 22 August [sic].

They seized a big package of heroin in a plastic bag, weighing about .15 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 lb] and worth over 10,000 kyat. It was hidden under the bed sheet in the bedroom of 26-year-old Indian teashop owner Maung Nar Tan. The Loikaw Myoma police station has taken action against the owner of the heroin, Maung Nar Tan, under Section 6 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.



CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE IN MEIKTILA--Meiktila, 10 August--Acting on information, sub-inspector of police U Shwe and township detectives U Aung Nyunt and U Kyaw Khin searched 25-year-old Joe, alias Hla Pe, son of U Aung Thein of Ahshaybyin Ward, inside the Meiktila Railway Compound at about 1000 today and seized a package of heroin. Action has been taken against him under the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 16 Aug 77 p 5 BK]

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

POLICE REPORT ON DRUG ARRESTS FOR JULY PERIOD

Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 77 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 25 August KYODO--A total of 5,259 persons, including 229 juveniles, were arrested throughout Japan in July in a police crackdown on crimes involving stimulants and narcotics, the police agency announced Thursday. About 7.95 kilograms of stimulants worth between 1,600 million and 2,200 million yen at terminal prices were also seized.

According to the police, the number of arrests in the drive against stimulants in July showed an increase of 1,147 persons, or about 28 percent, over the year before [as received]. The amount of stimulants confiscated was 4.6 kilograms more than the amount seized in July last year, the police agency said.

Kanagawa police confiscated 2 kilograms of heroine smuggled into Japan via Thailand worth 400 million yen at terminal prices. This was more than twice the amount of heroine seized by Kanagawa police throughout last year. This amount was the single biggest seizure in the past 10 years, the police agency said.

As many as 229 juveniles under 20 were arrested; they constituted 7.4 percent of the total number of persons rounded up in July in connection with trafficking and use of stimulants. The number of juveniles arrested showed a rise of 2.1 percent from July last year.

Police noted a decrease in the number of gangsters arrested; they accounted for only 40.3 percent of the total number of people rounded up. Police said that they showed a drop of 6.3 percent from July last year, underlining the fact that stimulants have reached the housewives and ordinary citizens and that organized gangs engaged in trafficking in stimulants have gone underground.

CSO: 5300

POLITICAL PARTY TO FORM ANTI-DRUG COMMITTEES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 7 Jul 77 p 4

[Text]

UMNO'S specially appointed officer against drug abuse, Haji Radin Supathan, has called on the Government to declare 'jihad' (total war) against drug abuse and communism, the enemies of the nation.

Both were anti-Islam, he said at a Press conference yesterday.

He added that of the estimated 150,000 addicts in the country, the majority, about 65 per cent, were Malay youths.

The public must make every effort and take steps to help fight drug abuse in Malaysia.

He said that he had issued a directive to all Umno branches to form anti-drug abuse committees and to cooperate closely with Pemadam, the Central Narcotics Bureau, police, the Ministry of Welfare and other organisations on this problem.

Haji Radin said that one of the factors leading to drug addiction was a lack of morals and religious faith among youths. Also, more than 90 per cent of those arrested for drug offences had no religious background.

He therefore called on the Malaysian Inter-Religions Organisation to take a frontline in the battle against drug abuse.

He also said that he was convening a meeting of 22 dukuns and bomohs, mostly from Se-

langor, Kedah and Perlis on Aug. 7, to ask them to volunteer their services in helping drug addicts.

The traditional methods of healing were still effective, he said, and anyone wanting such help can get in touch with him Umno Headquarters, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur. (Telephone 87141).

Meanwhile, the Perak Pemadam Anti-Drugs and Information Campaign Sub-committee has drawn up plans against drug abuse, emphasising on school children and kampung people.

A spokesman of the sub-committee said that among the proposed plans that sought approval from the State Pemadam were:

- To hold lectures and dialogue sessions for secondary school headmasters and guidance teachers throughout Perak on matters concerning drug abuse;

- To screen slides at various lecture sessions and cinema;

- To seek cooperations from various village headmen in accepting fully rehabilitated drug dependents into society; and

- Poster competitions for school children emphasising on positive alternative to drug abuse, particularly on useful activities.

CSO: 5300

STATISTICS ON DRUGS, DRUG USERS

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES 10 Jul 77 p 10

[Article by Mak Joon Num]

[Text]

IMAGINE a Malaysia with a third of its population "hooked" on drugs. While this is very unlikely to happen, it is theoretically possible in the opinion of some.

If the (drug abuse) situation continues as it is, every third person of the next generation will be a drug addict," declared Dato' Dr. M. Mahadevan, Hospital Bahagia's consultant psychiatrist.

While his statement might sound overly dramatic, drug abuse has reached such proportions that the Government is treating it as a very real and serious threat to the country.

A University Hospital psychiatrist expressed his views on the illicit use of drugs in almost the same words: "The situation will continue unless some drastic changes are made."

Definition

The current drug situation is a phenomenon of the early '70s when the number of drug dependents not only increased rapidly but hard drugs became increasingly favoured to the "softer" drugs.

In the context of drug abuse, what is the definition of a drug and a drug dependent?

Under the amended Dangerous Drugs Ordinance "drug dependent" means "a person who through the use of any dangerous drug undergoes a psychic and sometimes physical state which is characterised by behavioural and other responses including the compulsion to take the drug on a continuous or periodic basis in order to experience its psychic effect and to avoid the discomfort of its absence...."

This definition is an almost a word for word version of the World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Drug Dependence definition.

Wide range

And according to this committee, a drug is any "substance" that, when taken into the living organism, may modify one or more of its functions."

Thus a wide range of substances are covered, ranging from alcohol to tobacco to aspirins.

In the current context of drug abuse, however, the word can be narrowed down to describe only those psychoactive substances (substances which affect the central nervous system) which can induce a sense of euphoria and well-being.

The illicit use of drugs is a complex, multi-faceted

problem, and the tendency to speak of "the drug problem" is misleading.

It implies that drug abuse is a uniform problem and that, therefore, a standard solution exists.

However, individual responses depend not only on the type of drug used but on temperament and even race.

Identifying the addict or drug dependent is not simple, since it is important to distinguish between "early" and "late" users (some authorities prefer the terms experimenters, casual users, regular users and compulsive users).

It is not easy to decide where the dividing line between non-users and the various categories should be drawn, which makes it harder to compile accurate statistics.

"The Problem of Drug Abuse in Malaysia," a paper presented by the director of the Central Narcotics Bureau, Encik Mohamed Jarjis at a drug prevention conference in Kuala Lumpur towards the end of May, contains, perhaps, the first authoritative and comprehensive set of statistics on the drug situation in Malaysia

Guesswork

For example, the paper noted that 11,549 drug dependents were treated in hospitals and jails in Peninsular Malaysia between 1973 and 1976.

However, the actual extent of the situation and number of addicts remain largely a matter of guesswork.

A local newspaper recently quoted the Narcotics Bureau chief as saying that 182,550 people were involved in illicit drugs in Peninsular Malaysia.

Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim, who is also the president of Pemadam, estimated that there are 21,000 addicts "requiring immediate treatment" while Deputy Health Minister Datuk Haji Abu Bakar bin Umar last month mentioned a figure of 150,000.

Unless the two deputy ministers took into account World Health Visual Index (which postulates

that there are 10 undetected drug dependents for every known addict) when making their estimation, the number of people involved in drug abuse would be staggering.

Dr. V. Navaratnam of the Universiti Sains observed during a survey of drug dependents at the General Hospital in Penang "that most drug dependents said nine or 10 of their acquaintances were also drug dependents but have not sought treatment." (Bulletin of the Public Health Society, Vol. 10, 1975.)

Seizures

If any of the estimated number of people involved in drug abuse is accurate, the scale of this illicit activity would dwarf, for example, the construction industry which has a work force of only 55,600, and compare favourably with the manufacturing industry which employs 178,900 people (Source: Population and Housing Census, 1970).

Assuming that there are 180,000 people involved in illicit drugs, it would mean that 15 out of every 1,000 Malaysians have drug-tainted fingers (based on a population figure of 12 million).

An idea of the local drug situation may be gained from a study of the amount and types of drugs seized by the authorities between 1970 and 1976.

Seized drugs were raw and refined opium, ganja (or marijuana), morphine, heroin and a few thousand pills and tablets which for some reason remain unidentified.

The amount of all the drugs seized became less and less each year with one notable exception — heroin.

For instance, 4,956 lb 14.6 oz of raw opium was seized in 1970, and 1,327 lb 14oz in 1976.

Similarly, 87 lb 4oz of refined opium was seized in 1970, and 76 lb 4oz last year.

The Authorities intercepted 143 lb 2.2oz of morphine at the beginning of this period. Last year, the

amount of morphine seized was 60 lb 1oz.

The only drug which did not conform with this pattern was heroin which, from a mere 7.7oz intercepted in 1970, the amount rose rapidly to 187 lb 14.4oz in 1975 while 165 lb 6oz was seized last year.

By themselves, the figures could mean anything. Perhaps the authorities were concentrating all their efforts to intercept heroin, or perhaps the smugglers and pushers of the other types of drugs were smarter than their heroin-running counterparts.

However, a breakdown by the types of drugs used by the 11,549 dependents treated in jails and hospitals between 1973 and 1976 seems to support the thesis that heroin has rapidly become the preferred drug among dependents.

Threat

More than half the addicts — 5,952 in this case — were hooked on heroin. There were 1,148 poly-drug users, morphine dependents numbered 1,478 while there were 1,596 marijuana users.

Why is the use of illicit drugs so harmful and a threat to society?

There are two levels of interaction here, the first being the man-drug interaction.

In short, prolonged use of illicit drugs could damage the drug user physically, mentally and psychologically.

And drugs bought on the streets do not come in standard strength and could be poisonous.

As for user-society interaction, rehabilitating an addict is very often a costly, drawn-out process. It is expensive, and a burden upon society which, some argue, is totally unnecessary.

At the same time, the dependent has been known to resort to crime to finance his habit.

There is a certain degree of misunderstanding concerning crime and addicts.

Addicts have been accused of being violent as a result of their drug habit.

The truth is that an addict's craving may force him to resort to crime, but never the other way around where locally available drugs are concerned.

There are other questions to be answered, other areas to be explored as far as drug and drug addiction in Malaysia is concerned.

Where can an addict turn to for help? What facilities and treatment await him?

Can the problem of drug abuse be solved at all? What is it like in an addict's world?

BRANCH OF ANTI-DRUG ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN PENANG

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Jul 77 p 15

[Text]

PENANG, Tues. — More than 4,000 drug addicts, mostly teenagers, have been identified in Penang — but there are very many more: in the region of 40,000 comprising those who have not been identified by the authorities.

These figures and estimates were given today by Datuk Teh Ewe Lim at a Press conference to announce the setting up of the Penang branch of Pemadam, the

National Association against Drug Abuse.

Acting Chief Minister Mr. Khoo Kay Por will launch the branch on July 22. Pemadam's president and Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim is expected to be present.

Datuk Teh, who is chairman of the branch, said: "The people of Penang do not seem to be much bothered about the seriousness of the problem. They are taking a rather lenient view of it.

"The people must join the Government in tackling the problem because the war against drug abuse is a people's war.

"We have a drug problem and we cannot run away from it. We have, therefore, to face the problem squarely.

"Penang is a port of call and because of its nearness to the Thai border, the problem has become serious, bringing in its wake social problems and crimes."

Datuk Teh said a four-day exhibition on anti-drug abuse would be held at Dewan Sri Pinang after the launching.

"More than 20,000 drug addicts in the country have been identified. It is certain that this figure does not show the real magnitude of the problem," he said.

Heavy burden

"It is estimated that the number exceeds 100,000, the majority of the addicts in the urban areas.

"It takes about three years to rehabilitate a drug addict and the cost of treating 100,000 people for three years is a burden that cannot be borne by the Government or society. The answer must lie in prevention."

Datuk Teh urged the people, Government agencies, voluntary bodies, members of Rela and Rukun Tetangga and "genuine" bomohs to involve themselves in the anti-drug war.

He said the State Government was looking for a suitable bungalow as a halfway house for addicts.

REGIONAL EFFORT AGAINST DRUG PROBLEM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Jul 77 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — A comprehensive study of anti-drug measures and the drug situation in the Asean region is scheduled for completion by the end of the year in a regional effort to wipe out the problem.

Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim told reporters today that Colombo Plan had expressed willingness to assist in the survey.

Encik Rais who is also president of Pemadam said it was time for Asean countries to pool their resources and views to tackle the common aspects of drug abuse.

Encik Rais, who had earlier briefed 15 visiting Indonesian women MPs on the drug problem in Malaysia added that efforts were also being made to step up liaison among Asean anti-drug organisations through proper channels.

More addicts

"At present Pemadam is working in cooperation with the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) and from the feelings expressed by the Indonesian MPs during this briefing, we will pick up their suggestions to work jointly with the Indonesian anti-drug body — BAK-OLAK."

The one-hour briefing was also attended by the director of the Central Narcotics Bureau, Dato Mohamed Jarjis bin Haji Ali and director-general of the Welfare Services Ministry, Encik Adnan bin Haji Abdullah.

Encik Rais said the number of addicts were on the increase with 1,542 reported in the first three months of this year compared to only 976 during the same period in 1976.

ring the same period in 1976.

Hospital statistics of addicts for the first three months this year was 719 compared to 670 during the same period last year while prison records also showed an increase to 333 this year from 175 in 1976.

Encik Rais said 5,128 people were arrested last year for various drug offences including drug trafficking and pushing.

About 5,197 people had sought treatment in the hospitals and rehabilitation centres last year.

The Welfare Services Ministry alone had treated 2,326 cases from October 1975 to November 1976.

Encik Rais said so far, 379 Malaysians were under arrest or detained for drug offences abroad.

Some who had returned were under strict police surveillance.

According to official figures, he said there were about 18,000 to 21,000 drug addicts in the country with over 100,000 involved either directly or indirectly.

He said the Government's efforts to curb drug abuse would be futile without the involvement of the people.

He said about 500,000 youths in 14 associations were being given leadership training and character building courses to occupy their leisure hours.

Encik Rais said that smuggling of drugs from the Golden Triangle was being tackled by joint Malaysia-Thai border patrols.

Dato Mohamed Jarjis said it cost between \$300 and \$400 per month to treat one addict at the Ministry's rehabilitation centres.

GOVERNMENT TRYING TO PREVENT DRUGS FROM REACHING PRISONERS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 11

[Text]

SEREMBAN, Mon. — The Government is cracking down on the source of supply of drugs to prisoners, Deputy Law Minister, Encik Rais Yatim said today.

"The government knows that certain prisoners manage to obtain their supply while behind bars," he told reporters after he was briefed on drug addiction, at the Police contingent headquarters here.

"Some of the prisoners are addicts before they were put behind bars, but some became addicted while in prison," he said.

The Home Affairs and Welfare Ministries were looking for the source and were determined to put a stop to it.

Encik Rais said the authorities have tightened the control on the inflow and outflow of drugs from the country.

This had produced encouraging results and addicts now found it hard to obtain their supply.

He hoped that the department concerned would coordinate the activities more closely to stamp out drug smuggling.

Encik Rais who is also the national president of PEMADAM, said he had directed the association to work closely with the police to wipe out the drug menace.

The Deputy Minister also visited the Legal Aid Bureau. He said the bureau would work closely with the Information Department to publicise the areas of aid available to the people.

CSO: 5300

DRUG SEIZURES IN KUALA LUMPUR

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Jul 77 p 14

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Many call-girls and dance hostesses are believed to be hooked on drugs, police said today.

Most of the girls, who are in their 20's, are taking heroin to forget their troubles.

City CID Chief, Asst. Commissioner M. Balasundram, said the police detained five suspected call-girls, all dependent on heroin last week.

A few of them used five to 10 tubes a day.

Police also detained 10 men, four of whom were believed to have

supplied drugs to the girls.

Heroin worth about \$7,000 and enough to supply 800 shots to drug addicts was also seized. About \$1,849, believed to be from the sale of drugs, was also recovered.

Mr. Balasundram told a Press conference that the city flying squad carried out several raids since Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the squad raided a flat in Jalan Hicks, believed to be used as a brothel, and picked up three girls and six men at about 1.30 a.m.

One of the six men is suspected to have been supplying heroin to dance girls and prostitutes in the Jalan Bukit Bintang, Jalan Imbi and Jalan Weld areas for the past three months.

The police party searched a room and recovered a packet, a small container and 12 straw tubes containing heroin and \$270.

Another girl who turned up later at the flat was also detained. A long tube of heroin was found on her.

At about 4 a.m., police raided another nearby flat and detained a man with five straws of heroin.

Soon after, the same police party arrested a suspected bigtime pusher in Jalan Kenanga.

Two five-inch long straw tubes of heroin were found in a trouser pocket. A suspected call-girl was picked up with him.

On Wednesday, police picked up a man in Taman Petaling and recovered \$1,142. Plastic packets with traces of heroin were found in his room.

Yesterday, police arrested a man with four tubes of heroin in Jalan Pudu.

Mr. Balasundram appealed to the public for information on drug pushers and said the police were determined to wipe them out.

OPIUM, HEROIN SEIZURES IN KEDAH, PERLIS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Jul 77 p 7

[Article by Chan Beng Soon]

[Text]

ALOR STAR, Tues. — After laying in ambush for four hours, Customs officers from the Padang Besar Preventive Branch seized 180 lb of raw opium worth more than \$80,000 along the Perlis-Thai border last night.

The head of the North Kedah and Perlis Customs Preventive Branch, Senior Supt Charern Intachart, said that last night's seizure was made following a tip-off.

Mr. Charern said an eight-man party led by senior Customs Officer Wan Hamzah bin Wan Ali took up positions in a jungle fringe near a sugarcane plantation in Chuping at 6.30 pm.

At about 10.30 they heard footsteps approaching from the Thai side.

They spotted four men carrying two plastic sacks each and ordered them to stop. But the men ignored the order, threw away the bundles and fled to the Thai side, despite warning shots fired by the officers.

The opium, packed in 40 slabs weighing 4½ lb each, was found after a search.

So far this year, the north Kedah and Perlis Customs has made eight seizures of raw opium totalling 575 lb worth more than \$220,000.

They also seized morphine totalling 120 lb worth more than \$240,000.

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

SEVEN PERSONS ON HEROIN CHARGES--Kuala Lumpur, Wed.--City police have arrested seven people, including a woman, suspected of being members of a drug trafficking syndicate operating in three hotels here. Heroin worth \$23,000 and cash totalling \$2,300 have been recovered since Monday. The head of the 'A' Division, Deputy Supt. Syed Meor Wahid, said that at about 3.30 p.m. on Monday, two police teams raided a hotel and arrested four men. They confiscated 11 packets, believed to contain heroin, and 12 straws which were also believed to contain heroin. Police then arrested a man and a woman in a room in another hotel. The 26-year-old woman was the wife of a man arrested earlier in the first hotel. Police confiscated eight long straws containing heroin, and materials for processing drugs. At about 2.30 p.m. yesterday, a team of policemen stopped a car near a hotel and arrested the driver. They recovered 10 packets of heroin and \$2,300 cash. The money is believed to be collections from the sale of drugs.--BERNAMA. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Aug 77 p 14 BK]

FINE FOR POSSESSING HEROIN--Johore Baru, Wed.--Welder Zukifle Husain, 24, was fined \$1,500 by the Sessions Court here today for two drug offences. He was found guilty of two charges of having 0.47 grammes of cannabis and six tubes of heroin at Jalan Bunga Raya Kecil, Kampung Datuk Sulaimi at 3 p.m. on October 20, last year. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Aug 77 p 13 BK]

THREE SUSPECTED HEROIN PUSHERS--Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.--Police detained three suspected drug pushers in three separate raids here over the past 2 days. The suspects were picked up in Jalan Sungei Besi, Jalan Walter Granier and Kampung Pulau Meranti, near Puchong. Nine packets and 61 straws of heroin were seized. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Aug 77 p 24 BK]

HEROIN LABORATORY IN POULTRY FARM--Bukit Mertajam, Fri.--Police uncovered a heroin processing "laboratory" in a raid on a disused poultry farm at Kampung Tongkang, 7 miles from here last evening. They found a large quantity of equipment and chemicals in a chicken shed which also had an alarm system to warn of intruders. Police later raided a house nearby and

seized, among other things, books and documents relating to sales and orders for large amounts of drugs. A 34-year-old man was detained after a 200-yard chase during which police fired three warning shots. OCPD ASP [officer in charge of Police Department, Assistant Superintendent of Police] Abdul Hamid Bin Abu Bakar, acting on information, led a 15-man party to a disused chicken farm at about 5.45 PM. Police broke into a chicken shed and found it to have been used as a heroin processing centre. The shed had an alarm system to warn against intruders. Measuring cylinders, acid, calcium carbonate, filters, cooking stoves and gas cylinders among other things, were seized from the place. ASP Abdul Hamid then led his men to an unnumbered house about a mile away. A man, seeing the police approach, ran out of the house. The policemen caught the man about 200 yards and three warning shots later. A search of the house turned up books and documents recording sales and orders for drugs. Police also found a Samurai sword, a measuring cylinder, a filter and other laboratory equipment in the house. This is the third heroin processing centre uncovered in the district. Another centre was uncovered earlier this year in Kulim District. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Aug 77 p 9 BK]

HELP FIGHT DRUGS--Kuala Lumpur, Fri.--The private sector should now step in to help the government in its efforts to fight the fast growing drug problem in the country, Deputy Law Minister and President of PEMADAM [National Association Against Drug Abuse], Encik Rais Yatim said here today. He said the help given now would have reciprocal effects later when the youths grow up to be useful to society. He added that after communism, drug abuse is the country's second enemy and that the private sector is substantially able to show support for this national problem. Encik Rais was speaking to representatives of firms who have agreed to help sell PEMADAM lottery tickets. PEMADAM hopes to sell about \$1 million worth of tickets to finance three proposed rehabilitation centres to be built in Penang, Selagor and Johore. The companies which received tickets from Encik Rais today were AIA [American International Assurance], Kontena National, Shell (M) Sdn. Bhd., Cold Storage, Inchape, Central Securities, and Castrol (M) Sdn. Bhd. Earlier, Encik Rais presented 50,000 tickets to Tun Tan Siew Sin who received them on behalf of Sime Darby Holdings. The lottery tickets cost \$1 each and are on sale at all social welfare lottery booths, information offices and government departments. The first prize is a bungalow worth \$150,000, second prize a double storey terrace house worth \$75,000 and third prize a single storey terrace house costing \$35,000. The draw will be held on October 15. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Aug 77 p 9 BK]

SUSPECTED HEROIN PUSHER--Bentong, Tues.--Police arrested a 25-year-old suspected drug pedlar here yesterday and seized 128 tubes believed to contain heroin from him. Another 25-year-old man was also arrested in Cameron Highlands for having three slabs of opium.--BERNAMA. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Aug 77 p 7 BK]

ARREST FOR HEROIN POSSESSION--Bentong, Tues.--Police detained a 25-year-old man for possession of 110 tubes of heroin in a raid at Kampung Perting here yesterday. They found the man in an abandoned hut in Kampung Perting with the heroin including four 8-in. tubes filled with the drug. Police also seized a motorcycle found hidden in the Blukar near the hut. [Text]
[Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Aug 77 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5300

MAN SOLD LSD TO POLICEMAN

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 20 Jul 77 p 4

[Text]

The "grass" found under the bed of a suspected drug pusher during a raid by detectives proved on analysis to be largely what the man claimed it was — ordinary grass — and only 10 per cent of the vegetation was cannabis, which had been diluted with grass clippings. Mr Justice Casey and a jury were told in the Supreme Court yesterday.

After deliberating for an hour, the jury found John Patrick Hamilton, aged 30, unemployed, guilty of selling LSD to an undercover constable on December 4, but not guilty on a charge of having possession of cannabis for supply on December 22.

His Honour remanded Hamilton in custody to July 22 for sentence.

Mr D. J. L. Saunders appeared for the Crown, and Messrs C. A. McVeigh and J. Cassells for the defendant who pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Opening his case, Mr Saunders said that on December 4 the defendant was asked by an undercover constable whether it was possible "to score a few trips off him," which meant could he obtain LSD from him. They had discussed the "acid" (LSD) scene in Christchurch.

The undercover constable purchased three cellophane sachets containing LSD from the defendant, who arranged the sale and the price to be paid, although his wife had handed over the sachets. The drugs were later handed to the detective sergeant in charge of the drug squad.

A fortnight later, on December 22, a police party executed a search warrant on a residence in Queensbury Street. A cardboard box containing tin foil and vegetation was found under the bed in which the defendant was lying. It was later ascertained that there were 22.7 grams of cannabis among the vegetation.

When asked by a detective if he remembered a person named Tony visiting him on the night of December 4, the defendant had replied: "I knew he was a cop before he even came." The defendant denied selling any acid to the man, and said that he must have purchased it from someone else.

At the C.I.B. office, the defendant was asked about the cannabis, and he said that it was only ordinary grass and not cannabis, which belonged to a friend who was going to sell to a person who had "ripped him off." The term "grass" was slang for cannabis, Mr Saunders said.

Lewis Kenneth Pannell, a scientist employed by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, said that he had received 59 pieces of tinfoil from the police containing vegetation. On analysis it was found that 10 per cent of the vegetation was cannabis, and the remainder grass clippings.

The defendant did not give evidence but the defence called his wife, Kathryn Veronica Hamilton, and two other witnesses.

NEW ZEALAND

MAN CHARGED FOR SUPPORTING FRIEND'S HEROIN HABIT

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 22 Jul 77 p 5

[Text]

An unemployed shop assistant aged 17, who appeared in the Magistrate's Court yesterday before Mr N. L. Bradford, S.M., charged with attempting to steal two colour television sets told the police she did so to help pay for her boyfriend's drug habit.

The defendant Cheryl Wootton, who pleaded guilty, told the police this habit cost her boyfriend between \$100 and \$120 a day.

Detective Sergeant D. K. White said that the defendant had booked into Christchurch and Ashburton motels on July 5 and 6 respectively with requests that the units had colour television in them.

On both occasions attempts had been made unsuccessfully to remove the sets and put them in a car which had arrived at each motel in the early hours of the next morning.

The Court was told that a man had already been apprehended in connection with the offences.

Wootton also pleaded guilty to a charge of having used heroin on or about July 4.

Mr Bradford convicted Wootton and remanded her to July 28 for a probation officer's report and sentence.

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

MAN CHARGED FOR HEROIN--A 25-year-old heroin user told police who found 7 grams of the drug at his home that he intended to supply it to his friends. Robert James Hare, storeman, of Beachlands, yesterday admitted a charge of possessing heroin for the purpose of supply. He appeared before Mr J.M. Hall, SM, in the Auckland Magistrate's Court. Sergeant M. E. Dearlove, prosecuting, said the police searched Hare's home and found the drug in seven plastic bags under his bed. Hare admitted he had used heroin since 1969. He was remanded in custody for a week pending a probation report. [Text] [Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 5 Aug 77 p 8]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

UK HEROIN SUSPECT TELLS COURT OF DRUG 'FRAME'

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Aug 77 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] Can a marriage proposal turn into a nightmare? Yes, according to Briton Miss Rita Nightingale who strongly denied any knowledge of the 3.5 kilogrammes of heroin found in her personal belongings at Bangkok Airport last March.

Testifying yesterday at the criminal court Miss Nightingale told Judge Udom Tuchinda that she knew that it was very difficult to prove her innocence. But she claimed that the heroin did not belong to her and that she was a victim of internationally-known drug traffickers Chan Ming-Fai and Yip Ka Keung (alias Robert Yip) who flew with her to Bangkok from Hong Kong.

A weeping Miss Nightingale told the court that she had no plans to visit Thailand in March but was to visit her mother in England after she was proposed to by her boyfriend "Louis Chung."

She recalled that she met "Louis" who was a regular at the Kokusai bar in Hong Kong where she used to work. He used to date her regularly and later proposed to her, she told the court.

Following the marriage proposal, "Louis" asked her to go to Paris with him and told her that from Paris she could go and visit her mother in England, the court was told.

Miss Nightingale said "Louis" bought her the ticket and also gave her HK\$100 to buy warm clothes and also provided her with three suitcases and a date-- March 17--was fixed to go to Europe with him.

On the morning of March 17, she was disappointed when "Louis" told her that he could not go with her on the trip but would later join her in Paris after she spends two days in Bangkok.

"Louis" told me not to worry because Robert Yip (a friend who is known to both of them) will take care of me in Bangkok and was travelling on the same flight, she recalled in court.

When she got to Kai Tak airport for the flight to Bangkok she met Robert who gave her a brand new transistor radio saying that Louis had brought it for her mother.

After arriving in Bangkok they checked into the Asia Hotel. They stayed in separate rooms on the same floor and had dinner together on the first night, Miss Nightingale testified.

On March 18, she went out for a sightseeing tour and shopping alone.

According to her testimony she was scheduled to leave for Paris on the night of March 19 at about 11 PM but since the checkout time of the hotel was 12 noon, Robert proposed that she move her luggage to his room and she agreed.

She said on the morning of March 19, Robert helped her to move her luggage and suggested that she go to the beauty salon in the hotel.

All afternoon, she was out shopping and came back for a swim in the hotel's pool until almost 4 PM, when she had an appointment with the beauty salon. She called the room to see whether Robert was in and he answered the call. She told him that she was going up to the room to get some money and Robert immediately handed her 500 baht as soon as she knocked on the door. She did not enter the room the court was told.

Before leaving for the airport, she took a shower in his room and brought the transistor radio in the bathroom to listen to music.

Robert accompanied her in the taxi to go to the airport at about 9:30 PM.

"He kissed my cheek and said 'take good care of yourself,'" testified Miss Nightingale.

She was really surprised when her luggage was searched and customs officials found the heroin. She told the whole story to a police investigator and even told him that she suspected Robert as the one who put the heroin in her luggage and transistor radio when moved to his room on March 19.

Later the police brought her to the Asia Hotel where she identified Robert in his room. "he asked me 'who are you' when he saw me going into the room with the police. He pretended not to know me," exclaimed Miss Nightingale.

"I asked him, why did you do this to me and he did not answer."

Miss Nightingale yesterday was comforted by her mother, Mrs Lily Nightingale.



Mrs Lily Nightingale comforts her daughter, Rita, on trial for drug trafficking at the Criminal Court yesterday.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

KEY THAI DRUG SUSPECT ARRESTED IN 20 AUGUST RAID

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Aug 77 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] A man alleged to be one of the top drug traffickers in Thailand was arrested early yesterday morning after a dramatic chase across a banana plantation.

The assistant commissioner of Central Investigation Bureau Pol Maj Gen Chak Laksenabunsong said yesterday Wankho Sae Wan, a chinese national with many aliases including Su Wen Fu, Su Wun Heu and Sawang Sae Khu, had been listed by U.S. Congressman Lester Wolff as one of the top 12 wanted men for alleged narcotics offenses.

Police also arrested a 54-year-old woman who was found in the house in Phra Khanong where Wankho was staying.

In the trunk of Wankho's car, police said that they found a briefcase containing 147,020 baht in cash and a large sum of american currency, and a body search of Wankho revealed three cheques worth over 100,000 baht.

Police said they also found a .38 smith & wesson pistol, six small plastic tubes of heroin, and a big plastic bag with traces of heroin powder in it.

Acting on a tip-off, police early yesterday raided Wankho's house in Phra Khanong, Khlongtan but the alleged trafficker spotted the approaching policemen and scrambled over a fence and fled into a banana plantation nearby, but police managed to catch him after a brief chase.

Wankho attempted to escape a second time when he jumped out of the police car while stuck in a traffic jam in front of the narcotics suppression centre. Police caught up with him at the Ratprasong junction.

Early this year, the crime suppression police issued a warrent of arrest for Wankho after narcotics agents found 3 kilogrammes of heroin in his house, but Wankho managed to evade arrest.

During interrogation yesterday Wankho is said to have admitted that he knew Lao Fan, another alleged heroin kingpin arrested in July this year.

Both Lao Fan's and Wankho were listed in a report by U.S. Congressman Lester Wolff.

Regarding Lao Fan's case pol Maj-Gen Chak said that police will conclude investigations very soon and submit a report to the government.



Wankho

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

RADIO REPORTS ON THAI ANTIDRUG COMMITTEE'S 22 AUGUST MEETING

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 22 Aug 77 BK

[Text] The seventh meeting of the narcotics prevention and suppression committee was held today at 1500 at government house. It was chaired by the public health minister, Dr Yongyut Satchawanit, in place of the prime minister, who was occupied with other business. Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon, secretary of the committee, acted as the meeting secretary.

Prior to the meeting, the Siam Motor Company presented eight reels of film relating to narcotics activities to the public health minister, who in turn presented them to the committee for use in public shows.

The meeting noted the results of the committee's work in the past 2 months and discussed the following matters: 1) It studied the policy on the suppression of narcotics along the border areas, 2) It gave approval to the office of the prime minister's draft regulations on rewards to parties giving information leading to arrests in narcotics cases. The draft will be submitted to the cabinet for further consideration. 3) It accepted in principle the organization of a conference on narcotics problems to be attended by asean narcotics experts in late November, with the Thai government being host of the conference. 4) It appointed the police hospital director or his representative as a member of the subcommittee for the treatment and mental rehabilitation of addicts.

The meeting discusses other matters as well. It adjourned at 1645.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OFFICIAL ON U.S. AID TO PROGRAM

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 22 Aug 77 BK

[Press interview with Police Director General Pol Gen Monchai Phankhongchun on destruction of narcotics--date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Monchai] I feel that this is a good illustration of our policy against drugs.

[Question] Do you think the United States will consider giving us more financial assistance in light of the fact that we have been drastically suppressing narcotics?

[Answer] Every country is seeking assistance. We have an international narcotics suppression organization. Police Major General Phoa is attending an international meeting in Europe. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA] has given considerable assistance in this field, especially in investigating and arresting traffickers and confiscating narcotics. The public destruction of narcotics enables people to see that we actually destroy confiscated drugs and, therefore, will be beneficial to the country in many ways.

[Question] Do you have a shortage of any suppression tools, such as helicopters?

[Answer] You know that the U.S. DEA recently gave us seven helicopters. It is believed that we will receive more assistance in the future.

[Question] Has the United States given any financial assistance?

[Answer] There are procedures involved in providing such assistance. I have not been contacted about such assistance, that assistance might be given in the future.

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THAILAND

NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OFFICIAL ON BURNING OF DRUGS

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 22 Aug 77 BK

[Press interview with secretary general of Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Committee, Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon--date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Pramuk] We brought up the subject of burning narcotics in the first meeting of the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Committee. In that meeting the prime minister mentioned that the impounded drugs held in custody at the public health ministry had never been destroyed and he suggested that since the trials in connection with these drugs had been completed, they should be destroyed. It was therefore decided in one of the committee's meetings that the public health ministry would survey the drugs in custody, particularly heroin, which has no medicinal value.

The public health minister therefore formed a committee to study the destruction of the drugs. This committee is composed of the public health under-secretary as the chairman and the police director general, myself, the secretary general of the Food and Drug committee, a finance ministry representative and Lt Gen Thuanthong Suwannathat as members.

Since many of the drugs have been stored in a disorderly manner, it was decided that drugs confiscated during 1973 and 1974 which were stored in an orderly manner, would be inspected and destroyed first in order to make room for the survey of drugs confiscated in other periods prior to their destruction.

The list of drugs to be destroyed which had already been prepared by a public health ministry committee was submitted to an appointed subcommittee. This subcommittee is in charge of weighing the drugs and separating them into various categories.

There were 283.65 kg of heroin and 1,007.79 kg of other types of drugs such as marihuana and amphetamines, making a total of 1,291.44 kg. Some other marihuana which has been in police department custody will also be destroyed at the same time.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT TO SELL MORPHINE--The Public Health Ministry has obtained permission from the United Nations' division of narcotic drugs to sell about 1,000 kilogrammes of morphine seized from local traffickers during 1973-74 for medical purposes. Deputy Secretary General of the Food and Drug Administration board, Mr Phon Tamprathip, said yesterday that under the UN regulations, drugs could be sold for medical purposes under a quota system stipulated by the UN. The 1,000 kilogrammes of morphine could fetch up to about 10 million baht, Mr Phon said. "This is the standard price of morphine used in medical circles not the price tags transacted by traffickers in the black market," he said. He explained that while morphine could be extracted for controlled medical use, the same does not apply to heroin and marihuana, 5 tons of which were burned last week. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 29 Aug 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

ACHIEVEMENTS IN DRUG SEIZURES NOTED

Sofia BULGARIA TODAY in English No 8, 1977 pp 18, 19

[Text]

'... Since the beginning of 1969 Bulgarian customs officials have prevented the passage of more than 21,000 kilogrammes of narcotics through the territory of Bulgaria.'

Every day 500 lorries and more than 2,000 cars cross the frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey at Kapitan Andreevo. To an outside observer the team of customs and frontier officials may seem hopelessly small against the background of the long columns of motor vehicles coming in and going out of the country. This is only a first-glance impression. When you look closer you notice the rapid lifting and lowering of the barrier, the instantaneous passport control, and the quick handling of frontier formalities. It is so quick that the column hardly stops moving slowly forward to the friendly young people in green and blue uniforms.

In speaking of this, Mr Lazar Bonev, the director of the Bulgarian Customs Board, said: 'Our inspectors rely primarily on their experience and professional qualities. Speed of action is essential in handling the heavy stream of tourists - more than 5 million annually. The majority of those who cross the Bulgarian frontier do not even notice the customs check.

One or two minutes are quite enough for the inspectors to check the motor vehicle and its passengers. And then the white barrier is lifted...'

But does the barrier go up before everything and before everybody? Lazar Bonev continued his story:

The year 1976 was particularly fruitful in this respect. In the course of that year we frustrated 112 attempts at drug smuggling - intercepting altogether 5,120 kg, of which 315 kg were pure morphine. There are indications, however, that the results attained in the current year (1977) are going to be still more considerable. In about three months we have caught 33 contraband loads of hashish, the total amount being 4,039 kilogrammes. The amount detected and confiscated in March alone was nearly 3,500 kg. The undisputed recordholders are two citizens of the FRG who attempted to smuggle 1,900 kg of hashish in their MERCEDES, lorry on a trip from Turkey to Western Europe.'



As a matter of fact, the Bulgarian Customs authorities make bigger efforts and show greater concern in combating drug traffic than some of the countries directly affected by drug addiction. Bearing in mind the fact that drug traffic can be combated successfully only by resourceful, highly skilled inspectors, the Bulgarian Customs Board holds annual specialized training courses for customs inspectors, something which is non-existent in most of the countries afflicted by the problem of drug addiction. Only recently did the

US Customs authorities show any interest in these courses and send officials for an exchange of experience. It is interesting to note that up to now the two countries have been using quite different techniques for tracking down drug-traffic offenders. The individual approach and their long experience help the Bulgarian customs officials detect the most skilfully camouflaged hiding-places in the various kinds of vehicles.

The US customs officers, on the other hand, rely mainly on a network of informers in the countries producing the narcotics. Lazar Bonev told us: 'In the last two years, the US Customs authorities have tipped us on 8 suspected cases altogether. In seven of these cases the alarm was false; the suspected transit passengers did not carry any narcotics. This means that the drug traffickers have infiltrated the network of the informers working for the US Federal Customs authorities. The 8th case is especially curious.

We were informed about a well 'equipped' smuggler who, at the time when the information about him was received, was already serving his sentence in a Bulgarian prison.'

All responsible customs officers in Bulgaria believe that if part of the specialized UN funds allocated for combating drug addiction were spent in establishing closer cooperation between national customs authorities and in improving the control on the main channels of drug traffic, the results would be considerably better. The



special geographical position of Bulgaria, situated as it is on one of the main routes of drug traffic from the Asian producers to the Western European countries and the US, makes it so important that Bulgarian control over the smuggling of drugs should be effective. The Bulgarian government was one of the first to respond to the UN appeal for all-round cooperation in combating drug addiction and in preventing it from spreading. In accordance with this appeal, in 1975 Bulgaria doubled the sanctions for illegal drug traffic. It should be pointed out in respect to this that, although there is no drug problem within the country, the Bulgarian government is taking most energetic measures along these lines.

That is why Bulgaria's appeal to establish more effective cooperation is justified from the material and financial point of view. The struggle against drug smugglers, from the detection and the destruction the narcotics to the

court procedures and the maintenance of the sentenced offenders, involves considerable expenses.

The energetic way in which the Bulgarian customs officers are combating the smuggling of drugs has received wide international recognition. The experts, sent by the US Federal Customs authorities, said that they were very pleased with the cooperation that had been established. One of them, Mr Harold Barbadgulatta, said: In

our opinion the Bulgarian customs officers, although few in number, are among the best in the world. The high professional qualities of the Bulgarian customs officers are of help not only to the US but also to the whole of mankind in the struggle against this horrible scourge.' His compatriot, Mr Bod Nicols, quoted drug smugglers who have been



caught as saying that once the Bulgarian frontier has been successfully crossed, the road to Western Europe and the US is open.

On his arrest Ernst Krahn of Munich said: 'Indeed, the Federal Republic's barrier against the hashish of the Asian producers is here, at Kapitan Andreevo.'

The government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, true to the principles of the UN Charter and in accordance with the obligations undertaken at the European Security Conference in Helsinki, is doing and will continue to do everything possible to prevent the smuggling of drugs across the territory of the country. At the same time Bulgaria is ready to cooperate actively and constructively with all the states and international organizations which are concerned in this matter.

CSO: 5300

EDITORIAL DECRIES INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jul 77 p 3

[Text] According to what has been widely disseminated by the press, the assassination of a private detective brought about full investigations which made public the corruption of agents of the Federal Police headquartered in Sao Paulo, as well as employees of the Secretary of Public Safety. If, on one hand, the activities recently tied together in an inquiry sent to the Ministry of Justice point to the possible perpetrators of that homicide, then the little-recommendable activities of the police also rise to the surface. They, hand in hand with smugglers and drug traffickers, tried to impede the progress of the investigation. Their chief, responsible for similar acts, according to what has been explained in various criminal proceedings going on since 1971, has been made to regret that his colleagues have adopted behavior which makes it difficult to collect proof, extending the period of the inquiry and causing confusion where the greatest objectivity should reign.

It is worth noting, in this curious incident, that in a state considered developed and thought to have an intellectual elite of the first degree, investigative tasks are handed over to the police, not only accused, but indicted, for the commission of cruel murders, often linked--it is written in various of these proceedings--to acts of corruption in the practice of drug trafficking.

Now, in any other civilized country, when a public servant is noted by the courts for acts covered in the penal code, he is immediately relieved of his duties, since under these conditions all of his work will be stained by the lack of moral authority.

In this sense, the United States gave the whole world a lesson in democratic honesty in the Watergate case, pushing to the forefront a weighty investigation which even led to impeachment of the president of the republic and the imprisonment and dismissal from public service of highly qualified public servants.

But in Brazil everything happens and is understood in a different way. Government agents subject to the penal code, continue in full exercise of

their duties and, what is even worse, the procedures which ought to be carried out at their trial by competent tribunals are delayed ad aeternum, with the blessing of government authorities who even render favorable decisions on legal rules for attaining the desired aim.

In the state in which one encounters our police, whose acts have intrinsic illegality as their method, it does no good to regret the lack of cooperation of colleagues and even the obstructions to progress, as the president of the aforementioned inquiry did.

Now it is again felt that the whole police apparatus provides a structure which allows for the re-establishment of respect, which at one time was given to it by the people of this state. A house divided cannot stand by itself, a situation which impedes its improvement.

And above all, one cannot go along with the violence and corruption of the police, as has occurred up until now. The violence and corruption are viewed with accommodation by responsible administrative bodies. If we continue in this omission, we will be perpetuating conditions which lead society to view a group, which ought to inspire confidence, as merely another instrument of power to qualify a regime which is divorced from the greatest desires of more than 100 million Brazilians.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COUNSELING CENTER FOR ADDICTS--The creation of a counseling center for drug addicts in Minas Gerais was announced yesterday by pharmacist and toxicologist Jose Elias Murad, director of the Pharmacy College and the Medical Sciences College of Minas Gerais. He has been working for several years to create a hospital in Minas specializing in drug addiction, but after his last trip to the United States, he opted for the creation of a counseling center, based on the principles which are being used in Minnesota and Colorado in the treatment of drug addicts. [Text] [Brasilia CORREIO BRASILIENSE in Portuguese 22 Jul 77 p 8] 8916

TRIAL OF SWISS COCAINE TRAFFICKER--The trial will take place next Friday for the Swiss, Jean Phillipp Henri Scroeder, who was arrested at the end of last May in Armacao dos Buzios in his nightclub Le Pirate with a large quantity of cocaine. Also arrested with him, caught in the act, were Francoise Phillipp Caballero, Armando Herradon, and Gerard Paul Hespel. The date of the trial could be changed, because Criminal Judge for Cabo Frio, Carlos Alberto da Gama Silveira had not received the laboratory report as of yesterday. Fifteen days ago the judge moderated the sentences of the four accused, as requested by the defense lawyer who argued excessive time taken. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jul 77 p 10] 8916

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES THE DRUGS PICTURE

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jul 77 p 4

[Article by Alberto Vejarano Laverde: "Drugs"]

[Text] The world is now in the last quarter of this century, in a period full of problems which have become universal and from which Colombia has not escaped.

Material advances, the result of human inventiveness, make life easier and more enjoyable, bringing within reach of all what was reserved for the few only a short time ago. And all this during this century, a century which has witnessed two horrible wars and constant "police actions," man's arrival on the moon, research into our galaxy, the invention of television and its ability to make something visible everywhere on earth, development of and experimentation with a variety of competing forms of government, and the placing of man as means or end of whatever action, but not the extermination of corruption or immorality.

During the last century the powerful European nations tried to take control of the sleeping giant, China. They attempt to do this through destroying its will to resist, corrupting it. At that time they used opium, the millenary drug which creates false paradises, enslaving the human person and taking away the capacity for resistance.

At the beginning of this century, in a typically Puritan act for this northern nation, the United States prohibited consumption of alcohol. This decision, full of good will and compassion for the race, intending to eliminate passing fancies and to confront humanity with hard reality, creates a larger force of evil, the Mafia. Old Sicilian and European organizations revive, having managed to survive precariously on the work and suffering of others. And they become enormous, like everything made in the United States. The Mafia, Cosa Nostra, Murder, Inc., and so many others whose names we do not know, fought to the death against a Puritan government blinded by its desire for success. They won the battle, and a few years after the beginning of the policy, prohibition had to be repealed and brewing, sales and consumption of liquor were allowed. And the Mafias lost the fat profits they had been making until that point in time.

Years passed; material prosperity was consolidated and only the outbreak of World War II was able to nullify the plans of these secret organizations. Then humanity went through a period of various undeclared wars or police actions as they have been called. This was the proper time to undermine the will of the young people of the world giant and the invasion begins with drugs.

Apparently the U.S. experience with prohibition has been forgotten. And anew there is a flourishing of the secret organizations. Colombia, poor and until that time without an important drug addiction problem, is suffering the consequences. Overnight our northern coast became a center for marihuana production. Growing coca, since the dawn of precolumbian civilizations a small operation for satisfying a small demand, became a lucrative business.

In the past two years we have seen the growth of a newly rich caste, the result of creole Mafias in the service of similar powerful foreign organizations. Money earned with ease corrupts, changes and destroys values. We must spend what we have, for tomorrow we may be dead.

I believe there is no graver problem in Colombia and that we lack the means to deal with it. But if we remember what the United States did to end its own corruption during the prohibition era, perhaps we can at least slow down the growth of our problem. If the growth and sale of marihuana and coca are legalized, with all the controls and requirements used with other products, we will put an end to smuggling and bring ruin upon many unscrupulous persons. Consumer nations will be able to know officially who makes imports, by registration and with actual names.

In Colombia many years ago morphine addicts were allowed to buy their drug openly. Physicians could prescribe it and many Colombians were cured of this scourge through medical treatment. Today something similar is happening in England, I understand with good results. It is a difficult task for anyone taking the reins of government in 1978. The issue deserves priority analysis and a decision must be made which will be approved, welcomed and sustained by the nation as a whole.

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COLOMBIA

MORE ON THE HK-1291 CASE

Court to Decide Change of Venue Plea

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Jul 77 p 7-A

/Text/ It is the duty of Criminal Court president, Gustavo Gomez Gaviria, to formulate the decision sought by the government to withdraw from the Barranquilla Judicial District the criminal action regarding the HK-1291 plane that left the country with 20 tons of marihuana. The plane was destined for the United States, where it was apprehended.

Due to the urgency of proceeding without further delay, it is almost certain that the trial judge will present the provisional opinion to the consideration of his colleagues at the ordinary session that should be held tomorrow.

As EL TIEMPO reported in an exclusive story in its previous edition, the Justice Ministry, soliciting the court's opinion on the change of venue on this matter, released various documents from that body which demonstrate the private and official irregularities in the course of the investigation. These culminated in threats to kidnap and kill one of the daughters of Judicial Police coordinator, Rafael Gutierrez Cepeda.

The government reached the conclusion that, to benefit the interests of society and to preserve a full and fair administration of justice, the matter should be tried in a district other than Barranquilla.

Before making a decision on these change of venue matters, the government must hear the opinion of the court.

In Barranquilla

Barranquilla, 25 (By Jose Cervantes). Local authorities today began to investigate the presumed kidnapping of the crew of Aerosucre HK-1291, Walter Olarte, Rafael Visbal Jr and Roberto Lopez.

Criminal Proceedings director, attorney Jose Vicente Amariz Diaz, replying to a request from the Second Brigade command, appointed Criminal Proceedings judge 15, Julio Cesar Andrade, to investigate the presumed crime of kidnapping of which the three pilots who appeared in La Guajira claim they were victims.

For now, the Aerosucre HK-1291 aircraft remains in the United States, where it was apprehended on 12 April with 12 tons of marihuana.

According to the versions of Lopez, Olarte and Visbal Jr, three kidnappers--an American, a Cuban and a native of La Guajira--seized the plane, ousted them a few minutes before they were to leave for the Antilles, and abandoned them in an inhospitable spot in La Guajira, where they remained in captivity for 43 days.

This version of the alleged kidnapping of the Aerosucre HK-1291 was denounced by La Guajira authorities, but only now has the government begun a definitive investigation to give course to the normal procedures of Colombian law.

For their part, responsible authorities had almost cleared up the case over a month ago, proving that the plane flew directly to the United States with the shipment of marihuana.

Within a few hours the new investigator, Julio Cesar Andrade, will ask the three detained pilots to explain their accusations further and to contribute other testimony in order to assist in clarifying the case.

Pilots Released Again

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Aug 77 p 1-A, 5-C

[Text] Barranquilla, 3 (By Jose Cervantes). The three pilots of the marihuana plane were freed again today by order of second penal judge, Edilberto Altamar de la Cruz.

Rafael Visbal Jr, Roberto Lopez and Walter Olarte left the municipal jail for Varones early this morning, the penitentiary administration confirmed.

The new decision of Judge Altamar de la Cruz caused surprise among the citizens, above all in the district attorney's office, since the official had just returned to his duties 48 hours ago after a month's disciplinary suspension, and the first thing he did was to order the release of the famous marihuana plane's crew.

Edilberto Altamar de la Cruz did not take into consideration the decision of the Supreme Court of Justice, which last weekend approved the change of venue to hold the trial in a city other than Barranquilla.

The Supreme Court considered valid the accusations of attorney Rafael Gutierrez Cespedes, who complained of the "series of pressures, obstacles and hindrances in the development of the trial."

Rafael Gutierrez Cespedes, who is the Public Ministry's special agent on this case, was even threatened with death and an attempt was made to intimidate him by warning that his daughters would be kidnapped.

Judge Edilberto Altamar de la Cruz, who had already freed the three pilots on a previous occasion, after they appeared in La Guajira, left the case for one month to serve a disciplinary sanction imposed on him by the prosecutor's office and the Superior Court of the Atlantic, after serious irregularities in previous cases had been proven against him.

Altamar de la Cruz was the object of severe criticism on the part of a vast sector of the citizens, especially of the minister of justice and the attorney general of the nation, who traveled to this capital to tend to the case personally.

After this visit, Judge Altamar decreed a new warrant of arrest against the pilots, but two months later, he freed them again.

Attorney Speaks

The attorney for the pilots, Roberto Chavarro, said: "I asked that the procedural existence of an invalidity, of an extra- or supra-legal or constitutional nature be recognized, due to the fact that I felt that the pilots' right to defense had been violated because their freedom was opposed by a document which arrived from the United States without correct authentication at a diplomatic or consular level."

Chavarro added that "it had not been demonstrated through the system of authentication that those who signed the aforementioned document were precisely the persons who appeared as the under-signed."

The lawyer accused the Colombian consul in Kansas City, stating:

"I also observed that the Colombian consul in Kansas City, in carrying out the appointment conferred on him, did not abide by the literal meaning and exceeded the limits of his appointment. He was authorized to submit that evidence in the localities of Jetmore and Wichita, but nonetheless, he submitted it in different localities."

"Failings like these," he said, "give rise to substantial absolute invalidities, according to the criterion of the doctrine of jurisprudence. By opposing the freedom of the detained suspects with a document that was invalid to deprive them of their liberty, they were being deprived of their right to a defense."

Today it also became known that Julio Salgado Vasquez, jurist lawyer from Barranquilla, abstained from voting when the Supreme Court of Justice approved the change of venue for the trial, since he felt that the Court did not have sufficient time to see all of the documentation."

Attorney Rafael Gutierrez Cespedes could not be located to learn his opinion of the freeing of the three crew members of the Aerosucre plane detained in the United States with a large quantity of contraband marihuana.



Walter Olarte



Roberto López

8631

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER KIDNAPPED BY RIVAL ORGANIZATION

Ransom of 30 Million Pesos Paid

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jul 77 p 3-A

[Text] A member of the Atlantic coast marihuana dealers' Mafia was kidnapped a few days ago by a rival organization and had to pay almost 30 million pesos for his ransom, safe and sound.

This information, furnished to EL TIEMPO by the most reliable sources, indicates that the victim of the kidnapping was Jose Manuel Molina, a drug trafficker who until a few years ago was an ordinary laborer in La Guajira and who made a fabulous fortune in marihuana traffic.

Because of accusations not yet established, but apparently connected with his desire to escape a "settling of accounts" with rival gangs in La Guajira, Molina recently went to Bogota, accompanied by a group of his bodyguards.

However, his enemies followed his trail and located him in the capital. They immediately mobilized their machinery to kidnap him and finally succeeded in intercepting him in an unspecified location in this city.

Then--according to our informants--the kidnappers demanded, as a condition for negotiating Molina's release, that the victim's bodyguards leave the city in order to facilitate the gang's movements. The order was obeyed immediately.

Then negotiations began for the ransom between the gang and Molina's family, who, it was reported, went to Bogota with the \$800,000 demanded by the captors to free the drug trafficker.

After two days of negotiations, the money was delivered satisfactorily and Molina was set free.

According to the information obtained by EL TIEMPO, Molina's kidnapping was planned several weeks ago in cities along the Atlantic coast, due to differences between Molina's gang and others who raise and traffic in marihuana, principally in the department of La Guajira.

These differences apparently were related to an unfair distribution of the product in a joint marihuana shipment sent by the Mafia groups to U.S. markets.

One of the factions accused Molina of having cheated the rest of the organization and decided to collect the difference as noted previously.

Shoeshine Boy to Millionaire

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jul 77 p 14-A

[Text] Jose Manuel Molina, the drug trafficker who was kidnapped in Bogota and for whom a ransom of 30 million pesos is rumored to have been paid for his release, belongs to the class of "nouveaux riches" that illicit drug dealing has created in Colombia.

Actually, Molina has had a meteoric career as a capitalist. From a simple shoeshine boy on the streets of Santa Marta a few years ago, he has become a very rich man. So powerful that his fortune is estimated at over 100 million pesos, 30 million of which he paid--or will have to pay soon if he wishes to get out of the tangle alive--to a rival gang that kidnapped him a month ago in the nation's capital.

The Kidnapping

According to exclusive information obtained by EL TIEMPO, Jose Manuel Molina was initiated into marihuana traffic on the Atlantic Coast a little less than two years ago.

Molina, as mentioned before, was a humble shoeshine boy, and on several occasions he showed his acquaintances that he was to become the successor to "Lucho Barranquilla," a picturesque personage who--formerly a retail seller of smuggled cigarettes--became a powerful figure, a benefactor of the poor and sworn enemy of the authorities. The authorities, for their part, were powerless against "Lucho," who was executed by a rival gang a few months ago on the streets of Santa Marta.

"Lucho Barranquilla's" successor, Jose Manuel Molina, succeeded in following in the footsteps of the man he had taken as his example.

One day he left his shoeshine box and became a retail seller of marihuana among Atlantic coast users. The new marihuana dealer quickly became successful and, after connecting with Mafia "godfathers," he became a dealer and dominated a good share of the marihuana market.

But not everything went well for Molina. Discrepancies arose in his dealings with rival gangs, one of which apparently felt its interests were affected by the actions of "Capo" Molina.

It was then that he was warned to settle up and they told him that if he did not make peace and pay up willingly, the enemy gang would collect themselves. To be specific, they threatened to kidnap him.

Jose Manuel, who knows the reach of his enemies and realizes that they don't speak idly, believed that he could hide amidst Bogota's 4 million inhabitants and escape the threats of the rival Mafiosi.

A month and a half ago, surround with the greatest secrecy, he told only his relatives and closest friends of his plans to come to the capital. Apparently, he boarded a plane under a false name in one of the coastal cities and arrived at what he thought was the perfect hiding place.

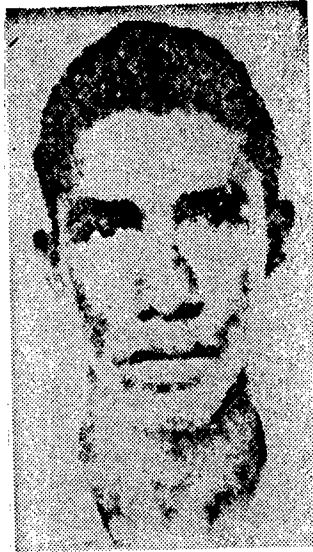
But the Mafia's eyes, ears and hands reach far and wide, and Molina's enemies found out where he was. They received reports from persons connected with various activities, some of them official, according to our sources, and the hunt for the former shoeshine boy was on. There were various skirmishes and he was on the verge of falling into the hands of his pursuers several times. Fearful, Molina chose the Chapinero neighborhood and would venture out briefly, only at night, feeling himself to be safe from his presumed kidnappers. But they were not careless, and one night, a month ago, they jumped him from behind as he walked along the street across from the Marly Clinic building.

One of Molina's confidantes has for several days been receiving phone calls from the kidnappers, who are demanding \$800,000 for his release.

However, some misunderstandings occurred, and it was reported that the ransom had been paid and Molina had been freed. Actually, an attempt to pay that sum early this week failed, just as it was about to be culminated. This gave rise to the report that the kidnap victim had been freed. But, it seems, he remains in the hands of his captors, who are carrying on ransom negotiations with persons known to "Lucho Barranquilla" in Bogota.

EL TIEMPO has in its possession important confidential information--of a sensational and unexpected nature--which it is withholding

from publication so as not to obstruct investigations by state secret agencies. This information will be published when its disclosure would not affect the interests of justice.



José Manuel Molina

8631
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKER FOUND DEAD--Medellin, 18. Great surprise reverberated in secret circles of the city because of the killing of a known drug pusher who was believed incarcerated in the Bellavista jail. The corpse of Alberto Arbelaez Arredondo was found by police early this morning near La Estacion, on the road to Las Palmas which connects also with Rionegro. His head pierced by five bullets, Alvarez Arredondo was identified by fingerprinting experts of the F-2, since at the time of death he carried no identification. According to the report from the public relations chief of the police agency, the dead man had a criminal record as a pusher. His most recent arrest was on 28 February 1977 in the Olaya Herrera airport when he was preparing to go to the United States; at this time 4 pounds of pure cocaine were confiscated from him. The alkaloid had been hidden in plastic bags stuck to the suitcase which he was intending to take on the commercial flight to New York. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 7-A] 11,989

COCAINE LABORATORY DISCOVERED--A complete laboratory for making cocaine was found by F-2 agents in a luxurious residence in the El Limonar district, south of Cali, where a large amount of the alkaloid was confiscated. The laboratory was found in a raid at the home of Maria Luisa Paredes, who was arrested along with Jaime Cardenas and his wife Lucero de Cardenas. Confiscated were drying equipment, filters, ether and other materials used in coca processing. The alkaloid confiscated was valued at about half a million pesos. Authorities said that the finding of the hidden laboratory and the arrest of the three persons mentioned above will lead them to the top leaders and other members of a well organized gang of traffickers with connections in Bogota and Miami. Four gunmen robbed the driver of a "Cremex" milk truck of 210,000 pesos on the Cali-Palmira road, according to police. The driver, Oscar Quesada, said that the hoodlums had automatic weapons and threatened to kill him in order to get him to give them the money and valuables he had with him. The robbers fled in a vehicle and as of this afternoon there was no information on their identity or whereabouts. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jul 77 P 9-A] 11,989

"VIVALDI" PIRATES RELEASED--Three crew members of the Venezuelan fishing vessel "Vivaldi" hijacked over a month ago and presumably involved in acts of piracy were released by port authorities on 17 July, by decision of the persons in charge of the investigation. The men are Marcelino Machacon, Alfredo Machacon and Severiano Gomez Vergara, who had been hired for a variety of tasks on the boat to transform it into a vessel suited for carrying narcotics, according to official sources. As will be remembered, the fishing boat "Vivaldi" was hijacked and its crew were thrown into the ocean during the first days of June. According to information obtained, the three liberated men are presumed to be members of a group of pirates which recently has been attacking fishing boats in Colombian and Venezuelan waters. The event has caught the attention of authorities from both nations, who are constantly investigating with hopes of finding other persons involved in the same activity. The three men who have been freed were captured 20 days ago. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 2] 11,989

ATTEMPT TO KNOCK DOWN A HELICOPTER--Bogota, 22 July--Today, four drug traffickers were captured after attempting to knock down a Fuerza Aerea Colombiana, FAC, [Colombian Air Force] helicopter on an inspection mission in the Manuare, Guajira, zone which is 900 kms north from here. The prisoners were members of a 12-member gang who were transporting 8.5 tons of marihuana in 5 vehicles when the Rondon Battalion commander who was in the helicopter took them by surprise. Some foreigners, whose nationalities were not reported, were in the gang. The drug traffickers attacked the authorities unsuccessfully with light machine guns and revolvers. The helicopter was struck with 36 bullets according to official reports. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 6-A] 8923

KILLING AND KIDNAPPING AMONG TRAFFICKERS--Popayan, 28.-- One person died and two were apparently kidnapped by elements linked with drug traffic, and who were wearing military uniforms. The incident occurred in the "Monte Oscuro" area near the village of Almaguer in Southern Cauca, when four men traveling in a green Renault machine-gunned an individual whose identity has not been released. It was also announced that another two persons who were noticed at the site of the incidents, it seems, were kidnapped by the fake military men. Hernando Pabon, mayor of Almaguer, said that the case occurred yesterday at 1700 hours between the towns of Bolivar and Almaguer. It was said that the case is related to a feud between the cocaine traffickers' Mafias and that the victim was executed for not having delivered a certain quantity of the alkaloid to one of the buyers' organizations that operate nationally. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jul 77 p 2-A] 8631

BRIEFS

DISCOVERY OF MARIHUANA PLANTATION--Santa Ana--The National Guard has discovered an enormous marihuana plantation on the property of Antonio Magana Herrera, a farmer in the Cuguscat township, in the area of Metapan. On a plot about a block square more than a thousand plants were discovered, which will be placed in the custody of the lower court of Metapan, together with the prisoners, Antonio Magana Herrera and his sons, Manuel Jesus, Julian and Angel Manuel Magana. They confessed that they had been fooled and persuaded to cultivate the drug. They accused Regino Magana, Adan Aguilar Martinez and Alfonso of the same surnam of being the persons who had given them the marihuana seeds for cultivating, telling them that they would obtain large profits from the sale. They said that they had cultivated the marihuana since May of this year, and it was sold in various Central American countries. The other three persons implicated in the affair have not been captured. [Text] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Jul 77 p 44] 9015

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

COCAINE RING INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 22 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] The FJP[federal judicial police] captured nine drug traffickers, six of whom are very well known in this city and three more, in Monterrey. At the same time, they confiscated 11 ounces of cocaine, several high-powered firearms and some vehicles which the traffickers used for transportation and to carry out their operations.

The federal public prosecutor's office reported that Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez, Maria de Jesus Madrigal, Perfecto Gaytan Elias, Ramon Cardenas Adame, Santos Vazquez Villalobos and Jorge Perez Cardona were arrested in this city.

The six prisoners planned to make a multi-kg drug transaction. At the time of their capture, they had only 8 ounces of cocaine in their possession. In Monterrey, engineer Joaquin Luna Flores had 3 ounces of the same drug.

Official spokesmen for the attorney general's office reported that for about 1 month they knew that several persons were engaged in smuggling cocaine but they had no evidence against them. They put the suspects under strict surveillance.

Finally, last Tuesday, the FJP agents obtained precise information on an operation they were going to make at some uncultivated land near Colonia Longoria. FJP agents went there.

They found Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez in a suspicious vehicle. They made a body search on him and found a small amount of powder later found to be cocaine.

He said that he was waiting for two Americans to whom he was going to sell 8 ounces of cocaine and that the small amount he had in his possession at that time was just a sample.

He added that at this time he was only going to make with the Americans an agreement on the price and amount of the transaction. After the deal was agreed upon, he was going to contact Jose Contreras Olguin so that he should deliver the drug. The latter had direct contact with Perfecto Gaytan Elias.

The FJP agents went to find Jose Contreras Olguin in his residence at 1705 Washington. When they arrived, he was not there but they found Perfecto Gaytan Elias and Ramon Cardenas Adame whom they arrested immediately. Perfecto Gaytan told them that Santos Vazquez Villalobos had the 8 ounces of cocaine. The agents went to the latter's mechanic's shop and arrested him at Madero and Donato Guerra.

Vazquez Villalobos admitted that he had the drug but that Jorge Perez Cardona was guarding it in his home at 921 Colima. At this address, the FJP agents arrested Perez Cardona who gave them the drug in several polyethylene bags.

The FJP continued the investigations and established that the cocaine came from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. They arrested Ramiro Guerra Barrera, the contact for making purchases. He said that Jose Luis Ayala Lozano and engineer Joaquin Luna Flores supplied the "powder".

The FJP agents seized 3 ounces of cocaine and several high-caliber firearms in Luna Flores' possession.

Yesterday, the FJP agents in Monterrey were ordered to bring the three prisoners to Nuevo Laredo.

The investigations still continued yesterday. Several other persons seriously implicated in this case were to be arrested.

Opportunely, the federal public prosecutor's office will prepare the facts of the corresponding preliminary penal investigations so as to later present the facts, prisoners and evidence to the state district court in sessions.



Santos Vazquez Villalobos Jorge Perez Cardona Maria de Jesus Madrigal

Santos Vazquez Villalobos, a notorious drug trafficker who was repeatedly arrested in the past for this same crime, was captured again. (Foto Gutierrez).

Jorge Perez Cardona was guarding 8 ounces of cocaine. He was ready with a .32 cal pistol which the Federal Judicial Police seized. (Foto Gutierrez).

Maria de Jesus Madrigal was captured by the Federal Judicial Police for investigation in relation to the drug traffickers ring. (Foto Gutierrez).



Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez. Perfecto Gaytan Elias. Ramon Cardenas Adame.

Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez was waiting for two American contacts with whom to make a cocaine transaction. (Foto Gutierrez).

Perfecto Gaytan Elias was one of the cocaine smuggler ring leaders captured by the Federal Judicial Police. (Foto Gutierrez).

Ramon Cardenas Adame is also being investigated by federal agents in connection with frontier cocaine trafficking. (Foto Gutierrez).



Jorge Perez Cardona was guarding these 8 ounces of ready-for-sale cocaine at his home at 921 Colima.



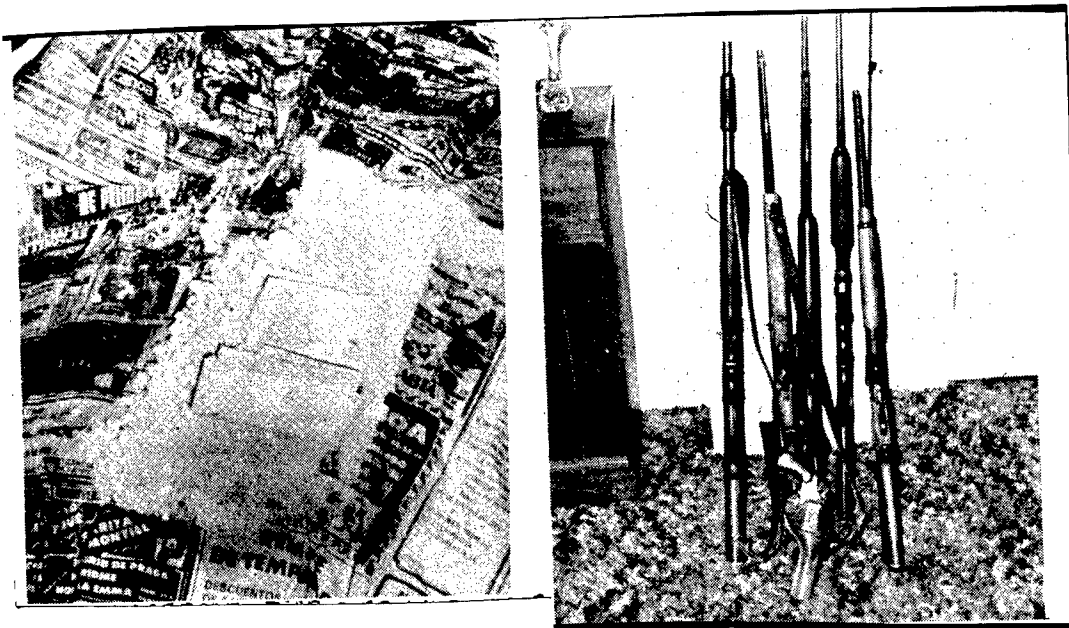
Ramiro Guerra Barrera Joaquin Luna Flores

Jose Luis Ayala

Ramiro Guerra Barrera, whose brother is the head of the guard posts in Monterrey, was charged with sending drugs to Nuevo Laredo. The federal judicial police arrested him in Monterrey. (Diariofoto Coronado).

Engineer Joaquin Luna Flores had 3 ounces of heroin in his possession when he was arrested. He was also brought yesterday to this frontier post. (Diariofoto Coronado).

Jose Luis Ayala was charged by Ramiro Guerra Barrera with being the supplier of the drug he sent to Nuevo Laredo; that is, of being an accomplice of Joaquin Luna Flores. (Diariofoto Coronado).



Yesterday, Alfredo Aaron Juarez Jimenez reported that when engineer Joaquin Luna Flores was arrested in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, the federal judicial police found 3 ounces of cocaine in his possession. (Diariofoto Coronado).

The people from Monterrey did not resist arrest although they had high-caliber firearms and 3 ounces of cocaine in their possession which were confiscated. (Diariofoto Coronado).

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

A HEROIN BROKER ARRESTED IN MIGUEL ALEMAN

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO 13 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] A transaction involving 5 kgs of heroin was not made by some Miguel Aleman drug traffickers because the FJP [Federal Judicial Police] raided the home of Alvaro Saldana, the broker. The FJP were only able to seize 2 gms of the drug because this was the sample which the prisoner had in his possession...!

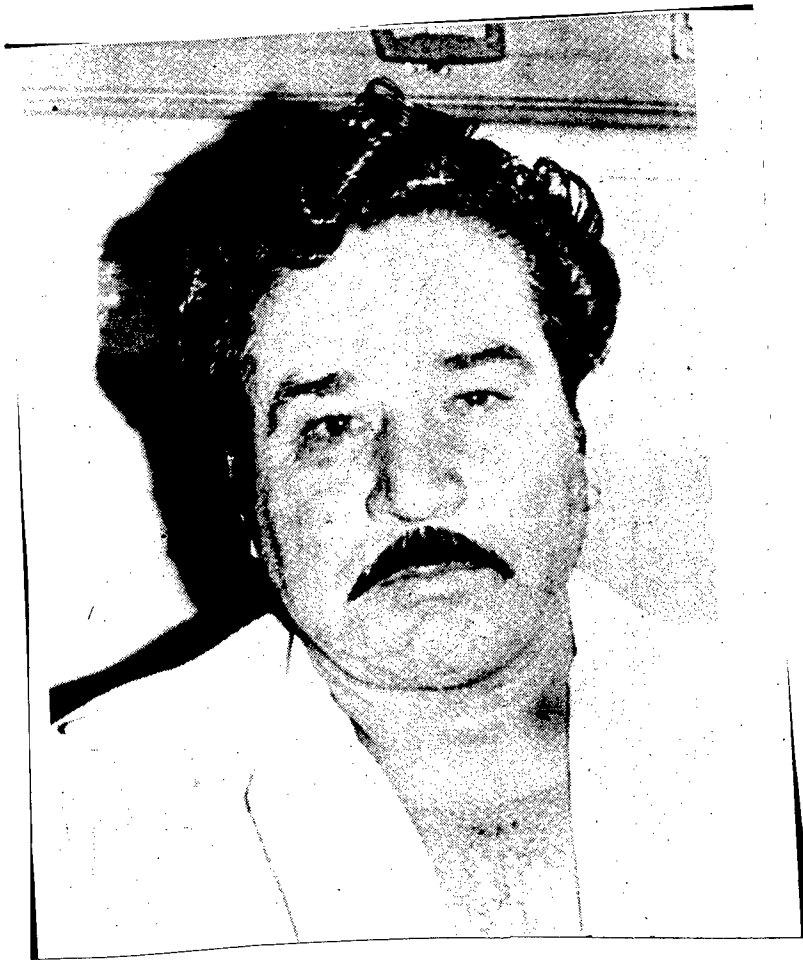
According to federal public prosecutor's office information, Saldana was captured last Sunday in his home where he was making a deal for several million pesos.

The FJP were informed that this business was going on. When the FJP intervened, the buyers and the owners of the drug realized this and escaped.

During the investigation, Alvaro Saldana admitted that he was only the person in charge of showing the quality of the drug. The 2 gms he had hidden in a hem of a curtain were seized and will be used as evidence of the crime.

When the FJP made the raid, a relative of Saldana was present. He said he had no knowledge of the business and that he was there just on a visit.

The FJP are trying to find out from Saldana who are the poisoners who doubtlessly are hidden in Miguel Aleman or in another riverside town.



Two gms of heroin. Alvaro Saldana, a notorious Miguel Aleman drug trafficker, was arrested last Sunday in that riverside city because he had hidden in the hem of a curtain 2 gms of pure heroin which was to be the proof of the quality in a 5 kgs transaction.

8923

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

TWO CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH MARIHUANA CONFISCATION

Matamoro EL BRAVO in Spanish 21 Jul 77 p 10-A



Modesto Flores Lemus. Yesterday, he was brought before the first penal court judge in relation to the large load of marihuana seized Thursday of last week in which several persons are implicated. (F. Tomas).

Ernesto Benavides, alias "El Negro". He was brought also before the first penal court judge in relation to the confiscation of 2 tons of marihuana seized last week in this city. (F. Tomas).

8923

CSO: 5330

BRIEFS

THREE TRAFFICKERS RELEASED--Reports at the district courts stated that by the order from the office of the attorney general, penal action was abandoned against two men and a woman captured with a fair amount of drugs in their possession. The district court released them. One case was that of Maria del Carmen Francisca Veli Kuri, alias Carmen Francisca Velez Alkuris or "La Borrada" or "La Jarocha". She was imprisoned in the municipal jail. She was arrested on 19 February of last year near the municipal cemetery in the company of the drug addict Jose Luis Saldivar Martinez when they were returning from the Centro de Readaptacion Social where they had acquired heroin and marihuana. Veli Kuri had in her possession 8 doses of heroin and 3 marihuana leaves, enough marihuana to make about 25 reefers. Jose Luis Saldivar, her companion, was carrying only one dose of "powder". They were ordered imprisoned as presumed guilty of a crime against public health. Later when the federal public prosecutor's office prepared its findings they abandoned penal prosecution of the defendants as a result of the instructions sent by the office of the attorney general although this step was taken for cases in which really small amounts of drugs were involved. A similar case is that of Gerardo de la Rosa Cano and Roberto Villanueva Meneses. They were captured in a hotel at Matamoros, Tamaulipas, on 7 May of the same year. They had in their possession a fair amount of marihuana and psychotropic drugs. They were also released by order of the office of the attorney general. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 13 Jul 77 p 3-B] 8923

TRIAL OF EIGHT TRAFFICKERS--Alfredo Aaron Juarez Jimenez, the agency coordinator of the federal public prosecutor's office reported yesterday that eight persons seriously implicated with drug trafficking will be taken today before the district court in sessions. They were recently captured by the FJP [Federal Judicial Police]. They are Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez, Ramon Cardenas Adame, Perfecto Gaytan Elias, Santos Vazquez Villalobos, Jorge Perez Cardona, Jose Luis Ayala Lozano, Joaquin Luna Flores and Ramiro Guerra Barrera. The FJP established that they were smugglers of cocaine from Colombia so they were uprooted from the gang to which they belonged. Juarez Jimenez said that although the main leaders who sent cocaine from Colombia have not been captured, the gang of smugglers in our country has been completely broken up. Juarez Jimenez said, "The eight prisoners will be taken tomorrow before the district court in sessions accused of a crime against public health and related matters. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 Jul 77 p 3-B] 8923

ARMS SMUGGLER SENTENCED--The unitary tribunal at Torreon, Coahuila, confirmed yesterday the verdict of guilty by Jose Becerra Santiago against Justino Vega Gaytan. There was enough evidence to find him guilty of violating Art 84 Sec 1 of the Federal Firearms and Explosives Law. Yesterday, in reply to inquiries on the case, Xavier Luevano Mesta, the head of the penal board of the district court provided this information. Another part of the report stated that Justino Vega Gaytan was arrested here at the beginning of 1976. He was ordered imprisoned as presumably guilty of the aforementioned crime when the 72-hour constitutional limit expired. When the proceedings against Vega Gaytan were continued, Jose Becerra Santiago, the Coahuila district court judge, judged that there was enough evidence for giving the verdict of guilty. He was sentenced to 2 years 6 months imprisonment and fined 5,000 pesos. The defense attorney for Justino Vega Gaytan appealed his case with file No 2/976 to the eighth circuit unitary tribunal in Torreon, Coahuila. The tribunal found sufficient evidence for the verdict of guilt and confirmed the judge's verdict. Enrique Galvan Ortiz, the first secretary of the Coahuila district court, notified the prisoner of the decision. Vega Gaytan had been arrested at the guard post on the international bridge with firearms and bullets for them. He was placed at the disposal of the agent of the federal public prosecutor's office and later brought before the district court judge. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Jul 77 p 3-A] 8923

FIREARMS SMUGGLER CAPTURED--Yesterday at the Miguel Aleman post of the customs guard, a Mexican-Texan was arrested after he was captured while transporting firearms and several caliber bullets in hidden compartments in a light truck he was driving. The customs guard command reported this. They said that, at 1700 hours, an anonymous informant reported to Second Commanders Gutierrez, Martinez and Guerra, that a light truck loaded with firearms would pass. The arms would be exchanged for drugs. The second commanders stood guard at the tourist section awaiting the reported vehicle. At the announced time, a 1972 a Ford light truck, license plates VW-7254, driven by Isidro Martin Martin appeared. A careful search followed. Under a second rug, 221 firearm bullets, .45, .38, .32 and 9mm cal, and inside the backs of the seats a .12 cal carbine and a .32 cal pistol were found. With Martin Martin, 12 persons were traveling. Since they were not guilty of smuggling they were released but the driver was placed in a cell at the customs guard command from where he was sent to the Centro de Readaptacion Social where he was imprisoned at the disposal of the federal public prosecutor's office. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 Jul 77 p 6-B] 8923

CSO: 5330

DRUG RING MEMBERS CAPTURED

Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 26 Jun 77 pp 1-a, 2-a

[Text] A band of narcotics traffickers with contacts in Colombia, Panama and the United States has been broken up by the coordinated action of local authorities, who succeeded in confiscating 145.5 pounds of cocaine, as well as capturing several of those involved in the illegal traffic.

The top figure of the band of traffickers appears to be a Colombian businessman, Gerardo Sanclemente, a resident of Panama who used his numerous activities in the import-export business to cover his nefarious transactions in the traffic of cocaine. The drugs were sent to Miami, via Panama, from Colombia, using various persons, among whom were the Colombians, Jorge Enrique Villegas Hurtado, Florencio Munoz Ruiz, Hernan Ayala Jaramillo and Jaime Arango Alzate; also cooperating were the Panamanians Manuel Castillo and Guillermo McKay, Treasury inspectors at Tocumen who were bribed by Sanclemente to allow the suitcases coming from Colombia with the cocaine to leave the airport without being inspected.

Information from the Attorney General's Office establishes that Sanclemente received the cocaine in Panama and delivered it to Jorge Horacio Hurdado in an apartment in the Bacara building, where he resided. The cocaine was later delivered to unidentified persons who came expressly to Panama for it from the United States, paying off Hurtado Narvaez, who made the corresponding deposits in a bank account in his name and that of Luis Gabriel Echeverry. Jose Gabriel Franco and Nubia de Franco also appeared in the same account in which the receipts from the drug contraband were deposited.

A spokesman of the Attorney General's Office said there was a total of eight trips from Colombia to Panama to bring in the cocaine, with a total of 10 large suitcases containing the drugs. In addition, it was learned that an attorney, Anibal Gonzalez Echeverry, was sent from Colombia for the purpose of withdrawing a total of 100,000 balboas from the traffickers bank account with the assistance of a Panamanian lawyer.

Our source insisted that the decision of the Panamanian Government to prevent the nation's territory from being used as a bridge for the drug traffickers had won another sensational victory with this case, in which traffickers and a good quantity of drugs fell into the hands of the competent authorities.

ADDICTS ARRESTED FOR USE, TRAFFICKING IN HALLUCINOGENICS

Nine Arrested

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 29 Jul 77 p 15

[Text] Police arrested nine persons last evening and turned them over to the Vilardebo Hospital clinic for drug addicts for psychiatric treatment and recovery. Three of them were charged, however, because they are considered to be ill, they were not identified.

Although the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade maintained a cautious silence last night when its officials were interviewed by EL PAIS, it appears that several young men were arrested during an operation a few weeks ago in an unidentified area of the capital, while under the effects of a long drug-taking session.

While on the trail of the principals involved, several raids were carried out which finally led to the three persons responsible for supplying hallucinogenic and psychotropic drugs to six other addicts.

In order to obtain the drugs--it was said that they also had some marihuana in their possession, although this was not officially confirmed--the three accused addicts also routinely falsified medical prescriptions and with these acquired from drugstores the narcotics drugs used, of which a small quantity was seized by agents of the special service under the National Information and Intelligence Bureau.

At first the majority of those arrested denied their addiction; however, the proof obtained by the Narcotics Brigade was a strong factor in convincing them to admit their crimes.

Little by little officials are winding up the intricate thread which led to the arrest of those who supplied the stimulants, as well as the counterfeit prescriptions which allowed the acquisition of medicinal drugs controlled by the Ministry of Public Health.

Although the Narcotics Law (14,294 of January 1975) is still in effect, there has been no implementation of the part essentially referring to the scope

and use of medical prescriptions. For this reason there are often cases such as the one in the news today, with the imaginable unfortunate consequences, since in the majority of cases those arrested are deprived youth who have found it very easy to obtain stimulants on which they can "get high."

The three charged in this case, as well as the other six involved, were taken last night to the psychiatric and drug recovery clinic. Nevertheless, when they have completed medical treatment, those charged will go to prison for crimes committed under Article 34 of Law 14,294 (Distribution of Narcotics) and for "Falsification and Use of a Private Document."

Further Arrests

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 30 Jul 77 p 10

[Text] Two more drug addicts were taken into custody yesterday, and one of them was also charged with traffic and distribution of drugs, which will bring him several years in prison once he has completed psychiatric recovery treatment at Vilardebo Hospital.

The two young people were part of a group which, as reported in the previous edition, was found through intensive efforts by special personnel of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade of the National Information and Intelligence Bureau.

As EL PAIS reported, of the nine arrested, three were charged with "Distribution of Drugs" and "Falsification and Use of a Private Document," since after counterfeiting medical prescriptions needed for obtaining controlled medical substances, especially psychotropic drugs, they sold them to other drug addicts.

As in the previous case, the present report does not identify the man charged because he is being treated as a drug addict and a sick person, although he is not considered irresponsible.

The Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade, whose officers last night again were unwilling to disclose further details of the matter, is continuing to work on the case, and further arrests, or at least the identification of one or more persons responsible for the introduction of hallucinogenic drugs in this area, are expected.

The man charged yesterday is one of those who brought from Brazil the marijuana used by the group of addicts which was apprehended. When a small quantity of the drug was found, it was discovered that the remainder had been distributed to several persons, some of whom have not yet been located, and others having been arrested, as we reported.

Those charged with serious crimes will spend a long time paying for them, especially the man charged yesterday, since in accordance with Law 14,294

of 11 Jan 1975, "Drug Trafficking" (Article 31) and "Distribution" (Article 34), such crimes are punishable by 3 to 10 years and 2 to 8 years, respectively. In this specific case, involving both, it is estimated that the second crime is an additional burden, and the minimum punishment for the first crime mentioned, that is, 3 to 10 years in the penitentiary, will prevail.

The severity of the current Drug Law is logical when one considers that those who traffic in drugs are more dangerous, perhaps, than those who promote armed conflict, since they are corrupting an entire generation. At first glance, it appears that most of those arrested and charged were not over 23 years of age.

8735

CSO: 5300

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKING ARRESTS--Twelve persons have been charged in court with trafficking, distribution, possession and sale of drugs and falsification of private documents. The case was cleared up in the last few hours through successful investigations by agents of the 11th Zone of the Department of Theft and Robbery. For some time the police have known that a house on Eduardo Acevedo Street was the scene of gatherings of numerous persons who "acted strangely." It was because of this that several of them were arrested, whereupon they admitted that they were smoking marihuana and injecting other drugs. It was also found that one of the traffickers--who was not identified last night by the police--had brought the contraband drug into the country, selling it at 15 new pesos per cigarette. It also developed yesterday that some of those arrested had previous records for the same offenses and that one had been charged with trafficking in cocaine and opium. [Text] [Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 26 Jul 77 p 8] 8735

CSO: 5300

ISRAEL

DRUGS IN IDF SEEN AS SERIOUS THREAT

Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 77 pp 11, 16

[Article: "The Military Police Investigating Drug Abuse in the IDF"]

[Text] The decision made by the IDF following the Yom Kipper War to allow drafting of ex-offenders turned out to be a mistake. In addition to its constructive importance it also had some detrimental implications.

The offenders assigned to various military units spread an atmosphere of violence and disobedience. These young men goaded and dragged others, stationed with them, to commit serious violations such as theft of arms and explosives, break-ins, drug abuse, lack of respect for maintenance of military equipment and violent behavior.

The staggering increase of cases of disobedience and unlawful acts in IDF bases found the military police completely unprepared. Instead of discontinuing the effort to draft offenders or to meaningfully strengthen the military police in general and its investigative units in particular, the easy way out was opted, that of shoving the issue aside and covering it up; but shocking rumors started among the regular and reserve soldiers regarding acts of disobedience and crimes that are committed within the IDF, things that up to recently were almost unheard of in the armed forces.

The effort to prevent drug abuse within the IDF is one of the central issues that is constantly on the agenda of the military police investigators and those in charge of security (any drug addict is potentially vulnerable to blackmail and thus is a security risk). According to an internal report prepared for the investigative military police commander, drugs are introduced via a number of known channels and are concentrated in rather definable centers.

Boredom and Idleness

Certain non-combat units of the IDF are hothouses for boredom, idleness and lack of discipline for keeping oneself busy. In contrast to combat units,

whose men are constantly being rigorously trained or are busy patrolling, soldiers in service units spend most of their time idly. This happens, for example, to chauffeurs stationed at the central command, in units in the Dan region or in IDF bases in the large cities. Those are chauffeurs of officers who used to serve in combat units and, when transferred to non-combat units, their chauffeurs were not taken away. The chauffeurs' duty is now limited to driving the officers to and from the office and to servicing the vehicles once a week. These chauffeurs and those of other officers, commonly known in the military jargon as "clerks," who serve in the central command in administrative and managerial positions, are idle most of the time and are vulnerable to street temptations. If among such a group there is an ex-con, someone who used drugs before being drafted (although he may not have been caught), the result is almost inevitable. Sometimes one criminal succeeds in corrupting a large group of bored chauffeurs.

A similar center exists in commands of combat units. There, too, among those assigned to service duties such as stock keepers, cooks and cleaners, there is idleness, and supervision is loose. Some of these soldiers tend to become drug users when there are ex-cons among them, who have in the past used drugs.

Military prisons, which recently have exploded with prisoners, constitute another center for drug abuse. About a year ago there was an uproar after it was learned that the military police all but lost control there and that groups of inmates abused, regularly so, other prisoners. After these stories were published by the media and after some military trials, supervision to prevent abuse of prisoners was strengthened, but interviews with jailers and former prisoners reveal that military jails still abound in drugs.

The method is simple and is "inherited" from one inmate generation to another. Military policemen are subject to terror and threats to themselves and their families on the part of some violent prisoners.. This unceasing terror, that the military police did not attempt to deal with properly, causes a sizeable number of military policemen to give in and close one eye so that relatively large amounts of drugs are smuggled into the prisons. The same terror causes, more than once, military policemen to lie under oath, as in the example mentioned in the first article, when a military policeman who had discovered drugs on a prisoner was forced under threat to lie in his testimony. This situation is responsible for the fact that military policemen not only enable the smuggling of drugs, but sometimes themselves become pushers, as in the case of George Amzalag who admitted in his trial that he used to smoke hashish with some of his friends and ended up bringing drugs to inmates in the military prison.

Within the prison walls many inmates, whether because they want to be on good terms with the "leaders" or because of threats, are forced to use drugs with the "group."

Trash removal from IDF bases in the Sinai is done by military drivers or civilians working for companies that won contracts to remove trash.

Here, too, there is the same scenario. The Sinai Bedouins have learned when to expect the garbage truck. While they poke through the garbage to sort out edible leftovers, either for themselves or for their animals, the driver is invited for coffee. Soon enough the driver becomes friendly with one of the Bedouins, who, later on, turns out to be the group's leader. The driver promises that on his next trip he will bring not only garbage but also leftovers, mainly bread loaves that he thinks are surplus and will anyway land in the garbage. Soon enough coffee is accompanied by cigarettes. Later it turns out that some grains of hashish were mixed with the cigarettes.

These daily cigarettes are soon augmented by more hashish, especially if the driver is cooperative and even anxious to bring usable food from the base. At first it does not dawn on the driver to market his "merchandise." He distributes it among his friends on the base, who deserve, or so he thinks, his trust and they all smoke together. Later he discovers he can become a small time pusher. Quite often when the friendship becomes closer the drivers become pushers. For a few hundred pounds they transport drugs to centers in the cities. This is how drug centers develop in the various IDF bases throughout the Sinai.

Shortage of Manpower

The military police today is unprepared, as to personnel and otherwise, to deal with this drug problem. The manpower at its disposal is miserably small. If the number of investigators "covering" the Sinai or the Golan Heights, for example, were to become public, the public would be shocked. The number is in no way adequate. Moreover, the same investigators have other responsibilities, in addition. Today the military police is capable, at best, of putting out fires, and not of doing anything that requires persistent and patient investigation. Many investigative units simply neither have the manpower nor the means. Many of the investigators, people from the reserves, are forced to use their own vehicles in order to conduct their investigations.

Interviews with commanders reveal that there are officers who suspect and actually know that there is drug abuse in their units. When these officers are personal friends, they are willing, in conversations not to be quoted, to disclose the names of those soldiers, mostly from among the service units, who use drugs. These officers are not aware that by the mere fact that they do not report these violations to the military police they effectively become accomplices. Their explanation, for the most part, is identical--as long as those involved are not unruly and sort of do their jobs they can do anything they please in their free time. If they are arrested it will be weeks before they are replaced and in the meantime their absence will be felt.

Reading these verdicts of the military trials that were made public fails to reveal any case where suits were filed against officers that, according to the results of the military police investigation knew, or were told by those under them, that someone under their command was using drugs. Thus it happens that the military police, which is understaffed as it is, works even without real cooperation of commanders in the field.

Loose Cooperation

Recently there has been an increase in military trials for drug abuse. Most of the suspects were caught by the investigative branch of the military police, but the increase does not mean that the military police has either become more efficient or better staffed, or that it has started a serious war against drug abuse. The facts are totally different. As the number of drug abusers increased, so has the number of those caught.

The military police will be able to fulfill its task efficiently and to become a deterrent force if it gets a substantial increase of well trained personnel. As of now the military police does not have a very effective intelligence network throughout IDF installations in well known centers to report to the command. Cooperation among high ranking officers of the military police and their counterparts in the civilian police is close, but in the lower ranks, working in the field, cooperation is inadequate and often depends on personal acquaintance and friendship between the investigators and their civilian counterparts. Analysis of drugs that were caught by the IDF is done by the laboratory for criminal investigation of the police. There are no directives for any form of cooperation that set forth any procedures.

The armed forces, more than any other institution in Israel, can reorganize swiftly and efficiently, If the military police investigative branch has enough aggressive investigators who can be relieved of all other mundane duties, who can set up an efficient intelligence network and who will devote all their time to deal with this issue, it is entirely possible that they will be able to stem drug abuse in the IDF within a relatively short period and, as the next stage, will be able to make strides toward uprooting it altogether.

8646

CSO: 4805

DJIBOUTI

GOVERNMENT OUTLAWS KAT CONSUMPTION

Djibouti LE REVEIL DE DJIBOUTI in French 6 Aug 77 p 1

[Text] The government of the Republic of Djibouti has decided to outlaw the consumption of kat. The possibility of such a measure was discussed at the last Cabinet meeting. A decree signed by the president of the republic states: "The production, the transportation, the importation, the exportation, the possession, the sale, the conveyance, the purchase, the consumption of kat and preparations containing or prepared on the basis of this product are outlawed, provisionally, throughout the territory of the republic."

This measure has been taken because of "a limited and irregular supply," which in recent weeks has been causing a sharply rising prices and even disorders in the street.

In fact, since the aggravation of the situation in Harrar, where fighting is continuing, the Ethiopian Air Lines planes, which used to transport 5 tons of kat to Djibouti every day have interrupted their rotation flights. A package of kat usually sold for 120 Djibouti francs was being sold for as much as 1000 Djibouti francs.

The government has put an end to this intolerable situation by outlawing totally, but provisionally, the use of "la salade."

While this measure results in a loss of 2.5 million Djibouti francs a day in revenue from excise taxes, on the other hand, it prevents a daily hemorrhage of foreign currency amounting to about 3.5 million Djibouti francs, which can now be injected into domestic consumption.

Penalties for Violators

Those who violate the public administration regulations concerning the production, transportation, importation, exportation, possession, sale, conveyance, purchase and use of kat will be punished by prison terms ranging from 2 months to 2 years and a 2,000 to 10,000 Djibouti franc fine, or by one or the other of these penalties alone.

Those who illegally use kat will be punished with prison terms ranging from 1 month to 1 year and a fine of from 500 to 5,000 Djibouti francs, or one or the other of these penalties.

DENMARK

THREE PERSONS CHARGED FOR ROLES IN NARCOTIC DEALINGS

International Drug Network Broken Up

Copenhagen BERLINGSKI TIDENDE in Danish 28 Jul p 1 and 2 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Poul Hordum: "Narcotics- and Extortion Dealings With Ramifications of Murder and Diplomatic Scandal - Three Key Figures Charged"]

[Text] Tape recordings of monitored telephone conversations over a period of six months is one of the most important pieces of evidence in a large-scale narcotics- and extortion case, in which Copenhagen police detectives for the first time clearly succeeded in finding the key figures involved. The case is obviously connected with the North Korean embassy scandal, the drug-related murder in Jersie, the killing of a young Copenhagen woman and narcotics dealings still under investigation concerning several hundred kilogram hashish.

The three key figures, the 31-year old Leif Sinding, formerly employed as a shipping clerk at the Copenhagen airport for several years, the 24-year old son of a restaurant owner, Peter Heinrich Pries, and the 32-year old discoteque doorkeeper, Per Ehlert, will receive written charges, issued by public prosecutor E. Merlung, in this morning's mail.

Sinding and Pries are charged with attempting to traffic in morphine base for 540,000 kroner, and with the purchase of or the attempt to deal in hashish for not less than two million kroner. Ehlert is not charged with extortion, but, besides the involvement in narcotics crime, he is also charged with violating the weapons' law.

The three men have been held in custody since the end of March, all court sessions have been held behind closed doors and police detectives have likewise cloaked the case in secrecy.

The veil surrounding the case will not be lifted until Monday when the prosecutor, police attorney Jorn Hald, will bring suit against the three men in Copenhagen city court, section 5.

According to what BERLINGSKE has learned, the prosecution does not have any definitive charges, but a wealth of suspicions about the sale of several tons hashish. Among other things, there is evidence that Sinding and Pries knew several of the more than 20 persons who have been sentenced in connection with the scandal surrounding the North Korean embassy.

Head Man Shipping Clerk at the Airport

Police detectives are of the opinion that Leif Sinding is the man who for several years smuggled a number of large shipments of hashish into the Kastrup airport, where he worked as a shipping clerk for four-five years.

When he was arrested in March he was in possession of more than 200,000 kroner in foreign currency. He insisted that the money had been derived from "a kind of" antiques business.

Generally speaking, police detectives feel that Sinding, in particular, was the man behind all the big hashish shipments to Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but as is usually the case in such matters, it has been impossible to quite get to the bottom of it.

Even though charges have now been filed, police detectives have not stopped investigating the narcotics case against the three men. This is due to the recent arrest of two men and the confiscation of 593 kilogram hashish at the Rome international airport. It has been established that the two men who were arrested there did have contacts with Sinding and Pries and their "business connections."

All Knew Murdered Woman

In the Pries-Sinding-Ehlert case several of those involved have already been sentenced. The last sentence was issued yesterday in Copenhagen city court, section 5, when the Yugoslav Dusan Burcik received an additional three-year prison term for attempting to deal in three kilograms of morphine, the same amount that Pries and Sinding are now charged with.

Dusan Burcik witnessed the drug-related murder in Jersie, where an imprisoned Greek killed a Turk in the process of trading 150 gram morphine base. Burcik was earlier sentenced to one year in prison for this attempted sale.

The attempted sale, for which the Yugoslav was sentenced, took place in the Palace Bar on Radhusplassen. The bar plays an important role in the whole case, because the people involved presumably arranged all transactions over a drink in the bar.

The Palace Bar has also been in the limelight for another reason. This is in connection with the investigation of Elin Alexander's murder. She knew the Yugoslav Burcik as well as the men who were charged today. So far, all investigations have been fruitless and the murder remains unsolved.

Two Accomplices Sentenced

The extortion charge against Pries and Sinding involves several things. Two men, Svend Bjarne Aabrandt and Leo Jean Owild, have been sentenced to respectively two- and three-year prison terms for their cruel methods of collecting money.

According to the charge, Pries and Sinding had hired the two men, both former big-time smugglers themselves, to collect debts amounting to about 90,000 kroner. They used such cruel methods in trying to collect the money that a debtor had to ask police for help.

According to the information we have, all three who were charged this morning plead not guilty to all counts. But the prosecution is of the opinion that tape recordings of monitored telephone conversations over a period of six months will convince the court of the three men's extensive criminal activity.

All the tape recordings, which run several hours, will be played during a court session either Tuesday or Wednesday. Eight days have been set aside in court to deal with the case.

Traffickers Prosecuted

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 2 Aug 77 p 2I

[Article: "Danish Narcotics Case With Three Defendants Almost an American Event - Promise of Big Reward Got Defendant to Enter Deal to Sell Three Kilograms of Morphine Base in Copenhagen"]

[Test] Events concerning police infiltration of the narcotics world that could hardly be surpassed in an American detective movie, unfolded yesterday in Copenhagen city court, section 5. This was the opening scene of the court case against the 28-year old used car dealer, Leif Sinding, the 35-year old doorkeeper, Per Hans Ehlert, and the 25-year old restaurant inspector, Peter Heinrich Pries.

All three are charged with violating the hard narcotics law by attempting to purchase at least 100 kilogram hashish from two persons who have already been sentenced, and for having purchased or sold 3,500 Captagon pills. Also, Ehlert and Pries are charged with attempting to buy three kilogram morphine base for 540,000 kroner from the already sentenced Yugoslav Dusan Burcik, who received a three-year prison term for that involvement.

Sinding and Pries are charged with violation of the weapons' law by having been in possession of pistols and rifles. Ehlert is also charged with dealing in stolen property. And, finally, Pries and Sinding are charged with unlawful coercion and extortion. The latter is in connection with a collection affair, in which the already sentenced Svend Aabrandt and Leon Owild had agreed to collect 90,000 kroner for Pries and Sinding, even though the amount outstanding was only 37,000 kroner.

Big Reward

First they began with the lesser circumstances in the case. Ehlert admitted to violating the weapons' law, but pleaded not guilty to dealing in stolen property in connection with the purchase of a pistol.

In reference to the attempted purchase of three kilogram morphine base, Peter Pries explained that he has received a visit from an assistant detective from the narcotics division in the bar of his father's restaurant, Cineman 1, 2 and 3. The assistant detective had shown him some photographs of the Yugoslav Burcik, called "Yugoslav Johnny." Pries identified the Yugoslav. In July 1975 Pries was visited by one of the bar's regular customers who was a friend of the assistant detective.

The visitor told Pries that police were offering a big reward of 30,000 kroner to get "anything" on "Yugoslav Johnny." "A" led him to understand that they would try to get "Yugoslav Johnny" to sell them some morphine base. The plan was that Pries should tell the Yugoslav that he had some friends who would buy three kilograms of morphine base. The Yugoslav was supposed to deliver a "trial fix" first, so that police could see if the substance was genuine. After that, "A" would take care of the rest.

Money Hidden in Box

Pries and "A" met at the Bonaparte restaurant. The Yugoslav arrived there too. In the hallway leading to the lavatory he handed over the stipulated "trial fix" and Pries, in turn, passed it to "A." A couple of days later "A" came to the Cinema 1, 2 and 3 bar and said that the substance was all right. They then arranged a meeting with the Yugoslav.

The Yugoslav arrived at the appointed time, while "A" was an hour late. This made the Yugoslav nervous. "A" had told Pries that all the money, 540,000 kroner, had been delivered by police and that it was in a bag tucked inside a box at the SAS hotel.

"A" finally contacted the Yugoslav in the bar, but it turned out that "A" and "Yugoslav Johnny" were unable to reach an agreement. The Yugoslav only wanted to sell half a kilogram at a time for 50,000 kroner. "A" did not agree to that, since the police reward was not big enough. As a result the deal was not made.

Worked For Police

Pries maintained that he had only worked for the police. He was not supposed to have anything to do with the morphine base.

In the case against "Yugoslav Johnny," in which "A" testified, "A" stated that it was Ehlert who had approached him and said that he could get morphine base for 90,000 kroner a half kilogram. Ehlert denied knowing anything about this. Ehlert admitted that he knew the Yugoslav as well as the assistant detective who had approached Pries, but he did not know anything about the morphine base deal.

In the case concerning the 3,500 Captagon pills, Peter Pries admitted that it was Leif Sinding who had financed the purchase in Germany with 3,000 kroner. Pries was in charge of the pills. Ehlert had sold them for 5 kroner each and they had shared the profit. Ehlert and Sinding both denied this. Ehlert explained that he had bought the pills from Pries, but that they had been used by him. The case continues today.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

PURE HEROIN WORTH 1.5 MILLION LIRAS SEIZED IN ADANA

Ankara BARIS in Turkish 15 Jul 77 p 7

[Text] Adana--AKAJANS--The Narcotics Materials Office of the Adana Security Directorate seized 1.25 kilograms of pure heroin with a market value of approximately 1.5 million liras. Five persons involved with the heroin have been taken into custody.

According to an announcement made by security directorate officials, the heroin was found in nylon bags on Ali Uyan during a search of a passenger bus coming from Gaziantep. Ibrahim Ak, who was on the bus with Uyan, was also arrested.

Uyan, who had 1.25 kilograms of pure heroin on his person, gave a statement to the security directorate and said that he had purchased the heroin from an individual named Mustafa Capanoglu from the Kilis administrative district. Capanoglu, who was then arrested, said that the heroin belonged to Uyan and that there had been 2 kilograms. He claimed that Uyan had sold 750 grams to a person employed as a laborer in Germany a while before. After this, Uyan confessed that he had purchased the heroin from Selahattin Makal, who resides in the Tarsus administrative district.

Makal, who was arrested during a raid on his house in Tarsus, stated that the heroin belonged to him, but that he had purchased it from Ismail Binici, who lives in the village of Yenicay in the Tarsus administrative district. Binici was taken into custody. He reported that he found the heroin a year ago on the bank of the Berdan Stream and that it had been thrown there during a clash between smugglers and gendarmes that took place over the stream near his village.

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

POPPY CAPSULE PRICE DISSATISFACTION--Afyon (Ankara Agency) Following a recent Cabinet decision to retain the price of opium poppy capsules at the 1976 level because "the harvest was quite good", Afyon poppy growers, represented by Nal and Irfan Guzel, expressed disappointment that no increase had been granted. Citing the reasons why an increase should be given, they noted that a price increase of 100 percent has been made to monopolies products, and added that their own prices for poppy field labor had risen approximately 40 percent over the past year. [Excerpts] [Istanbul POLITIKA in Turkish 21 Aug 77 p 7]

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END