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WRAN PROMISES A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DRUG TRAFFICKING

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Jul 77 pp 1, 2

[Text] A royal commission into drug trafficking in NSW will be held and "the truth will out," the Premier, Mr Wran, said yesterday.

It will look at where the drugs come from, who is behind them and whether any people in authority are involved, he said.

"If events overtook the Government" the royal commission would be called immediately, and "if events permitted" it would wait until after the final report of the present parliamentary inquiry on drugs.

"We have still to learn what happened in Griffith and why," Mr Wran said, referring to the disappearance and feared murder of anti-drug campaigner, Mr Donald Mackay, last Friday.

The Leader of the NSW National Country Party, Mr Punch, said later that delaying until it was known what had happened at Griffith was "totally unacceptable." It was an attempt to shelve the drug issue until after the next State election.

Date not definite

Mr Wran said he regretted very much the decision not to proceed against a person charged in connection with a huge marihuana crop at Coleambally near Griffith in 1975.

But, in an outburst against "hypocrites", he said that if every young man or woman who smoked marihuana in Sydney tonight was jailed, about one third of households would be without their sons or daughters.

Answering questions at a Journalists' Club luncheon,

Mr Wran rejected allegations that some police in the Griffith area had been less than diligent in their inquiries.

He said he expected to have a report from the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Drugs toward the end of September or early October.

"Now, if events permit, I think it desirable that the Government at least have the report of the committee, and that we don't want two Royal Commissions running at the same time.

"The prisons Royal Commission is currently running and it is anticipated it will finish toward the end of this year.

"However, if events overtake us we will not hesitate to take the course which will result in two Royal Commissions at one time," he said.

Mr Wran said the Government did not intend to have an opened Royal Commission.

"The sort of Royal Commission that I have in mind and which I have discussed with the Cabinet would be limited to these sorts of questions.

"What are the sources of drugs that come into or are provided in NSW?

"Who are the people responsible for them, and are there any persons in authority involved in the traffic, and who are they?

"In other words, I think the parliamentary committee is perfectly capable of looking at the broader question of drugs that concerns our society, such as what is the better type of drug diversionary program, what kinds of educational programs should we have, and what kinds of rehabilitative facilities.

"But on those essential other questions, they really boil down to this: Who are the parasites conducting the drug traffic? That will be the essential question for a Royal Commission."

Mr Wran said he rejected entirely the suggestion of a Herald editorial that in some way the Government was telegraphing its punches to the wrongdoers.

"Tracks of this kind cannot be covered," he said.

"Truth, under a proper and searching investigation will out, and I'm determined it will out.

"There have been a number of most serious allegations made to the select committee of inquiry, but I'm not going to be prodded and pushed to establish a second Royal Commission at too early a stage, and certainly not before I have some clarification of exactly what the position is in Griffith and what happened there."

Questioned on No Bill

Mr Wran was asked about the filing of a No Bill in the prosecution of a case involving a person charged in connection with a huge crop of marihuana at Coleambally in 1975, variously valued at between \$30 million and \$80 million.

"The reason it was filed was that the Solicitor-General of the State, an eminent QC — all of them are eminent of course — together with the Crown Prosecutor advised the Attorney-General that there was no case against the man in question which could be maintained.

"A jury (trying his case) had disagreed. There were five persons, charged, four convicted, two sent to five years' jail, two sent, I think, to two years' jail, and one disagreement.

"The Government, in accordance with time-honoured practice upon the advice of the Solicitor-General and Crown Prosecutor filed the No Bill, despite the fact that I saw and regretted it very much."

Questioned about allegations that some members of the police had been less than diligent in their inquiries in the Griffith area, Mr Wran said he rejected them.

He said there had been 27 charges in relation to cannabis in the area in recent years and roughly half of them were indictable offences for the possession of large quantities of the drug.

Mr Wran said, "I think the seriousness of the situation, in the aura of possible tragedy that covers Griffith, we are likely to lose sight of what we should be about in respect of drugs in our community.

"We are likely to elevate pot smoking to a level at which the real issue will be obscured and perhaps lost altogether.

"Because . . . the fact is that every night in metropolitan Sydney tens of thousands of young men and women smoke pot.

"If you, their parents, want them put in jail and branded as criminals, rather than have them directed to a drug diversionary and educational program, that will be the public's choice.

"The public will have that opportunity to make that choice in due course. (His office later said the Premier was referring to the next election, not hinting at a drug referendum.)

"But it's my view that whatever might be the rights and wrongs of the issue, whatever the medical shortcomings of pot, if we endeavour to put every young man and woman who, tonight in Sydney smokes it, in jail, then something like a third of the homes will be without their sons and daughters.

"I think it is one of the great hypocritical arguments of our time that we should impose jail terms rather than set up proper diversionary programs that might dissuade people from pot and the real danger of involvement in the hard drug scene."

Mr Wran said he was particularly angry about "Neanderthals" who spoke of his Government's permissive attitude to drug taking.

"I just can't understand a community which has this enormous problem and pretends that it can solve it by hypocritical outburst as if what it really wants is to have boys and girls in jail, rather than diverted from a course which will put them in the hands of the peddlers and pushers."

AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL INQUIRY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR NSW ROYAL COMMISSION

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Jul 77 p 6

[Editorial and editorial cartoon]

[Text]

FINAL judgment on the value of a "national inquiry" into illegal drugs must await a clearer statement of its form and scope. So far, there is no evidence that the Prime Minister, who proposed it after a political nudge from the NSW Opposition, or anyone else has devoted much thought to it. The main argument for it is that there are significant areas such as the import of drugs into Australia and overseas drug activities affecting Australia where investigation and action are clearly within the Commonwealth's province. A secondary argument, advanced by the NSW Opposition, is that a federal inquiry could deal more effectively with (in Mr Punch's words) "allegations of involvement in drug trafficking by State police and other persons in authority." The argument against it is that there is a danger of its being imprecise in terms, inconclusive in results and interminable in hearings.

One thing which can be said firmly

is that a "national inquiry," whatever its shape, should not be regarded as a substitute for the promised NSW Royal Commission, although it might be a useful supplement to it. Mr Wran should set up the State investigation without further delay. The more quickly it begins work the more effective it is likely to be: delay plays into the hands of those with things to hide. There are, it is true, drug problems common to all States which could fall within the purview of a federal inquiry; but there are also problems peculiar to individual States — and NSW, with such special areas as Griffith and Wollongong, is an excellent example — which can be more efficiently, more effectively and more speedily dealt with at the State level. The NSW Premier talked sense when he said that while he did see some value in a national inquiry he did not want the particular problems of New South Wales submerged in an inquiry which might take years to complete.



MOLNAR
29. 7. 77

"Wait. It just came to me. My evidence is of national importance."

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

FEDERAL FILES SOUGHT ON DRUGS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Jul 77 pp 1, 2

[Article by Ian Frykberg, State Political Correspondent]

[Text]

The State Government has asked the Federal Government to make available its records and officials to help the proposed Royal Commission on drugs in New South Wales.

The Premier, Mr Wran, sent a message to the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, yesterday seeking Commonwealth co-operation.

It is understood that Mr Wran particularly wants Mr Fraser to make available Commonwealth records on the sources and amounts of hard drugs brought into Australia.

Commonwealth Police, the Customs Department and the Australian Narcotics Bureau would be involved if Mr Fraser agrees to Mr Wran's request.

Mr Wran asked Mr Fraser in the message sent by Telex, to appoint an officer of the Prime Minister's Department to act in liaison with the under-secretary of the Premier's Department, Mr G. Gleeson.

Mr Wran said he was considering announcing a Royal Commission to investigate "among other things" the illegal sources, uses and distribution of drugs in NSW.

Powers of subpoena

He is understood to have sought an assurance from Mr Fraser that any such commission would be unfettered in its investigations. The proposed Royal Commission would have powers to subpoena anyone — including Commonwealth officers — to give evidence.

Mr Wran is understood to have pointed out yesterday that the admissibility of Commonwealth records as evidence could involve complex legal problems unless the Federal and NSW Governments had agreed on their availability.

Mr Wran is hoping that Mr Fraser will appoint an officer from his department within the next few days to allow work on the Commonwealth-State agreement to start quickly.

If the Prime Minister agrees to the request, the State Government will start drawing up detailed terms of reference for the Royal Commission.

The Government has been under strong pressure from the Opposition and other groups to hold a Royal Commission immediately in the light of the disappearance of the Griffith anti-drug campaigner, Mr Donald Mackay.

The Opposition called last Friday for a special sitting of Parliament this week to consider a Royal Commission on drugs, but the Government is expected to reject this. State Parliament is scheduled to resume for two weeks on August 16, the day of the Federal Budget.

Saturday's offer of a \$25,000 reward for information on the Mackay disappearance and yesterday's message to Mr Fraser will be aimed at taking the political running on the drug issue away from the Opposition.

Yesterday's message will also place the Federal Government's role in drug investigation in the spotlight, because so far the Commonwealth has escaped most of the odium on drug trafficking in Australia.

Mr Wran is known to feel that the majority of hard drugs coming into NSW are brought in from overseas, and this is a Commonwealth matter.

Opposition queries value of Mackay reward

The NSW Opposition claimed yesterday that the reward for information on missing Griffith businessman Mr Don Mackay could be meaningless unless the Premier also announced a Royal Commission and the recall of Parliament.

The Opposition Leader, Sir Eric Willis, and the leader of the NSW Country Party, Mr Punch, both issued statements following the announcement by the Premier, Mr Wran, on Saturday of a reward of \$25,000 for information leading to the finding of Mr Mackay.

Sir Eric, who returned to Australia on Saturday, said he had been alarmed by the reports of the drug scene he had received since his return.

"These startling reports make it all the more imperative that the Premier follow up his reward offer with equal speed to recall Parliament and to institute a Royal Commission," he said.

"The public will accept absolutely no excuse for any further delay on a Royal Commission.

"But even if it were to begin sitting this week I'm afraid that its value would be much less than it would have been had the Government responded to John Maddison's call on July 8."

Mr Punch said the Premier's announcement contrasted with his rejection of an immediate Royal Commission and the recall of Parliament.

"Unless a Royal Commission is set up to deal with these allegations, members of the public may not be inclined to give information, whatever the monetary reward," Mr Punch said.

He said informants should be given an assurance that their names would not be disclosed in any proceedings.

"It is a matter of record and concern that in proceedings over the discovery of a large crop of marihuana near Griffith, Mr Mackay's name was revealed unnecessarily," Mr Punch said.

Mr Punch said people were not likely to come forward while allegations about police involvement in drug trafficking were widespread.

Both men also said the reward was small compared with the large amounts of money involved in the drug scene.

Mr Punch stressed the importance of recalling Parliament.

"The Griffith situation and allegations about criminal involvement in drug trafficking should be proceeded with under the umbrella of protection afforded by Parliament," he said.

"The public at large should be asking why the Premier is not only refusing to set up a Royal Commission immediately but why he is now running away from bringing on a special sitting of Parliament to consider the alarming drug allegations," Mr Punch said.

A spokesman for Sir Eric Willis said yesterday that Sir Eric would go to Griffith some time this week to look at the situation for himself.

The call for a Royal Commission was supported yesterday by the Anglican Dean of Sydney, the Very Rev Lance Shilton, at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

Peter Durisch writes from Griffith:

It is believed that there were witnesses to the disappearance of Mr Don Mackay, the Griffith businessman who is believed to have been murdered nine days ago in the car park of the Griffith Hotel.

Community leaders in Griffith indicated last night that further crucial information is likely "to come to light today or tomorrow."

Although the sources decline to confirm that the names of the witnesses are known, it is widely believed that the witnesses do exist and, under certain conditions, are prepared to come forward.

At 1 pm tomorrow, the main street of Griffith is expected to be deserted when a service will be held to mark Mr Mackay's disappearance and presumed murder.

Possibly more than 5,000 of the 20,000 people in Wade Shire are expected to attend the service between 1 pm and 2 pm in the grounds of the Griffith Base Hospital.

AUSTRALIA

FRASER CALLS FOR ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE DRUG TRAFFICKING

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Jul 77 p 1

[Article by David Broadbent]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, has called for a Royal Commission to investigate all aspects of drug trafficking in Australia.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Ellicott, said yesterday there were clear signs that an organised criminal group was heavily involved.

Any inquiry would have to guarantee safety and protection for witnesses.

Mr. Fraser has written to all State Premiers asking for their urgent co-operation on the establishment of a national inquiry.

But the NSW Government said it would continue with its own Royal Commission into the drug problem.

Mr. Fraser has promised the NSW Premier, Mr. Wran, that Federal police will co-operate fully in the investigations into the disappearance of Griffith anti-marijuana campaigner, Mr. Don Mackay.

In his letter to State Premiers, Mr. Fraser said Mr. Mackay's disappearance had brought the whole question of drugs to a head.

A proposal by Mr. Wran to set up a State inquiry into drugs would inevitably raise issues of national importance including the importation and distribution of drugs.

"My Government is greatly concerned about these matters and has come to the conclusion that it would be preferable that a form of national inquiry should be established," Mr. Fraser said.

"The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth and States should meet as soon as practicable and formulate the terms of reference for such an inquiry," he said.

"I am writing to seek your urgent response."

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said last night he favored a Royal Commission.

Marijuana

Mr. Fraser told State Premiers he had received a formal request from Mr. Wran for Federal co-operation in a State Royal Commission into the drug question.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Ellicott, said the drug problem had become a "matter of deep concern to all sections of the community and all governments."

"I don't think we realise how big the problem may be but it is having an effect on communities around the country in all walks of life," he said.

Mr. Ellicott said the decriminalisation of marijuana could be one of the questions considered by any inquiry.

"I don't regard it as one of the basic questions but it is a question which could no doubt be considered in the terms of reference of the inquiry," he said.

Mr. Wran said last night a national inquiry was a good idea, but NSW would continue with its original proposal.

It would co-operate with the Fraser Government's inquiry.

But he said: "I am anxious that it does not submerge the Royal Commission we intend to establish."

AUSTRALIA

WHITROD CALLS FOR DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA USE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 29 Jul 77 p 5

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Former Queensland Police Commissioner Mr. Ray Whitrod last night called for decriminalisation of marijuana use.

He said decriminalisation would remove one of the prime friction points between police and public.

The problems created by prosecuting marijuana users only resulted in high social cost, he said.

While he disapproved of its use it was clearly unwise to use criminal law to control it.

Mr. Whitrod, a visiting academic at the Australian National University, said one way to control its spread was by using government financial machinery.

He said a possibility was to use the taxation department, like the American Internal Revenue service, to chase up the ringleaders.

He was commenting on the call by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, for a Royal Commission inquiry into drug trafficking.

The Cannabis Research Foundation of Australia yesterday welcomed the Prime Minister's call for a Royal Commission into drug trafficking.

'Overdue'

The interim-secretary of the foundation, Mr. Tony Parsons, said an inquiry was long overdue.

But he was sure that any Australian inquiry would find what inquiries overseas had found — that cannabis was not as harmful as alcohol.

An adviser to the foundation, Professor Geoffrey Bentley of Monash University, also applauded the moves for a Royal Commission.

Professor Bentley, a pharmacist, said that any move against hard drugs was a good thing.

The head of the State Health Department's Alcoholism and Drug Dependent Persons Service, Dr. Gerald Milner, also welcomed the call for an inquiry.

And the chief executive officer of the Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Foundation, Mr. Denis Travers, said that if there was another inquiry it should also cover analgesics, alcohol and tobacco.

The State Opposition's police spokesman, Mr. Tom Edmunds, said last night a drug inquiry was necessary in Victoria "because of the rapid increase in the number of drug offences being detected".

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

'DECRIMINALIZATION' OF MARIHUANA IN VICTORIA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Jul 77 p 3

[Article by Mike Roberts]

[Text]

Victoria has already "decriminalised" marijuana to some degree, the president of the Victorian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Sir Edward Dunlop, said yesterday.

Sir Edward said State law gave magistrates the power to refer chronic marijuana users for treatment instead of imposing criminal penalties.

The Victorian Alcoholics and Drug Dependent Persons Act, which included the treatment provisions, was among the most progressive in Australia, he said.

State Parliament passed the Act in 1968 but it was not proclaimed until 1974.

Sir Edward said Australia should consider decriminalisation because use of marijuana had reached mild epidemic proportions among "otherwise decent young people".

"The last thing I want to do is bless some new problem of addiction," he said.

"But you can get one-third of some schools and educational institutions having some experience of this drug, some experimentation.

"You can't toss them all into jail to cool their heels."

Sir Edward, who is a Melbourne surgeon, was expanding on remarks he made on Tuesday.

He said he would not like to see decriminalisation go any further than it had in Victoria.

CSO: 5300

SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR COMMISSIONS TO STUDY DRUG PROBLEM

Melbourne THE AGE in English 29 Jul 77 p 9

[Editorial]

[Text]

FOR years the instinctive reaction of Australian politicians to the challenge of illegal drug trafficking and abuse has been to throw up their hands in horror and to increase the penalties for offences. The resort to severe criminal sanctions has not stemmed the problem. The demand for and supply of illicit drugs have risen. Here and there are signs of a saner approach. The courts are tending to take a more lenient view of what they judge to be minor transgressions. Victoria now provides for the treatment of drug dependents as an alternative to imprisonment. In the Federal Territories the use of marijuana has been "decriminalised". But there has been little attempt to understand and confront the problem in a rational, consistent way throughout Australia. Now, however, we are suddenly to have not one Royal Commission to investigate drug trafficking, but two. Both the NSW Government and the Federal Government have proposed inquiries.

This eagerness for enlightenment springs, understandably, from the extraordinary happenings centred on Griffith in the Riverina irrigation district. There the mysterious disappearance and suspected murder of a leading anti-marijuana campaigner, Donald Bruce Mackay, has raised the alarming spectre of a mafia-type organisation arising from a multi-million dollar drug racket. Even the evidence that cannabis was being grown in the area on a commercial scale would have been reason enough for a thorough investigation. The fears and rumors prevailing in the town, with fingers of suspicion being pointed at possibly innocent families, must also be cleared up.

Both Governments have ample justification for their proposed inquiries. The NSW Premier, Mr. Wran, who was first to announce his intention, has a personal interest in law reform and a direct responsibility for examining the disturbing events in his State. (Apart from the Griffith problem there have also been allegations of drug racketeering at Wollongong.) But drug trafficking is also a national problem and warrants a national inquiry. The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, sensibly is not simply resting his plan for an inquiry on the Federal jurisdiction over illegal imports and control of the Narcotics Bureau and Commonwealth Police but is enlisting the co-operation of the States, which have the responsibility for law enforcement and public health within their boundaries.

Whatever the scope of the NSW inquiry, if Mr. Wran persists with it, the Federal Royal Commission should have the widest relevant terms of reference and access to the best available advice. Too little is known about the extent of illegal drug use in Australia, its sources of supply and its means of distribution. Too much reliance has been placed on overseas, largely American, research and experience, which may not be entirely applicable to Australia. Many assertions made about particular drugs have been based on prejudice or self-interest rather than objective assessment. There is little doubt about the dangers to individuals and society of the so-called hard drugs, such as heroin, LSD, the amphetamines and barbiturates, although the question arises whether those addicted to them should be treated as criminals deserving punishment or victims needing help.

The real dilemma is what to do about marijuana (as perhaps distinct from the more potent forms of cannabis). It is widely (although not cheaply) available and has gained growing social acceptance, especially among young people. Although the experts disagree on the physical and social effects of marijuana, it is obviously less dangerous than other illegal drugs. It will be for the inquiries to throw a clearer light on these questions. What can be said now is that there is no good reason for the disparity in present Federal and State drug laws. For instance, penalties for selling marijuana range from two years jail and/or \$800 in the Federal Territories to life imprisonment and/or \$100,000 in Queensland. There seems little justification for putting marijuana in the same category as the really dangerous drugs. Whether or not we should move towards the decriminalisation of the use of marijuana needs careful consideration, but there is a strong case for a more rational and graduated response to the problem without encouraging an upsurge in drug dependency.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

TWO POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH DRUG CRIMES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 6 Aug 77 p 10

[Text] In a recorded conversation played in court yesterday, a voice alleged to be that of a suspended policeman said it was amazing how many police were in the drug business.

"They've got it by the...", the voice said.

The Crown alleged the voice belonged to Philip Edward Briddick, one of two suspended policemen facing a number of drug charges in committal proceedings before Mr K. Waller, SM, in Central Court of Petty Sessions.

The other policeman is Michael Woodhouse, who faces an additional charge of possessing an unlicensed shotgun allegedly found in his car at Darlinghurst on Thursday.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant A. Bright, said yesterday he had information that Woodhouse was going to get a shotgun and kill a policeman who "set him up." Woodhouse denied it.

Woodhouse, previously on bail, was remanded in custody until Monday, when the hearing resumes. Briddick was allowed \$12,000 bail.

Woodhouse, 30, of Balaclava Road, Eastwood, faces two charges of supplying cocaine, two of supplying Indian hemp, two of possessing hemp and one of supplying John Letchford with a restricted substance, Lignocaine.

Briddick, 25, of Tranmere Street, Drummoyne, faces three charges of supplying Indian hemp, one of possessing hemp, two of supplying cocaine and one of supplying Lignocaine to Woodhouse.

Before any evidence was given yesterday, Woodhouse's counsel, Mr P. Costello, said his instructions had been withdrawn.

Woodhouse then sought an adjournment to get new counsel, but this was denied and the hearing proceeded with him remaining undefended. Briddick's counsel is Mr D. Baker.

John Edward Letchford, a constable at Hurstville, was called as a witness for the prosecution.

He told the court that on 29 April Woodhouse had said to him in conversation: "What's business like out there?" at the same time rubbing his thumb and forefinger together.

Bought a New Car

Letchford replied that it was a different type of station out there.

Woodhouse then allegedly said that one of his work mates at Phillip Street had earned \$3,000 and bought himself a new car. Woodhouse allegedly said that he dealt in anything "from marihuana to cocaine," and that he dealt mostly at the Cross. He had said that he had the North Shore market in his hands.

Letchford told the court that Woodhouse had told him he had had a fright when someone smashed into his car--the boot flew open and he had had a few bags of "grass" in it.

"I almost died when the police were called," Woodhouse alleged said. "Luckily everything was OK--I flashed my ID and took off."

Letchford said that during a general conversation he had with Woodhouse about drugs Woodhouse has said he had a constable working for him "but he is not so good at making contacts."

"All you have to do is make contacts, set up a place to meet, and I'll make the delivery to any place you like. I'll take all the risks," Woodhouse allegedly said.

Letchford said, "OK, I'll think about it."

He had gone with Woodhouse to the OTC Building in Oxford Street where Woodhouse allegedly had sold "grass" to someone and received \$260.

\$2,000 for a Pound

On the way back to the city, Letchford said, he asked Woodhouse how much a kilogram of cocaine would cost. Woodhouse then allegedly said he didn't sell it in kilos only in pounds--and it would cost about \$2,000 a pound.

Constable Letchford said that on 2 May he spoke to Sergeant Kellock of the Police Internal Affairs Branch.

On 4 May he received instructions from Sergeant Kellock and consented to being fitted with a tape recording device and to tape recording all conversations he had while wearing it.

Three tape recordings were then played to the courts. A fourth is still to be played.

The first recording was of an alleged conversation between Letchford and Woodhouse at Government House on 4 May.

The second tape recording was of an alleged conversation between the two men at Circular Quay.

The third recording, made at Tranmere Street, Drummoyne, was of an alleged conversation between Letchford and Briddick.

During the taped conversation Briddick allegedly said: Everyone takes a risk these days, don't they?

Letchford: No that's all right.

Briddick: That's cool. Everything should be all right anyway. It's amazing how many coppers are in this business. They've got it by the..., got it by the....

Briddick allegedly said while they were talking about "grass": I've got heaps of it, heaps...heaps to, you know, if ahh... yeah it's a funny business, up and down all the time. It's good to get into, you know, make your money and get out of it, you know it's ahh... right now I'm earning about six spot a week on the side, you know.

Letchford: Oh.

Briddick: Damn good money, real good money, but you've got to worry when you go to work you know, like you can't drive a Mercedes to work and all that sort of bull... it's a....

In the taped conversation Briddick allegedly said: "Mick's stashed cash in just about everything, you know. Been trying to get some deals going."

Letchford: Mm.

Briddick: But this...air strike buggered us up.

Letchford: Yeah, that's now....

Briddick: We had two blokes in Tasmania and all this sort of bit, you know. Well, I had two blokes in Brisbane and one up the north coast at Byron Bay. Two can't get back and one bloke's got to drive back. Be back later in the week, ...everything up, you know. I've got 300 pounds in 100-pound lots, you know, three separate lots just waiting to go.

The hearing continues on Monday.

AUSTRALIA

SURVEY REVEALS ALCOHOL, DRUG USE AMONG YOUTHS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 6 Aug 77 p 10

[Text] Geelong boys aged between 10 and 14 are drinking up to eight glasses of beer a day, according to a drink and drug survey. The survey says that 53 percent drink between one to eight glasses daily.

The study, by the Barwon Regional Association for Drug and Alcohol Dependence, also reveals a similar drinking pattern among 37 percent of girls in the same age group.

The survey was taken last year on local beaches by a study group from the association.

It is published in a booklet which says that one in 10 males aged 15 to 19 drink more than nine glasses a day and that one in 20 drink more than 12 glasses.

Cannabis use occurred during the survey week among 17 percent of males and 14 percent of females.

The highest rate of usage occurred in the 20 to 24 age group with 25.7 percent of males and 19.5 percent of females.

Drug Education

The report indicated very slight usage of cocaine, hallucinogens, sedatives and analgesics.

The association called for systematic alcohol and drug education to form part of a compulsory "education for living" subject from an early age to the end of secondary school.

"There is a need for teachers to be better informed in this area, and the proposed courses could be planned and implemented with the assistance of outside resource personnel," it says.

"Given the fact that established drinking patterns tend to be formed by the age of 13-14 years, educational programmes should be developed which recognise this tendency.

"On all available data there appears to be a real need for industry and commerce to undertake a programme for the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of people who have an alcohol or drug dependent problem."

The report calls for a detoxification facility at the Geelong Hospital and a half-way house to assist rehabilitation.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

GRIFFITH NAMED MARIHUANA CAPITAL

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 21 Jul 77 p 7

[Article by Peter Durisch]

[Text]

MARIHUANA, Indian hemp, cannabis sativa, pot, grass, tea, hash. Green golden in the fields and brown gold in its dried form, ready for smoking.

It could perhaps be called the Midas plant. An acre of well-cultivated marihuana now reaps more than one million dollars on the streets of Sydney or Melbourne.

And Griffith, a normally sleepy town in the luxuriant Riverina, is now the focus of attention as rumours spread and proliferate that this district is the marihuana-growing capital of Australia.

And further rumours, that an organisation exists to cultivate, transport and market the once humble weed, gain credence by their very repetition.

Just a few years ago, anyone who tossed bird seed into a garden would probably find strange plants with thin, serrated leaves growing in his garden. Marihuana.

The mysterious disappearance last Friday of Mr Don Mackay, a Griffith businessman who spoke out against drugs, has shocked the town and caused more than 60 press and broadcasting representatives to descend on this tranquil, rural town.

Mr Mackay's ominous disappearance is strongly linked with his strong opposition to marihuana.

There is also a strong and recent history of marihuana growing around Griffith. In 1975, police raided a vast, 14-hectare marihuana plantation near Coleambally, south of Griffith.

Although about a dozen men are understood to have been on the farm at the time of the raid, most of them fled and only five were arrested. Four were convicted and, in March, this year, two received prison sentences of five years with a non-parole period of two years. The other two were given two years' jail with a non-parole period of one year.

But that is really only part of the story, albeit most of the story that has been proved in court. Local people in Griffith who know the four convicted men say that they are in no sense master criminals and would be incapable of the massive organisation required to cultivate, harvest, transport and market such a huge quantity of marihuana — it was valued at more than \$30 million.

So who was behind the scheme? Nobody knows — or, to

be more accurate, nobody is saying. And agronomists say that the Coleambally plantation, eventually burned, was probably a second crop because of the number of small, young plants scattered among the tall, almost full grown specimens under cultivation.

Thus, it is not unreasonable to assume that somebody may have made a vast amount of money out of the Coleambally crop before the police raid.

Most of the land around Griffith receives only a low rainfall. It is naturally dry land, whose munificence has come about because of the Murrumbidgee irrigation scheme, which has turned parched scrub that once baked hard under the blistering summer sun into probably the most productive agricultural area in Australia.

"If you were looking for a marihuana plantation, you'd be looking near a river or on a isolated property with a bore," said Mr John Sykes, an agronomist with the NSW Department of Agriculture in Griffith.

"You need a hot summer and good water. It would be a summer crop but if you sowed in early spring, about early August, you might possibly get two crops."

It is perhaps significant that

the raid on the Coleambally plantation was in November. The plants take about two months, or a little more, to grow, so this also suggests that there may well have been two crops.

But all knowledgeable sources in Griffith insist that anyone attempting to conceal a marihuana crop would have to move away from the intensively cultivated rice and citrus areas.

With such regular attention as these crops receive, an illicit crop would almost certainly be detected, as was the case in the two other raids on smaller marihuana plantations in the Griffith area in recent times.

Although the area is flat, the outlying parts are remote. In spite of some recent statements from public figures, farmers here say that probably it is possible to grow marihuana on an outlying property with a bore.

The risks would be great, but so would be the rewards if the crop was harvested successfully.

Where there is such money to be made, so there is also a considerable potential for violence. The area is rife with rumours of unreported violence and doubtful "accidents."

Even in the past day or two, there are reports of threats against some farmers.

The people of Griffith are basically conservative. To most of them, drugs are drugs, with little or no distinction drawn between marihuana and the much more deadly morphine or heroin.

In spite of all the publicity, there is little evidence here that drug use among the young people of Griffith extends much beyond the occasional "joint" of marihuana.

Convictions for the use of such narcotics as heroin are few and far between.

And even in the case of marihuana, schoolteachers who did

not wish to be named told me that they doubted if pupils here smoke more marihuana than their counterparts in Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra.

There have been stories that children were paid \$300 each to help harvest the marihuana crop at night.

But that again seems doubtful.

As a police source put it, you can buy a schoolboy for much less than \$300 a night and such a huge sum must surely bring the boy to the attention of his parents, teachers or school friends.

That is not to say, of course, that no young people have been involved in harvesting, though probably for much lesser sums.

Griffith is a wealthy town. The irrigation channels flow with water and pour money into the farmers' bank accounts.

Rice, citrus, grapes, wheat and vegetables have all been much more financially stable than sheep or beef in recent years.

But some townspeople in Griffith are prepared to name certain people who two years ago had almost no money and now appear to be extremely wealthy, but with little evident signs of income.

Maybe they won the lottery? But it would seem a happy hunting ground for the Taxation Department.

For many people, the technicolour charisma of Al Grassby put Griffith on the map. Now that image is embellished by the much less attractive title of the nation's marihuana capital.

The growing season starts again in a few weeks. It remains to be seen whether the present publicity has scared off the illicit growers.

But, with such huge amounts of money at stake, there are those here who doubt it.

THE NIGHTMARE THAT CAME TRUE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 Jul 77 p 11

[Text]

HE WAS 19, his name was Tim, and they took him back home to Nowra for his funeral this week.

According to reports this is the third death from drugs on the South Coast in the past three weeks. A fourth death on the South Coast in the same period has been linked with drugs. Tim was a "multiple drug user" and is thought by at least one acquaintance to have died from codeine phosphate and tuinal.

"He probably couldn't get heroin and substituted," said the friend, no stranger to drugs himself. "Most likely he died from respiratory failure. It's always a gamble. Tim gambled and lost."

Nowra is one of the first places in Australia where people have been forced to recognise that "the drug problem" is not some foreign malaise, found only in cities like New York or London.

"This whole thing has come as a shock to me," says Mr John Hatton, the local MLA, who has made drug addiction one of his main concerns. Some of Nowra's addicts have been walking the streets and playgrounds for years without detection. Now they are beginning to crawl away from the furnace, and people like John Hatton can't believe their eyes.

"They're not hardened criminals with bags under their eyes, harbouring anti-establishment attitudes and with a penchant for violence," he says, almost in parody of the popular image of the junkie. There is no Man with the Golden Arm in Nowra.

"They're sensitive, warm, friendly, outgoing young people," he goes on, assertively, but half in disbelief. "The girls are lovely. They're the most wonderful kids; I'm happy to have them in my house."

There are reported to be at least 76 people in the Nowra district who take narcotics. Yet Nowra, an unexceptional town by the Shoalhaven River, is only one of dozens of NSW communities with a growing drug problem.

Up to 10,000 people in NSW alone are believed by the NSW Health Commission to use heroin, while thousands more are on other hard drugs. Marihuana is more widely used, but the marihuana controversy suddenly seems trifling by comparison with heroin, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates and, now, cocaine.

The NSW parliamentary committee on drugs estimates that it would cost \$60 million to treat all of NSW's drug addicts — if there was a fully organised program to treat them. The cost will be very much greater before the State gets around to organising a program, or combating drugs in other ways. A Royal Commission on drugs is expected to be established, but it will not even begin its work until the parliamentary committee is finished.

The problem has been with us for almost a decade, insidiously invisible, but growing for most of the time. Now it has taken form, a nightmare come true and enveloping the country.

It is now estimated — again, officially — that no child can remain outside the orbit of drugs: at some time they will all come into contact with drugs or people who use drugs. All users of hard drugs are young people, for those who continue to use them often don't last beyond their teens; 30 at most.

The Rev Ted Noffs, pastor of the Wayside Chapel at Kings Cross, sounds bitter as he relates his own warning. On February 2, 1969, he called for a Royal Commission to investigate drug trafficking in Sydney. Addicts were already coming to Mr Noffs' medical assistants in disturbing numbers.

"The then Premier, Mr Askin, sneered in Parliament at my suggestion," Mr Noffs recalls. "About nine heavies — detectives from the drug squad and a deputy commissioner — came uninvited to surround me, ask questions, and try to 'put down' the information I had."

"I knew the menace of drug abuse was growing, but it was not in the suburbs to the extent that it is now, and certainly not in the country."

"It was yet to hit everybody, but within months respectable establishment people and politicians were coming to me with their children, like Nicodemus in the night, and saying, 'Can you do something, please?'"

"I have buried more than 80 young drug users now."

Mr Bill Crews, director of the Crisis Centre at the chapel, emphasises Mr Noffs' point. "We are seeing 10 times as many people with drug problems as we did 10 years ago," says Mr Crews.

"In one 10-day period we were able to isolate eight schools, from St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral School, to Newington GPS, to Sutherland Land Boys' High.

"Last month we had about 80 telephone calls from parents who have found that their children are taking drugs. We now get up to three new heroin addicts a day."

The experts on drug treatment, drug detection and drug education, are split on the most effective method of halting the spread. But the majority of those interviewed echoed Mr Noffs' advice.

"We have to educate, educate, educate," he says. "We could have cut back drug use considerably if we'd started before, but it's established now."

"Big people are making money out of it now. There is a whole Mafia-like operation spreading in Australia. Look at Griffith — there's one failed Liberal candidate there trying to stand up to the problem." (Three nights later Mr Don Mackay, the Griffith anti-marihuana campaigner, disappeared.)

"We need specialist educators in drug education centres to which children will be brought from all around by bus. Parents would go at night," he said.

"Parents do want to know what's up, but the Government departments won't help them. There were 1,500 people at a public meeting at Tumut on drug abuse. Five hundred had to be turned away."

"The Health Commission and the Education Department are at loggerheads over what should be done. The commission has educators, but they won't go out at night."

"A Beecroft woman told us she rang the commission, the drug squad and Callan Park psychiatric centre to get somebody to address Methodist parents in her suburb. Bill Crews went out and 150 turned up. He's going out to all sorts of groups three nights a week."

"The real scandal is that there haven't been enough drug clinics to treat people. It's too late now. There's no solution — drugs are going to be with us always. Try to police it, try to treat it, and by 2000 AD we'll have a clinic in every home and a police station on every corner."

Inquiries show that Mr Noffs' allegations are correct. The commission has only about a dozen drug centres, most of them in Sydney, and they are treating only about 10 per cent of heroin addicts.

It costs at least \$10,000 to successfully treat one addict, the committee has been told. Dr Garry Egger, a research psychologist at the commission, told me that treatment is successful in only 3 per cent of cases.

A small sign of hope is that addicts are coming to clinics sooner than they used to — after a year in some cases. But many break away again, and are untraceable and intractable. Their heroin (or smack, horse, junk, and Big H as they know it) cost them up to \$120 a day. It is only about 20 per cent pure, unlike the near-pure heroin that American servicemen brought in on rest and recreation leave more than a decade ago. Heroin is now "cut" or reduced with cement, household cleaning powder such as Ajax, and other dangerous substances.

Feeding the habit has increased other social problems. Men will steal (colour television sets are the current favourite) or try armed hold-ups (the increase there is well documented). The prostitutes in William Street are among the youngest anybody can remember . . .

As for detection: the parliamentary committee has been told that in Wollongong leading businessmen have trafficked in hard drugs, and that years ago there was a "cosy arrangement" between the administration of the police force and various businessmen. Yet despite the Wran Government's beef-up of drugs squads, the Wollongong drug squad has only four members.

The squad had one car until Mr Wran ordered that they be given another vehicle last week. This was done on the recommendation of the local Labor MLA, Mr Eric Ramsay, a member of the parliamentary drugs committee.

Customs officers at Port Kembla are trained in drug detection, but have no search boats. They have searched only one ship in the past year, says Mr Ramsay.

Most of the heroin from the usual source, the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia) is thought to be brought by airline passengers to Sydney.

Sometimes these are young women looking for excitement and a few thousand dollars on top of a free trip to the East. Even if nine out of 10 were caught, the last would bring in enough heroin to make a profit for her bosses. A heroin haul seized from a stereogram at Sydney Airport last week, it was alleged in the Special Federal Court, was purchased for \$5,500, and was worth \$500,000 to \$1 million here.

"Customs officers say that they have a million people coming through Sydney Airport each year and they can't search them all," says Mr Ramsay. He believes the Federal Government should provide more officers.

The committee has been told that bulk supplies of heroin were transported by road from Sydney to Wollongong on Wednesdays and distributed on Thursdays.

"I have been given phone numbers in both cities to get bulk supplies of heroin," he says.

Yet in one case, he said, police had taken a fortnight to nail one man — and this was a paraplegic.

The Federal Narcotics Bureau, which is now a branch of the Business and Consumer Affairs Department, has only one spokesman who deals with the press. This is Mr Harvey Bates, an assistant secretary of the department, who asked that any questions be put in writing.

One public official told me that cocaine, which is popular in the US with businessmen and en-

tertainers because of the lift it gives, was not popular in Australia and it would be better not to mention it. However cocaine addicts are already flocking to the crisis centre.

Yet never has the public been in more urgent need and more receptive mood for all the information it can get on drugs. Those fighting drugs have something in their favour — the "aura" of drug use is tending to fade as more people observe the disastrous effects, says Bill Crews.

"We need a massive expansion of treatment services, and an enormous expansion of prevention services," says Peter Diehm, director of the Health Commission's central drug and alcohol advisory service.

He speaks of a program that would alter community attitudes towards drug use ... too many people blame dole bludgers, for example. They forget that the unemployed youth who is hunted out of his own house by his parents for sitting around playing records will wind up in a pub, amusement parlour or shopping centre — and that's where the drug pushers home in.

Unemployment itself is a problem — after three months self-esteem wanes, self-discipline deteriorates and so do the chances of a job. Drugs can seem a friendly crutch.

Mr Diehm said that a Royal Commission should look primarily at control of the drug traffic.

Perhaps, but it is an indictment of health and education authorities that many pupils are still leaving school without adequate drug education.

The Education Department and the Health Commission have been working on a joint policy on drug education for six months. It isn't complete yet.

Mr Diehm acknowledges that the commission has only seven or eight specialist drug addiction officers — "not enough to meet the needs of the schools." Also, officers do not go out to parents' groups at night, except privately, and gratis.

Despite a shortage of staff, the commission continues to refuse offers of outside assistance, some of them from former addicts who know the drug scene inside out.

Bringing in "outside people" would only arouse curiosity in drugs, said Mr Diehm.

The Education Department is wary of direct drug education courses because of fears that these do more harm than good. Drug education is given in an indirect way, such as the Personal Development Course. Even this has yet to be introduced in all schools.

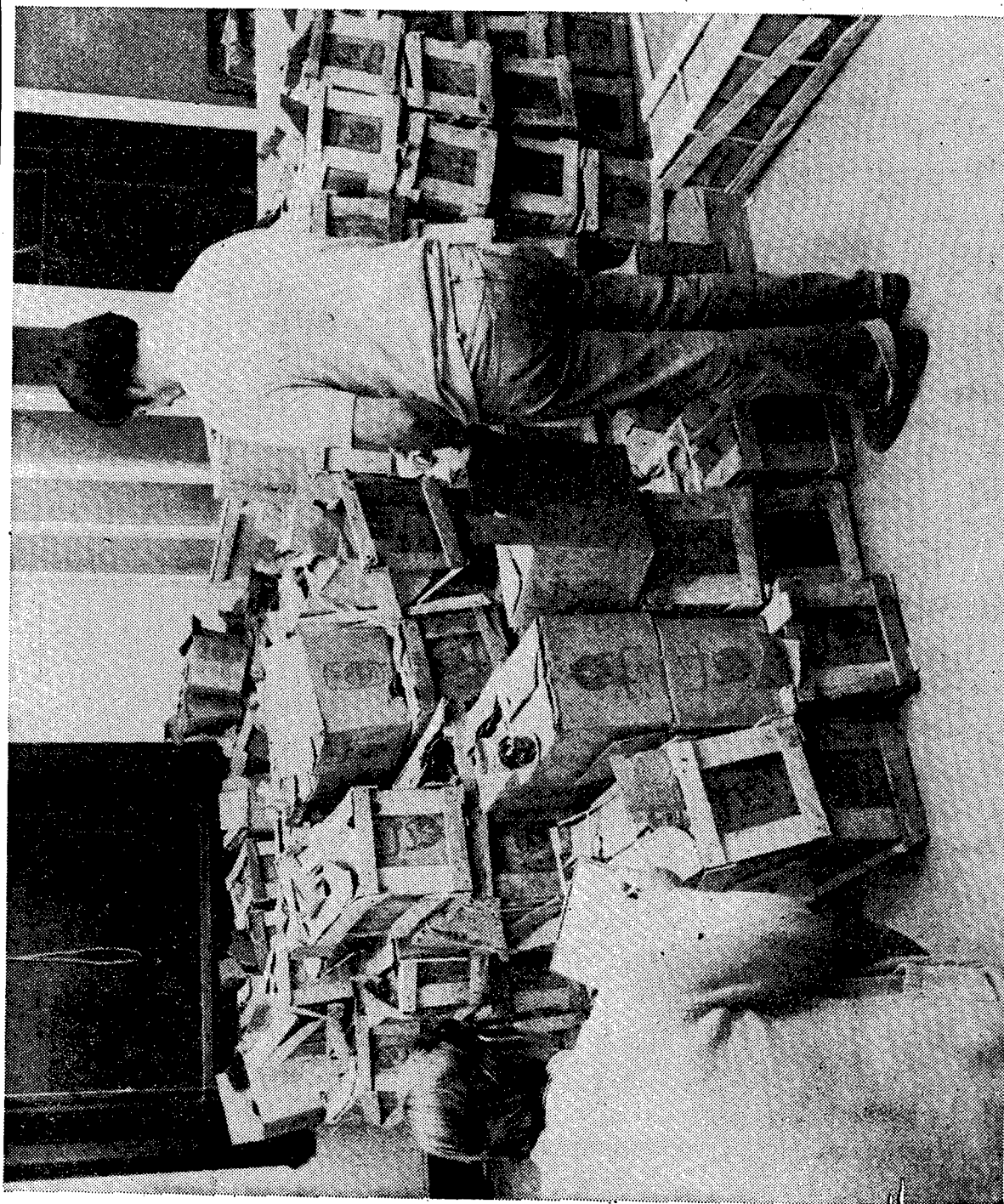
Inquiries for this report revealed that one 11-year-old heroin addict had been given her first shot when she was eight years old. She was the youngest heroin user, however — one addicted mother was so far gone that she was giving it on a spoon to her 9-month-old daughter.

Appropriately, Nowra is where a concerted private effort is being made to rehabilitate addicts. Gordon Gately, 28, is the only survivor of 11 boys at Bankstown High who took to the hard stuff. This week he leased a house in the town as a community home for addicts. The addicts successfully took the pledge at a beach house, a refuge that has been operating "on the quiet" for five months. The next step is to lease a farm.

Those kicking the habit pool their social security benefits. This self-support group works the same way as Alcoholics Anonymous — from day-to-day. The patron of the project is Mr John Hatton, the MLA.

When I contacted Mr Gately, the addicts were talking of the large November harvests of marijuana that it is said were to be taken in \$25,000 loads from Griffith to Sydney and Wollongong.

"Rehabilitation should come second," said Gordon Gately, who had just returned from the funeral of Tim, the itinerant worker who died from an overdose. "Education comes first."



A \$1 million consignment that didn't go on the illegal market: cans of hashish seized by the Australian Narcotics Bureau in Sydney last year.

GRIFFITH NAMED DRUG CAPITAL

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Jul 77 p 11

[Article by David Hummerston]

[Text]

SYDNEY: The disappearance and suspected murder of NSW anti-marihuana campaigner Mr Donald Mackay has brought the State's drug problems to a head.

Since Mr Mackay disappeared from Griffith on Friday night the NSW Premier, Mr Wran, has been under pressure. He said last night that he would consider appointing a royal commission into the State's drug problems at the end of the year.

Mr Mackay had been pressing Mr Wran for an inquiry before he vanished. He wanted special attention to be paid to marihuana growing in the Riverina district.

Over the past few years Griffith, the centre of the Riverina district, has become known as Australia's marihuana growing capital.

The police in the past four years have raided a number of marihuana farms in the area

—640km west of Sydney — netting illegal crops with a total street value of about \$28 million.

Drug squad detectives say that the big hauls "are only the tip of a very big iceberg" but claim the biggest problem is finding the crops which are often camouflaged and grown in inaccessible areas.

It is also alleged that marihuana is a \$200-million-a-year industry for an Italian-run syndicate in the area.

Earlier this year a Melbourne newspaper quoted taxation inspectors as saying that 54 per cent of the money which passed through trading banks in Griffith was from the proceeds of marihuana.

In recent weeks Mr Mackay made headlines in Sydney newspapers with the disclosure that youths were being used to harvest marihuana crops and were being paid \$300 for a night's work.

The youths were said to have been blindfolded and driven to a farm where they worked from 9pm to 5am harvesting marihuana.

It is also alleged that supplies of marihuana are shifted out of Griffith in crates marked "carrots" and that millions of dollars was taken illegally out of Australia to be "laundered" overseas.

This was a method of disguising cash sources.

The NSW Minister for Police and Services, Mr Peter Coleman, visited Griffith recently and said he had found a number of things which he had reported to drug squad police and which could be used in evidence at a royal commission.

NSW PREMIER CALLS FOR DRUG PROBE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Jul 77 p 10

[Text]

SYDNEY. — The NSW Premier, Mr. Wran, has asked the Federal Government for co-operation in a royal commission on drug trafficking.

Mr. Wran made the request to the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, yesterday.

A royal commission is being considered because of the disappearance of anti-marijuana campaigner, Mr. Donald Mackay in Griffith over a week ago.

On Saturday Mr. Wran announced a reward of \$25,000 for information leading to the finding of Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Wran said the reward, the highest ever offered by a NSW State Government for a single crime, was being offered because of the "sinister nature of the crime".

"Because of the sinister circumstances surrounding his disappearance, the Government has taken the unusual step at this early stage of offering a reward to see that no stone is unturned in the investigation," he said.

Mr. Wran said the reward was being offered to anyone who could help locate Mr. Mackay dead or alive, and "co-operation and assistance from all members of the public is urgently sought."

In his message to the Prime Minister, Mr. Wran said a NSW royal commission would need assistance from Commonwealth officers and records dealing with the fight against importation of illegal drugs.

He said such evidence could involve complex legal questions if an arrangement was not made between the Federal and NSW Governments.

Mr. Wran said he needed co-operation with the Federal Government to ensure an unfiltered investigation into the illegal importing of drugs before determining precise terms of reference.

It was felt in some State circles that the Commonwealth Government should assist because it was responsible for the control of imported illegal drugs.

Most hard drugs, such as heroin and LSD, are smuggled in from overseas.

In Sydney last night, the leader of the NSW Country Party, Mr. Punch, said suspicion of police corruption was hampering investigations into Mr. Mackay's disappearance.

"While a cloud hangs over sections of the police force and the administration of the law is held in question, people are not likely to come forward," he said.

TOTAL OF \$44 MILLION SPENT ON HEROIN, MARIHUANA ANNUALLY

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Jul 77 p 3

[Article by Grahame Morris]

[Text]

AUSTRALIANS paid \$44 million last year to buy the country's two most popular illegal drugs — cannabis and heroin.

The figure comes from statistics provided by doctors, police, customs officials and drug referral centres throughout Australia.

The move by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, to hold a national inquiry into the country's drug problem comes at a time when doctors and police claim drug use is doubling each year.

It also follows the disappearance almost two weeks ago of anti-marijuana campaigner, Mr Don Mackay of Griffith, NSW who is believed to have been murdered.

He wanted an inquiry into the Riverina drug scene where organised syndicates were allegedly growing millions of dollars worth of marijuana.

One theory is that his body could have been buried under the concrete foundations of a shop site in Griffith's main street. The foundations were

laid without council permission the day after Mr Mackay disappeared.

Wade Shire Council yesterday served notice on a contractor to dig up the concrete before Friday next week.

Police will supervise the operation, but denied that they asked for the concrete to be dug up.

SMUGGLED

Figures indicate that 500,000 Australians smoke marijuana at least once a week. About 5000 are convicted of using the drug each year. Last year, Australians used 30 tonnes of cannabis worth about \$30 million.

An estimated \$14 million worth of heroin was smuggled into the country. Australia has about 35,000 heroin addicts, mostly under the age of 24. NSW accounts for 10,000 of the addicts.

Most of the heroin is smuggled from Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. It is dropped off the coast by low-flying aircraft and a few

trade vessels or sent through the post.

The Federal Bureau of Customs seized 1,431,485g of cannabis from people coming into the country last year. This was more than four times greater than the 1972-73 figure of 392,799g.

Customs officials also seized 9631g of heroin last year, but are expecting to confiscate 14,000g this year. The 14,000g would have been worth \$700,000 on the open market. Last year's seizures were nine times greater than in 1972-73.

But the amount of LSD stopped at Customs barriers has dropped from the 1972-73 figure of 64,574 units to 2454 units last year.

Police records show there were 15,000 drug offences in 1975 — an increase of more than 60 per cent on 1974 statistics. Another 143 Australians overseas were arrested for drug offences last year.

Australians also take 15 per cent more headache pills per head of population than any other country in the world.

AUSTRALIA

MAN FINED FOR MANUFACTURING MORPHINE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 29 Jul 77 p 12

[Text]

A man who studied chemistry for four years was yesterday fined \$1000 in the County Court for manufacturing morphine.

Robert Russell Manning, 26, antique dealer, of West Geelong, pleaded guilty to one count of manufacturing morphine without a licence, and one count of manufacturing heroin without a licence at Prahran between November 30, 1974, and March 19, 1975.

Judge Shillito warned Manning that if he had been operating on a considerable scale he would probably have been sentenced to the maximum penalty a \$4000 fine and 10 years' jail.

He said Manning had made very low grade heroin and morphine and had stood to gain only a small profit.

Judge Shillito said Manning had been a drug addict at the time, but had been rehabilitated while in jail in NSW.

He had been sentenced to three years' jail in Sydney in May, 1975, on two counts of selling heroin and one of selling morphine.

He said Manning served 21 months' jail in NSW and had committed these offences at Prahran while on bail on the NSW charges.

The court was told Manning had studied chemistry for four years at Geelong Technical School.

Judge Shillito released Manning on a three year good behavior bond in his own recognisance of \$2000 on the charge of manufacturing heroin.

Judge Shillito told Manning, "If you get involved with anything that turns you on in the form of prohibited drugs in the future, then you and I will meet again and you will not like the consequences."

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

VALUE OF SEIZED HEROIN SAID TO BE EXAGGERATED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Jul 77 p 11

[Text]

A 24-year-old King Island man appeared before the Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday on a charge of importing heroin inside a teddy bear.

At an earlier hearing the police prosecutor, Senior Sergeant Adrian Donohue, said the heroin had a street value of \$900,000.

Narcotics agent John Owens said yesterday that the man, Kenneth Eric Weymark, was found with 260 grams of pure heroin in his baggage at Tullamarine airport last Friday.

Mr. Terry O'Brien, for Weymark, said the figure of \$900,000 was fantasy.

Mr. E. J. Danaher, SM, remanded Weymark until August 3. Bail was refused.

Weymark did not plead.

Owens said that after Weymark was detained at Tullamarine he tried to escape police custody outside the Customs House in William Street.

He said Weymark dodged traffic and ran about 350 metres through city streets. He was caught after he finally threw himself on the bonnet of a car, Owens said.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

INQUIRY INTO DRUG PROBLEMS--A national inquiry into drugs may, as our page one story says, open a Pandora's box out of which all sorts of startling and scandalous things will fly. But it is an inquiry which should be held and which should be supported by everybody. State governments must give every possible assistance. Some may feel that they are being upstaged politically by the Prime Minister but, if they are, they have only themselves to blame for having shilly-shallied over this enormously important matter. Anyway, a Federal inquiry is the best approach. Drugs--their importation, their local production, their distribution--and peddling--constitute a national problem. Dope does not stop at one State border or another and any State inquiry would be severely handicapped because of that. The community is full of rumors that allegations about drugs and drug trafficking and about the people involved in it. Well-known names are being bandied about...the police are having their reputation blackened...the shocking Griffith affair is said to be only the tip of iceberg...and so on. Let the inquiry be full and all-embracing. If the air stinks of dope, or worse, let the windows be opened to some fresh air and the light of public scrutiny. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Jul 77 p 6]

HEROIN IN TEDDY BEAR--Melbourne--Federal narcotics agents seized heroin estimated to be worth \$30,000 from inside a toy teddy bear at Tullamarine Airport yesterday. A spokesman for the Federal Narcotics Bureau in Canberra said a passenger on a Singapore Airlines flight from Singapore had the toy bear with him. "About 200 grams of pure heroin, in plastic packets, was sewn to the inside of the teddy bear," he said. Late last night a 25-year-old Australian was being interviewed by Federal Narcotics agents in Melbourne. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 Jul 77 p 2]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL ON DRUG REHABILITATION, LAW AMENDMENT

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Aug 77 p 20 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sun--It will cost \$1.5 million a day to rehabilitate drug addicts in the country, Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim said today.

He said more than 210,000 people or 1.6 percent of the country's population had been registered as being involved in drug abuse.

"If each of these people has to be rehabilitated at a cost of \$8 a day, the government will have to spend \$1.6 million daily," he said.

Encik Rais said this in his speech read out by the deputy director of the Central Bureau of Narcotics, Encik Hashim Bin Long at the opening of an antidrug abuse course and exhibition at the Jalan Cheras Flats Community Hall this morning.

Encik Rais said certain rank and file police personnel and welfare officers will be given powers to detain suspected drug addicts once the Dewan Negara [senate] approves an amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1952.

He said only police officers from the rank of sergeant and above and duty officers at police stations would be given these powers.

The proposed amendment would require the suspects to be brought before a magistrate within 24 hours of detention.

The magistrate could subsequently order the addict to be given treatment, sent for rehabilitation or placed under the supervision of welfare officers for 2 years, said Encik Rais.

Those resisting detention could be arrested and charged with a criminal offence, he said.

In the afternoon, Encik Rais launched PEMADAM's [National Association Against Drug Abuse] 51st branch at the Sekolah Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin in Jitra.

He hoped PEMADAM would be able to establish a branch in each of the 120 districts in peninsular Malaysia.

Encik Rais said the drug situation at the border was serious and urged the people to help the government fight drug abuse.

"The amount of drugs seized in Kedah and Perlis was very big compared with the rest of the country.

"Of the 603.63 kg of raw opium seized last year, 457.6 kg was in Kedah and Perlis.

"Besides this, 25.73 kg of morphine and 19.06 kg of heroin were seized in these two states, compared with 0.16 gm of morphine and 0.57 gm of heroin seized in Johore," Encik Rais said.

He urged the public to make the PEMADAM lottery aimed at collecting \$1 million a success.

He said the money would be used to finance a nationwide antidrug campaign and for setting up at least three rehabilitation centres in Penang, Selangor and Johore.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

OFFICIAL NOTES DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Aug 77 p 6 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sat--There has been a gradual decrease in the number of drug addicts in the country, said PEMADAM [National Association Against Drug Abuse] Chairman Encik Rais Yatim when opening the organization's national committee meeting here today.

The increase in the number of addicts arrested in the past 1 and a half years did not, however, mean that the situation was beyond control, as believed by certain quarters.

It was in fact the result of stepped up efforts by the authorities concerned, he added.

(A total of 6,667 people were arrested for drug offenses between the beginning of last year and June this year.)

Anti-drug operations here and in Penang and the border areas, he said, were intensified during this period.

The courts had cleared a large number of drug cases.

There were about 20 more cases awaiting trial which would result in the defendants being sentenced to death or life imprisonment if found guilty, he said.

Encik Rais said: "The government feels that the present drug-abuse situation is under control, and the graph shows a downward trend where the number of addicts is concerned."

He said the police, customs and narcotics bureau were also satisfied with the number of arrests made since the beginning of last year.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

CUSTOMS SEIZE HEROIN IN RICE FIELD NEAR THAI BORDER

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Aug 77 p 6 BK

[Excerpt] Alor Star, Sat--Customs at Padang Besar seized 3 pounds of heroin valued about \$21,000 on the local blackmarket at Kampung Kok Kelang, Arau, Perlis last night.

No arrests were made, a customs spokesman said here today.

This was the second heroin seizure made by the customs in Kedah and Perlis within the last 3 days.

On Wednesday, officers of the Central Narcotics Bureau arrested a man and seized from him a pound of heroin valued at about \$7,000 at 24-1/2-mile Jalan Kuala Nerang-Padang Sanai. A motorcycle was also seized.

In the latest seizure, a seven-man party from Padang Besar led by Supt Yusoff Kechik rushed to Kampung Kok Kelang, near the Malaysian-Thai border and laid an ambush in a paddy field at about 2030 p.m. following a tipoff.

Shortly after, the officers saw a man, who ran towards the Thai border on seeing them.

While running, the man was seen throwing something on the ground.

After a search, the officers found a bundle containing 3 pounds of heroin.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIANS, OTHER ASIANS SENTENCED IN LONDON

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Jun 77 pp 1, 24

[Article by Irene Ngoo in London]

[Text]

AN OLD Bailey judge sentenced seven people, including four Malaysians, to between five and 14 years' jail yesterday and said they had committed the "most serious" offence by trafficking in heroin.

Mr. Justice Edward Clarke described heroin as a "killer drug" and he likened their offence to "pending deaths" from which enormous profits had been reaped.

The Malaysians are Jason Ng Kok Lian, 25, Syed Abu Bakar, 30, David Lim Toh How, 22, and Oh Tang Poo, 21. The others are Tony Lim Boon Heng, 44, a businessman from Singapore, Leonardo Elarte, 34, and his brother Giles, 24, both from Hong Kong.

During the two-month trial, the court had heard that 50 detectives of Scotland Yard's drug squad — many known as "the

unwashables" because they worked under cover with long hair, scruffy jeans and dirty shirts — spent more than six months mingling with the "junkies" and heroin dealers to root out the racketeers.

In passing sentence, Mr. Justice Clarke said all the accused belonged to a smuggling syndicate, "highly well-organised from top to bottom".

He said the syndicate, controlled by Triad "overlords", had made money out of "torturing others."

All the men knew the "high stakes" they were playing and had gone

into it because of greed, he added.

The main object of the heavy sentences, the judge said, was to underline to others not only the gravity of the crime but to act as a deterrent to those who might be inclined to take this terrible risk of "peddling death."

Jason and Bakar were singled out by Mr. Justice Clarke of being the ring leaders and chief importers of the syndicate, which had its nerve centre for heroin distribution in a basement gambling club in Gerard Street.

Jason was sentenced

to a total of 14 years' jail and fined £50,000 on seven charges of conspiracy to supply heroin, possession and supply of the deadly drugs.

Bakar was jailed for 10 years and fined £10,000.

The prosecution said the syndicate had distributed about 17lb of Chinese Heroin No. 3, which could provide something like 60,000 to 70,000 "fixes" — unadulterated — in the London area in the last two years.

Mr. Justice Clarke told Jason and Bakar: "Both of you have facilitated the operations of the syndicate by smuggling large quantities of heroin into this country on three occasions.

"You, Jason, were found in possession of over 4lb of the deadly drugs and you have admitted in your statement getting at least 10lb more. The value involved is staggering.

"You were playing for high stakes and you lost."

Under final cross-examination by Mr. Alan Suckling, prosecuting, Supt. Luff, head of the drug squad, told the court yesterday that Jason had admitted smuggling a total of 14lb and 2oz. of heroin into Britain through his chief courier, Bakar, in January, March and July last year from Malaysia.

Of these consignments, 10lb had been disposed before Jason and Bakar were arrested on last Aug. 2, after a car chase down the busy Bayswater area in London.

Supt. Luff said the retail value of the heroin was £472,500 per pound. The wholesale price was £1,000 per pound.

Jason, he said, had made more than £52,000 in profits from the first two importations after selling the drugs to Tony Lim, 44, who came to London 14 years ago from Singapore.

Of the third lot of 5½lb. He could only dispose of 4½oz which fetched about £1,000.

Jason, who came from an "ordinary middle-class" family of six children in Ipoh and whose father is a printer, became involved in heroin dealing through an addict named Kwok Chan Kwi whom he met in Penang, the court was told.

Kwok, said Supt. Luff, told him that he could supply the heroin and have it specially packed in suitcases if he agreed to bring it to London for distribution. They would split the profits.

Jason met Bakar, an ex-corporal in the Malaysian army before he became a self-employed logging contractor in

Johore and the latter agreed to carry the drugs for \$8000 a trip.

Supt. Luff added that Jason, whose uncle in Malaysia owns a tin mine, had worked in a textile factory before coming to London in 1975.

Married but separated from his wife, he led an expensive life-style from the big profits he made from the drug deals.

He was on the verge of setting up a prawn-import business to be used as a vehicle for the drug smuggling activity, when the law caught up with him, Supt. Luff said.

Mr. Justice Clarke described the five others as "lesser suppliers".

Each was jailed for

five years.

David Lim, a student from Penang enrolled for a course in Dublin when he was 19, before switching to an interior decoration in a college in Paddington in London.

His counsel, Mr. Dines, said David's involvement in the smuggling syndicate did not last more than five months. On his return from a holiday in Penang in June last year, he dissociated himself with Jason, who paid him £200 a month for being a runner.

Questioned by counsel, Supt. Luff said when he saw David after the arrest, "the boy was genuinely sorry".

He added that his involvement was a result of "evil influence" exerted by "elders" in the syndicate.

Oh Tang Poo, also from Penang came to London to take up a course in a college in Holborn and later in a college in Kilburn.

Tony Lim, who was also fined £5,400 or a year's jail, on three other charges of possessing heroin with intent to supply and having a prohibited weapon, a teargas pistol and 16 rounds of cartridges, is married and has four children.



JASON NG
..... 14 years



ABU BAKAR
..... 10 years.



DAVID LIM ... 5 years



TANG POO also 5 years

DRUGS SAID TO BE AVAILABLE IN PRISON

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jun 77 p 10

[Text]

BUTTERWORTH, Wed. — A drug addict asked a court today not to send him to prison because drugs were "freely available" there.

I was able to get drugs through fellow prisoners when I was serving a three-month sentence in 1974," Lai Koh Huat, 27, said.

"As I seriously want to get rid of the habit I beg to be sent to a rehabilitation centre instead," Lai, who had been a addict for three years, told Sessions Court president Mr. Christopher Fernando.

He had pleaded guilty to having .075 grams of heroin in a house at Jalan Siram at 3.10 p.m. on May 12 this year.

Questioned by Mr. Fernando, Lai said he did not know from where the drugs had originated in prison although he had seen other prisoners smoking them.

When further questioned, Lai insisted that he was not making a wild allegation and that he was serious about wanting to be cured.

Acting Asst. Supt V. Marimuthu prosecuting, recalled that similar allegations were made some time in 1974 and that the matter was then referred to the prison authorities.

Since then, he said, there had been no such allegations or complaints made here.

Mr. Fernando then told Lai the situation was not the same now but that in view of his genuine desire to reform, he was sending him to the Penang General Hospital for a medical examination.

He deferred sentence to July 4 pending the medical report.

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

NEW DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS--Three more drug rehabilitation centers are to be established in peninsular Malaysia. One will come up in Penang, another in Ipoh and the other will be put up either in Johore or Malacca. The details were given by the deputy minister of law, Encik Rais Yatim, who is also the president of the Malaysian Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse, [PEMADAM] [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Aug 77 BK]

HEROIN, DRUG TRAFFICKERS--Federal police recovered more than 3 kilograms of heroin and arrested two men believed to be members of an international drug trafficking syndicate in an ambush at a hotel in Petaling Jaya. The heroin which can provide 700,000 shots was packed in four plastic bags. Police said they found from one of the men a return air ticket for Kuala Lumpur-Singapore-Sudan-Kuala Lumpur. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Aug 77 BK]

CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE--Simpang Pertang, Sat.--The National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM) will launch a massive campaign next year to make the people aware of the dangers of drug abuse. Speaking at a 2-day security campaign in Jelebu at Sekolah Menengah Teriang Hilir near here yesterday, PEMADAM Chairman Encik Rais Yatim said that 21,000 youths in the country were involved in drug abuse and if steps were not taken to check this, more youths would become involved. Encik Rais, who is deputy law minister, said the campaign was aimed primarily at parents so that they would pay more attention to their children to ensure that they did not get caught in such practices. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Aug 77 p 15 BK]

SEIZURE OF HEROIN--Ipoh, Sun--Police seized 28 straw tubes of heroin following the arrest of a 19-year-old youth in Bukit Merah New Village, near here yesterday. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Aug 77 p 7 BK]

POLICE ARREST TWO MEN--Klang, Sat--Police arrested two men yesterday and seized several tubes of heroin. Two constables caught the first man, aged 21, and found him in possession of some heroin in Jalan Rajawali, Berkeley garden. The second man, aged 38, was arrested with 21 tubes of heroin during a police raid on a coffeeshop in Jalan Meru. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Aug 77 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5300

DRUG PUSHERS HAVE EYE ON SARAWAK

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 25 Jun 77 pp 1, 36

[Article by K.C. Jong]

[Text] KUCHING. — Sarawak appears to have been selected as a new market by the region's drug traffickers, especially those in Singapore, Peninsular

Malaysia and Thailand.

There are two reasons — demand within the state is rising, and Sarawak's anti-drug laws are still lenient.

This is why firm action has to be taken now to eliminate the drug threat, says Mr Daniel Leong Nyuk Min, the state's Assistant Commissioner of Police and Crime Branch chief.

Like other officers, he still contends that Sarawak does not have a serious drug problem — yet. But cases are on the rise, particularly, of late, heroin.

And the assistant commissioner is quick to add that there is "every possibility" of the problem becoming as serious as in other Malaysian states.

The leniency of the local law is that the 1953 Sarawak Dangerous Drugs Ordinance only empowers a court to jail or fine people involved in selling, possessing, distributing, importing or exporting such drugs.

Peninsular Malaysia,

Singapore and Thailand have the death sentence as their ultimate penalty.

Sarawak police are anxious to get the umbrella protection of Peninsular Malaysia's laws extended to their state as soon as possible.

Statistics underline just what sort of action local police have been facing this year.

For the first five months there were 48 people arrested for either selling, possessing or taking drugs. The figure is not far off the total arrests of 63 for the whole of last year.

Equally interesting is that records reveal those caught have generally come from families with money. Most are aged 22 to 40, but some in the late teens.

Police believe that the drugs (morphine, opium and ganja also rank in importance) are coming in from Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand by various agents using various

methods.

Those detected to date include drugs hidden about the body, in matchboxes or cigarette packets or wrapped as gifts.

Nobody on the Sarawak run appears to have yet resorted to the more bizarre methods — such as the case reported from Bangkok where Thai doctors found 12 small rubber bags stuffed with heroin inside the stomach of a dead Japanese man believed to be trying to smuggle drugs to Tokyo.

And who is bringing the drugs into Sarawak? Sources say they are seamen, people returning from holiday, members of well-to-do families and those serving in the forces.

The state's police feel they are well trained to combat the drug menace.

Officers of the Crime Branch anti-narcotics section are sent to Singapore and Peninsular Ma-

laysia for specialised training.

Mr Daniel Leong, who was trained at Scotland Yard and is a member of the state committee dealing with drug problems, says the fight will be a continuing action — a war to save the souls of the younger generation.

He has submitted a report on the subject including suggestions for control and elimination.

But he feels the best way to achieve the goal is through intensive education; efforts to tell all the people — the drug-takers, parents, teachers and everybody — the great dangers that drugs pose.

NSW OPPOSITION MAY TALK ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

Brisbane THE COURIER MAIL in English 23 Jul 77 p 3

[Text]

SYDNEY. — The leaders of both New South Wales Opposition parties said yesterday they would make serious allegations concerning drug trafficking at Griffith, under privilege, when Parliament sits.

The acting leader of the Opposition and New South Wales Liberal Party, Mr. Maddison, and the New South Wales Country Party leader, Mr. Punch, called for a special session of Parliament.

It should reassemble next week, three weeks early, to consider the Government's rejection of calls for an immediate royal commission into the criminal aspects of drug trafficking.

They said Parliament should seek a further explanation from the Attorney-General (Mr. Walker) as to why he dropped proceedings against a man charged in relation to a huge crop of marihuana in the Riverina.

Mr. Maddison said the Premier (Mr. Wran) was "trying to run away from a royal commission," and was allowing people time to cover up their activities.

Delay

Both claimed Mr. Wran was trying deliberately to delay a royal commission into allegations of organised criminal activity in the manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs.

Before holding a news conference they issued a joint statement saying the Government had been prepared to recall Parliament in May, especially to deal with the purely political matter of reforming the Legislative Council.

Public concern touched off by the disappearance of the anti-drug campaigner, Mr. Donald Mackay, in Griffith, was a far more important matter, they said, and warranted immediate consideration by Parliament.

On Thursday, Mr. Wran said a Royal Commission would be appointed after a Parliamentary committee had completed a drugs investigation.

Mr. Punch and Mr. Maddison said the Government had failed to act, and Parliament should meet without delay to debate the implications.

Violence

They said public statements by the Premier indicated Government acceptance of the use of marihuana and furthered illegal growing and pushing of the drug, with the inevitable association of violence.

The two leaders called for the winding up of the joint N.S.W. Parliamentary committee into drugs to speed up the appointment of a royal commission.

Mr. Maddison said that, if the Government came to grips with the drug problem at its source, all the other associated problems would

not rise to the same heights of enormity as they did if it was tackled only as a cure and counselling operation.

He said: "The thing that worries me is Mr. Wran's statement that, if events overtook the Government, it would not hesitate to appoint a royal commission."

He said a recalled parliament would enable the public airing, under parliamentary privilege, of some of the stories and allegations it was not possible to repeat without the risk of defamation.

Priest appeal

A Catholic priest will call on the Italian community of Griffith on radio and television to give further assistance to the police in their search for Mr. Mackay.

Father R. Beltrame said he paid special attention to the problems and needs of the Italian community and enjoyed considerable respect from them.

He will appeal to them in Italian to look around their properties for any sign of Mr. Mackay, an abandoned fire arm, or the wine cask which Mr. Mackay bought just before his disappearance on July 15.

Italian

About half the local population is either Italian-born or of Italian descent.

It also is believed that many of them are afraid, and there have been threats against a few Italian families in recent days.

Griffith police are still searching for five cars believed to have been in the car park of the Griffith Hotel about the time Mr. Mackay disappeared.

CSO: 5300

NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE TAKES STRONG LINE ON DRUGS

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 25 Jul 77 p 4

[Text]

Staff Reporter Wellington identification on driving licences.

A committee of the National Party conference took a strong line against hard drugs in Dunedin on Saturday.

It easily carried a remit calling for penalties for importing or dealing in hard drugs to be increased in line with the new Australian laws, which provide for up to 25 years' jail and up to \$100,000 fine.

The conference is likely to ratify the remit today.

It also called for a drug education programme and rehabilitation centres.

Speakers expressed fears that if New Zealand maximum penalties were not brought into line with those in Australia, New Zealand could become the headquarters of drug trafficking in the South Pacific.

New Zealand, they claimed, could become an oasis or a sort of free port for drug trafficking.

The committee also called for a complete review of the system of collecting maintenance, in order to achieve a more effective recovery of maintenance payments and paternity orders.

Speakers said the collection methods were inadequate and losing the country thousands of dollars.

Delegates at another committee decided, after a show of hands, that they were in favour of photographic

However, they turned down a suggestion that 10-year compulsory testing for driving licences be phased in.

The committee also voted by a small majority for a government commission to conduct an overall review of the Companies Act.

The remit suggested that the commission should pay particular attention to the updating of:—

- Annual report disclosure requirements.

- Takeover disclosure requirements.

- Control over advertising for funds without a prospectus.

Also mentioned in the remit were directors' duties and responsibilities, and "insider" trading.

CRIMINALS SWITCHING TO SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS

Customs Department Report

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 20 Jul 77 p 4

[Text]

THE more hardened criminal element of New Zealand Society had become involved in narcotic smuggling as a way of gaining large amounts of money, according to the annual report of the Customs Department, which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The report says that in the past drugs were smuggled mainly by users, in small fragmented quantities.

However, over the past year, it had become apparent that well organised hardened criminals were attempting to smuggle large shipments of drugs.

The Department said it appeared that there was no lack of capital to finance these ventures. The result was an illicit drain on New Zealand's overseas funds to pay for the importation of narcotics.

An additional problem being encountered by Customs offi-

cers, especially at airports, was the increasing practice of drug traffickers to conceal the narcotics on their persons.

This involved Customs officers in the "distasteful but very necessary" task of carrying out body searches.

The report said the Department was very conscious of the need to respect individual privacy and had, therefore revised its instructions on search procedures including arrangements for qualified persons to conduct searches of a more personal nature.

However, the report noted that while every precaution is

taken to check the accuracy of information leading to body searches, it was inevitable that on occasions, personal searches would be conducted on persons innocent of any offence.

Customs officers had also established over the past year that ships were dropping both narcotics and conventional contraband off the New Zealand coast.

To overcome this problem, the department had been forced to either place men on board highly suspect vessels for the duration of their coastal voyage or have launches for surveillance.

Both these methods had proved unsatisfactory because the first placed a strain on manpower and the second was difficult to arrange at short notice.

The report singles out vessels of the Straat fleet, which run a regular cargo service between New Zealand and South-east Asia, as a particular culprit in drug trafficking, either through narcotic drops off the coast or illicit importation.

It said that there are normally three or more Straat vessels on the New Zealand coast throughout the year and, because of their known history, Customs officers were forced to pay them close attention.

"Unfortunately this has the effect of tying down the staff to the extent that little time can be given to other vessels carrying traditional contraband," the report says.

Criminals in Drugs

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 20 Jul 77 p 1

[Excerpt]

Over the last year, officers detected narcotics in "Siraat" ships (trading to Asia) on 28 occasions, and the total narcotics haul from them was 634g of heroin and 11,200g of cannabis.

The total Customs drug seizures for the year showed a large increase in the amount of hashish seized. In the 1976 year, only 734g of hashish was seized, but the figure for the last year climbed to 12,723g.

The marijuana haul, however, showed a marked decrease over the year. While the amount seized in 1976 stood at 148,100g, the figure for this year was 90,505g.

The department's seizing of heroin also declined—from 2497g for the 1976 year to 1448g.

The haul of opium liquid was up (568g compared with no seizures in 1976), while the seizing of LSD tablets amounted to only eight grams—a sharp decline from the 4011g in 1975, but in line with the one gram taken in 1976.

CSO: 5300

THIRTEEN CHARGED AFTER DRUG SQUAD RAID

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 23 Jul 77 p 4

[Text]

The police may have contravened the Crimes Act by arresting a man at 7.50 am on Friday and not bringing him before the court until Saturday morning. Mr R. J. Stapleton said in the Auckland Magistrates' Court on Saturday.

Mr Stapleton's client, Joseph Cowan, sauna manager, of Blockhouse Bay, was one of 16 people arrested during a major operation by the police drug squad on Friday.

Thirteen of them appeared before Mr P. M. Browne, SM, on various drug-related charges.

Mr Stapleton said Cowan had been in custody since Friday morning, and the Crimes Act stated that a person should be brought before the court as soon as possible.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant L. J. Higgins, said it had not been possible to bring all 16 people before the court on Friday because of computer delays.

Mr Browne said he had been aware of the situation and had made himself available on Friday afternoon to hear the charges. The new computer system for processing offenders was "just impossible," he added.

Cowan faced seven charges, including selling and possessing narcotics, and selling a drug to an undercover policeman. He was remanded on bail until August 24.

The 12 others who appeared on Saturday were:

Albert Wayne Hunter, aged 30, spray painter, of Pt Chevalier, who faced five charges of selling cannabis. He was remanded on bail until August 24.

Wayne David Cordell, aged 25, painter, of Remuera, who faced charges of supplying heroin, selling cannabis sticks, unlawful possession of a firearm, and breaking and entering. He was remanded in custody until August 5.

Craig Lesley Brown, aged 27, and Adam Anzac Ratana, who were jointly charged with attempting to supply LSD to a police constable. They were remanded on bail until August 22.

Steven Thomas Donaldson, aged 25, of St Heliers, appeared on six charges, including selling heroin and cultivating a cannabis plant. He was remanded in custody until August 15.

Ernest Robert Rodger, aged 31, shop owner, of Takapuna, who faced two charges of selling cannabis. He was remanded on bail until August 25.

Valerie Patricia Kairau, housewife, of Mt Albert, who faced three charges, including possession and sale of cannabis seeds. She was remanded on bail until tomorrow.

Walter Rapana, aged 28, promotions manager, of One Tree Hill, who was charged with attempting to sell cocaine and selling cannabis. He was remanded in custody until August 17.

Maureen Anne Ngarimu Stokes, aged 19, butcher, of Mt Albert, who faced four charges and was remanded on bail until August 27.

Frank Phipps, aged 32, labourer, of Glen Eden, who faced two charges of cultivating and possessing cannabis. He was remanded on bail until August 24.

Ross John Henry Shiphorst, shop assistant, of Panmure, who was remanded until August 29 on two charges of possessing cannabis, and on a charge of selling cannabis was remanded until August 22.

Steven Peter Ulrich, aged 23, unemployed driver, who was charged with possessing heroin for supply and receiving stolen goods. He was remanded on bail until August 19.

THAILAND

THAI POLICE ANNOUNCE NARCOTICS SEIZURES FOR JANUARY-JULY 1977

Bangkok CHAO PHRAYA in Thai 15 Aug 77 pp 1, 16 BK

[Text] The Police Department's Narcotics Suppression Center has announced that during the past 7 months, from January to July 1977, the Police Department has arrested 44 people on charges of narcotics possession and has confiscated a total of 1,605,065 grams of narcotics and dangerous drugs--40,480 grams of heroin No 4; 248,750 grams of heroin No 3; 1,269,225 grams of marihuana; 24,310 grams of cooked opium and 22,300 grams of morphine.

In January, four suspects were arrested with 1,050 grams of heroin No 4. In February, seven suspects were arrested with 5,030 grams of heroin No 4. In March, three suspects were arrested with 146,140 grams of heroin No 3. In April, one suspect was arrested with 2,000 grams of marihuana. In May, four suspects were arrested with 1,485 grams of heroin No 4, 2,000 grams of heroin No 3 and 10,310 grams of cooked opium. In June, 17 suspects were arrested with 1,400 grams of heroin No 4, 1,110 grams of heroin No 3 and 1,266,000 grams of marihuana. In July, eight suspects were arrested with 31,515 grams of heroin No 4; 99,500 grams of heroin No 3; 14,000 grams of cooked opium and 22,300 grams of morphine.

Some of these suspects have been tried and punished, such as Thawon Udomludet, alias Chom Sae Kho--who was arrested on 25 March 1977 and executed on 15 April 1977 in compliance with the prime minister's order under Article 21--and (Heartway Phillip Arther) and his friend, who were sentenced to 75 days imprisonment.

Other suspects are being tried on charges of narcotics possession for sale.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

'THAI RAT' COMMENTS ON ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS, OUTLOOK

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 22 Aug 77 p 3 BK

[Editorial: "The War That Can't Be Stopped"]

[Text] Since the government issued its statement that it would make drug suppression a main policy, which was followed by the consolidation of the government units concerned with narcotics into a new establishment attached to the Prime Minister's Office, we have followed all its work in this area. It can be summed up as follows:

Thai narcotics authorities, including police and customs officials, have made historic arrests and seizures of heroin and other narcotics resulting in the supply of narcotics being reduced both at its source and during transportation to international markets. Meanwhile, reports of considerable concern by American narcotics officials say that a large amount of narcotics is still stockpiled in Burma along the Thai border, where traffickers are watching for chances to smuggle it into Thailand and through other routes.

Mr Daniel Addario, regional director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who reported this, said that Thai efforts to suppress narcotics have been very successful and this is one of the reasons for the stockpiles in Burma where traffickers are watching for chances to move it again. Moreover, Thai-Burmese cooperation in the recent destruction of the largest heroin complex yet has disrupted narcotics supply and production activities there. However, narcotics is the lifeblood for people of this type, so it is difficult to expect them to stop their activities. They will only suspend them, but these criminals are experienced in stealthily crossing the Thai-Burmese border.

Since there is evidence that opium and heroin are stockpiled in Burma near Thailand, prevention or interdiction of smuggling into Thai territory may not too difficult to carry out. First and most important of all is to urgently contact the Burmese government to establish a joint suppression unit to wipe out the stockpile before it can be moved out into Thailand or other markets.

Meanwhile, a sad report has arrived which stated that Lao troops have a huge stockpile of heroin in Laos opposite Nong Khai Province. It is not known whether they will sell it to get money to spend in subverting other countries, but certainly it would be a danger for Thailand if part of this stockpile enters Thailand. We hope that the Thai government has prepared both preventive and subversive measures to prevent this from happening. The entire narcotics scene makes us feel certain that Thailand's war against narcotics will last a long time, although some success has been achieved already.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK COURT EXTENDS DETENTION FOR DRUG DEALER LAO FAN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Aug 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Chinese Haw national Lao Fan (alias Fan Tsu-hsiang) and three alleged accomplices who face narcotics trafficking charges were brought to the Bangkok Military (criminal) Court yesterday under heavy escort by police to request another 12-day detention period.

Lao Fan and his accomplices, Pricha "Sinsa" Sae Chin, Lai Lisor and Chan "Siewsan" Siphadungkun were brought to the court handcuffed at about 1100 hours.

They were arrested in three separate raids between 14-16 July and police recovered 28 kilograms of No 4 heroin, 99.5 kilograms of No 3 heroin and 22.3 kilograms of morphine blocks and 14 kilograms of opium, which was considered the biggest drug haul ever made in the past 3 years.

The four men were detained on charges of endangering society while awaiting the cabinet's decision to use Article 21 of the constitution on them for drug trafficking. Police investigators told the court yesterday that they have not yet completed the investigations because there were 12 more witnesses to be questioned.

They also proposed to the court not to grant bail to Lao Fan and his accomplices, claiming that they were major drug traffickers and there was a possibility that they may jump bail if they were allowed to do so.

The court remanded Lao Fan and his accomplices and police moved them to Khlong Prem light jail in the afternoon for detention.



The four accused drug traffickers arriving at court yesterday.
Lao Fan is at the extreme left.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI OFFICIALS SEIZE 4,000 KILOS OF MARIHUANA 15 AUG

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 16 Aug 77 p 1, 16 BK

[Text] Our reporter in Chon Buri reports that on 15 August at 1300 provincial police region 2 9:2 18:34--Police Major Pracha Palanitisena, Police Maj Prachop Chanthasing, Police Capt Prawat Chaiyan and Police Capt Suraphan Anuphapdecha and inspector of Si Mahapho District police station Police Capt Sakda Rummaburut--searched a warehouse used for storing tapioca in Rabophai village, village group 5, Tambon Nong Phrong, Si Mahapho District, Prachin Buri. They found sticks of marihuana packed in 198 boxes each weighing 20 kilograms, making a total of about 4,000 kilograms. Each stick was about 7 inches long; a total of 116 pieces of cardboard were also found.

The warehouse attendant, Nai Phichit, confessed that a man named To, whose last name is not known, a native of Kabin Buri District, hired him to watch the above-mentioned marihuana. However, Nai refused to implicate anyone else.

The police learned that this marihuana was ready to be shipped abroad. The price of marihuana abroad is about 3,000 baht per kilogram. It also learned that the owner of this marihuana also owned the marihuana recently confiscated in Rayong.

CSO: 5300



Hecktor (right) and Kolliker being interrogated at the Lumpini Police Station.

THAILAND

POLICE ARREST TWO SWISS NATIONALS, SEIZE HEROIN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Aug 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Two Swiss nationals were arrested on Friday night for illegal possession of about 380 grams of No 4 heroin.

Buchler Hecktor (39) and Rene Franz Kolliker (22) were arrested after police raided their rooms at the Rich Hotel on Sukhumwit Road, Friday night.

Hecktor admitted that he bought the heroin from a taxi driver for 50,000 baht and planned to smuggle it to Switzerland.

He told the police that this was the first time he dealt in drugs and that his friend, Kolliker, was not involved.

He revealed that he had paid 70,000 baht to a travel agency on Sukhumwit Road in order to obtain a residence permit.

Police found in their hotel rooms an assortment of condoms and plastic bags apparently meant for packing the heroin.

CSO: 5300



THAILAND

THREE ARRESTED IN BANGKOK WITH 3.5 KILOS OF HEROIN

Major Heroin Trafficker

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Aug 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Three men, one of them believed to be a major heroin trafficker, from Mae Sai in Chiang Rai Province, were arrested yesterday with 3.5 kilograms of No 4 heroin at the foot of Bangkok Noi Bridge in Thonburi yesterday afternoon.

They were identified as Yongsong 'Ow' Sae Lim, Pan Charoenchun, and Suphak Phawasap.

Narcotics Suppression Police laid in wait next to the bridge at about 1300 hours yesterday afternoon after being tipped that heroin would be delivered there.

At about 1440 hours, when the three men carrying two boxes arrived at the bridge, undercover agents went for the arrests.

The three men tried to run, but were unable to slip through the police dragnet.

Photo of Charoenchu, Lim

Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 3 Aug 77 p 1

Mr Pan Charoenchu (left) and Mr Yongsong Sae Lim were arrested with 3.5 kilograms of heroin in their possession yesterday in Thonburi.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

EUROPEAN COUPLE ARRESTED WITH DRUGS IN WOOD CARVINGS

15.7 Kilograms of Heroin

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Aug 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Crime Suppression Police yesterday broke open six pieces of intricate wood carvings and discovered 15.7 kilograms of No 3 heroin.

The teak carvings were found in the possession of Spanish and a Portuguese nationals, who were taken into custody for alleged drug trafficking on Wednesday evening.

Crime Suppression Police led by inspector of the 2nd Sub-division, Maj Phairot Thongin raided a Victory Hotel room and arrested Jose Crescencio (28), a Spanish national, and Mrs Luisa Gonzales Arias (42), a Portuguese, while the couple were in the process of giving heroin injections to one another.

They were arrested with a small tube containing No 3 heroin which they apparently used themselves, police reported and suspected that the couple were heavily addicted to the drug.

Searching the premises police also found six pieces of teak wood carvings, and when they drilled into the wood, heroin dust fell out, which led them to separate pieces of the carvings which were strongly glued together to hide the heroin in the spaces between the pieces. Police spent some time in trying to break them open.

According to police, an unidentified Chinese man delivered the heroin to the couple at their room in Victory Hotel to be smuggled to Holland later.

Meanwhile, commander of the Crime Suppression Division Maj Gen Sa-nguan Khlongchai said yesterday after police uncovered a larger amount of the more refined heroin in possession of the suspects that he may propose to the police department to recommend the use of Article 21 of the Constitution against them.

Photo in 'DAILY TIME'

Bangkok DAILY TIME in Thai 11 Aug 77 p 1 BK



The Thai wood carving products which were used as containers for heroin worth over 50 million baht. They were seized last night along with two Spanish traffickers--a man and a woman.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POLICE ARREST FIVE IN DRUG HAUL NEAR ARMY TV STATION

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Aug 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Phlapphlachai police yesterday arrested two soldiers, two civilians and a woman for allegedly possessing 3.2 kilograms of No 3 heroin in front of Army TV color channel 7.

The suspects were identified as Master Sergeant Roengrop Roekloetrop, Master Sergeant Soraphong Wongsap, Sangwian Norat, Chaoloet Nunin and Mrs Da Wongsap.

The arrests were made when a police undercover agent, posing as a drug trafficker on Tok Road and introduced to Master Sergeant Roengrop and the agent agreed to buy heroin from him worth 110,000 baht. Army TV color channel 7 was chosen as the delivery place.

A team of plainclothes policemen which laid in wait at the rendezvous spotted a yellow Toyota Corona carrying three men at about 1115 hours while Master Sergeant Soraphong and his wife Mrs Da were watching out for police.

The police then made the swoop and found seven packages of heroin wrapped in brown paper bags hidden in the trunk of the car.

According to police estimates the drug would fetch about 30.2 million baht in the U.S. market.

When police later searched room 302 at Hotel 59 in Soi Rang-nam where Master Sergeant Roengrop was reportedly staying, they found more packages of cooked opium.



The five suspects after their arrest by police undercover agents in a drug swoop yesterday.

Thai police arrest five in drug haul near army TV station

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NARCOTICS DESTROYED IN BONFIRE

Prime Minister Presides

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 22 Aug 77 p 1 BK

[Text] A total of 283.65 kilograms of heroin and 1,291.44 kilograms of marihuana and amphetamine was burnt in a ceremony presided by Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian at the 11th Infantry Division of the Royal Thai Army at Bang Khen at 1115 hours today.

The burning ceremony was witnessed by members of the diplomatic corps and an assembly of well over 100 newsmen and photographers as well as a large number of concerned authorities.

The local price of 283.65 kilograms of heroin which was burnt today was estimated at 28 million baht while the price of 1,291.44 kilograms of marihuana and amphetamine was estimated at 10 million baht.

Health Under Secretary Dr Prakop Tuchinda, who is also the chairman of the drug-burning committee, said that a similar amount of heroin which the health ministry is keeping pending the "finalization" of court proceeding, would be burnt within the next 2 months.

The drugs which were destroyed today were moved from the health ministry to the 11th Infantry Division by policemen under the supervision of Police Maj Gen Chawalit Yotmani at 0900 hours.

Report on Drug Burning

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Aug 77 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] In the world's biggest ever narcotics bonfire, Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian yesterday sent up in smoke a cool 28 million baht worth of heroin, marihuana and other drugs.

If the drugs burnt had reached the world markets they would have been worth anything from about 800 million baht in Europe to a staggering 2.8 billion baht in the United States.

The Prime Minister started off the history-making blaze at 1130 hours and the last few bundles went on to the fire just after 1430 hours. By 1530 hours the fire was over and the bulldozers moved in to cover up the ashes.

The day proved something of a triumph for Mr Thanin, who has thrown the wholehearted effort of his government behind a drugs suppression program. Commenting on the world drugs problem, and Thailand's determination to do all it can to help, the Prime Minister said that 1 percent of the Thai population is suffering from drug addiction and 37 percent of criminal charges coming before the courts were related to drugs in one way or another.

Mr Thanin said he believes the use of article 21 against drugs traffickers is not a violation of human rights. "Human rights aim to save humans from abuses," he said, "We want to do justice to offenders, but if a man has committed a crime he should be punished.

"In normal court procedures it might take from 3 to 4 years before a case is finalized. Where drug trafficking is concerned in those 3 or 4 years not only Thailand but other parts of the world could be affected. If we deal with the matter quickly we may not preserve human rights in the western sense, but in our own way we are dealing with a problem as our conscience dictates."

Asked whether article 21 will be used against alleged top narcotics trafficker Lao Fan, who was arrested on 14 July, the Prime Minister said: "This case is still under investigation, it depends on whether he is guilty or not. The Lao Fan case is serious, but we must be careful in arriving at a decision."

The bonfire which he set alight yesterday contained 283.65 kilograms of heroin, 2,500 kilograms of marihuana and 867 kilograms of other kinds of drugs. [figures as published] About 100 people from the press, foreign embassies, and Thai government and police officials were present. The fire took place at the shooting range of the 11th Infantry Division of the Royal Thai Army on Phahonyothin Road in Bang Khen.

Heavily armed soldiers guarded the burning site, which was surrounded by barbed wire. Early yesterday morning at the food and medicine control division, a spot test of the heroin was conducted under the supervision of public health under secretary Dr Prakop Tuchinda, chairman of the drugs destruction committee.

The drugs were then transported to the burning site in a truck under heavy police guard. Upon arrival, a "spot test" of the heroin was conducted again in front of the public and officials, including secretary general of the narcotics prevention and suppression board Mr Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon and police chief, Maj Gen Monchai Phankongchun.

The heroin was the first to be taken to the burning "pit" which was 10 meters long, 3 meters wide and 50 centimeters deep. Firewood soaked with kerosene was laid in the bottom of the pit before the 85 packages of heroin were thrown in.

Firewood soaked with kerosene were then put on top of the heroin. Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian arrived at 1115 hours together with Interior Minister Samak Sunthorawet and 10 minutes later, he set the fire going.

The fire was burnt out by 1530 hours. The cost of yesterday's multimillion baht fire? Just 10,000 baht!

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

CROP SUBSTITUTION DRIVE--A total of 30 villages of tribesmen in the north have adopted the cultivation of substitute crops for poppies during the 5-year anti-narcotics project implemented in 1973, according to secretary general of the Antinarcotics Committee, Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon. He said that the "Hill-Tribe Economic Development Project," which had been assisted by the United Nations, will end next February, and the committee is mapping out details of further aid to be sought from the UN. The government, he said, had introduced the cultivation of other crops to replace opium as well as providing medical treatment to hilltribe addicts. The committee plans to cooperate with the United Nations in expanding the crop-substitution project to the area around Mae Chaen River in Chiang Mai, where cultivation of poppies had been widespread, the secretary general said. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 15 Aug 77 p 3 BK]

THREE FOREIGNERS ARRESTED--In a crackdown on crime in Thungmahamek, police yesterday morning arrested two students on charges of being communist suspects, three foreigners for possessing heroin and a Malaysian women for possessing 13 reels of blue films. An Australian, later identified as Richard Lemond (31), was stopped and searched by police as he walked out of Malaysia Hotel. Fifty-five grammes of heroin were found in a condom in his possession. A subsequent search of room No 203 of the hotel revealed 20 grammes of heroin in the possession of two French occupants, 23-year-old Philip Bonjoues and Maetas Jermach. [Excerpts] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Aug 77 p 1 BK]

FOUR HEROIN POSSESSORS JAILED--The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced four persons from 30 to 45 years and 8 months imprisonment for being guilty on charges of possessing 4,620 grammes of heroin and illegal firearms, an informed source reported. Dang Siwichit (29) was sentenced to 45 years and 8 months imprisonment and 400 baht fine for illegal possession of firearms. Bunsom Sangbun and Mrs Praphai Sonsikoet (25) were sentenced to 45 years imprisonment each, and Buntham Sonrikoet (31) was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. His sentence was reduced by one-third because of his confessing to the crime. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 77 p 7 BK]

AUSTRALIAN TOURIST FINED--An Australian tourist was fined 200 baht for possession of 1 gram of heroin by the Southern District Court yesterday. Mr Michael Leonard Street, 24, was arrested by the police for possession of heroin. He pleaded guilty to the court and was fined 200 baht. [Excerpt] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 16 Aug 77 p 3 BK]

ANTIDRUG TRAINING TO TEACHERS--In an effort to prevent drug abuse among students, the Education Ministry will provide "antinarcotics training" to 1,500 teachers and officials of various institutions, beginning today. The trainees, the ministry said, will be selected from schools and colleges under the Education Ministry. They will be trained on prevention, suppression and treatment of drug addicts as well as to identify various kinds of narcotics. The training will be divided into three groups: 23-26 August, 6-9 September and 13-16 September. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 23 Aug 77 p 3 BK]

GERMAN SENTENCED FOR DRUGS--A German tourist was yesterday sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment after being found guilty by the Criminal Court for possessing 17.45 grams of heroin. Albert Hennings first pleaded guilty to the court with a special request that he be released on probation but the court decided on the 1-year-jail term in view of the fact that the illicit trafficking of heroin was a dangerous crime. The German was arrested in the Thung Mahamek area with the heroin on 22 May. His original sentence was 2 year's jail but the term was reduced by half in view of his confession. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Aug 77 p 5 BK]

CSO: 5300

DRUG ABUSE REPORTS IN THE CZECH PRESS

New Law To Control Drug Abuse Being Prepared

Prague ZEMEDELSE NOVINY in Czech 9 Jun 77 p 2

[Article by (es): "A Drug Is a Good Servant But an Evil Master--Protection of Society Against Drug Abuse"]

[Text] At the present time a new law on protection of society against alcoholism and other kinds of addiction is being prepared for publication. The provision of the law is based on the experience gained over the 15 years during which the present legal constitution has been in force. While law No 120 62 Sbírka dealt exclusively with the consumption of alcoholic beverages in excessive amounts or under improper conditions, the new law will approach such problems from broader points of view. Its purpose is to protect our society not only against the negative influence of alcohol consumption but also against the harmful effects of other habit-forming substances.

In the recent decades the use of various intoxicants became widespread in the capitalist countries. In particular, young people there are escaping from the harsh social reality to a more agreeable world of hallucinations by means of narcotics. According to official estimates, some 250,000 persons are using heroin in New York alone, while hundreds of thousands of other individuals have succumbed to marihuana and other drugs.

The use of narcotics, however, has affected many West European countries as well. According to Interpol data, smugglers are supplying the FRG annually with tens of thousands kilograms of hashish and other narcotics. Their consumption results in serious losses of lives and impaired health of the population. In the first 6 months of 1976 alone, 156 deaths caused by drug poisoning have been reported in the FRG.

We have noted attempts to introduce such habits also into our country. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are coming every year from capitalist countries to our republic. Once in a while there are some individuals

among them who are trying to smuggle into our country narcotics either to sell or to use them with some of our citizens.

Court records contain, for example, the case of two West German citizens who, on their private trips to the CSSR, brought hashish and in various locations in Prague and Usti nad Labem used it with several of our citizens. Both of the fine-feathered "tourists" were sentenced to unconditional penalties of deprivation of freedom.

Other such fancy customers were sunk right at the border checkpoints. Thus, for instance, during the customs inspection of foreign visitors in Rozvadov near Tachov our organs found 150 grams of hashish on a 28-year-old tourist from the FRG. He tried to smuggle that drug into the CSSR as did several other visitors.

Each one of our citizens and foreigners visiting our country must respect paragraph 187 of the criminal law pursuant to which every person "who without authorization produces, imports, exports, supplies for another person or has in his possession intoxicating or poisonous drugs" will be prosecuted and penalized.

By strictly prosecuting any kind of illegal manipulation with intoxicants, our republic is protecting the interests of our population and, simultaneously, fulfilling its international obligations, which it took upon itself by signing the Unified Agreement on Intoxicating Drugs in 1961 and by ratifying it.

Therefore, we have not allowed the postwar wave of drug abuse to penetrate to our country from the West. Thus, we achieved an unusually significant success in the endeavor to provide favorable conditions for a harmonious mental and physical development of our young generation.

For that reason, addiction in our country concerns mainly the use of alcohol and the abuse of certain medications or various harmful chemicals, such as solvents and cleaning fluids. The new law on protection of society from alcohol will therefore deal also with the struggle against nonalcoholic addiction.

Some individuals have gradually become accustomed to use certain medications. After a while they became so dependent on them that they cannot live without them. They even commit criminal acts in order to obtain them. Every year we attribute many thefts and burglaries to such persons. Let us look at some examples.

Thus, for instance, a 21-year-old, twice-convicted young man was apprehended after having broken into a health center in Prague 2 and stolen stamped prescription blanks. He planned to prescribe for himself medications with narcotic effect. The perpetrator had been ordered previously

to undergo ambulatory treatment for drug addicts; however, he simply failed to report for it.

Two thieves from the Kolin area, one of them 18 years old and the other 20 years old, burglarized a storeroom of the Leciva enterprise in Prague; there they stole controlled medications in the value of Kcs 11,000. A perpetrator broke into a pharmacy in Prague 1, through an improperly locked window, and stole morphine, Dolsin [a parasympatholytic drug] and other medications. More than 50 ampules of narcotic drugs vanished from yet another health center.

Some individuals who became addicted to certain medications have appeared as defendants before the court at an early age for the theft of property in socialist ownership and for illegal possession of narcotic substances.

Let us mention, for instance, a group of eight young men and two barely grown girls who were tried before the district court in Prague 4. Those young people used to meet in restaurants, apartments and later in a basement room in order to indulge together in various medications and narcotics. At first they would obtain them from other persons, but then they began burglarizing pharmacies, health centers and physicians' offices.

We are fighting against drug addiction primarily because it leads to serious damage to health or even loss of life. Large doses of certain medications and sniffing of chemical vapors, as a matter of fact, may irreparably impair one's health and sometimes cause poisoning with fatal consequences.

Thus, for instance, a 17-year-old boy from Brno sniffed a nitro solvent at home. When his parents found him, he was already poisoned to death. In the Liberec area an 18-year-old boy was found poisoned with toluene vapors in his parents' apartment. His brother had caught him previously on several occasions sniffing said chemical.

However, the consequences of prolonged use of improper medications, in particular of the habit-forming ones, are also dangerous. Consumption of those medications affects health on the one hand and man's moral profile on the other hand. Sometimes he becomes a human wreck ruthlessly pursuing the satisfaction of his habit.

One girl student began using hallucinogenic drugs already at the age of 15. Within a few years she had to be treated three times in a psychiatric hospital and twice brought before the court. On the first occasion the court did not sentence her, but on the second occasion she was sentenced together with her other chums, with whom she had participated in several burglaries.

Our society is aware of the harm caused by drug abuse and tries to prevent it. The distribution of narcotic drugs is strictly controlled. Since 1974 there are restrictions on the over-the-counter sale of some medications,

large doses or prolonged use of which may impair people's health. The most potent analgesics containing the habit-forming phenacetine are, therefore, available exclusively on medical prescription.

The possibilities in the fight against drug abuse, however, are not entirely exhausted by such measures. Prescription blanks and stamps must be better guarded in health centers and hospitals against unauthorized persons. Substances producing narcotic effect must be stored so that burglars breaking into pharmacies, physicians' offices and hospitals will not be able to get hold of them.

The family must play an even more important role in the fight against drug abuse. Parents should see to it that their sons and daughters do not indulge in Algens [analgesic and antipyretic drug] and other analgesics or perhaps in sniffing solvents and thinners. A prompt medical examination and treatment usually can prevent damages which could later become considerably more serious.

We have but one health. As long as some young people do not appreciate it, they must be brought to reason very emphatically. A drug is a good servant but an evil master. It can help us if we control and check it, but it can harm us if it begins to control us.

Drug Addicts Apprehended

Prague ZEMEDELSE NOVINY in Czech 15 Jul 77 p 4 AU

[Text] The police have apprehended three 20-year-old drug addicts who recently broke into Prague pharmacies. They held drug parties with the stolen drugs.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

PSYCHOLOGIST PROPOSES MEDITATION IN TREATMENT OF ADDICTION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Jul 77 p 25

[Text] Teaching methods of relaxation and meditation were suggested yesterday in Belo Horizonte by psychologist Pierre Weil as a form of treatment for drug addicts. Speaking at the closing session of the Congress of Child Neuro-Psychiatry and the Latin American Congress of Child Psychiatry, the specialist, who is a professor at the federal University of Minas Gerais, explained that "experiences lived by drug users correspond to another order of reality, just like that lived by mystics, according to what modern physics describes." Thus, relaxation and meditation could be used to substitute for the use of drugs, since they provide the same sensations, but without the poisonous effects of hallucinogens.

Pierre Weil announced that several experiments in this area had already been carried out, giving results comparable to those of researchers Wallace and Benson. "They verified, he added, that after 22 months of the use of transcendental meditation methods, only 12 percent of the 1,450 marihuana smokers still continued the habit, while 97 percent of LSD users had abandoned use of the drug."

As a result of this evidence, Pierre Weil suggested that psychiatrists and psychologists who work with drug addicts try to help them recover "not by threatening references to the penalty for using hallucinogens, but by using relaxation and meditation techniques which will help them to go beyond the impasse in which they find themselves."

8916

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

DEATH SQUAD KILLS FIVE MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS IN RIO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jul 77 p 17

[Text] With the murder of five more men all linked to the underground drug trade, executed with nearly 60 revolver shots at dawn yesterday in the Baixada Fluminense, raised to ten the number of bodies found by police this week, without the perpetrators of the deaths having been identified.

The crimes are attributed to the same group of "police" who according to testimony, promised to eliminate all the outlaws of the region. The executioners, who indicate the return of the "Death Squad", are acting in a different way, without using handcuffs, placards, nor the tortures and mutilations common in the activities of the previous group.

The Crimes

The first victim was Adilson Espirito Santo, dead of ten pistol shots of various calibers. He was found near his home in Belfort Roxo and had several "dollars" of marihuana in his possession.

Also in Belfort Roxo, where the other executions have occurred, Sebastiao Virgilio Alves was killed with twelve shots. In his pants pocket he had a notebook containing the record of the distribution of marihuana to dealers named "Jorge" (60 dollars), "Comanche" (44), "Murilo" (10), and "Cristina" (10).

The police found the other three bodies in room number 7 of the "rooming house" on Sarapui Street, belonging to Domingos Pinto. The victims were sleeping in the same canvas bed when they were killed with an equal number of shots: 12. Only one has been identified: Carlos Alberto Gomes dos Santos.

The other two, a black man about 20 years old, dressed in blue velure pants, known as "Ze Prea", and the other, also black, with black pants with blue stripes, had several "dollars" of marihuana.

Beatriz Alves Ferreira, living in room 6, told police that she was coming home when she saw "six or seven men leaving, they told me to keep quiet and got into two cars, a light bright [gelo] Volkswagen and a wine-colored Corcel."

The expert Galvao, who did the examinations on the bodies of the five victims, announced that at the three locations of the crimes only four slugs were recovered from a .38 revolver, because "the rest of various calibers were imbedded in the dead men."

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

COCAINE, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN MAJOR RIO DRUG SUPPLY CENTER

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jul 77 p 10

[Text] Yesterday morning police seized a large quantity of marihuana and cocaine belonging to trafficker Carlos Alberto Nilo, or "Carlinhos" who, according to his wife Juraci Mariano de Souza, left home in the evening saying that he would return last night to sell the drugs. Juraci ends up a prisoner.

The seizure took place in three huts located on Marechal Francisco de Moura Street, Santa Marta Hill, in Botafogo: 6 kilos of pressed marihuana, 1,500 marihuana cigarettes, 300 grams of cocaine, 63 papers of drugs ready for sale, 12,000 cruzeiros, a .22 Rossi revolver, and ammunition for .22, .32 and .38 caliber arms.

A minor, held previously, revealed that the money found in the hut was the product of last Thursday's sales. Each paper was sold for 500 cruzeiros. In one of the houses there was also a radio, television, tape recorder, a scale, and an identity card and "gold card" from the Banco do Brasil, stolen from a car on Mena Barreto Street.

According to police, Santa Marta Hill is presently the largest drug supply center in Rio where there are many sales points. Addicts on Marechal Francisco de Monra street are continually jailed.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

DRUG DEALERS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Jul 77 p 15

[Text] Yesterday morning police from Section 5 of Robbery and Theft in Anchieta apprehended members of a gang which was preparing to rob the office of a construction company in Praca Maua where they would have stolen 100,000 cruzeiros, according to the confession of one of the accused. The band was led by Helio da Conceicao de Oliveira Castro, 21 years old, called "Helio Vovo", who escaped from Frei Caneca Prison 2 months ago, where he was serving sentences which added up to 100 years for bank robbery and auto theft.

In addition to recapturing Helio, who was taken to the Division of Robbery and Theft downtown, the police captured Armindo Costa Rebelo Filho, Darci Pacheco dos Santos, and Jose Wilson Scot, who remain in custody in Anchieta.

Armindo, nicknamed "Doquinha", was the one who revealed the robbery plans. He was captured in Ramos driving a Brasilia, license number ZQ 1527, which he had stolen moments before, and told police that the car would be used by the gang today for the robbery of the construction company in Praca Maua. According to him, "Helio Vovo" did a "survey" of the firm and discovered that he could steal 100,000 cruzeiros planned for the employee payroll.

Armindo even confessed to being the owner of two sales points for marihuana and cocaine, one in Pilares and the other in Del Castilho, in which nearly 5,000 cruzeiros were collected each day. According to police, two of the prisoners, Darli and Jose Wilson worked at the locations, along with a trafficker known as "Paulo Pavao", who is in hiding.

Helio Castro, or "Helio Vovo" is responsible for three bank robberies - Bamerindus, Rua da Quitanda branch, where 4 million cruzeiros were stolen; Banco do Brazil in Guadalupe, 800,000 cruzeiros, and Bamerindus in Itaguai, 350,000 cruzeiros, dozens of other robberies including jewelry stores and supermarkets, and for theft of over a hundred cars.

He was taken prisoner on 19 October of last year and sent to Frei Caneca Prison. Two months ago he organized a football match between inmates and escaped during the game. After that, according to police, he joined up with delinquents Armindo, Darli and Jose Wilson, having committed dozens of robberies in the Zona Norte.

COLOMBIA

NEW ANTI-DRUGS MEASURES ANNOUNCED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jul 77 p 7

[Text] New and important measures to combat the activities of drug traffickers, especially along the northern coast of Colombia, and to prevent the resurgence of the crime wave in the emerald-producing region of Boyaca, were announced by the government during the last few hours.

The first of the decisions, called the "great anti-drug plan," was agreed upon at a meeting between the minister of national defense, General Abraham Varon Valencia, and the commanders of the various military branches.

At the conference it was concluded that it makes no sense from any point of view to keep the same security personnel in areas such as La Guajira, Magdalena and Cesar for more than 6 months. Therefore, the first measure will be to immediately transfer the units which are stationed in those areas of Colombia.

At the same time, the total force will be increased by approximately 1,000 men, in the army as well as the police and DAS forces.

Likewise, it was revealed that the air force will cooperate in the huge program beginning next month, especially with regard to the search for new clandestine airports and the defoliation of the marihuana fields which are discovered.

Three new helicopters and other equipment donated recently by the United States Government will be used in the operation.

The decision was received favorably in the various social circles in the country, although the plan was criticized in that some last minute inconveniences could have been avoided if the plan had been implemented earlier, and the traffickers would have been prevented from planting new crops.

The measures also include the implementation of stricter controls in all the airports in Colombia in order to prevent the entry and exit of the drugs.

In Boyaca

With regard to the emerald-producing area of Boyaca, where some violence has occurred during the last few days, the governor of that part of the country,

Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa, said that the National Army will take complete control of the region.

He made this statement at the end of a long meeting with the military commanders of the First Brigade and the police, during which other public order measures were studied. These measures, called extraordinary, were to eliminate crime particularly in the vicinity of the gem mines in that region.

Among the decisions made was the authorization of the mayors of Borbur, Otanche and Coscuez to declare curfews and the dry law if they consider it necessary.

These decisions will be implemented as of today in those municipalities, according to Nieto Roa.

Speaking with this newspaper's correspondent, the governor rejected the possibility that the latest acts of violence have been perpetrated by people connected with the guerrillas operating in the outskirts of Boyaca and Cundinamarca. He explained that the massacres have been carried out by three rival bands who are disputing control of the mines.

The frequent "vendettas" among these criminal groups were characterized by the governor as "cyclical violence" which appears and disappears temporarily and sporadically at various times of the year.

He also expressed his concern about the situation and said that the measures agreed upon by the military forces will prevent the repetition of cases such as the one last week which resulted in 12 deaths.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'SEA OF MARIHUANA' OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

Bogotá: EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jul 77 p 7-C

[Text] The commander and assistant commander of the Guajira police department, Lieutenant Colonel Armando Duarte Castillo and Major Victor Manuel Cova Peralta, who carried out the investigation which led to the discovery of the so-called "sea of marihuana," were transferred with the same rank to the departments of Narino and Risaralda.

The General Directorate of Police also ordered Lieutenant Colonel Ismael Enrique Talero Suarez to replace Duarte Castillo as commander of the La Guajira police department, whose headquarters are in Riohacha.

On the other hand, it was reported that along with the commanders, all officers, petty officers and agents are being transferred in three stages, the final one to be completed within the next few days.



General Luis H. Valderrama
Police Director

Colonel Duarte Castillo

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

GUAJIRA POLICE IN CAHOOTS WITH TRAFFICKERS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jul 77 p 1-A, 7-C

[Article by Anibal Crespo Polo]

[Text] Riohacha, 12 July--At least 25 policemen--almost half the force in the Riohacha jurisdiction--were involved in activities related to marihuana trafficking.

The participation of the policemen in criminal activities was discovered in three different episodes, about which the commander of the university, Colonel Armando Duarte Castillo, gave a detailed report to his superiors in Bogota.

The commander of the Guajira unit of the National Police, according to reports obtained by the EL TIEMPO office in Riohacha, received a complaint from a marihuana trafficker to the effect that he had been the victim of an assault in that municipality's jurisdiction.

According to the charge, 10 policemen, among whom were two petty officers, all in full uniform and carrying official weapons, assaulted them in a rural area where they had a shipment of 10,000 pounds of marihuana.

The policemen took the grass and carried it to Riohacha, where they sold it to another drug trafficker who has been identified.

The purchaser of the shipment paid for part of the drug with a check made out to one of the policemen for 560,000 pesos. The check was cashed by the agent in a local bank, and he too has been fully identified.

This unusual case gave rise to an investigation of the Riohacha command, but it was carried out by the commander, Duarte Castillo, in the strictest secrecy. However, the man who made the accusation was not arrested because no marihuana was found in his possession, and furthermore he said that if they arrested him he would drop the charges and refuse to cooperate with the police. Nevertheless, he stated that his assistants are capable of identifying each one of the policemen who participated in the assault.

The EL TIEMPO correspondent found out that the investigation has been hampered by the fact that the people who had been working for the police in Riohacha have been transferred recently.

According to those reports, some of the officers implicated in the assault against the traffickers were transferred at that time to Bogota to work there until they were sent to another part of the country.

Other Cases

On the other hand, our correspondent discovered another investigation of high officials in the Riohacha police, in an exclusive revelation. At least seven other agents of the department were implicated in this case.

The Sunday before last, the assistant commander of the unit, Major Victor Manuel Cova, established a roadblock on the highway between Riohacha and Cuestecita, on the way to Valledupar, at Machobayo.

When Cova and his assistants ordered a suspicious truck to stop late at night, seven men dressed in police uniforms and carrying official arms jumped from the truck to the highway.

The uniformed men headed straight for the mountains, but the major managed to catch one of his subordinates, who put up a strong resistance. The agent captured by his superior is Jose Evelio Gallego, and he was confined in one of the command's jails. Three days later he escaped, apparently with the complicity of friends who were supposed to be guarding him.

In the truck, in which four civilians were arrested, were 30 sacks of marihuana stems with a total weight of nearly 2,000 pounds. The truck has Venezuelan license plate MAC-710.

The civilians arrested were identified as Silvio Davila Sierra, Jose Ospino Perez, Ruben Jacobo Ibarra Peralta and Agustin Millan Monyola. They were placed under the orders of the first criminal examining magistrate and are in the district jail.

It was revealed that the policemen as well as the civilians who were arrested refused to identify the policemen who were involved in the trafficking.

During the operation Major Cova was almost shot by one of his subordinates in the mountains. The bullet went into the vehicle which he was driving.

It was discovered that the agents accompanying the major in the operation had showed a distinct reluctance to cooperate in the chasing of and shooting at their colleagues. Similarly, the civilians who had been arrested almost escaped because of the indifference of the police agents.

Third Case

The third case took place in the town of Mingueo, where the commander, Second Corporal Jose Silva, had a total of 70 sacks of marihuana which he had confiscated from some traffickers and which he had neglected to turn over to his superiors. Later, Army Sergeant Jose Diaz Manrique asked Silva to turn over the shipment. When he received it, he took it, and no one knows where it is now.

The commander of the police headquartered in Riohacha, and the commander of the army in Bellavista, to which Sergeant Diaz Manrique was assigned, arrested the two petty officers who are now under investigation.

In view of these serious occurrences, the commander of the La Guajira Police, Colonel Armando Duarte Castillo, made an emergency visit to Bogota last week apparently to inform his superiors at the General Directorate of Police of the situation.

8926

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS ATTACK MILITARY HELICOPTER

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 1-A, 13-A

[Article by Walter Martinez]

[Text] Santa Marta, 22 July--The commander of the Army in La Guajira, Colonel Humberto Correa Castaneda, came out unhurt from an attempt by drug traffickers who used machine guns against the helicopter in which he was flying with a lieutenant and various non commissioned officers.

The high-ranking official personally directed the operations performed in El Pajaro region by the Tarea Rodon group, with headquarters in Buenavista. Confiscated during the operations were: a shipment of marihuana, various motor vehicles, a potent radio transmitter for communication at great distances and a complete set of equipment for growing, processing, and packaging the grass. Four individuals were also camptured.

The report obtained by EL TIEMPO reveals that the attack against the helicopter was conducted by a group of racketeers who were hidden in the dense growth and who succeeded in fleeing in the midst of heavy shooting when the soldiers reached the location.

It was indicated that the helicopter suffered some damages, but none of the military were wounded. Various firearms were seized during the military operation and it is estimated that the value of everything confiscated exceeds 50 million Colombian pesos.

The helicopter's crew demanded the surrender of the criminals by means of loudspeakers. But these, instead of heeding the order, fired several times.

It is estimated that forty shots were fired against the helicopter. These did not succeed in touching vital parts and, furthermore, did not hurt the occupants.

The military succeeded in landing without problems and, after interchanging more shots with the criminals, were able to capture four. Their names were not revealed since inquiries were immediately initiated aiming at capturing other members of the gang.

Although some of these were arrested, at least some fifteen or twenty took flight during the unfolding of the escape.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

OFFICIALS QUIZZED ON INCREASING DRUG PROBLEM

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Jul 77 p 3

[Interview with F-2 Narcotics Section Chief Capt Teodoro Ocampo and Bogota Superior Court Judge Abelardo Rivera Llano by Orlando Gomez]

[Text] The drug traffic is increasing in Colombia. The country continues to be the center of operations of the international mafia. According to authorities traffic in this type of contraband, high quality cocaine and marihuana, runs around \$500 million annually.

Naturally, the question preoccupies government agencies as well as those at other levels and was one of the points treated by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his Colombian counterpart, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen.

At the same time, paradoxically, those involved in the illicit traffic, when captured, are later set free by judges who, in the majority of cases, decide there is lack of proof.

Where, then, actually, will control by the state agencies of this type of delinquency lead?

To answer this and other questions, EL SIGLO talked about the matter with two of our most important and knowledgeable officials, Capt Teodoro Ocampo, chief of the narcotics section of F-2, and Bogota Superior Court Judge, Abelardo Rivera Llano.

The following is a summary of their statements on this red-hot problem, retransmitted by Todelar Circuit [Circuito Todelar de Colombia, a commercial radio station]:

[Question] Accusations abound: the delinquents are captured and later the judiciary frees them. What is really happening?

[Answer] Ocampo: Really, our action is limited to the physical act of finding the persons who are violating the national drug law, or decree 1188,

and turning them over to the proper authorities. So we leave judicial decisions and criticisms of them to those responsible, in this case the Attorney General's Office and the courts, which are charged with confirming charges, or initiating investigations into the case.

[Question] Can it be said, in view of the confiscations made in the last few months, that the authorities are winning the battle against the narcotics mafia?

[Answer] Ocampo: Indeed the authorities have achieved some success in confiscating large plantations and shipments of narcotic substances; however, we cannot feel triumphant, thinking that we are on top of the situation. We are doing something. The government is bringing its best forces to bear, in all the different branches of the executive power, to try to control and stem the tide. The truth is, though, that the flow is continuing, and the number of persons involved is increasing daily.

[Question] Recently there was an attempt to barter for and remove from the country a wounded narcotics dealer. Under these circumstances, since there is a law to deal with narcotics traffic, would it not be necessary to have one also for complicity in and covering up of this type of crime?

[Answer] Rivera Llano: I believe that the general norms of the criminal law should apply also to special statutes, such as 1188, since the latter law itself defines delinquent conduct. As for complicity, the present penal code (articles 19 and 20) defines the various forms which this conduct can assume, primary or as a necessary accomplice. Therefore I do not believe that such actions should be defined within the technical provisions of the law when they are already defined in the general provisions.

Legalization of the Drug

[Question] Why is the consumption of marihuana not legalized, as it is in other parts of the world? A short time ago a leader of the private sector expressed this concern....

[Answer] Ocampo: There are no countries which have actually legalized the use of marihuana. A "personal use" dose has been permitted, as in the United States. There are other countries where the dose permitted differentiates one who commits a misdemeanor and the person who commits the crime of trafficking in a certain quantity of the drug.

As for legalization, I do not believe it would be right from any point of view--criminal, sociological, psychological, and much less from the economic. Consider that it produces quite high returns due to the restrictions, so that if it is legalized, which I do not believe possible, at least for many years, then the price of the product will drop and it will compete in the market like any other type of goods, responding to supply and demand.

[Answer] Rivera Llano: I believe that the legalization of the use of marihuana produces too harmful effects on the mental health of addicts, and therefore it is not right. It is clear that two situations would have to be differentiated, in my judgment: that of the market which profits from this substance and that of its use by persons who, for various reasons of a psychological emotional or mental nature, have come to depend on it.

As for those who are physically dependent on hallucinogenic substances, they should be given special treatment. That is to say, in cases of extreme illness, punishment and restraint should not be used, but rather curative treatment or rehabilitation to whatever point possible. I wonder, for example, to what point is it proper to punish a person with psychopathic tendencies? He is sick and should be treated as such. But to claim to legalize marihuana--that is another question. That is to attract to its use the disoriented youth, given the fact that there are a lot of reasons, political and social in character, for using drugs. I believe that legalizing it would do more harm to the country and to the mental health of the youth.

Mistakes Made

[Question] Many times the authorities announce the confiscation of a certain quantity of drugs, let's say, cocaine. Later investigation indicates a negative result. Why is this: because of lack of experience of the personnel making the raid, or the dishonesty of officials?

[Answer] Ocampo: I venture to think you are right. In many cases, unfortunately, we have to accept it: there is not sufficient specialized personnel in the entire country. The drug phenomenon is everywhere, and we do not have the trained personnel. We are training people in order to avoid mistakes due to such ignorance or lack of knowledge of procedures. As for the second part of your query, certainly there have been cases of substitution of samples or substances. I venture to think that these are in the minority and that such cases are being corrected immediately. The Attorney General's Office, on more than one occasion, has been watching to prevent these things from recurring.

[Question] It appears that there might be a certain acquiescence on the part of the judges toward foreign prisoners, and the majority of the narcotics traffickers who are caught are foreigners. They are freed in a matter of a few days or hours. What is going on here?

[Answer] Rivera Llano: I am unaware of any special arrangement the judges may have with foreigners who are eventually arrested by Colombian authorities. I do not exclude the possibility: there may be a special arrangement due to reasons which have nothing to do with the case, such as language difficulties or that they have no one in this country who can take care of them. In any case, judges throughout the country know that the criminal

law is general, is imperative: it applies to all the inhabitants of the national territory, and a foreigner in the country is considered as an inhabitant. Therefore, the criminal law must apply. But to imply failure to apply the law in consideration of the accused's being a foreigner-- I doubt it. I do not believe that there are judges who work from this premise.

Global Problem

[Question] It is said in many circles that the drug problem belongs more to the United States than to Colombia, and that here all that is being done is to try to avoid the problem in this country. Is this true?

[Answer] Ocampo: The drug problem has different characteristics. In our own country, we see it basically from the point of view of moral deterioration, while in other countries the problem appears in the high rate of consumption and the large number of drug dependents. However, we are not working to save the youth of a particular country. We are trying to save all youth, wherever they are. In addition, it is odious to use that criterion as a weapon to distort the intentions of law-enforcement agencies and those charged with rehabilitation.

Lack of Proof

[Question] Doesn't the very common concept of "lack of proof" leave many doors open for narcotics traffickers to escape justice?

[Answer] Rivera Llano: Certainly, in my judgment, the failure lies with the summary instruction. Therefore the criticisms made of the administration of justice are not totally due to errors of that same administration or to human error, but to the fact that the judges must proceed according to the general principles of the law. In a very few cases there are human errors, but then, in the majority of cases I believe in the honesty and rectitude of the judges.

Those of us who are involved in legal questions know that we are limited by the same general principles in regard to proof, and the code is very clear concerning the demands which must be satisfied in order that punishment may be imposed. If those demands are not satisfied by the accumulated proof, then the judges must proceed in conformity with what is established by law.

"Personal Use" Dose

[Question] The "personal use" dose varies from city to city. Why, in this sense, are there no established parameters?

[Answer] Rivera Llano: One must differentiate. The Council of State, in a decree of 21 Mar 1977, declared null and void the decree by which the

government had regulated certain substances and nullified the word "personal" contained therein. The law then read as follows: "The therapeutic dose registered in the... [omission in original text] with a drug which produces physical or psychic dependence, shall correspond to the therapeutic dose registered in the respective medical chart of the patient or which may be certified under oath by the attending physician;" therefore, by this decision we returned to the old system of expert medical-legal testimony to establish the personal dose at any given time. It is not necessary to specify a quantity. Thus, if 20 grams is considered by his physician to be the personal dose of an individual, this must be considered the "personal dose." The problem is simple today.

Law Not Properly Applied

[Question] Now I have the following questions: 1) Journalists are shown the destruction of a drug, and many times there is no such drug. It is another substance which has been destroyed, such as wheat or chalk. 2) If agents arrest minors, the judges let them go free, since the law does not apply to them. 3) Who controls the pharmacists who dispense all kinds of drugs in spite of regulations in the matter? 4) In some prisons the guards themselves exert pressure so that prisoners become addicts, in order to make money for the guards.

[Answer] Rivera Llano: It is necessary to bear in mind that statute 1188 is not applied as it should be, especially in the matter of prevention. For example: Do the radio stations and other media publish correctly the reports ordered by the decree in this matter? Or do the police impose, in such cases, the usual sanctions? No. As for the destruction of the drug, properly speaking the Public Ministry has the obligation to be present to certify that this actually has been done. That there have been failures in this respect is something which should be investigated.

[Answer] Ocampo: I think that in the matter of substitution of substances one cannot generalize. In addition, there are sanctions which can be applied in this type of procedure.

[Answer] Rivera Llano: In the case of minors, the attitude of the judges is obvious. Law 75 of 1968 prevents a minor of 16 years or under from being punished under the criminal law. Law 46 for minors must be applied to them, along with preventive and rehabilitative measures. As for the pharmacies, it is the obligation of the Ministry of Public Health to maintain control and effective inspection of those places. Now, if someone knows of an irregular sale which has been made in this manner, he should make a formal accusation.

[Answer] Ocampo: This matter of control of people is the obligation of the state, but many times it is not done because of budget limitations. In any case, control of the sale of narcotic substances is being considered.

What About the Mafia?

[Question] The problem of drug addiction is as old as humanity. How can it be overcome? How can it be ended so that the mafia big shots will stop encouraging the drug traffic?

[Answer] Ocampo: Both questions are related. However, the problem of drugs is not only the concern of state agencies, but of society as a whole. It is not the function only of the police, nor of the judges alone, to seek a solution to the problem. Unfortunately, the majority of the people have mistakenly thought so. We, the police, are willing to work to capacity, but we need the cooperation of the citizens.

Only in this way will we be able to confront, almost on an equal footing, the criminal organizations which control the drug traffic.

Drug Use Increasing

[Question] Has the use of drugs increased or decreased in Colombia?

[Answer] Ocampo: Although drug use in our country is not the highest, compared with other nations, the truth is that it has increased. In addition, every day there is the growing conviction that there is a greater disposition on the part of certain persons and groups in society in favor of drug use. That is the principal problem. For that reason we need cooperation. Here it is well to remember that "forewarned is forearmed."



The photo shows one of the largest marihuana plantations found in the country. Authorities estimate that traffic in this type of drug may amount to \$500 million annually.

COLOMBIA

HERBICIDES TO DESTROY 'SEA OF MARIHUANA'

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jul 77 p 15-A

[Text] Hundreds of soldiers and police agents who have been destroying by hand the so-called "sea of marihuana" discovered several weeks ago in the vicinity of the towns of Camarones and Matitas have decided to suspend the operation while a herbicide is being sought which will destroy the plants without causing permanent damage to the soil, according to a report received by EL TIEMPO from sources in the National Police.

The decision was made before the discovery of hundreds more hectares planted with the "grass," which the patrols continue to find every time they search the area, making this the biggest plantation of this type which has been encountered up to the present in the entire world.

As EL TIEMPO recently reported, nearly 200 army and police units undertook the job of manually destroying the "marimba" [marihuana] harvest when area ranchers refused to cooperate by renting them the tractors needed to plow under the immense plantations.

Under the circumstances, the army and police divided the work between them, the former cutting down the shrubs with machetes and the latter piling them up and setting fire to them.

This work went on for several weeks, but at the same time, various commissions stationed in the areas under surveillance near the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta found other huge areas planted with the "grass." Thus the plantations were expanding as fast as the patrols could advance.

"We came to the conclusion that destroying them with our bare hands was just about impossible with the means at hand at that time," a spokesman for the National Police told EL TIEMPO, "and we resolved to find a chemical compound to help us, even though we may have to apply it by hand, since aerial spraying would ruin the useful crops."

Technicians from the F-2 narcotics section have been searching through the country's specialized warehouses for a substance which will destroy the

marihuana shrubs without permanently affecting the soil. So far, however, nothing satisfactory has been found.

New Blows to Narcotics Traffic

The discovery of the "sea of marihuana," on which EL TIEMPO carried an exclusive report, was the impulse for new efforts by the authorities against marihuana growers in the northern region of Colombia.

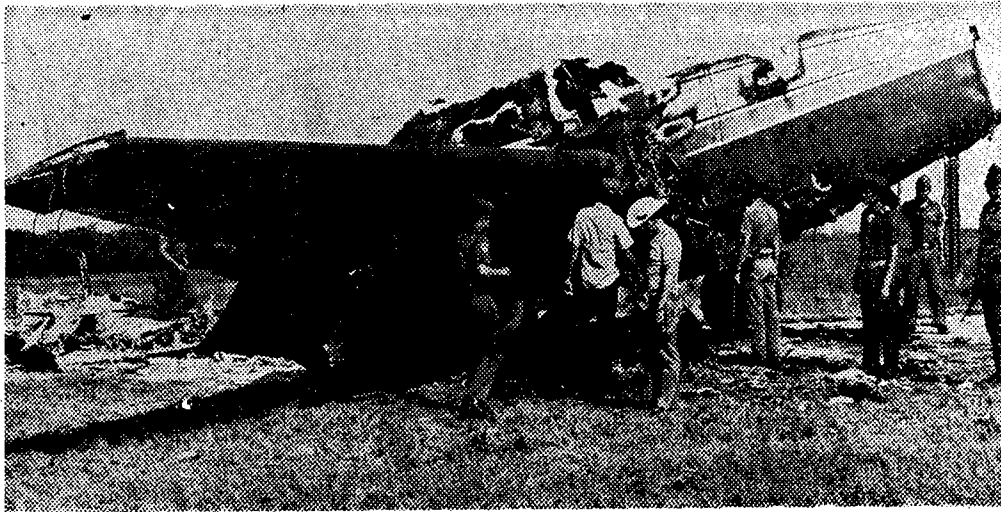
From that time, actually, procedures of this kind have been repeated in several departments along the Atlantic coast. In the course of these operations new plantations have been discovered and several tons of marihuana confiscated.

At the same time, about 10 new fields have been found, as well as irrigation systems and equipment for processing the toxic drug, such as hydraulic presses, for example, several of which the Riohacha police have already impounded. Similar blows have been dealt the narcotics traffickers in the departments of Magdalena and Cesar.

In the course of the search patrols, more than 15 wrecked aircraft have been discovered on clandestine landing strips. The planes, after having suffered some mishap, were burned by the narcotics traffickers, who preferred to destroy them rather than have them fall into the hands of the authorities and aid in reinforcement of aerial patrols at airports and clandestine airstrips.

The effect of these actions on the volume of trade in "marimba" has become evident from the decrease in the number of American traffickers in the "green zone."

Actually this phenomenon has been felt in the scarcity of black market dollars in the last few weeks on the departments along the coast. In this respect, EL TIEMPO has been informed that in times of "marihuana bonanza" the abundance of dollars had produced spectacular drops in the illegal price of American currency, to the point where at times, each dollar bought only 28 pesos. At present the price has begun to rise again, and the holders of dollars are demanding in excess of 35 pesos, determined precisely by the scarcity caused by the absence of American traffickers in the area.



More than 15 aircraft totally destroyed by fire have been found on clandestine airstrips in La Guajira by police patrols which have continued to keep the area under surveillance because of the discovery of the "sea of marijuana." No useful part of this airplane remained.



New fields, with their respective shrubs, such as the one in this photo, have been found by authorities in their search through the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. "Destruction by hand is impossible," police declared. (Special photo for EL TIEMPO.)

8735
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MANUAL DESTRUCTION OF 'SEA OF MARIHUANA' BEGUN

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 26 July 77 p 5-A

[Text] Using manual means and surrounded by rigorous measures of security, 150 men from the police and the army are continuing to destroy a gigantic marihuana plantation discovered in the Guajira region of Camarones, branches of the Sierra Nevada, on the bank of the Tapias River.

The Third Part

According to the executive secretary of the National Council of Narcotics, Dr Luis Eduardo Rivas, during the hard labor of nearly 6 weeks, the destruction of a third part of about 800 "fanegadas" [1272 acres] that comprise the principal plantation, and others bordering that were subsequently discovered, has been achieved in the unfolding of events that caused amazement, not only in the country but abroad, due to the plantation's gigantic proportions.

Joined Action

Dr Rivas added that the destruction has come about by means of cutting the large plants of the grass and its subsequent incineration. He also said that the work has been under the management of the units of the Police Department of Guajira, while the Army intensely watches over the zone in order to prevent members of the international traffickers, who used to get their supplies from the plantations, from trying to take part of the product by taking advantage of the large extension of the terrain.

The high-ranking public official likewise declared that the destruction of the grass has been closely supervised by special officials from the Attorney General's Office, among them Dr Francisco Bernal who was sent to the zone since the operation began about a month and a half ago.

Dr Rivas said: "The government, through the National Council of Narcotics, has pursued the advancement of technical and scientific studies to see if

it is possible to use other, more sophisticated and fast means in the destruction of the plantations, such as herbicides by means of fumigation." Nevertheless, before taking a measure of that type it is necessary to perform a series of evaluations to prevent such a system from causing damages to the legitimate crops that exist in the zone, as well as to the waters that irrigate such terrains.

Foreign Aid

Dr Rivas also said that advance talks are already underway on an agreement or technical aid from the United States, especially from the Agency for International Development, for the fight against the narcotic traffic in the country. Such aid would cover financial aspects and the supply of equipment needed for air surveillance of the areas where marihuana is produced and of the numerous clandestine airports in diverse parts of the country, especially in the Atlantic coast.

2667

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

INDIANS RAISE, SELL COCA BUT ARE IGNORANT OF COCAINE

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 12-A

[Article by Hector Munoz]

[Excerpt] Almaguer is an ancient town in Cauca which in distant times was one of the most prosperous and important villages in the southern part of the country. With its long and broad streets which are capriciously paved with stone, its ancestral houses and whitewashed church, it retains a native and colonial air. Although for lack of support from the various governments the town's progress became stagnated, it still has traces of the advances achieved in other times.

Quite distant from Popayan if one travels over the old highway which runs from El Bordo through Lerma, the town of Almaguer is nestled on a plain from which one views an immense horizon, broken by an impressive host of mountains, some of which are arid, others covered by thick vegetation. It has a pleasing climate, which is healthy and ideal for rest and study.

Most of its inhabitants are backward natives who live off agriculture and handicrafts and from the buying and selling of horses. A great number of different kinds of horses are brought to the fair ground--that is what they call an uncared for park filled with kikuyo--of this town. The peasants who come down to town to go to mass and the market usually are chewing coca which is produced in the coldest and most barren areas. They are silent, naive people, resigned to their difficult social and economic situation and easy prey to any exploiting sharpster.

It has been said that Almaguer and Bolivar are the greatest producers of coca in the southern part of Cauca. But the truth of the matter is that almost none of its inhabitants live off the sale of this leaf from which cocaine is extracted. There are mature men who were born and have lived all of their lives in Almaguer who are not even familiar with the coca plant and, of course know nothing of the drug. No one in this town knows how coca is processed. Occasionally, "a number of monkey men" show up in the mountains--that's what they call the inhabitants of Almaguer--who buy coca at very low prices and then disappear from the region. The native

peasants have no idea of the value of cocaine and are totally ignorant of what a laboratory for the manufacture of the alkaloid is all about. However, in carrying out their fight against cocaine traffickers, the police on occasion have conducted tremendous campaigns against the peasants of Almaguer.

The truth is that the peasants of this town only know about chewing coca to still their hunger pangs, out of custom or because they believe that it prevents disease.

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKER 'GODFATHER' KILLED IN BOGOTA BAR

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jul 77 p 15

[Text] The war which broke out between mafia groups claimed a new victim yesterday when known trafficker Mario Gil Ramirez was slain.

This criminal, against whom the judges never had sufficient evidence, despite his known connections with networks of drug traffickers, was shot down by several unidentified persons while he was talking with his wife and other individuals in the "El Canecao" [The Tankard] bar.

Gil Ramirez had been involved in several criminal activities and lately was mentioned as the possible co-perpetrator of the kidnapping and death of female attorney Ines Cardozo de Mocada.

He was the proven number 2 man in the powerful mafia which is headed by his father-in-law, Conrado Espinosa, one of the straight-out-of-the-novel "god-fathers" who have Colombia as the base of their huge illicit operations.

He was also alleged to be responsible for the deaths of two other members of the criminal organization, during incidents which took place inside the nightspot "Los Doce Cesares" [The 12 Caesars]. These killings unleashed a veritable "vendetta" and resulted in at least two attacks on the Espinosa Gil Family.

One of these attacks cost the life of the mother of Bersey Espinosa, the wife of Mario Gil, and wounded her father, Conrado.

Later, the couple's two children were wounded in another similar incident, one of whom was crippled for life.

Previously, on 31 December 1976, Bersey Espinosa had been kidnapped in what was considered a "settling of accounts" by members of a rival ring of drug traffickers.

During the rescue operation, there was a shootout in which two detectives were wounded.

The Attorney Intervenes

The relationship between the Espinosa Gil family and attorney Ines Cardoza de Moncada, whose body was found exactly 1 week ago, started when the lawyer acted as the defense attorney for Mario Espinosa, brother of Bersey, in a trial which was being held in connection with the death of a man in a gambling house. Afterward, the attorney provided legal services to members of the ring rivaling the Espinosas, which brought her the enmities of the other group, including the person who could be responsible for her death.

To the United States

Official spokesman told this newspaper that the body of Mario Gil would be sent to the United States in the next few hours. A large part of the family lives in that country which he and his wife had planned to visit in the near future.

Despite the traditional family secrecy, it was learned that Bersey Espinosa is taking steps to ship the casket to the northern country and attempting to prevent any new massacre during funeral services in Bogota.

Gil's death raises to 10 the number of victims of the "vendetta" started nearly a year ago between two of the most powerful gangs engaged in drug trafficking in Colombia.

Up until now, there have been no arrests in connection with the abovementioned incidents.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

DAS ARRESTS WOMAN COCAINE TRAFFICKER

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Jul 77 p 8-A

[Text] A woman who apparently is one of the leaders of the drug trafficking rings in Colombia was arrested yesterday by agents of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), Antioquia section, in the municipality of Envigado in that department.

The arrest was made after DAS detectives received a series of reports about the whereabouts of a woman who was operating an international drug trafficking network out of Envigado.

She was identified as Luz Marina Acevedo de Valencia, and she possessed documents proving her connection with drug traffickers. In addition, she was found with 100 grams of pure cocaine, \$48,830 in U.S. money, a .32 revolver, and a luxurious Dodge 1500 automobile.

The arrest of Luz Marina de Valencia revealed important clues about the rest of the drug trafficking ring. It is known that there are at least seven arrest warrants out against drug traffickers in different parts of the country.

The arrested woman was put under the orders of the fourth criminal examining magistrate of Medellin, Dr Maria Rosario Zapata, who is carrying out the investigation.

8926

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS KILLED WOMAN LAWYER

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jul 77 p 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Luis de Castro]

[Text] As preliminary investigations continue into the case of the mysterious murder of criminal lawyer Ines Cardozo de Moncada, and a series of details about the victim's activities during the last months come to light, it is more and more likely that the crime was committed as part of a revenge planned by people connected with the drug trafficking "mafia" who used her services on various occasions.

Large Deposits

The discovery in the purse of the lawyer, who was killed by two bullets in her head, of various receipts indicating that she made bank deposits of a total of 1,360,000 pesos during the last 6 months, reinforces the suspicion that the murder was the work of drug traffickers or people who knew about the large deposits and decided to assault her and take her money. Not being able to get the money, they killed her.

The deposits were made by the lawyer beginning 27 December last year, when she deposited 700,000 pesos in a Paloquemao bank branch. Later she deposited a check for 60,000 pesos in an El Espinal bank; later, the 24th of last month, she deposited 300,000 pesos in the Banco Cafetero and another 300,000 pesos in the Banco de los Trabajadores. These figures indicate that the victim had lucrative connections with criminals.

Defender of Mafiosi

Furthermore, it was established that Dr Cardozo de Moncada had rendered professional services for Mario Espinosa, brother of Bersey Espinosa de Gil, the woman who was kidnapped as part of a revenge between cocaine traffickers. This case later led to a series of assaults which cost several lives.

Series of Tragedies

Mario Gil, Bersey Espinosa's husband, as will be remembered, participated in the murder of two other members of the mafia in Doce Cesares. These murders

in turn led to two attacks on the Espinosa family that resulted in the death of Bersey's mother and wounded her father, Conrado Espinosa. Later two of the couple's sons were seriously wounded, one of whom will be an invalid for life.

Attorney Ines Cardozo de Moncada had earlier defended Mario Espinosa in a trial which resulted from the death of a citizen in a casino. It was learned that she later rendered professional services for members of that mafia group, and this must have created the enmity between her and the opponents of the Espinosas. These opponents may be among the murderers.

Several Charges

Moreover, there is evidence that the lawyer had been brought before the Superior Court on various occasions under charges of violating professional ethics. These charges are still being considered by several judges of the court.

One of these accusations was made by a respectable attorney who had defended Carlos Alberto Sanchez Rojas, alias "El Conejo Millonario" (The Millionaire Rabbit), and who had been pushed off the case by the murdered lawyer.

Her activities in that case resulted in an accusation of fraud by Sanchez Rojas himself, who claimed that she had deceived him in order to obtain possession of a building he owned in the San Diego area.

It is noteworthy that in the disciplinary action which resulted from the first-mentioned accusation, the woman lawyer called as a witness a person who later also charged her with fraud.

Husband's Version

As this paper reported in yesterday's edition, Dr Anibal Moncada Delgado, the victim's husband, told his version of the story. According to him, Thursday at 0600 hours three men who claimed to be Administrative Department of Security (DAS) agents took both of them from their residence after having searched the building for money. The attorney said that the men put them in their own car, but along the way they transferred his wife to a taxi which followed them. He said that he was ordered at gun point to return to his house in his car.

Dr Moncada stated that the kidnappers phoned him three times, but they never told him how much they wanted for his wife's release. The version of the lawyer, who said that he learned of his wife's death when it was reported that her body had been found on the Medellin highway, has been questioned as a result of some inconsistencies, but they could be explained by the fact that he suffered an emotional impact as a result of the assault by the men claiming to be detectives and the threats that they would kill his wife if he told the police.

8926

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA, VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT SEIZED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 July 77 p 9-A

[Article by Anibal Crespo Polo]

[Text] El Pajaro, Guajira, 21 July--The Army inflicted the drug traffickers with one of the most tremendous blows of recent times when they confiscated marihuana, equipment and vehicles valued more than 40 million Colombian pesos.

The operation was performed in this locality of El Pajaro situated 40 kms from Riohacha, where the traffickers had installed four hideaways where they kept 10 tons of the grass properly packaged and ready for exportation. The hideaways were located near a clandestine airstrip where recent airplane tracks were found that must have landed there in order to load marihuana destined for the United States.

Two Indians, Rafael Epinayu and Pastor Hernandez, were captured because they were deemed responsible for guarding the confiscated goods. They will be placed at the disposal of the proper authorities.

Besides the 10 tons of marihuana, the military found in the hiding places of the traffickers four motor vehicles- two F-100 trucks and two 350 trucks-. Likewise, two hydraulic presses, two platform scales, modern transmission and radio receptor equipments for the communication between the contraband ships and the land crew, three water pumps for the irrigation of the crops, and all the equipment needed for packaging, stapling and girding of the cargo.

The operation was initiated in the afternoon hours of Wednesday and in it participated units from the Tarea Rondon troop, quartered in Rioacha. It was directed by the commander of the Rondon battalion, with headquarters in Buenavista, and Lieutenant Colonel Humberto Correa Castaneda.

The first news on the existence of clandestine airstrips and the hideaways appeared from an air reconnaissance mission that was made by helicopter and which made it possible to find their precise location. Immediately, land troops were sent to bring the investigation to a logical conclusion.

The shipment and the captured individuals were transferred to Riohacha and will be incinerated with the aid of officials from the Judicial Police. [sic]

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

SHIP SEIZED BY TRAFFICKERS RECOVERED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 7 Jul 77 p 13-A

[Article by Dairo Martinez]

[Text] Cartagena, 6 July--The fishing boat 'Vivaldi,' attacked last 21 June in Venezuelan waters by a band of Colombian pirates, who threw its crew into the sea, where some of its members were devoured by sharks, has been recovered by the police in the waters of Cartagena Bay.

The vessel was located at a point midway between the magistracies of Santa Ana and Baru by a police maritime patrol that was tracking down the accomplices of a network of pirates captured last week in this city during a shoot out between the police and criminals caught as they were planning an attack on another ship.

As reported at the time, the band was composed of German Emilio Padilla or Estacio Padilla, known under the alias of "Lucho," Junior Aguolar Ali, Edy Orlando Macia Sanchez, Jose Estacio Estrada, Ildefonso Rosales, Cristobal Martinez, Severino Gomez Vargas, Alfredo Machacon Cabana, Marcelino Cabana, Jose Felix Angulo Quinones, and Luis Eduardo Cortes Garcia.

The gang leader was seriously wounded in the shoot out between authorities and the sea pirates and is now confined in the University Hospital under close police surveillance.

It was in that action that the police seized acetylene equipment, dynamite, and paint from the pirates, to be used to alter the stolen ships and convert them from fishing boats into coastal launches that they would then use for transporting marihuana to the United States.

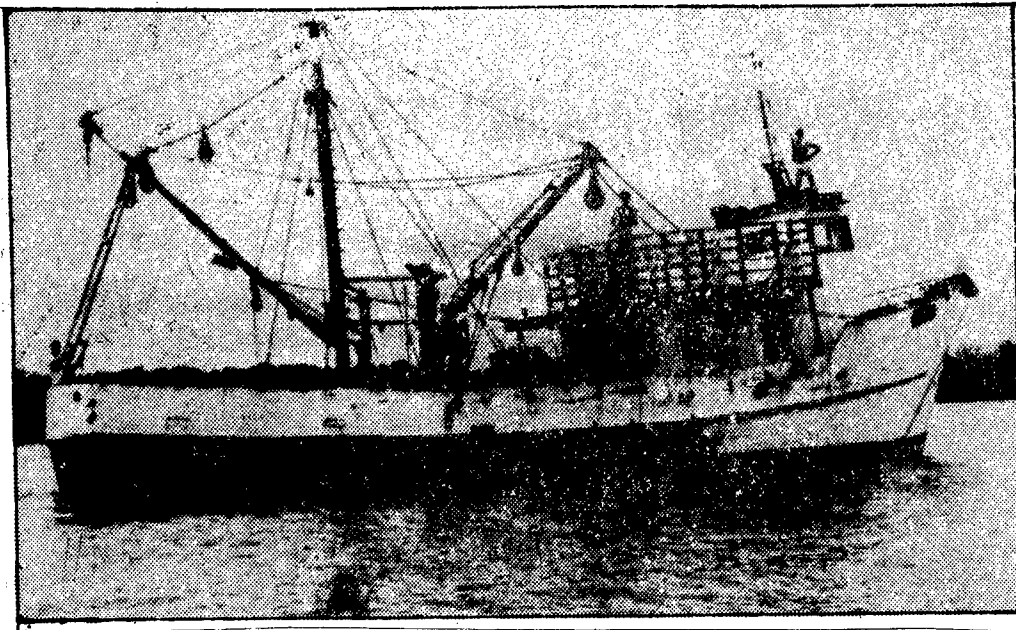
The ship 'Vivaldi,' under the Venezuelan flag, had been partially altered by the pirates, and most of the hull had already been painted white in order to mislead the authorities.

The discovery of the ship took place at 1700 hours yesterday, when it was anchored, and it was placed under close surveillance from that time on for the purpose of preventing the escape of anyone who might be on board.

Meanwhile, the police command requested the help of the Atlantic Naval Force in order to have its personnel seize the ship and bring it to this city. The investigation into these matters has been placed in the hands of the 59th military trial judge and of Police Lieutenant Carlos Puello, who has been interrogating the arrested men during this week.

The police also reported that all the members of the band are experts on maritime matters, including several ship's captains, as in the case of Ildefonso Rosales Cortes.

No arrests resulted from the seizure of the ship, as it appears that the remainder of the members of the pirate network, sensing that they were being followed by the authorities, managed to escape.



The Venezuelan fishing boat 'Vivaldi,' seized on the high seas by Colombian pirates and recovered yesterday on the Baru coast by F-2 units from Bolivar under the command of the sectional chief of that organization, Capt Benigno Torres Torres. (Telephoto by Jesus Ocampo)

11532

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE SEIZURE IN IPIALES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Jul 77 p 10-A

[Article by Blanca Calderon]

[Text] Ipiates, 19 July--Customs personnel confiscated 21 kgs of cocaine from two women at the port of entry of El Pedregal, 41 kms from this bordering city, it was announced today in the regional attorney's office.

The cocaine was found on a private vehicle hidden in 10 suitcases. The vehicle was coming from Ecuador with destination to Cali. The women arrested were identified as Guillermina Garces de Rodriguez and Luz Marina Arango, natives of Cundinamarca.

The drug was seized by the head of customs security of Ipiates, Captain Armando Arevalo Almeida, who has had his job for 25 days.

The two carriers used by the international contrabandists are now under arrest in the national circuit jail, while the cocaine was destroyed by the authorities.

The price of the cocaine on the black market, was estimated to be several millions of Colombian pesos, given its high grade of purity. The authorities informed that serious work is being done to break up a powerful international gang that dedicates itself to the trafficking of narcotics, and which it appears is rooted in Ecuador.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS AMBUSH F-2 IN CAUCA--Cali, 9 July--It was reported today that a policeman was seriously injured early this morning when an F-2 patrol was ambushed by a ring of narcotics dealers. The event took place at the village of El Placer, located in the mountainous Corinto region in the northern part of the Department of Cauca, when the mobsters opened fire from a hill on an F-2 patrol proceeding to a farm in the vicinity to seize a large quantity of marihuana and cocaine. The farm where the drugs were found is the property of Guillermo Toro, indicated by the authorities as being the head of the ring of narcotics traffickers that ambushed the F-2 patrol. The drugs were valued by the authorities at 7 million pesos. The policeman wounded in the ambush was identified as Roberto Medina Jimenez. The marihuana and cocaine found at the farm were brought to Cali. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Jul 77 p 13-A] 11532

MARIHUANA PLANTATION IN SANTA MARTA--Santa Marta, 5 July--The police located a 5-hectare field of marihuana in the jurisdiction of Fundacion and captured two narcotics traffickers found to be carrying several firearms. The plantation was discovered on the "Providencia" farm, in the jurisdiction of Fundacion to the north of Magdalena. The plants had grown to the height of 1.75 meters and were ready for processing, according to the official report. The arrests were made of Jose del Carmen Jaimes and Jacinto Rios Caceres, from whom two shotguns and a revolver were seized, during the operation carried out by units of the Santa Marta police. This crop is worth 6 million pesos. In another operation undertaken yesterday afternoon, the Judicial Police discovered 42 bales of marihuana at a farm located in the magistracy of Tucurinca, in the jurisdiction of Cienaga. There were no arrests as a result, but the authorities have the name of the owner of the "marimba," [marihuana] who is apparently a prominent member of the Santa Marta community. It was reported that the 42 bales, weighing 45 pounds each, are valued at approximately 4 million pesos. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jul 77 p 3-A] 11532

TRAFFICKERS KILLED CIVIL AIR CHIEF--Military spokesmen and officers closely associated with Col Osiris de J. Maldonado charged the international drug network with responsibility for the attack in which he was killed. The authorities are therefore directing the major share of their investigation

toward the drug smugglers who use Colombia as a base for their operations and who, at a given moment, had ordered the fatal attack. As reported at the time, the official had received several telephone threats, and, so far as this newspaper was able to establish, the warnings concerned persons and enterprises affected by some decision of the chief of operations of the Civil Aeronautics Board. It is known that, in his capacity as director of the important agency, he had suspended several licenses of companies whose aircraft were involved in recent months in the illegal exportation of marihuana and cocaine to the United States. The assassinated officer was at a stage in which he was devoting his efforts to a purge at all levels, as a part of the duties intrinsic to his position but very especially to prevent narcotics smugglers from using nationally registered airplanes in order to carry out their enormous foreign transactions. For his part, the director of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], Guillermo Leon Linares, told EL SIGLO on leaving the National Security Council meeting called yesterday that the police forces had in fact made several arrests and were already engaged in the preliminary interrogatories. Other investigators said, "There is nothing remarkable about the drug network being mixed up in this. We are almost certain that the main "godfathers" of the traffic in narcotics were involved in the crime." [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 8 Jul 77 p 1] 11532

TRAFFICKERS, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN RIOHACHA--Riohacha, 5 July--A load of 3 tons of marihuana, made up of a number of bales about to be shipped by truck and a large coasting vessel, was seized yesterday in a joint operation of the police and DAS [Administrative Department of Security] of this city. Fourteen narcotics traffickers were captured during the operation and taken later to the police headquarters in Riohacha. The patrol responsible for the seizure and arrests reported that this took place at the "Los Llanos" farm, belonging to Teodora Rodriguez, in the magistracy of Camarones, where the police found a ton of marihuana, pressed, packed, and ready for export, duly protected by plastic covering. The encampment was guarded by three men who surrendered without putting up any resistance. They were identified as Jose de Jesus Romero Epinayu, Gilberto Herrera Guerra, and Manuel Cayetano Effer. Later, several patrols that were inspecting the site known as "Arroyo de Arnnas" came upon a suspicious truck in which they found 54 bales of marihuana that were being taken to Riohacha. Captured on that occasion were Jose Ospino Perez, Ruben Jacobo Ibarra Peralta, Agustin Millan Linyora, and Silvio David Sierra Pimienta. The third seizure was made near the village of Machobayo, where a truck carrying 36 bales of pressed marihuana was taken and seven men, whose names have not been reported up to now, were arrested. The driver of the truck managed to escape. The captured men were taken away in jeeps that were being used to escort the shipment. One of the men arrested tried to bribe the police patrol with 80,000 pesos in cash he had in his possession. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jul 77 p 14-A] 11532

SHOOTOUT WITH MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS--Santa Marta, 15 Jul. One drug trafficker was wounded and four were arrested after a fierce shootout during which a marihuana field worth in excess of 25 million pesos was discovered. During the action which was carried out by the police of Riohacha and Santa Marta on a farm in the Palomino region--at the Guajira-Magdalena border--a 20-hectare "marihuana" field was located, in addition to a large number of bales of processed drug. Four individuals were arrested during the action from whom several automatic rifles were confiscated, after a shootout in which one trafficker was wounded. However, the latter was not identified since he escaped with the help of some of his companions who eluded police action. It was said that the owner of the marihuana field was among those arrested; however, his name and those of the other prisoners are being kept secret. The prisoners were taken to Riohacha and the assistance of the army was requested to destroy the marihuana field whose plants were as high as 1.8 meters. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 3-A] 8143

LA GUAJIRA: 42 TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Police units have confiscated a substantial quantity of marihuana in the department of La Guajira, arresting at the same time 42 persons allegedly involved in the drug traffic, among them several foreigners. According to the official police report, a total of 3,800 pounds of marihuana was found at the correctional facility at Mingüero. In the same action, several weapons were confiscated, including two Mauser .30's, several rifles and three marihuana presses. Police arrested 42 persons involved in the drug traffic, including several foreigners, but their names were withheld. Those arrested were turned over to a special judge who will take charge of investigating the case. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Jul 77 p 3] 8735

ANOTHER MARIHUANA PLANTATION IN MAGDALENA--Police agents have uncovered another marihuana plantation in the department of Magdalena and arrested two persons involved in the narcotics traffic. Official sources told EL SIGLO that on Wednesday a police detachment found the plantation on the "Providence" ranch, located within the jurisdiction of the city of Fundacion. The marihuana covers an area of approximately 3 hectares, said one of the officials who participated in the operation. Police sources in Bogota said in connection with this matter that Magdalena authorities have arrested Jose del Carmen Galvis and Jacinto Rios Caceres, who were immediately turned over to the proper authorities for further investigation. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Jul 77 p 3] 8735

TRAFFICKERS, DRUGS, WEAPONS SEIZED--Nine drug traffickers, three in Antioquia and six in La Guajira, were arrested in separate operations by F-2 agents, after careful investigation. The arrest of these criminals also led to the discovery of two marihuana fields covering a total area of approximately 10 hectares. Gonzalo Zamora Jimenez, Alirio Gaona, Nepomuceno Parra, Antonio Vidal, Serafin Aguilar and Eliecer Palaguera were arrested in the Rio Ancho sector, municipality of Riohacha, Guajira. In the possession of these individuals the police found four rifles, a large amount of ammunition and several sacks of marihuana seed, which was to have been sown to expand the marihuana field maintained by these men. The following persons were arrested by secret agents in the Monte Grande section of the municipality of San Antonio, Antioquia: Mauro Valencia Morales, Julio Cesar Valencia, and Francisco Javier Valencia. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jul 77 p 7] 8143

ECUADOR

ALARMING RISE IN JUNE DRUG SALES, CONSUMPTION

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jul 77 p 24

/Text/ According to a report on drugs prepared by the National Police of Ecuador, the sale and consumption of drugs in the capital is on the rise. In the month of June alone agents from the Pichincha Criminal Investigation Service arrested 42 persons for selling drugs. This figure breaks down into an alarming average of over one arrest per day.

In addition, 47 persons were arrested for using different types of drugs either in their pure form or in paste. The information we are making public should be carefully studied by all parents so that they can keep better watch over their young children who are exposed daily to the temptation of using hallucinogens that are so harmful to young people throughout the world.

Drug Seizure

In another file containing drug statistics, it is reported that in pure paste alone 56,990 grams have been seized and 22,778 grams of processed marihuana have been seized which points to the alarming rate at which these hallucinogens are being consumed. Consumption must be halted in time through the efforts of all persons involved in the education of the young people of Ecuador.

Vehicles

Because the owners were engaged in the sale and consumption of drugs, two vehicles were seized. One was a 1965 yellow Mazda with license No. P-05518 owned by Oscar Renan Montesinos who was arrested with 50 grams of marihuana and 1 kilo of pure paste in his possession.

The second car, a 1975 Chevrolet Luv license No. P-47012, was seized from Carlos Enrique Ormeno Rivera who was engaged in the sale of cocaine.

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CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED BY INTERPOL

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jul 77 p 16

/Text/ Guayaquil, 27 July--INTERPOL agents from the Guayas office under the command of Maj Camilo Gomez Bonilla arrested eight persons engaged in the cocaine and cocaine-paste traffic. The persons taken into custody included three women and a minor. The minor and his father were engaged in the distribution of envelopes containing cocaine "base" in one of the sections of the city.

The raids by the agents netted over 300 grams of cocaine paste and 70 envelopes containing "base." The drugs along with the suspects will be turned over to a criminal judge for prosecution.

Arrests

The minor will be placed in one of the Halfway Houses. According to INTERPOL's report, the following were arrested in Huaquillas, an international drug trafficking center: Cesar Villacis Poma, Blanca Azucena Erazo Llanes, Marlene Victoria Rodriguez Torres and her brother Felipe Eugenio Rodriguez Torres. The latter two purchased the drug at the border from a Peruvian known as "El Chapo" who is a fugitive from justice. The agents seized 290 grams of cocaine paste from the suspects.

Other Arrests

In addition, in this city agents arrested Clara Adelfina Orozco Vargas, Washington Humberto Franco and a young girl. All three were selling envelopes containing "base" in the Francisco Segura and Machala streets area. Eighteen envelopes were seized.

It was also reported that Jose Guillermo Minan Cruz was arrested on the corner of Vigesima Quinta and Nicolas Augusto Gonzalez streets while attempting to sell 23 grams of cocaine paste for 35,000 sucres.

Minan identified his supplier as Polibio Sanchez of Santa Rosa, El Oro Province. INTERPOL is searching for the man. The seized drug will be sent to the Guayas Provincial Health Headquarters where it will be burned after the required tests are made.

8599

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

DRUG RING MEMBERS SENTENCED IN GUAYAQUIL

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Jul 77 p 24

/Text/ Guayaquil 30 July (AEP)--Sentences of 12, 9 and 6 years were handed down to members of a drug ring that operated a clandestine laboratory in a building on Escobedo and Nuevo de Octubre streets. The laboratory was used to process cocaine.

Third Criminal Court Judge Freddy Rodriguez Mora sentenced Otto Lucas Rivera, the key drug ring figure, to 12 years. Antonio Felipe Stracuzzi was also sentenced to 12 years.

Mexican Citizen

Mexican Faustin Valencia and Ecuadorean Ignacio Villacis Bedoya were sentenced to 9 years and Hector Orlando Ledesma to 6 years based on the severity of the crimes they committed.

Otto Lucas Rivera was arrested by INTERPOL at his home on the eighth floor of the Propiedades Building on Nueve de Octubre and Escobedo streets. It was here that the clandestine laboratory was located and cocaine was processed for export and cocaine base was prepared for domestic consumption. The police found 2 kilos of cocaine ready for distribution in Rivera's possession.

The other drug dealers, with the exception of Villacis Bedoya who was arrested at the port, were arrested at the home of Hector Orlando Ledesma located on Coronel and Camilo Destruge streets as they were negotiating a sale of cocaine.

Two Years

Prosecution, from the beginning of the case to sentencing, has lasted over 2 years and a report of the case indicates that Mexican Ruendes Haro, who was also charged with drug trafficking, is still at large.

Third Criminal Court Judge Freddy Rodriguez Mora sent a writ of sentencing to the defendants notifying them that they had been found guilty of drug trafficking.

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

ARREST OF COCAINE TRAFFICKERS--Pasto, 18 Jul (EFE)--According to an official announcement, two Colombian women were caught by a police patrol last night as they were carrying a shipment of cocaine worth \$5.5 million to Ecuador. The traffickers are Luisa Amanda Arango and Guillermina Suarez. The women were carrying the alkaloid in two suitcases with false bottoms and according to the Secret Police, their capture came about in a solitary spot on the Pan American Highway in the vicinity of the town of Ipiales, near the Colombian-Ecuadorean border. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 10] 11,464

ARRESTS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS--Quito, 16 Jul--The National Investigations and Narcotics Directorate has informed Interpol that the following persons were arrested in El Oro Province for selling and consuming cocaine: Gil Alfredo Granizo Almeida, Rosa Sixta Gonzalez Torres and Pascual Desiderio Luna Ponce. Police caught the suspects carrying five packets of drugs in Granizo's car. With the evidence in the possession of police officers and the statements made by the individuals to the SIC [Criminal Intelligence Service], the three will be turned over to the first penal magistrate in El Oro Province. In another arrest, Olga Pilar Parreno Santamaria and Hilda Elena Parreno Santamaria were caught when selling marihuana. When Interpol officers took the two sisters to prison, they found 219 grams of marihuana in a plastic Minerva coffee bag and 26 grams of marihuana wrapped in coffee leaves in their possession. Hilda Elena's purse contained 6 grams of marihuana in two packets. The capture of these persons charged with illegal possession of drugs took place in the La Tola district of this city. Based on their statements to the SIC, they were turned over to the eighth penal magistrate of Pichincha. [Text] [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 17 Jul 77 p 5] 11,464

DEATH OF FLEEING TRAFFICKER--Huaquillas (AEP)--Drug trafficker Jose Roman Montenegro was killed by Interpol officers from the Huaquillas section when trying to smuggle 10 kilograms of cocaine into the country. The shootout occurred when Montenegro was discovered and tried to flee. Despite police surveillance, he tried to pass over the border and the agents were forced to shoot, hitting him in the left side of the chest. Another trafficker involved in the smuggling operation initially tried to follow his friend, but was soon arrested and later sent to prison in the El Oro capital city. This part of the country, which is constantly frequented by heroine traffickers from southern countries, has Interpol on alert. On this occasion, Interpol had to resort to the use of weapons in view of the resistance of the two subjects who were determined to achieve their objective. City attorney Octavio Ontaneda Torres and his clerk, Marcelino Mendoza Eras, appeared on the scene of the confrontation. They ordered that the victim, Jose Ramon Montenegro, 28, a native of Tulcan, be taken away. It was learned that the two traffickers stayed at the El Minihotel in this border area and were constantly involved with persons from other countries, particularly Bolivia and Peru, the origins of the precious product that was later refined in underground laboratories which Interpol is trying to find. [Text] [Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Jul 77 p 24] 11,464

DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCING--Guayaquil (AEP)--The Guayas Superior Court upheld the sentence handed down by 4th District Court Judge Edison Velez Cabrera against Kleber Augusto Vera Reyes. Vera Reyes was arrested on 13 May 1976 at the Lorenzo Ponce Psychiatric Hospital with 100 grams of cocaine paste. Heriberto Alvarez Gomez was arrested along with Vera Reyes. Under questioning by INTERPOL Vera admitted his part in transporting the drug while Alvarez confessed that the cocaine paste had been sent by Zoila Jacome from Huaquillas and that it was to be sold in Guayaquil. Vera Reyes was sentenced to spend 8 years at the Modelo Coastal Penitentiary. Action against Alvarez Gomez was stayed after it was provisionally determined that he had no part in the case that is before the 3rd sic Criminal Court. [Text] [Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jul 77 p 24] 8599

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS--Drug Agency and INTERPOL agents from El Oro on 24 July arrested Lorlister Vargas Estupinan with 10 grams of cocaine paste in his possession. The suspect was arrested in Esmeraldas and his case was turned over to the judge of the 2nd Criminal Court in Esmeraldas. Drug Agency and INTERPOL agents in El Oro seized 1.75 million soles that were to be used to buy cocaine. The agents arrested Segundo Ramon Montenegro, Jose Roberto Fuel and Alonso Rigoberto as they were about to buy 6 kilos of cocaine. The first suspect was the distributor and the other two were the buyers. The drug was taken from the distributor. The arrests occurred at the Huaquillas terminal, according to police reports. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jul 77 p 28] 8599

CSO: 3010

MEXICO

CAMPAIGN TO SALVAGE CHILD ADDICTS BEGUN

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 18

[Article by Manuel Aron Nakayama]

[Text] The General Office of Medical Services of the Federal District Department will undertake in the near future a project intended to eradicate drug addiction among children and youths in the capital.

After announcing this, Dr Antonio Sanchez Sanchez, deputy director of that department, explained to EL DIA that parents are not aware of the symptoms their children show when they become drug addicts.

He said that psychiatrists, social workers and psychologists, through Sunday medical assistance tours, offer orientation talks to parents about the serious problem of drug addiction, its various ramifications and consequences in the home.

Programs Implemented

The official said that programs of action for the intensive campaign against drug addiction among the youths of the city have already been implemented in all areas of Mexico City.

He added that there are already films about the behavior of marihuana, inhalants, amphetamines, barbiturates and other drug addicts, and that for this project printed material on the subject has been prepared.

Symptoms and Disturbances

In reference to the symptoms and disturbances caused in young marihuana addicts and youths addicted to inhalants, amphetamines and barbiturates, as well as the abrupt changes brought about in their behavior, Dr Sanchez Sanchez mentioned euphoria, depression, dilated pupils and watery eyes, sadness and panic, among other things.

Aggressiveness among drug addicts is also very frequent, and has serious consequences, according to Dr Sanchez Sanchez.

Children

On the other hand, our correspondent found that in various sections of the city, children are attracted to crime and corruption when adults give them inhalants, marihuana cigarettes and psychedelic pills.

In the Caribaldi section, in vacant lots among the rubble, boys and girls inhale cement and various chemical substances at all hours of the day, and to date no one has done anything to prevent it.

These boys and girls are a sorry sight to see every day.

It is noteworthy that many boys and girls under the influence of the inhaled substances are subjected to horrible acts on the part of vagrants, bums and "teporochos" in the area, and the police have not tried to do anything about it.

Surge in Drug Addiction

In the last few years, drug addiction has increased tremendously, and has become common among children and young people.

In primary and secondary schools as well as higher levels of education, drug traffickers have settled in in spite of persistent police repression.

Cases have been revealed earlier in which vendors of peeled fruit in schools and densely populated areas of the city have put pills which have hazardous effects on the children in the salt which they put on jicamas, oranges, cucumbers and other foods. Once they acquire the habit, the children must rob their parents in order to buy the drug-laced fruit.

8926

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

SICILIA FALCON TRIES ANOTHER TUNNEL

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 24-A

[Article by Jorge Reyes Estrada and Rafael Medina]

[Text] The six people who participated in the excavation of the tunnel which was going to be used for a mass escape of prisoners from the Reclusorio Oriente Prison, are being held in the Division of Investigations.

Four of them--three women and a man--were arrested in Mexico City. Two more, who had fled to the state of Veracruz, were arrested there.

Harold Bravo, accused of fraud, financed the construction of the tunnel, which is more than 80 meters long, 1.5 meters in diameter, and 3 meters deep.

Police learned that the cost of the tunnel, to the point to which it had been excavated, was about 400,000 pesos.

The plan was begun when Raul Balderas Rivadeneyra bought the vacant lot which lies in block 17, lot 17 of Rio Atoyac Street, number 17, of the San Lorenzo Tezonco District, Iztapalapa.

Police learned this information from the four arrested people, Amadeo Montes Melchor, Marcelina Rivadeneyra Gomez, Elia Rodriguez de Rivadeneyra and Lucia or Yolanda Hernandez Solis, who stated that the cost of the lot was 20,000 pesos, and that it was bought at the end of last year.

The second phase of the plan was the construction of a rubblework house, which they disguised as a farm, in order to begin the excavation of the tunnel and to cover up what was going on there.

The names of the other two people arrested in the state of Veracruz were not supplied by police, but apparently they are the main planners of the scheme.

Major Humberto Garcia Arizpe of the Division of Investigations, who refused to give these reporters any information, confirmed yesterday that, according to experts, the termination of the tunnel would require more than 1 million pesos, and that the tunnel was stopped due to a lack of funds.

Tunnel Construction Stopped a Month Ago

The work stoppage on the tunnel, which took place about a month ago, coincided with the transfer of drug traffickers Alberto Sicilia Falcon, Carlos Egossi Bejar and Carlos Kiriaquides Villasenor, who were taken to the Federal District Penitentiary last June 18.

This leads police to believe that the drug traffickers, whose fortunes have been valued at more than 500 million pesos, lent economic assistance to Harold Bravo so that he could give it in turn to Raul Balderas Rivadeneyra, who is now a fugitive.

It is also believed, according to police versions, that other people related to the above-mentioned drug traffickers, who helped in the construction of the tunnel in the old Palacio Negro de Lecumberri, are the ones who planned the tunnel which was discovered a few days ago by the Division of Investigations.

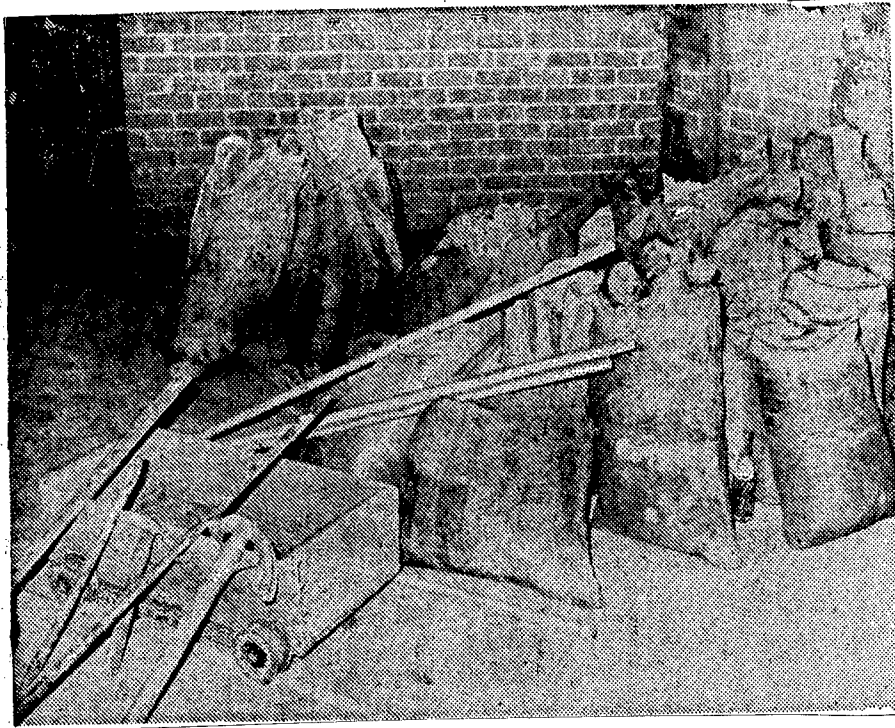
Despite the fact that police rejected the possibility that mining engineers, architects or surveyors had participated in the excavation, police officials did recognize that the digging was done by experts in the construction of subterranean routes.

These reporters were present yesterday noon in the house where the excavation took place, and learned that the beginning of the tunnel is behind a fake closet. The excavation was taking place under a sheet of plywood. It had already gone beyond the barbed wire which stands in front of the main wall which surrounds the prison.

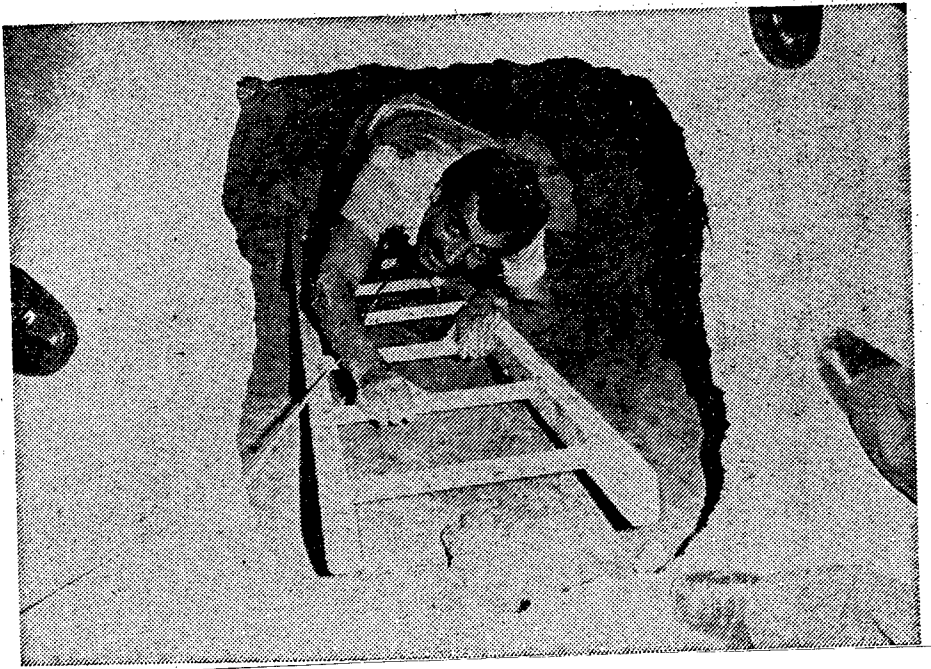
The tunnel resembles a mine shaft, said Garcia Arizpe, in that on the floor of the excavation are rails of steel tubing which served as a track for a small car which was used to remove earth. The earth was deposited in chicken feed sacks which were on the farm.

Garcia Arizpe revealed that the sacks full of earth and mud were taken from the house in a Volkswagen which to date has not been located by police.

The police chief said that several prisoners in the Reclusorio Oriente had been interrogated to determine who was going to escape. He added that the tunnel was about 150 meters from its final destination.



The tunnel builders took earth out of the tunnel in sacks. Beside the bags can be seen some of the tools used in the excavation.



This is the entrance of the tunnel which was going to be used for a mass escape of prisoners from the Reclusorio Oriente Prison.

MEXICO

HEROIN, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN THREE RAIDS

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

[Text] The arrest of 17 drug traffickers, among them five women, the seizure of 2,500 kilograms of heroin, and that of one and a half tons of marihuana valued at more than 9 million pesos on the drug market, were the result of three simultaneous actions carried out by agents of the Federal Judicial Police (PJF) in three states.

In Tijuana, Northern Baja California, three women were arrested. The federal police said they were the principal distributors of heroin in that city; when interrogated they supplied information which led to the arrest of another woman and four men.

Maria del Rosario de la Mora Hinojosa, Josefina Lopez L. and Maria del Carmen Gomez de Sandoval were arrested on Negrete Street, where 1,200 kilograms of heroin were seized from them. The heroin was hidden in small polyethylene bags in a 1976 Dodge with California license plates 336-YHX.

With the information provided by the arrested women, Delma Luque Salcedo was arrested with 100 grams of heroin, and led agents to find Jose Cruz Lomeli Martinez, Ignacio Salcedo Cota, Jesus Antonio Carballo and Amador Garcia Beltran.

In addition to the drugs, two vehicles with special compartments for the transport of drugs from Baja California to the United States, were seized.

In Mexicali, in the same state, agents arrested Jose Arredondo Lopez and Evaristo Arredondo Garcia as they were carrying out a drug transaction involving 207 grams of heroin.

Both men were surprised by police in front of the "Calimex" trade center, as the drug was changing hands.

In Sinaloa federal police seized one and a half tons of marihuana in the town of El Limon de Tahiche, in the municipality of Culiacan, as well as 25 kilograms of marihuana seeds.

Adrian Zazueta Leon, who was in possession of the drug, accused Oswaldo Perez Parra, Jesus Gonzalez Villegas and Jose Felix Zazueta of being involved in the crime, and they were arrested.

Finally, in the Hotel Bellagrande, in Hermosillo, Sonora, federal agents arrested Maria Trinidad Sanchez Gonzalez, Carlos Daniel Ahumada and Andres Daniel Ahumada, who possessed a kilogram of heroin which they were going to sell in Tucson, Arizona, according to their statements to the agent of the Federal Public Ministry who interrogated them.

8926

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

HEROIN RING HEADED BY WOMAN BUSTED--Tijuana, Baja California, 28 July--Seven drug traffickers, among them their woman leader, were arrested by agents of the Federal Judicial Police. Several vehicles and more than 8 million pesos worth of drugs were seized from them by police. The arrest was made in a curiosity shop at Avenida Ocampo y Valle and Second Street, where the federal agents found two kilograms of pure heroin. Arrested were Belma Duke Salcedo, identified as the leader of the band; Maria del Carmen Gomez, Josefina Lopez, Rosario Mora, Aurelio Barraza, Amador Garcia and Jose Cruz. The drug traffickers, five late-model vehicles, and the drugs were turned over to the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Jul 77 p 33-A] 8926

HERMOSILLO HEROIN RING BUSTED--Hermosillo, Sonora, 27 July--Five drug traffickers, among them two women, were arrested by agents of the Federal Judicial Police in a hotel as they were finishing up an operation involving more than 2.5 million pesos worth of heroin, which was confiscated from them. Arrested were Maria Trinidad Sanchez Gonzalez, 38, Maria Trinidad Mendivil de Daniel, 24, Carlos Daniel Ahumada, 26, Andres Daniel Ahumada, 32, and Luis Antonio Flores Diaz, 23. The drug traffickers said that the drug they were carrying was from Culiacan, Sinaloa, and they were going to turn it over to an unidentified individual in the coffee shop of the Hotel Valle Grande. Federal police agents said that Maria Trinidad Mendivil de Daniel was arrested in the town of Santana, Sonora, and 300 grams of pure heroin were seized from her. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Jul 77 p 26-A] 8926

RAW OPIUM THEFT IN DURANGO--Durango, Durango, 25 July--100 kilos of raw opium, valued at approximately 5 or 6 million pesos, were stolen early Sunday morning from the Dr Carlos Leon de la Pena Local Health Center. Charges were brought by Drs Antonio Medina Ugarte and Roberto Tuda Matus, directors of the above-mentioned health center and the Coordinated Public Health Services. The 100 kilos of raw opium stolen were the "corpus delicti" seized in April of 1976 from a band of drug traffickers which had its headquarters on the El Cherokee Ranch, in the southern part of this state. In that action three laboratory workers were arrested, and 200 million pesos worth of drugs were seized. Pablo Morales Santanice, coordinator of the campaign against drug

trafficking in Durango, acknowledged the incident and said that investigations would be carried out, but declined further comment. Similarly, the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Maclovio Nevares Herrera, said that he was aware of the raw opium theft. According to statements made by employees of the Health Center, of the Secretariat of Health, and of police forces, the theft was committed by at least two people. The watchman of the Local Health Center, it was said, was beaten and gagged by the thieves, who after breaking the locks took the two bags containing the drug. Finally, the leader of Section 88 of the Health Syndicate, Roberto Campos Aragon, denied that the thieves were employees of the Health Center. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Jul 77 p 24-A] 8926

MORELOS COP DIES--Cuernavaca, Mor. 15 Jul--After 15 days of suffering, Ignacio Diaz Rabadan, former commander of the Judicial Police of Yautepec, died this morning. The first of this month he was wounded by a shot from the deputy of that police force, Luis Rodrigo Lagunas Duran, who is still employed in his position. On the day in question Diaz Rabadan arrived at the offices of the Judicial Police in Cuernavaca to collect his salary and because he had been summoned there. Lagunas Duran told Diaz Rabadan that there was a charge against him for selling protection to drug traffickers and allowing criminals to escape. He denied the accusation and tried to draw his gun, but Lagunas shot him once and seriously wounded him in the stomach. Margarito Rosario Munoz, Lagunas' bodyguard, shot him in the back. Despite the fact that he was seriously wounded, Diaz Rabadan ran out of the Judicial Police offices. He was placed in the civilian hospital in this city, where he died today. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 27-A] 8926

OAXACA DRUG LAB BUSTED--Oaxaca, Oax. 15 Jul--Agents of the Federal Judicial Police and the army destroyed two laboratories for processing marihuana near Tlacolula this morning. In a confrontation with five drug traffickers, one of the traffickers was killed and the other four were arrested. A police agent was also slightly wounded. The agents and soldiers confiscated marihuana in tablet form and contraband items at a value of more than 11 million pesos, said the commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Armando Martinez Salgado. The event took place at 0400 hours today, first in San Dionisio Ocotepec, where a laboratory was destroyed. In the town of San Pablo Guila, another clandestine laboratory was found. And a Ford Maverick car without license plates was found on a trail leading to Tlacolula. It was there that five traffickers shot at the agents. In responding to the fire, the police killed Felipe Velazquez Saturno, 28, one of the most dangerous drug traffickers in the area. The identity of the arrested people was not revealed, since the police are trying to follow the trail of a band which operates in the Tlacolula region, 20 kilometers from this city. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 27-A] 8926

SINALOA TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--After a shootout which lasted more than a half-hour, agents of the Federal Judicial Police arrested 23 drug traffickers early yesterday morning. The traffickers had barricaded themselves in the San Ignacio and Campanillas ranches in the municipality of San Ignacio, a few kilometers from Culiacan, Sinaloa. The agents discovered on these ranches, which belong to the same band, facilities for the packaging, storage and selection of seeds of marihuana and poppies. The operation began at approximately 0445 hours and was simultaneous. The agents received help in both cases from the Mexican Army. The traffickers were shot at by the agents, but there were no casualties. The police and army troops cordoned off the two ranches and shot tear gas into the area to force the traffickers to leave their hide-outs and surrender. Nearly 4 tons of marihuana, 10 kilos of marihuana seeds and another 10 kilos of poppy seeds were found. Arrested were: Galaxion Manjarrez, Jesus Valdez Manjarrez, Alberto y Victor M. Manjarrez Manjarrez, Cirilo Garcia Valenzuela, Eleuterio Arneola Milan, Javier Manjarrez, Ruben Valenzuela Gonzalez, Federico Cano Manjarrez, Jose Manjarrez Audelo, Eulogio Velarde Armenta, Ignacio Hernandez Manjarrez, Leobardo Mellado Noriega, Octavio Arreola, Manuel Sedano Noriega, Juvencio Espinoza Torres, Francisco Barraza Arellano, Saul Rodriguez Sedano and Loreto Hernandez Zamora. They were armed with high power rifles and pistols. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 26-A] 8926

COCAINE, TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Hermosillo, Son. 15 Jul--The Federal Judicial Police arrested five drug traffickers and seized 1 kilo and 25 grams of cocaine, valued at 10 million pesos, 69 kilos of marihuana, various calibre weapons and two vehicles. The arrested men, Benjamin Gonzalez Valle, Jose Luis Jimenez Sanchez, Jorge Arvizu, Jose Luis Camacho Lopez and Ruben Gaxiola Noriega, were brought before the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. Gonzalez Valle and Jimenez Sanchez were apprehended in Magdalena de Quino when they tried to sell the drug. The other three were arrested in this city, and the marihuana, weapons and automobiles were seized from them. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 26-A] 8926

CHILD ADDICTION--Ecatepec, Mex. 12 Jul--Authorities in this city face a serious child drug addiction problem, since an average of five to 10 children from 10 to 16 years of age are found every day in serious condition because they have inhaled cement, thinner or have smoked marihuana. This was stated by Jose Luis Garcia Contreras, director of the Union of Popular Colonies of Zone Five of the State of Mexico. He added that what is worse is that there is no rehabilitation center for the children in this region. He concluded by stating that it is urgent that a rehabilitation center be established, because the number of drug addicts is on the rise. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 13 Jul 77 p 18] 8926

MORELOS POLICE ARRAIGNED--Cuernavaca, Mor. 13 Jul--The former commander of the Judicial Police of Jonacatepec, Eufemio Lopez Gadea, and agents Leonardo Mendieta Pliego, Manuel Amaro Mejia and Margarito Mejia Jimenez, of the same police force, accused of selling protection of drug traffickers and allowing criminals to escape in exchange for high sums of money, were placed

under the orders of a penal judge. Judicial agents interrogated the arrested men for 20 days, and yesterday at 0930 hours the accused were turned over to the first penal judge, Rafael Vargas Juarez. Also placed under the judge's orders were the former chief of the Judicial Police of Yautepec, Ignacio Diaz Tabadan, accused of homicide, and brothers Juan and Manuel Rodriguez Briones, allegedly responsible for bribing the policemen who were arrested. The accused maintain their innocence and say that they have signed mandatory statements under police pressure. Captain Luis Rodrigo Lagunas Duran, deputy director of the Judicial Police, indicated that the clean-up action will be permanent in the police force and that no criminal will be allowed to work for the Judicial Police, "a dignified public security agency." [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jul 77 p 22-A] 8926

DRUGS, WEAPONS CONFISCATED--In a surprise raid in the Reclusorio Oriente prison, police agents seized several marihuana cigarettes, cocaine and heroin, and some sharp instruments and weapons. The director of the prison, Javier Trujillo Guarneros, said that this is the first in a series of clean-up raids in the prison, in order to put an end to clandestine drug use and the accumulation of primitive weapons. He added that the money of several prisoners was also confiscated, since some of them had more than 10,000 pesos in their possession. They were given receipts for their money. The confiscated money will be turned over to the prisoners in small amounts, since there was a danger that they might be attacked inside the prison if they had large amounts of money on them. The raid was made in the afternoon a few days ago by 100 agents of the General Police and Transit Directorate; all dormitories and facilities were searched. The drug was found in the bathrooms and dining rooms, and the weapons were buried in the gardens. Javier Trujillo Guarneros said that no one was found to be responsible for the drugs and the weapons, since they were found in areas of general use, not in cells. Therefore, no one was accused. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 17 Jul 77 p 10-A] 8926

TRAFFICKER TO CONVICTS--Cuernavaca, Mor. 18 Jul--Judicial Police agents arrested marihuana trafficker Sotero Ponce Quintana, 23, today. He allegedly sold the drug in the Mexico State Penitentiary. Police agents found 25 kilos of the grass on the man's person which he acquired in Axochiapan and tried to bring into the penitentiary in Toluca where he said he had his center of operations. This was revealed by Raul Villalobos, director of the Judicial Police, who added that the price of marihuana ranges from 600 to 700 pesos per kilogram in the state of Mexico. The director also stated that exhaustive investigations are being carried out with regard to the activities of the marihuana traffickers Pablo Morales Sosaya, Jacobo Pantoja Mendoza, David Reyes Rivera and Eduardo Mejia Gomez, who were found by the police with considerable amounts of drugs in their possession. The chief of police indicated that these people apparently are related and form a well-organized drug trafficking band. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 26-A] 8926

DRUGS PROGRAMS--Saltillo, 15 Jul--The office of the federal prosecutor has undertaken more effective actions to combat drug trafficking and smuggling, announced the first deputy prosecutor, Manuel Rosales Miranda. Interviewed shortly after he attended the inauguration of the First Regional Meeting of Federal Prosecutors, which is taking place in the Juarez district of this city, Rosales Miranda indicated that smuggling has seriously damaged the nation's economy. He revealed that several technical programs have already been developed to increase and make more effective the actions taken by the government against this type of illicit activity. The struggle against drug trafficking and smuggling will be more effective, added Rosales Miranda. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 9] [8926]

CSO: 5300

PERU

GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF COCA PRODUCTION PLANNED

Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 14 Aug 77 PA

[Text] Lima, 14 Aug--It was reported in this capital today that Peru produces yearly between 10 and 20 million kilos of coca, a plant from which cocaine is obtained. This report was released simultaneously with Minister of Interior Gen Luis Cisneros' announcement that a law will be enacted shortly on the gradual eradication of the plant.

The national coca enterprise, which is conducting a production survey, stated that according to its data the yearly coca harvest amounts to 10 million kilos. It added that of this total 600,000 kilos is exported, 100,000 is for industrial use and the remainder is consumed by about 2 million peasants.

However, other sources feel that the yearly production amounts to 20 million kilos. There are also discrepancies concerning the amount of the land cultivated to the plant. The national coca enterprise reported a total of 17,000 hectares, while the Ministry of Agriculture and the agrarian university estimate that it ranges from 27,000 to 30,000 hectares.

The national coca enterprise reported that it has registered 16,828 growers in the departments of Cusco, Puno, Huanuco, Apurimac, San Martin, Libertad and Cajamarca. It finally noted that coca consumption among the people of the Lima belt is dwindling: consumption in July dropped to 16,000 kilos as compared to 32,000 kilos in previous months.

These consumers, mostly Indians, pay 300 soles (\$3.70) per kilo of leaves.

CSO: 5300

PERU

RESEARCHER DISCOVERS 'COCA WITHOUT COCAINE'

Lima CARETAS in Spanish 25 Jul 77 pp 59C, 59D

[Text] There are some plants now becoming acclimated to the greenhouse at the La Molina University of Agriculture whose widespread cultivation could deal a severe blow to world cocaine trade. Nosing around on the Amazon plain, Edgardo Machado Cazorla has found a wild species of coca that has no cocaine. This is not, however, the plant's only asset. Preliminary laboratory analysis has disclosed that it contains a much higher proportion of the chemicals that have turned common coca into the raw material of the flavor-enhancer industry. That is, the quintessence of coca.

If the plants found by Machado Cazorla continue to develop normally, they will become a valuable source of germ plasm for cross-breeding with known species, leading to a gradual reduction of their alkaloid content.

Most of the coca produced in this country goes into paste employed in preparation of cocaine hydrochloride, one of the most widely-used narcotics. A small amount of coca is exported for use in the manufacture of flavor enhancers.

Cocaine came into use in 1879 as an anesthetic in eye and throat surgery. Its use began to decline after World War II, when its great toxicity was discovered. In recent years it has been used considerably less, especially since the development of procaine, Novocaine and Xylocaine. Its use has become limited to production of some oral medications (gargle), geriatric preparations (KH3), and circulatory stimulants.

In Peru, coca is used mainly for chewing. According to research conducted by Machado Cazorla, there are 1,163,590 habitual chewers, of whom 40 percent are women. Each of them chews an

average of 5 grams a day, which adds up to a national total of nearly 6 million kilograms a year. Machado Cazorla's calculations show that another 11,000 kg are used in the legal manufacture of cocaine, and somewhat more than 500,000 kg are exported. The rest of the annual production is used, according to Machado Cazorla, for the illegal preparation of cocaine.

/Machado Cazorla/ This specialist obtained these figures during his search for both wild and cultivated species of coca other than those studied for his academic thesis and those collected while he worked in coca-growing regions, providing technical aid to programs of /agricultural/ training and development of crops other than coca. Machado Cazorla has been engaged in this research for 10 years.

According to his data, in 1971 the National Coca Enterprise (Enaco) established that there were 15,355 hectares of coca in the country, whereas the Ministry of Agriculture reported a total of 17,681 hectares for that same year. The census of farmers, also in 1971, revealed that there were 3,816 hectares of mature plants. From these statistics it has been calculated that in Peru there are now at least 21,497 hectares dedicated to coca cultivation. /Machado Cazorla/ has determined, also, that despite the prohibition decreed by executive order in 1964, cultivation of coca is expanding at annual rates of 3.1 percent in the north, 5.9 percent in the central region, and 10 percent in the south. From these figures Machado Cazorla has calculated that last year at least 20,091,230 kg of coca were produced, of which only 6,350,717 kg were used legally. In other words, somewhat more than 13 million kg were used in clandestine preparation of paste that is later converted to hydrochloride.

In the light of this extremely serious situation and the fact that coca cultivation cannot be eliminated from one day to the next without throwing thousands of farmers out of work, Machado Cazorla's discovery has assumed great importance and has aroused considerable hope.

He proposes a rationalization of coca cultivation designed to leave only enough to meet the needs of chewers, industry, and medicine. This project would begin with the elimination of all unauthorized plantations, proceed to reduction of authorized ones, and conclude with replacement of coca with different varieties of such plants as pepper, annatto, cinnamon, tea, coffee, cacao, peanuts, rubber, soybeans, legumes, fodder, and commercial timber.

The rationalization envisioned by Machado Cazorla would also entail replacing present species of coca with the one found by him, which has no cocaine and does have, in even larger amounts, the chemicals used in the manufacture of flavor enhancers.

Enaco

In order to correct some of the irregularities occurring in coca cultivation, Enaco has begun to take steps, particularly in the sphere of control. According to a letter from general manager Alejandro Costa Spirgatis, the enterprise is making a survey of property ownership in order to uncover clandestine plantations. In addition, plans to take censuses of chewers and producers are being studied so that they can be carried out in keeping with the enterprise's program of activities. Costa states further that it was only by his initiative that a section for internal audits has been created. Also, he is personally visiting the country's various coca-growing regions to obtain first-hand knowledge about the crops and the condition and capacity of leaf-drying equipment. As a result of his project, for example, in the Tingo Maria region--the country's leading coca producer--254 drying plants have been registered, data including their exact location, names of owners, capacity of the plants, amount of coca processed per year, and approximate annual income.

It was on one of these tours that Costa visited Santa Rita plantation, property of Miguel Esquivel Martin--accused of cocaine trafficking--as CARETAS reported in its edition number 518. Costa Spirgatis insists that he is not a friend of Miguel Esquivel, as charged by census worker Jorge Rosas, who worked for Enaco at the time of the visit to Santa Rita.

One of the concerns of the present Enaco administration is, according to Costa, elimination of clandestine dealers. This is demonstrated by the fact that 27 clandestine dealers, called "traders," operating in the northern region were eliminated by an administrative resolution dated 25 June of last year.

In Costa's opinion, "The coca issue in this country makes for a situation of great social and economic complexity." Enaco's records show 17,000 producers and 5,000 dealers. In other words, more than 100,000 people depend on production and sale of coca. Costa states that 15,400 hectares of coca have been recorded in the country, 75 percent of which are accounted for by plots of less than 1 hectare, 97 percent, less than 5 hectares, and 0.7 percent, somewhat more than 10 hectares. He also says that annual production is only 9,800 tons, of which 8 percent is devoted to exporting and industrial processing, and 92 percent to consumption by chewers.

Moreover, Costa Spirgatis reports that it has been decided at /Enaco7 that in 1986 only 3,016 hectares of coca will be cultivated in this country. They would produce about 3,000 tons, the amount considered necessary to meet the demands of exportation and industrial use.

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CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

PIRATED SHIP FOUND LOADED WITH MARIHUANA

14 Pirates Arrested

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Jul 77 p D25

[Text] Barranquilla, Colombia, 2--Fourteen members of a pirate band, who are suspected of having robbed the Venezuelan boat Vivaldi, were arrested by DAS [Administrative Department of Security] agents at a house in the near-by city of Cartagena, it was confirmed today by the chief general Venezuelan consul in that city, Dr Aquiles Yibirin Marun.

One of those arrested suffered a gunshot wound when DAS detectives broke into the house where [the pirates] had gathered. Wounded was German Edilio Padilla Estacio, alias "Lucho."

In relation to the disappearance of the fishing boat Vivaldi, authorities are trying to determine if a vessel with similar characteristics, seized early this morning in a hidden harbor close to Puerto Rico, might be the Venezuelan boat.

When the Venezuelan consul in Barranquilla was notified that the fishing vessel had been seized in Puerto Rican waters, it was explained to him that on board the boat they had found a cache of marihuana valued at 50 million Colombian pesos.

Concerning the 14-member pirate band captured in a house in Cartagena, the DAS reported that they have been positively identified as Ildefonso Corrales Cote, Ceferino Gomez, Jose Eduardo Estrada, Julio Aguilar, Jose Felix Angulo Quinones, Edith Orlando Mata Sanchez [sic], Alfredo Machacon Cabana, Luis Carlos Garcia, Cristobal Suniga, Marcelino Machacon Cabana and German Edilio Padilla Estacio.

According to an official report of the DAS in Cartagena, a search of the house where the [pirates] had gathered turned up several sub-machineguns, snub-nosed .38 cal revolvers, and four sticks of dynamite.

So far authorities have been able to establish that some of those arrested had several months ago attacked one of the fishing boats of the Viking firm, the U.S. boat Columbia Express, and a tuna-fishing boat of Japanese registry.

DAS authorities in Cartagena questioned those arrested about the alleged attack on the Venezuelan vessel Vivaldi, and about the disappearance, in open waters, of the boat Donna B, also of Venezuelan registry.

According to investigations, the pirates captured last night in Cartagena had a criminal system for seizing small boats in open waters, then using them to transport large quantities of marihuana to Puerto Rico and the State of Georgia, in the United States. Most of the bandits used a zone of the Colombian Guajira peninsula as a hide out from which they carried out their pirate raids.

Crew Thrown Overboard

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Jul 77 p 22

[Excerpts] According to information received, the Venezuelan seaman Claudio Arceles Lugo Prieto was the only one of the 10-member crew of the tuna-fishing boat who escaped with his life, having freed himself after he and the other 9 crew-members were thrown overboard by the attackers.

The ship was discovered through joint efforts of the national police, the Navy, and the Venezuelan consulate in Cartagena, according to Lt Col Octavio Vargas Silva.

The boat's crew apparently drowned after being thrown overboard by the attackers, who took over the ship and its haul, converting it into a drug-running boat, according to an official spokesman, says the paper. [sic]

Photographs

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Jul 77 p D14



José Félix Angulo Quiñones.



Marcelino Machacón Cabana.



Sergio Gómez Vergara.



Eddie Orlando Maca Sánchez.



José Estrada Tello.



Junior Aguilar Alix.



Luis Cortés Garcés



Alfredo Machacón Cabana.



Ildefonso Rosales Cortés

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CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

KIDS SELL MARIHUANA-STUFFED CHICKENS

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Jul 77 p 20

[Text] A powerful international band of drug dealers was broken up by detectives of the PTJ's Drug Division when they succeeded in capturing the two Colombians who headed it, using minors to distribute the drug and marihuana-stuffed chickens to avoid detection. A search yielded 500 kilograms of the vile weed, which they had hidden in a boarding house, in polyethylene bags. The cache is valued at around 2,500,000 bolivares.

With the capture of the Colombians Benjamin Enilio Garivia Orozco, 22 years old (alias El Tisico, the consumptive), and Lesme Marquez Garcia, 38 years old (alias Puente Roto, Broken Bridge), detectives of the Drug Division, led by Chief Commissioner Pedro Miguel Hurtado Carvallo, dealt a severe blow [to the drug dealers] by seizing the huge cache; the largest ever taken from drug dealers.

It was learned, from information supplied by the Chief of Police, that the dealers stuffed uncooked chickens with the drug and then, using a fine nylon thread, sewed them up so the drug would not fall out when they were passed to addicts. In this way they pretended to sell dressed chickens.

The official spokesman added that [police] agents had had the Colombians under surveillance for some time. They had been in this country only about 5 days, having arrived from Colombia with their cache of drugs, which they had hidden in a boarding house in Santa Rosalia, where they were operating at the time of the drug raid. They had already begun distributing the drug through minors whom they used as vendors in order to avoid detection.



1. (left) Benjamin Emilio Gaviria Orozco, alias El Tisico (the consumptive), international drug dealer from Colombia, arrested by the PTJ, who seized 500 kilograms of marihuana valued at some 2,500,000 bolivars.
2. (right) Lesme Marquez Garcia, alias Puente Roto (Broken Bridge), Colombian arrested by the PTJ when they broke into a boarding-house in Santa Rosalia, where [the drug-dealers] were hiding the cache they had brought in [to the country] five days ago, and which they had stuffed into dressed chickens which they pretended to sell.

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CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

NARCOTICS RING USING MINORS FOR PUSHERS ARRESTED

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Jul 77 pp D13

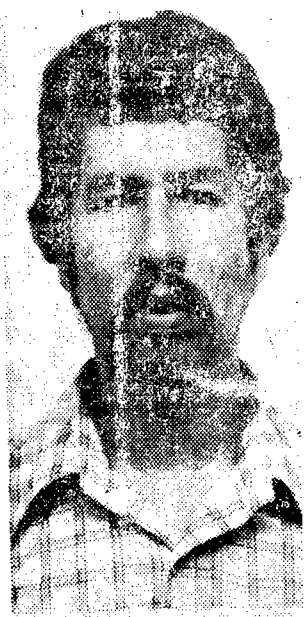
[Text] A band of drug-dealers, which allegedly used minors to distribute drugs and commit thefts, was broken up and its members arrested by detectives of the PTJ's Drug Division directed by Commissioner Pedro Hurtado Carballo.

The group consisted of three men and one woman. They had a hide-out in the Santa Ana neighborhood of Antimano, where they hid the drug and stolen merchandise.

A great quantity of stolen merchandise--taken in textile shops in La Yaguara, Carapita and Caricuao--was recored by the PTJ. It was valued in excess of 300,000 bolivares, while the seized marihuana has a value of about 80,000 bolivares.

Arrested by the police and charged with these robberies and with dealing in drugs were: "Juan de Dios Cova Perez, 28, from El Tigre, nick-named "El Toco"; Delia Yolanda Blanco, alias "Tonita"; Francisco Antonio Gomez, 34, and Hugo Bestain Gonzalez, 35 years old.

Commissioner Hurtado Carballo stated that the four offenders had been sought for several months.



Juan de Dios
Cova Perez



Delia Yolanda
Blanco



Francisco
Antonio Gomez



Hugo Bestain
Gonzalez

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IRAN

DISCOVERY OF A SECRET HEROIN DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION

Heroin Seized

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Jun 77 p 30

[Text] A spokesman of the Police Department has announced: The officials of the Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department have discovered a secret heroin distribution organization which was being run by an Iranian smuggler who had long records of smuggling. After the gang was arrested, all of the members were turned over to the Prosecutor's Office of the Imperial Armed Forces.

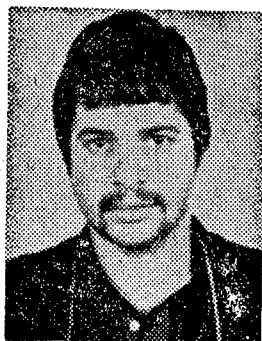
In describing the circumstances of discovering the secret heroin distribution organization and arresting the members the spokesman said: According to the information that the Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department had received, a person called Javad Divbandi--alias Javad Dandansaz [Javad, the dentist], a native of Tabriz and resident of Golshan Avenue, Teheran, one of the active narcotic smugglers who had various police records--had not felt sorry for his actions and, after his release from prison, he was again active in the same field.

According to a prearranged plan, at first the officials placed Javad's actions under surveillance and, after making reconnaissance of his hiding place and his accomplices and also of the place where the heroin was hidden, carried out the operations. Investigations showed that, with the cooperation of Najaf Nalbandi--alias Najaf Sarbaz, native of Tabriz whose hangout was the driver's cafe located on Shahpur Avenue--as well as Mahmud Najar Maher and Abadollah Namazi--heroin distributors in the southern areas of Teheran--Musa Qurbani, alias Musa Zanjani, and Hamid Norain, Javad had established a secret organization and that they were carrying on operations in Teheran and other cities, such as Zanjan.

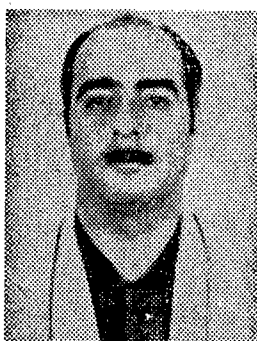
The officials then collected the heroin from two locations in Teheran: (Pasteur Circle and Simetry Lashgar Avenue) and one location in Zanjan (Pahlavi Avenue from the Davarquli Religious Theatre); 5.7 kilos of heroin was seized. After arresting the members of the organization, the officials

confiscated the two cars that the gang had--BMW license-plate number 28766 Teheran -L and Toyota license-plate number 251-A', a temporary transit license-plate number of Abadan.

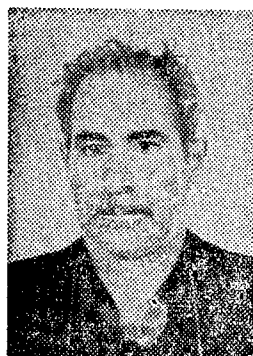
In the investigation, the arrested persons confessed that they had established a secret heroin distribution organization. In the meantime, the officials of Sari Police Department also succeeded in seizing 2.2 kilos of heroin from some smugglers.



عبدالله نمازی



نجف نعلبندی



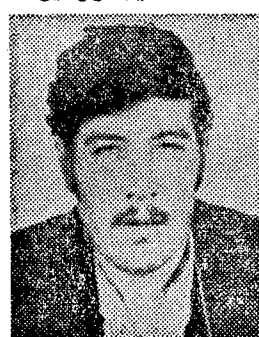
حمید نورآئین



موسی قربانی



محمود نجارماهر



جواد دیوبندی

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Abdollah Namazi | 2. Najaf Nalbandi | 3. Hamid Nurain |
| 4. Musa Qurbani | 5. Mahmud Najar Maher | 6. Javad Divbandi |

Smugglers Identified

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Jun 77 p 30

[Text] In the news item which was published yesterday under the title of "Discovery of a Secret Heroin Distribution Organization in Teheran and the Cities" under the headline of Accidents, Unfortunately, the City of Sari was used instead of Saveh; this is hereby corrected. The smugglers arrested by the Saveh Police Department are as follows: Parviz Safaiyan, Akbar Ahmadiyan, Mahmud Azariyan, Ali Reza Piyazi, Ali Akbari, Mohammad Yunessi, Abolqasem Hashdiyan and Mohammad Satari. 2.2 kilos of heroin was seized from them.

IRAN

NEW REGULATIONS ON TRANSFER OF OPIUM TO ADDICTS

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jul 77 p 32

[Text] Opium will be given to the addicts in exchange for presenting their coupons only in the cities where they reside and by pharmacies which have been specified beforehand and prescriptions from medical insurance offices will not be filled by pharmacies in cities other than the place of residence of the sick person.

Today, information was obtained from the Drug Control Department that addicts who are away from their places of residence for a period of time because of travel or for any other reason must arrange to receive their opium quotas from the local pharmacy where they reside, because, the opium is given to the pharmacies in accordance with an opium quota and they will not have additional opium for addicts visiting from other cities. This department also announced that, if an addict wishes to change his place of residence, it is possible to transfer his quota to one of the pharmacies in the city in question.

In an interview with ETTELA'AT, an informed authority in the organization providing health services said regarding the filling of prescriptions from medical insurance offices in another city, "The lapse of time between the time the prescription is issued and the visit to the pharmacy to have it filled should not exceed 48 hours, and, if, in the meantime, the sick person who has received his prescription in one city wishes to get medicine in another city, it will not be possible, because, the fee for the visit to the doctor issuing the prescription must also be paid to the pharmacy and, if this visiting fee, along with the fee for the medicine, is paid in another city, it will create problems."

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CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

HASHISH, OPIUM DISCOVERED--As a result of the efforts and persistence of Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchestan gendarmerie agents, 52 kilos and 50 grams of hashish have been discovered. Moreover, during the past few days, 48 kilos and 125 grams of opium have been found by gendarmerie agents in Sarakhs, Sirjan, Zarand Kerman, Bojnurd, Mashhad, Zenjan and Iranshahr, and 10 grams of heroin have been discovered by gendarmerie agents in the city of Rey. The possessors of these drugs have been placed under legal prosecution. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Jul 77 p 26] 8514

SENTENCE FOR HEROIN POSSESSION--Yesterday, the case of a man who is accused of having carried heroin in Jamshid Street during the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May 1977] was heard by the Second Branch of the Teheran Criminal Court. His name is Shir Ali Bagh Ney, and, according to the local police precinct, the defendant has a previous record of such activity. Aminiyan, Shir Ali Bagh Ney's court-appointed lawyer, said in defense of his client: "The heroin found does not belong to my client and these charges are totally unfounded." But, in view of the facts in the dossier, the report of the police precinct officers and the defendant's past record, the judges of the Second Branch of the Criminal Court sentenced the defendant to 2 years in misdemeanor prison and payment of a cash fine of 9,000 rials. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 17 Jul 77 p 30] 8514

HEROIN CONFISCATED IN QAZVIN--Some time ago, agents of the Anti-Narcotics Department learned that a person named Qodratollah Taherkhani, also known as Kadkhoda Qodrat, a resident of Takestan, Qazvin, was engaged in selling heroin. After devising a plan, the agents arrested the aforementioned during a staged drug purchase and they found 105 grams of heroin on him. During the interrogation, the accused said that the heroin belonged to Sayyid Mohsen Fakhar and Ali Zarandi. As a result of this statement, the agents, with the guidance of the accused, also arrested the two aforementioned people in Takestan, Qazvin, and they obtained 365 more grams of heroin from them. All three accused were turned over, with the dossiers compiled, to the Imperial Armed Forces for trial, and the investigations concerning the case are continuing. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Jul 77 p 26] 8514

DRUG CACHE FOUND--Bahar, Hamadan--Agents of the Bahar Gendarmerie Post, Hamadan, discovered 1.250 kilos of pure heroin extract in the home of a person named Mohammad Mohammadi, located in the village of Dinarabad, Bahar. Mohammad Mohammadi was pressing opium in his home with the help of four other people when the arrest was made by the agents. He and his four cohorts were turned over to the Hamadan Public Prosecutor's Office. [Text] [Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 13 Jul 77 p 26] 8514

HASHISH HIDDEN IN STONE--An ETELA'AT reporter reports from Mashhad that the customs officials of Doqarun border [post], Taybad, have seized 63,700 kilos [sic] of hashish from two foreign tourists. The two tourists were travelling by bus and had hidden the hashish inside of five pieces of marble stones. The customs officials of Taybad became suspicious of them, and they discovered the hashish concealment device. The accused were turned over to Mashhad judicial authorities with their files. [Text] [Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 12 Jun 77 p 34] 9044

NARCOTICS USERS, DISTRIBUTORS ARRESTED--Today the Police Department announced that, following the efforts of the officials to arrest the salesmen as well as those involved in distribution of narcotics--especially heroin, 19 persons were identified and arrested. Among the arrested, those who were addicted were dispatched to treatment centers for treatment, so that after recovery they could be interrogated. Seized from the arrested persons were 370 centigrams of heroin and some opium and hashish. The spokesman of the Police Department also announced that a house was discovered on Takesh Avenue where the addicted were gathered to smoke opium. After taking legal actions, they inspected the house. Upon inspection 215 grams of opium, as well as some opium smoking devices, were discovered. The landlord, who is an addict and the employee of an insurance company, was arrested. The same report indicates that a well-groomed, 24-year-old young man was arrested on Rahpayma Street with 20 centigrams of heroin and some opium. He confessed that he was an addict, and so he was dispatched to a treatment center for treatment. His case was sent to the judicial authorities. [Text] [Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 29 Jun 77 p 30] 9044

HEROIN DEALERS ARRESTED--The spokesman of the Police Department announced that several people involved in buying, selling, distributing and using heroin and opium were arrested. The spokesman added that the arrested were turned over to the judicial authorities with their files. Their names are as follows: Asadollah Khan Muhammadi, Mohammad Reza Shami, Abdollah Fazeli, Valiollah Pazokiyani, Rahman Borujiyan, Ahmad Asqari, Manuchehr Shahpanah, Aqa Moala Nazari, Darab Piruzi, Shahram Khosravi, Bahman Rashidi, Mohammad Hasan Fathaliyan, Ali Jafari, Asadollah Zahedi, Asqar Cheloi. In addition Mohammad Reza Solaymani, 50, was also arrested with some opium and opium smoking pipe. [Text] [Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 29 May 77 p 26] 9044

TEHERAN HEROIN, HASHISH GANGS--A spokesman of the Police Department announced: The officials of the Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department succeeded in destroying a heroin and hashish distribution gang in the east and south of Teheran and arresting the leader and the members of the gang. One of the arrested persons is called Ibrahim Sarlak, alias Ibrahim Shaykh, who had been under police surveillance for 15 months. Ibrahim was one of

the active distributors of heroin in southern Teheran, who distributed heroin through agents by hiding himself from the eyes of the police. The officials also made reconnaissance and arrested a gang of hashish distributors in the east of Teheran which was using a garage as the base for their operations. The arrested persons were Golam Reza Noruzi, 26, Abbas Haydari Maher, 59 and Majid Habibi, 24; they were arrested with half a kilo of hashish and some heroin. In the meantime seven persons who were involved in narcotic dealings were arrested; their names follow: Noruz Ali Shahbazi, Ali Asqar Mehrabi, Qodratollah Raiyatmanesh, Parviz Jafari, Semad Moqtader, Anvar Aref and Nader Moini. The arrested persons were turned over to the judicial authorities with their files. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 31 May 77 p 30] 9044

SIX KILOS OF OPIUM DISCOVERED--Mashhad--The officials of the Mashhad gendarmerie company discovered 6.8 kilos of opium from a smuggler called Ali Ibrahimi. The officials arrested Ali Ibrahimi with 3 kilos of opium at Radeh area. They also seized 3.8 kilos of opium from his residential house. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jun 77 p 30] 9044

CSO: 5300

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WEST EUROPEAN ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORTED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 2 Aug 77 p 6

[Text] Amsterdam, 1 August (REUTER). The combat against the smuggling of narcotics in Western Europe has reached a critical stage. Drug trade continues to be active in some centers like Amsterdam and Geneva and is increasing despite intensified countermeasures. The authorities in both cities nevertheless say that they are at a turning-point. Heavy penalties for narcotics smugglers in Belgium and France have not completely failed to have a deterrent effect, in their opinion.

It emerges from unofficial statistics of the American narcotics authorities that the confiscated quantity of heroin reported in the past year to the international police organization Interpol rose by 44 percent above the previous year. In Western Europe alone the 311 kilograms confiscated in 1975 rose to about 700 kilograms last year.

Amsterdam, the undisputed "drug capital of Europe" in the early 70's, continues to be a great transfer center for narcotics from the Near and Far East, according to the authorities; recent successes of the police in the Netherlands are evidence that the smuggling continues to flourish. But responsible officials are optimistic that additional and stiffer penalties and strengthened police forces will reverse the trend. It is said that there are already encouraging signs that the measures against the illegal immigration of Chinese from Hong Kong and Singapore (who control most of the narcotics market in Amsterdam) have been having their effect. "Since November of last year about 700 illegal immigrants have been sent back to Hong Kong and Singapore from Amsterdam," said a spokesman of the Ministry of Justice. Many of them had been involved in the drug trade in Amsterdam.

After the controls at the Amsterdam airport had been intensified, the route of smuggled narcotics shifted. Previously the couriers came by air from the Far East via Paris, Frankfurt, and Brussels to Amsterdam, and had the narcotics hidden in their baggage or clothing, but at present larger shipments are reaching the Netherlands by ship or truck. Obviously the drugs can be smuggled in better in the cargo of ships or in containers. The Netherlands police have therefore strengthened their manpower at the ports.

In Geneva too police have been increasingly confiscating drugs. It is estimated that there are between 25,000 and 30,000 drug addicts in Switzerland; 13,000 of them take hard drugs like heroin. The Swiss authorities believe that their country, also, is a transit country for drugs to France and the Federal Republic, due to its central geographic position. Thus in February the Swiss police got on the trail of a group of Czechoslovak exiles who, it was learned, had smuggled about 1.7 tons of hashish from Morocco to Canada between 1972 and 1976. Severe penalties were applied. Last month three Americans, two of them women, received jail sentences of 5 to 8 years for narcotics smuggling. They had tried to bring 13 kilograms of raw opium from Bombay to California via the Geneva airport. Shortly before, a Turkish truck driver had been sentenced to 4 years in prison because he had intended to smuggle in hashish worth 1.5 million francs illegally.

Heavier penalties were also introduced a year ago for smuggling in Belgium. The authorities maintain that they have ascertained that since then fewer narcotics have been passing through Belgium from the Netherlands to other European countries. But they say that narcotics are still coming into the country through the port of Antwerp. In Belgium maximum sentences of up to 10 years for drug trafficking may be levied. Anyone who possesses drugs for his own use is treated with forbearance on the other hand. A member of a narcotics ring who is ready to give information about other members may even be released.

The French police say that the smugglers must have suffered "heavy blows" at the port of Marseilles, which has been and still is a main transfer point for narcotics in transit to America. Prison sentences of up to 20 years have been meted out for narcotics smuggling. Only in the last few weeks large quantities of hashish, which were to have been smuggled from Lebanon to the Federal Republic via the port of Toulon were confiscated in southern France.

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CSO: 5300

MEDICAL AID TO OSLO DRUG EMERGENCY CASES

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 21 Jul 77 p 4

[Text] Emergency aid to drug addicts in peril of their lives will be improved in Oslo. For this purpose an internal medicine section and the police observation section will be strengthened with a number of new, permanent positions. This is the main content of the proposed trial project which hospital authorities will present to the presidency of the Oslo City Council on 28 July. This will at first involve establishment of a 3-year trial period.

The matter originated in a proposal by Kari Kromann (SV) during a debate in the City Council on drug abuse in Oslo. The proposal states that as soon as possible the possibility must be assessed of increasing the staff at Ulleval Hospital so that the treatment of drug addicts can be improved. Kari Kromann primarily had in mind the police observation section.

However, both the state head physician and the hospital councilman expanded the proposal to include an internal medicine section, and a total of 16 1/2 new permanent positions for the two sections together. Two trial projects are involved:

First, social medical followup treatment of addicts committed to the internal medicine section at Ulleval Hospital. These are drug addicts who require immediate help because of acute, dangerous poisoning.

The other trial project calls for a considerable expansion of facilities for receiving patients suffering from narcomania and persons who abuse drugs, combined with a significant strengthening of the prison physician service in Oslo.

The proposed trial period is 3 years, and expenses should, according to the administration's proposal, be shared by the state according to an already existing formula. However, this must first be approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Financial Councilor Bernt H. Lund agrees to this, but adds that Oslo wishes to assess on an independent basis a possible continuation of the program after 3 years. Among other things, this involves the matter of Oslo and the state reaching agreement on a division of costs after the 3-year period.

NORWAY

BRIEFS

LARGE NARCOTICS CACHE SEIZED--A total of 700 ampules of narcotics such as morphine and pethine, 50 amphetamine tablets, and 29 grams of opium drops were stolen from a poison cupboard at Rogaland Hospital Tuesday night. The thief broke open an entrance door and the door to the poison cupboard, NTB has been informed at the Stavanger police station. The Stavanger police have few clues, and for the time being no sales of the drugs have been registered in the drug milieu in the city. Other police stations in the country have been notified of the theft. As recently as a month and a half ago narcotics were stolen from Rogaland Hospital. [Text] [Olso AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 16 Jul 77 p 1] 11,256

TOURISTS POSSESSING NARCOTICS EXPELLED--Tourists found in possession of narcotics in Norway should not hope to be able to continue vacations in this country. Police Adjutant Pal S. Berg of the Police Narcotics Division in Oslo informs AFTENPOSTEN that any foreigner possessing drugs is informed that he must leave the country immediately. This summer there have been few such hasty departures, but last summer several tourists had to leave the country. Among other things, the police encountered a group of German tourists among whom some medical students were found to have ketogen in their possession. The group carried big rucksacks and had planned an extensive tour of the mountains. Nevertheless it had to leave immediately for the border, according to the police adjutant. Those in the group who had no drugs also chose to leave the country. A foreigner cannot offer the excuse that he did not know the stuff he carried was a drug or that its use is permitted in his own country. [Text] [Olso AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 21 Jul 77 p 4] 11,256

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TURKEY

SIX DRUG SMUGGLERS CAPTURED IN ISTANBUL

Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 22 Aug 77 pp 1, 9 NC

[Excerpt] ISTANBUL NEWS SERVICE--Six members of a smuggling ring who were smuggling 1,500 kilograms of acetic anhydride--secured from the well-known West German Merck Pharmaceutical Company--and spare parts for cars, were put under arrest by the Kadikoy Criminal Court for major offenses. Narcotics Bureau detectives believe that the acetic anhydride, which is used in the manufacture of pure heroin, was to be taken from Istanbul to a village in an Eastern province and used in manufacturing heroin there. The detectives are searching in this so far unspecified region.

Muharrem Yildirim--commonly known as Maro--Mehmet Yildirim, Mustafa Yildirim, Niyazi Ozen, Sahap Elibol and Veli Duztaban, who were caught as a result of a long search by Narcotics Bureau detectives, were first sent to the Uskudar Prosecutor's Office. After studying their files the prosecutor's office sent the suspects to the Kadikoy Criminal Court, which decided to put the group--of which Maro is the leader--under arrest, after hearing their preliminary statements.

According to intelligence reports, the Narcotics Bureau, which maintains constant cooperation with Interpol, has concluded that the heroin found in some European countries lately, especially in Belgium, originated from Turkey. Stating that pure heroin could only be manufactured in Turkey, officials said: "We believe that the 1,500 kilograms of acetic anhydride captured in Istanbul was smuggled into Turkey for the manufacture of heroin. However, we do not know how this substance was secured from the factory. Heroin cannot be manufactured without this substance. We also think that morphine base, which is the raw material for heroin, is being smuggled into Turkey from Iran and other Middle Eastern countries."

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TURKEY

BRIEFS

UN NARCOTICS AGREEMENT--The Council of Ministers has approved the principles in connection with the implementation of an agreement on controlling opium poppy cultivation from the air signed between Turkey and the UN fund for preventing the detrimental use of narcotic drugs. The new principles determined by Turkey to clarify various points in the agreement and to prevent misinterpretation were also accepted by the pertinent UN commission and went into effect. The Council of Ministers' decision on the new principles was published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE today. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 10 Aug 77 TA/R]

POLICE SEARCHES IN ANKARA--Ankara Security Directorate teams have conducted various searches in the last 4 days and have seized 39 guns and 243 shells. According to an announcement made by the Ankara Security Directorate, 8.5 kilos of hashish were also found during the searches. It is reported that 40 persons have been taken into custody in connection with the searches. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 10 Aug 77 TA]

AMNESTY ON OPIUM CULTIVATION--A law voiding certain sentences and fines in connection with the cultivation of opium went into effect today. According to the law which was published in today's OFFICIAL GAZETTE, all offenses in connection with the illegal cultivation of opium--including fines already collected--committed during the 1974 to 1977 cultivation periods are covered by the amnesty. Fines already collected will be reimbursed and the value of the opium crops confiscated by the authorities will be paid to the farmers by the Soil Products Office. A TRT correspondent reports that all farmers covered by the amnesty in Afyon, Burdur, Denizli, Isparta, Konya, Kutahya and Usak regions will have to apply to this effect to the Soil Products Office directorates in their regions. Officials point out that about 9,000 farmers will benefit from the amnesty. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 11 Aug 77 TA]

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WEST GERMANY

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Wiesbaden--A Federal Criminal Office spokesman told journalists today in Wiesbaden that 17 members of a large Turkish organization of drug traffickers have been arrested in the past few weeks and a total of 7 kgs of heroin confiscated. Three Turkish gang members were arrested on 16 June in Duisburg; four on 21 June in Moenchengladbach; seven on 1 August at Frankfurt Airport and three in Rhineland-Palatinate. At least four of the arrested are leaders of the organization. [Hamburg DPA in German 1207 GMT 9 Aug 77 LD] Bonn--During a search in Bad Godesberg today, Bonn police discovered 2,000 kgs of hashish hidden in 2,000 linen bags. The hashish has a street value of about DM10 million. They arrested a 45-year-old Algerian and two Turks. [Hamburg DPA in German 1821 GMT 9 Aug 77 LD]

TURK ARRESTED WITH HEROIN--Munich--Bavaria seems to be increasingly becoming an "import area" for heroin from the Middle East. In three major catches of the past few weeks the heroin peddlers were Turks. On Wednesday night the criminal investigation department detained three of them at Munich Main Railroad Station. A 35-year-old Turk traveling on the Hellas Express was found to have 12 plastic bags with 1 kilogram of heroin hidden in the false bottom of his suitcase. [Hamburg DPA in German 1645 GMT 11 Aug 77 LD]

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END