

JPRS 69428

14 July 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 310

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET	1. Report No.	JPRS 69428	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
	4. Title and Subtitle			5. Report Date
TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, No. 310			14 July 1977	
7. Author(s)			6.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address			8. Performing Organization Rept. No.	
Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201			10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address			11. Contract/Grant No.	
As above			13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
15. Supplementary Notes			14.	
16. Abstracts				
The serial report consists of translations from the world press and radio relating to law, law enforcement, illicit traffic and personalities concerned with narcotics and dangerous drugs.				
17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors				
Narcotics Drug Addiction Law (Jurisprudence) Law Enforcement				
17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms				
Dangerous Drugs Drug Control Drug Traffic				
17c. COSATI Field/Group 5K, 60, 6T				
18. Availability Statement			19. Security Class (This Report)	21. No. of Pages
Unlimited Availability			UNCLASSIFIED	120
Sold by NTIS			20. Security Class (This Page)	22. Price
Springfield, Virginia 22151			UNCLASSIFIED	A06

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AUSTRALIA

MILLION-DOLLAR DRUG THEFT CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS

Perth THE AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Jun 77 p 1

[Text]

Cannabis worth more than \$1 million has been stolen from the Perth headquarters of the Customs Department. It was the bulk of a haul seized by narcotics agents at Shark Bay in January.

Thieves smashed their way into the building, cut open a vault door with oxy-acetylene equipment, and escaped with 150kg of cannabis worth more than \$1 million.

The robbery occurred during last weekend while the building was unoccupied.

A Narcotics Bureau spokesman in Canberra said yesterday that the robbery was highly organised and obviously the work of professionals.

The open vault door was not discovered till Monday morning.

Narcotics agents and CIB detectives have been able to reconstruct the robbery, but it is not known how many people were involved.

The thieves walked down a laneway at the back of the building and forced the lock on a small metal door.

They carried oxy-acetylene equipment to the fourth floor and forced a door in the narcotics section.

They used a fire extinguisher to smash open a third door into the security section and cut a hole around a double lock in the vault door.

The spokesman said that the cutting process must have taken several hours.

In the vault the thieves dragged out cannabis packed in bags and suitcases. They left other drugs untouched.

The haul was carried down to the ground floor, and loaded into a vehicle.

The oxy-acetylene gear was left in the building.

The whole operation was carried out without the vehicle or the thieves being seen.

It is thought that the burglary occurred on Friday night, giving the thieves more than two days' start.

Two men and a woman who were charged with importing the cannabis last January later disappeared while on bail.

Warrants were issued for their arrest when they failed to appear for trial before the District Court on June 7.

The three people who were charged with importing cannabis worth \$1.25 million at Shark Bay were Sonya Turner, Peter Miller and Kevin Lapshire, all New Zealanders.

They were arrested after narcotics men boarded the yacht Lau Ling on January 29.

CSO: 4420

HEROIN SMUGGLING RING SMASHED IN SYDNEY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 17 Jun 77 p 3

[Text]

Narcotics men who have been investigating the Customs Department burglary in Perth and who have been involved in the search for three bail absconders from WA have smashed a heroin smuggling ring in Sydney.

They have arrested a young Sydney couple and seized about 450 grams of high-grade heroin with a street value of about \$250,000.

The Federal Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Howard, confirmed yesterday that two of the three people who absconded from bail in Perth while on drug-importing charges had been arrested in Bangkok as a result of investigations in Sydney.

The two people being held in Bangkok are Sonya Turner (26) and Peter Lawrence Miller (31). They were arrested in WA on charges of importing cannabis worth about \$1.25 million.

A third man who was on a similar charge and who also absconded from bail is being sought in Australia. He is Kevin Lampshire (32).

Mr Howard said that the Sydney arrests had eliminated a source of overseas supply and Australian drug distribution.

Sonya Turner and Miller were arrested in Bangkok soon after the raid on the Customs Department in William Street, Perth, last week-end.

The thieves cut their way into a vault and stole most of the cannabis which was alleged to have been brought into the country by Sonya Turner, Miller and Lampshire.

The thieves escaped with cannabis worth more than \$1 million.

Big hunt

In Perth, the customs burglary inquiry is being conducted by Commonwealth narcotics men—who are trying to find the missing cannabis—and the CIB—which is trying to find the burglars.

State CIB detectives are turning the Perth underworld over and questioning every known burglar who has used an oxy-acetylene torch.

The police believe that the stolen cannabis is still in Perth but say that it has not appeared on the drug market.

When Sonya Turner and Miller were arrested in Bangkok they were holding false passports.

Drug detection authorities were later critical of the ease with which people could obtain false passports.

They say a birth certificate is all that is needed to get a passport. They

claim that a false birth certificate is easy to acquire.

The Registrar-General, Mr E. C. Riebeling, who is in charge of the birth, death and marriages section, agreed yesterday that it was simple to receive a birth certificate extract using a false name.

"Not everyone who is born in Western Australia dies there," he said.

Asked if he thought that a driving licence or some other form of identification should be presented before an applicant was given a birth certificate, Mr Riebeling said that a birth certificate was needed to get a driving licence.

The restrictions in WA were stricter than in some places, including England, where anyone could legitimately ask for anyone else's birth certificate.

Another 2kg of heroin has been seized in Sydney. It is worth about \$1 million.

This seizure is thought to have had nothing to do with the other operation in which the smaller amount of heroin was confiscated.

The two seizures would have supplied enough heroin for more than 25,000 capsules.

AUSTRALIA

OPIUM DEALER JAILED 4 YEARS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Jun 77 p 8

[Text]

A Supreme Court judge said yesterday that he was bound to impose a heavy sentence on a 22-year-old drug dealer.

Dale Harold McCabe, of Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley—the first drug-dealer to be sentenced under new drug laws—was gaoled for four years.

He had admitted possession of \$40,000 worth of opium with intent to sell or supply it to others.

The opium was smuggled into Perth soaked in 23 batik rugs from India by an opium addict, Michael Allen Wood (23), an American.

Mr Justice Lavan said it was claimed that McCabe had been manipulated by an experienced drug user but he was bound to impose a heavy sentence.

The offence of dealing in hard drugs was re-

garded so seriously that the penalty had recently been increased substantially to a maximum of 25 years gaol or a \$100,000 fine or both.

The judge told McCabe that he should be aware of the reason for such severe penalties.

He had been involved in the drug scene for some years and no doubt had come into contact with users of hard drugs.

'DEVASTATING'

The judge said: "You know the devastating effect on the physical, mental and moral well-being of their users such drugs can cause."

The judge said that though McCabe had been enticed into his offence

by another person who also was charged, he had personally stood to make a substantial profit from the sale of opium.

He came from a fine family and had been given an excellent education.

He had repaid the concern and affection of his parents by leaving home as soon as he left school, joining the drug sub-culture and squandering all the advantages his parents had given him.

The judge set a minimum term of 18 months in the hope that there was still a chance for McCabe to make something of his life.

CSO: 4420

AUSTRALIA

EFFORTS TO STOP THE HEROIN TRADE IN AUSTRALIA

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Jun 77 p 12

[Text]

SYDNEY: The Commonwealth Government should step up its efforts to stop the heroin trade into Australia, the acting NSW Opposition Leader, Mr J. C. Maddison, said yesterday.

"The Commonwealth should be thinking about using helicopters, high-speed off-shore patrol boats and aircraft in its drug detection programme," he said.

"It is using patrol boats to intercept foreign fishermen who are stealing our fish.

"It ought to mount the same campaign in the interest of our most precious resource — our people."

Mr Maddison said that too often State instrumentalities had to sort out the problems that would not occur if a more effective Federal system of drug intercep-

tion was implemented. He was not criticising the work being done by the Federal Narcotics Bureau, but arguing for its expansion.

The seizure of high-grade heroin in two Sydney hauls in the past week had highlighted the benefit of an interception programme.

"PROBLEMS"

"If we could be sure that all heroin destined for Australia would be intercepted, there would be fewer problems for State drug squads and drug referral agencies," Mr Maddison said.

"The resources of NSW are directed to where its

responsibility lies, in the prosecution of offences and the treatment of drug victims," he said.

Mr Maddison said that he had written to the Federal Minister for Customs, Mr Howard, urging an expanded drug interception scheme.

He believed the community was demanding to know who was behind the drug-running.

CSO: 4420

FORMER HEROIN ADDICT ROBS DRUG DEALER

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Jun 77 p 12

[Text]

A former heroin addict, who pleaded guilty to robbing a drug dealer and trafficking in cannabis, was yesterday put on a five-year good behavior bond and five years' probation.

Dean Francis Monument, 25, welder, of Paul Avenue, East Keilor, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery at Airport West on July 23 last year and one count of trafficking in cannabis at Essendon on the same date.

Earlier, the Crown prosecutor, Mr. H. Wright, told the County Court that Monument had told drug bureau police that the man he had robbed, Michael Gerrard Stout, was a "smack dealer" and "the biggest dope dealer around Essendon".

Mr. Wright said Stout, 21, formerly of Airport West, had told a lower court hearing that on July 23 last year Monument and another man went to his house and talked about buying heroin and buddah sticks.

He said the two men had later as-

Former addict raided dealer's home

saulted him, a pair of scissors was held at his throat and a demand made for all the buddah sticks he had.

He said Stout had said he was "dead frightened" and had given them 50 buddah sticks and about \$400.

Mr. Wright said when Monument was asked by police why he had assaulted Stout he had replied Stout was the biggest dope dealer around Essendon and asked why police did not bust him.

He said when told Stout had given himself up, Monument had said: "He's been ripping everyone off for months. Serves himself right."

Mr. Wright told Judge Just that Stout had been convicted of selling Indian hemp and heroin and released on a \$500, 12-month good behavior bond from Moonee Ponds Court last September.

Judge Just said: "It seems to me rather a lenient penalty he got for selling heroin and Indian hemp."

He said he was surprised at the low penalty and said, "I had to read in writing to believe it, but it's there."

Monument told the court that at the age of 17 he was taking marijuana. He had first tried heroin two years ago and had tried just about everything there was to have in drugs.

He said he had paid Stout \$45 for a cap of heroin and had taken heroin every day if he could get it.

Monument said he found Stout had been cutting the heroin with castor sugar. He committed the offences because he had paid a lot for the heroin, most of which had gone down the drain, and he didn't like being ripped off by Stout.

Monument told the court he took

himself off heroin by staying at home and not seeing anyone he knew.

"You can't knock it back if it's right next to you. I just had to suffer for a while," he said.

Yesterday, Judge Just said he was satisfied Monument had made considerable efforts since the offences and was now free from any problem of taking drugs.

Judge Just told Monument that he was before him at a time when the aspect of rehabilitation was being given great weight in the Court of Criminal Appeal.

On the charge of robbery, Judge Just placed Monument on a five-year \$400 good behavior bond with the special condition that if the court had reason to believe he was taking illicit drugs during the five years, he could be brought up for sentence and the question of drug taking and treatment

He placed Monument on five years' probation on the charge of trafficking cannabis.

CSO: 4420

AUSTRALIA

AMERICAN OPIUM ADDICT JAILED FOR 10 YEARS p 3

Johannesburg THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 Jun 77

[Text]

PERTH. — An American opium addict was jailed yesterday for 10 years — the heaviest sentence imposed in Western Australia for a drug offence.

Michael Allen Wood, 23, is among the first people sentenced since the State Parliament increased penalties for the possession of hard drugs to a maximum of opium valued at \$100,000. fine. Wood admitted possession of Opium valued at \$100,000.

Wood smuggled 23 batik rugs impregnated with about 3 kg of opium into Perth in January.

In the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Smith fixed no minimum term. He directed that the sentence should be served concurrently with a five-year term imposed on Wood earlier yesterday, in the District Court, for having imported opium.

A young couple who bought heroin in Malaysia, and broke it down for sale when they returned to Perth, were each sentenced to five years' jail.

Samsuddin Abdul-Rahman, 26, and Linda Margaret Rushton, 21, both heroin addicts, had pleaded guilty to possessing heroin with intent to sell or supply it to others.

When arrested, they had 4.24 grams in their possession — eight times the prescribed "trafficable" quantity.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HEROIN USERS ON BOND--A man charged with using and possessing heroin was placed on a good-behaviour bond in Wollongong Court of Petty Sessions yesterday. Peter Lyall Wilson, 23, shop proprietor, of McKenzie Avenue, Wollongong pleaded guilty to having used heroin on April 5 and having had the drug the next day. He was placed on a \$100, three-year good-behaviour bond. Detective Senior-Constable M. Ebrill, of the Wollongong Drug Squad, said police found eight packing of heroin in silver foil in a drawer, and four more in a garage at Wilson's home on April 6. Wilson told him in an interview on the same day that he bought \$100 worth of heroin for his own use, "never for sale." He alleged Wilson said: "You should have come a bit later. You would have got pounds." A barrister, Mr K. Nelson, (for Wilson) said Wilson referred himself to Wollongong Hospital and claimed to have beaten the addiction but returned to heroin last November. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 Jun 77 p 12]

CHARGE FOR HEROIN POSSESSION--Sydney--A man and a woman appeared in the Special Federal Court yesterday on charges involving \$1 million worth of heroin. Deslie Anne Donnellan, 23, of North Sydney, faced a charge of importing and a charge of possessing a quantity of heroin. Dennis Samuel Bella, 25, of the same address, was charged with being knowingly concerned in the importation of heroin. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 23 Jun 77 p 11]

CSO: 4420

BURMA

NEWSPAPERS REPORT SEVERAL SEIZURES OF HEROIN

Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 23 Jun 77 p 1 BK

[Excerpts] Rangoon, 22 Jun--Police subinspector U Sein Tun and policemen from Kyauktada police station and ward people's councillors searched the house of Daw Shu Kyin of Nos 89/91, Anawrahta Street, and seized several packets of heroin valued at more than K300 and some illustrated pornographic books from two men yesterday evening.

The two men found with heroin and pornographic books in their possession were identified as Khin Maung Win (24) and Shu Pain (28) of No 100, Shan Quarter Lashio.

They have been booked under sections 6 (B) / 10 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and section 292 (sale, etc., of obscene books) of the Penal Code.

Latha

A police party led by police subinspector U Myo Nyunt on patrol in Latha Township last night, seized a packet of heroin valued at K 220 from Ein Whee alias Soe Thein (24) of No. 170, Lanmadaw Street, near Lanmadaw iron bazaar. Soe Thein was arrested by police.

Soe Thein told the police that he bought the heroin from a house at No 35 (ground floor), 22nd Street. The police party then searched that house and seized two packets of heroin one worth about K 120, another valued at K 60 and two hypodermic syringes from Tin Oo (30) of No 161, Yuzanamarlar Street, ward 3, South Okkalapa, in the back lane of that house.

The police also arrested Daw Chaing Tayu (52) and daughter Khin Khin Win alias Shay Khin (22) who allegedly sold heroin.

Kya Khai Pin alias Kyaw Thaung alias Gyohtaung (28), son of Daw Chaing Tayu has been in police custody since 6 April when he was nabbed with five grams of heroin.

Similarly, a packet of heroin valued at K 65 was seized on 20 June from Ahlon alias Maung Lwin (17) of Kamayut Thanlan in Sint-Oh-Dan Street.

Six packets of marihuana were also seized from Mya Sein, Kyaw Win Myint and Hla Win of the workers' barrack in the Rangoon General Hospital compound.

Those arrested were booked under Sections 6 (B)/10 (B) /14 (D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and Section 33 (A) of the Excise Act.

Pabedan

Pabedan Township People's Council Secretary U Tha Oo, police subinspector U Hla Maung of the vice squad of Rangoon Division People's Police Force and party seized ten K 20 packets of heroin from Maung Myint Naing (25) of No 9, 88th Street, Kandawgale, at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Anawrahta Street yesterday evening. The packets of heroin were found inside a matchbox.

Pabedan police are taking action against Maung Myint Naing under Sections 6 (B) /10 (B) / 14 (D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

DRUG ADDICTS JAILED 2 YEARS

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 21 Jun 77 p 1

[Text]

RANGOON, 20 Jun.—Three young men who not only failed to receive treatment for drug addiction but also resumed consumption of narcotic drugs were sentenced to two years' imprisonment each under Section 14(d) of the Narcotic Drugs Law by Lanmadaw Township Court today.

The three young men were Maung Aye *alias* Maung Maung Aye (20) of No 225, Canal Street, Rangoon, Khin Maung Htay (22) of Room 9, Building No 3, Lanthit Yeiktha, and Tha Khin *alias* Tu Tu (26) of Prisons Departments Staff Quarters.

A party of Ward People's Councillors and Lanmadaw police nabbed the three young men while they were taking drugs on the pavement in front of Building No 3 in Lanthit Yeiktha on 9 April, 1977. They were also found to have failed to receive treatment for drug addiction. They were therefore sent up for trial under Section 14 (d) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

(320)

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

DRUGS SEIZED IN PROME--Prome, 23 June--A party headed by Prome Township police commander U Kyaw Than and Ywabe Ward Council chairman U Hla and secretary U Myat Swe, at 0200 this morning raided the home of Ko Aye Kyi and Ma Kyi--who were earlier charged on heroin possession and now are out on bail--at Thukha Htantaw Ward. Seized from the house were a penicillin bottle filled with heroin, five small packets of heroin valued at 45 kyats, opium weighing 1 tical [0.036 pounds], and opium smoking equipment. Action has been taken under Section 6 (b) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 27 Jun 77 p 5 BK]

DESTRUCTION OF POPPIES, MARIHUANA--Under the National Movement To Combat the Threat of Narcotic Drugs--which can cause national atrophy--an operation was launched beginning in September 1976 to suppress and prevent the cultivation of soporific plants, the main cause of the narcotics threat. Up to the end of February 1977, the operation destroyed a total 4,910 acres of poppies and more than 18,500 marihuana plants. While the task of suppressing and preventing the cultivation of soporific plants was being undertaken, a concentrated effort was also made to suppress and prevent production, dealing, possession and use of narcotic drugs. Action was also taken against addicts and those who failed to take medical treatment. Meanwhile, land reclamation has been undertaken in cooperation with the Party, councils and respective organs to cultivate substitute crops. Under this plan, 2,490 acres of flatland and 480 acres of terraced cultivation have been reclaimed. [Excerpts] [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Jun 77 BK]

HEROIN SEIZED--A party headed by Pabedan Township People's Council Secretary U Tha U and police sub-inspector U Kan Myint, acting on a tip off, searched the room of Ismail Naroo, at No 240, Second Floor, 30th Street and found five packets and a penicillin bottle containing heroin and took him into custody Thursday night. Ismail Naroo has been booked under Sections 6(b), 10(b) and 14(d) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Jun 77 p 1]

POLICE SEIZE MORE HEROIN--A party headed by Pabedan Township People's Council Secretary U Tha U and police subinspector U Kan Myint, acting on a tipoff, searched the room of Ismail Naroo, at No 240, second floor, 30th Street and found five packets and a penicillin bottle containing heroin and took him into custody Thursday night. Ismail Naroo has been booked under Sections 6 (B), 10 (?) and 14(D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Excerpt] [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Jun 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

POLICE ARREST THREE FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS FROM BANGKOK

Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 7 Jul 77 OW

[Text] Yokohama, 7 July KYODO--Police Wednesday arrested three persons for smuggling 6.3 kilograms of stimulant drug, valued at about 1,900 million yen on the street, from Bangkok from April to June.

They included Hitoshi Mukoyama, 38, jeweler of Akita Prefecture, and Hideo Ito, 30, president of a grocery wholesale firm in Yokohama.

According to police, they bought the drug in Bangkok at the price of about 2.5 million yen a kilogram.

The smugglers sold the drug at 10 million yen a kilogram to Kirokazu Suzuki, 29, drug pusher in Yokohama, who was [word as received] already arrested.

Suzuki then sold the stimulants to gangsters at 10,000 to 20,000 yen a gram.

Gangsters sold the drug to addicts at 300,000 yen a gram, police said.

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

JAPANESE POLICE TO LAUNCH MASSIVE ANTIDRUG DRIVE IN JULY

Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 30 Jun 77 OW

[Text] Tokyo, June 30 KYODO--The National Police Agency (NPA) is launching a massive nationwide campaign in July against stimulants and narcotics. An NPA directive to this effect was issued to regional police headquarters across the country Wednesday. NPA decided on the clampdown taking a serious view of the fact that stimulants and narcotics are increasingly menacing the nation.

Stimulants and narcotic drugs seized in the first 5 months of this year already exceeded those of the whole of the preceding year, and Japan is now becoming a base for smuggling heroin from Southeast Asia to the United States, according to NPA.

The number of cases of narcotics law violation throughout the country as of May stood at 7,951 with 4,901 persons involved, 30 percent more than the corresponding period of last year.

Drugs seized during the same period totaled 38.4 kilograms, 25 percent more than last year when 31.6 kilograms were confiscated.

This is the second postwar peak of narcotic "pollution," following the first in the late forties.

NPA noted narcotic addicts were suspected to be responsible for six cases of murder so far this year.

Addiction to narcotics is increasing among housewives, fishermen and even farmers in remote northern rural areas, NPA pointed out.

A man recently arrested by police in Aomori Prefecture for trafficking had with him a list of 43 suspected buyers. A trafficker usually has 10 clients, NPA said.

The amount of narcotics brought into Japan from abroad annually is estimated at around 1 ton.

CSO: 5300

GOVERNMENT BUDGETS FUNDS FOR WAR ON DRUGS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 7 May 77 p 12

[Text]

THE Government has put aside \$5 million under the Third Malaysia Plan to counter the increase in drug addiction, especially among the youth, Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Speaking at the opening of an exhibition on drugs in the Museum Negara, the Deputy Prime Minister said that there were at least 20,000 known addicts in Malaysia.

However, the real figure could be as high as 100,000 or the number of residents of a big town.

Government agencies, like Pemadam and the Bureau of Narcotics, can lead the way towards controlling the problem. But ultimately it will be public consciousness and determination that will ensure the success of any effort.

He recalled that during the British colonial days, it was more the old folks and those doing hard labour who resorted to smoking opium. The youth were not much affected. But since then, times have changed and it is youth including school children who have fallen prey to the menace.

Ninety per cent of drug addicts in Malaysia suffer a relapse even though they leave the rehabilitation centres cured.

It takes the Government three years at least to cure an addict. But the Government is not able to provide the service for 100,000 people.

Crimes are committed while the addicts try to accommodate a habit which can cost as much as \$600 per month.

The Deputy Prime Minister said it was time Malaysians awoke to the seriousness of the situation. Other crimes like those related to firearms have not risen as alarmingly.

It was the realisation of the seriousness and magnitude of the situation that the death penalty was imposed in order to safeguard the interests of society.

MALAYSIA

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USED TO AVOID ARREST

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 6 May 77 p 3

[Text]

DRUG traffickers are now reported to be using tour buses and trains to smuggle their 'shipment' across the border from the "Golden Triangle" area where the supplies originate.

Traffickers have resorted to this new method because of the close surveillance and strict checking being made on private cars and other vehicles passing through the Malaysia-Thai checkpoints.

Sources said detection of drug couriers in tour buses and trains was not easy and even when drug consignments were found, couriers could easily escape.

"Unless there is direct evidence that a drug filled bag belongs to a passenger, arrests would be difficult," the sources said.

Drug enforcement agencies were going all out to check or completely cut off the drug pipeline from south Thailand.

"But since drugs are a high profit commodity, syndicates will find ways to bring drugs, especially heroin, into the country."

According to the sources, drug enforcement agencies are making sporadic checks on buses and trains from Padang Besar to Butterworth.

CSO: 5300

HEROIN SHORTAGE IN PERAK STATE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 May 77 p 1

[Article by Ahmad Tajuddin]

[Text]

IPOH, Tues. — Heroin is reported to be in short supply in Perak and addicts are forced to pay more for a shot, sources said today.

Under constant harassment by the authorities, pushers now find it difficult to get supplies.

A source said a pound heroin in the street has increased from \$8 to \$12.

"The shortage could

have been caused by the extra measures taken by the special task force made up of the Customs, Immigration, police and other services," said a source.

Last month, a communist terrorist heroin processing laboratory was uncovered west of

Sadao by troops in the joint Malaysian-Thai military operation. Six pounds of heroin worth about \$100,000 on the black market was also seized.

The source said there could be other laboratories in the area. He added that the drug line was not completely cut off. "The flow of drugs is merely curbed, not stopped."

Stiff laws

"There are other means of smuggling drugs. For instance, drugs need not necessarily be smuggled from across the border in the north. It could come in through the coast," the source added.

In December last year, Customs officers seized a pound of pure morphine and 7.5lbs of raw opium from two houses in the fishing village of Pantai Remis, 50 miles from here.

Another factor responsible for the increase in the prices of heroin and its shortage could be the stiff laws against drug trafficking.

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

DRUG RINGS TO EAST COAST--Kuantan, Sun--The Pahang Police have been put on general alert following reports that drug syndicates have switched to operating in the east coast. Sources said today they were aware that the syndicates, fleeing from the clutches of the law in the west coast, have set up a new pipe line in the region. Things had become too hot for them in the west coast. They were constantly being harassed by the authorities, thanks to cooperation from the public. Drugs from the golden triangle, for instance, now find their way in from the Kelantan-Thai entry points, whereas previously they came in from Kedah-Perlis border points only. "We are working to prevent these syndicates from taking root in Pahang. By and large we have succeeded but often we are hampered by a shortage of officers," the sources said. They agreed it would help if a central Narcotics Bureau office was set up in Kuantan. They felt that with the proper coordination of operations with the police, the expansion of the syndicate's activities in the east coast could be nipped in the bud. The sources indicated that for the moment, Pahang was the traffickers' target rather than Kelantan or Trengganu. This was because the state was moving rapidly towards industrialization with a steady population growth of mainly young workers. However, they felt that the situation in Pahang was not serious yet. For example, they said, the number of addicts arrested last year was 121, nearly a threefold increase over the 1974 and 1975 figures of 45 arrests. [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Jun 77 p 8 BK]

SEIZURE OF ABANDONED MORPHINE--Alor Star, Mon--A four-man customs party today seized 24 lb of morphine worth about \$72,000 abandoned by a motorcyclist on the Jitra-Hutan Kampung Road near here after a chase. The motorcyclist, however, managed to escape. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Jun 77 p 24 BK]

JAILED FOR HEROIN POSSESSION--Ipoh, Tues--Cendol [sago syrup with coconut milk] seller Mohamed Ibrahim, 58, was sentenced to 3 years jail by the Special Sessions Court here today when he pleaded to having 7.01 grams of heroin in Jalan Leong Boon Swee on March 1. In mitigation, his defense counsel Mr Darshan Singh Gill said that Mohamed Ibrahim came here from India in 1930. "This is his first offense," he said. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Jun 77 p 13 BK]

SUSPECTED HEROIN ADDICTS ARRESTED--Petaling Jaya, Wed--Police arrested two suspected drug addicts and seized 25 tubes of heroin from them at Petaling Jaya Old Town here last night. Deputy OCPD [officer in charge, police department] (crime) deputy supt, Godwin Anthony said a police patrol car was alerted following a fight in the area at about 2300. When police arrived at the scene, the group had dispersed. They searched the area and detained a man who was seen running away. They found 23 tubes of heroin on him. Another man, aged 32, was later picked up and three tubes of heroin seized from him. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jun 77 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5300

MAN CHARGED WITH SELLING HEROIN

Wellington THE EVENING POST 25 Jun 77 p 3

[Text]

CHRISTCHURCH, June 24 (PA).—A young man was jailed yesterday for two years on two charges of selling heroin.

Rex William Richard Davey, 22, unemployed, had pleaded guilty on arraignment. The heroin was sold last December and Davey appeared in the Supreme Court yesterday for sentence.

Mr C A McVeigh, for Davey, said the offences were committed after an approach by an undercover constable who said that the heroin was needed by a man who was "hanging out" (desperate for drugs).

Only a small quantity of narcotics was involved, and it was not a case of a big-time drug dealer. Davey had been a drug addict for more than three years, and had been feeding on a substantial amount of heroin daily.

Davey's girlfriend was sticking by him, and intended to marry him when he "kicked the habit." He had not taken heroin for some months, and was at present receiving methadone treatment. He had a rather seedy and pathetic background in the subculture of the drug world, Mr McVeigh said.

Mr Justice Roper said it was strange that a man, described as a reluctant seller of drugs struggling to break his habit, was prepared to help others to destroy their lives for a few dollars.

Sad Thing

His Honour said that Davey was a drug addict and the sad thing was that his girlfriend was not able to deter him — not even since she became pregnant.

Two months before these offences, Davey had been convicted on minor drug charges, but he took no notice of the warning he had been given. He knew perfectly well the risk he was running when he got involved in these transactions.

There was no alternative to a sentence of imprisonment, and he hoped for Davey's sake that his girlfriend stood by him, his Honour said.

Fined, Too

Within an hour of being sentenced by Mr Justice Roper, Davey was fined \$100 by Mr J S Bispah, SM, in the Magistrate's Court where he pleaded guilty to having had cannabis seeds in his possession last December.

Sergeant A R Bleakley said police found 28 individually wrapped cannabis seeds at his flat.

The accused told police the supply was for himself and was intended to tide him over Christmas.

DRUG-DEALING BY HOTEL EMPLOYEES CAUSES CONCERN

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 23 Jun 77 p 16

[Text]

DRUG-PEDDLING by hotel employees was a matter of great concern, the chairman of the Wellington Licensing Committee (Mr J A Wicks, SM) said yesterday.

In his opening remarks at the annual meeting Mr Wicks said that though the committee was concerned at the amount of drug peddling in hotels, it was of still greater concern that not only customers were involved but also some employees. Some bar-men had been convicted of supplying drugs.

Parties to two of the applications for renewal of licences were invited to the meeting in connection with the problem.

Counsel for the Hotel Association of New Zealand (Mr J W Gendall) told the committee that the problem was a difficult one to police.

The law required that bars be open to the public, and serve the public so long as customers were not drunk or disorderly. Hotel staff could not prevent anyone entering into conversation with the other persons.

"The problem is enormously difficult to police," said Mr Gendall. If staff did not know that a patron was handing drugs to another person they could do nothing.

The association had held meetings with the police on that very problem.

"The problem is for the licensee to know what is going on," Mr Gendall said.

Mr Wicks said that the committee was also concerned that a number of licensees were still tolerating the activities of bookmakers in their bars, and that some hotels were not ex-

ercising proper control in the serving of minors.

It was also clear from the report to the committee from the fire authorities that in some premises emergency lighting was not in order.

From a fire-safety point of view the situation was most unsatisfactory, according to the report. On a large number of occasions defects had not been rectified until three visits

had been made to the premises concerned.

Of 45 premises inspected, 14 required re-inspection, while five required further re-inspection, Mr Wicks said.

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

DRUG OFFENCE SENTENCE--A 28-year-old man was yesterday sentenced to two years' imprisonment after being found guilty of offering to supply cocaine to an undercover policeman. Appearing in the Supreme Court at Auckland was Kevin Ronald Deverick, sickness beneficiary. Mr Justice Coates said Deverick's involvement in the drug scene had been long standing and he had retrogressed from possession of cannabis to heroin. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 11 Jun 77 p 4]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

APPEALS COURT REDUCES JAIL TERM FOR DRUG PUSHER

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Jun 77 p 25 BK

[Text] A sweeper, who last November was jailed for 20 years for trafficking in 6.3 grams of heroin, had his prison sentence reduced to 15 years by the Court of Criminal Appeal yesterday.

Teo Woon Choon, 39, who was also ordered to receive 10 strokes of the cane, did not appeal against the caning order, which is five strokes less than the maximum.

The caning order was affirmed by the appeal judges--the chief justice, Mr Wee Chong Jin, Mr Justice Chua and Mr Justice Kulasekaram.

Teo's counsel, Mr Jeffrey Beh Eng Siew, said the 20-year-jail sentence was the maximum, allowed by law, for his client's offence.

The sentence in Teo's case, counsel said, ought to be reduced, having regard to the quantity of the heroin and the inescapable fact that Teo, being a drug addict, was only a small-time trafficker.

The senior state counsel, Mr S. Rajendran, in his reply said: "As Teo has two previous convictions, a long term of imprisonment is called for in his case."

One of the convictions was for possessing drugs and the other for consuming drug.

The heroin, subject of yesterday's appeal, was found hidden in four cigarette boxes in a backlane shed, off Hokkien Street, on Jan 2 last year.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

DRUG PUSHER ESCAPES DEATH ON APPEAL

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Jun 77 p 25 BK

[Text] A Pasae-Malam [fair] vendor, originally under sentence of death for trafficking in 62.97 grams of morphine, yesterday won his appeal against conviction on the capital charge.

Cheah Ah Pheng, 47, was instead jailed for 8 years by the court of criminal, following a substitution of the original charge with one of possession.

His appeal against the conviction on the trafficking charge and the sentence of death, passed on him by the High Court on Oct 6 last year, was argued by Mr R. Murugason.

It was only after counsel had completed his submission that the senior state counsel, Mr S. Rajendran, said that as there was insufficient evidence to convict Cheah of trafficking, he was asking the Appeal Court to substitute the conviction with one of possessing the morphine.

Cheah is the third man to have his capital sentence set aside in a drug appeal. Two others who had jointly succeeded earlier were Poon Soh Har, 28, a butcher, and Gan Chye Koon, 21, a #973-painter. They won their appeal a month ago.

Cheah's appeal yesterday was heard before the chief justice Mr Wee Chong Jin, Mr Justice Chua and Mr Justice Kulasekaram.

Described by his counsel as a morphine addict, Cheah had the morphine, subject of the substituted charge, at North Bridge Road on March 22 last year.

The appeal judges allowed Mr Murugason's application for the jail sentence on Cheah to begin from the date of Cheah's arrest (March 22, 1976).

Counsel also pleaded that the maximum penalty for possession in Cheah's case is 10 years' jail or a fine of \$10,000 or more.

He urged the court to take into consideration that Cheah had till the appeal hearing yesterday been kept in the condemned cell, suffering great anguish with the sentence of death hanging over his head.

SINGAPORE

POLICE SMASH GANG OF ROBBERS TURNED DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 26 Jun 77 p 5 BK

[By N.G. Kutty]

[Text] Police believe they have smashed a gang of armed robbers who have turned drug traffickers, with the arrest of five men and the seizure of a gun.

A sixth man is still at large. Police are now hot on his trail and looking for two more guns, which the gang is believed to have smuggled in from Thailand.

The gang is believed to have thrown one of the guns into a canal.

During a predawn raid on a hut in Julian Potong Pasir yesterday, a .22 calibre Beretta automatic gun loaded with four bullets was found buried in the floor of the storeroom.

A police spokesman said that the gang members may be able to help in the investigations of the murder of a man at Thomson Road Petrol Kiosk in July last year.

Heroin Seized

According to the police, the gang which had been active from January to July last year, switched to drug trafficking when things became rough for them.

A substantial amount of heroin, packed ready for consumption, was also seized.

The spokesman said this is believed to be the first gang of armed robbers who had switched to drug trafficking in Singapore.

Concerted efforts and joint operations by the CID's [Central Investigation Division] Organized Crime Branch and Beach Road Police, contributed to the success of this operation.

Police, who had been hot on the trail of this gang, had their first break on Friday.

Following a tip-off, they raided a house on Airport Road and arrested a man shortly after 1 P.M.

He was referred to the Organised Crimes Branch. Following this, the O.C. [officer in charge] Organised Crime, Deputy Supt. Ying Yoke Chang, and his men went on a series of raids. So did a Beach Road Party led by Insp. Tang Eng Zai.

By 5:15 A.M. yesterday, all except the sixth member of the gang were rounded up.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--In a subordinate court this morning, a 39-year old woman (Hsin Hsin Chiang) was sentenced to 5 years in jail for drug trafficking. She was arrested last January for trying to sell a vial containing 0.5 gram of diamorphine at the junction of (Larut) Road and (Wells) Road. [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 4 Jul 77 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POLICE ARREST 17 ON MARIHUANA SMUGGLING CHARGES

Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 5 Jul 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Police, led by Chumphon Governor Arun Ruchikanha and Pol Supt Col Phongsak Sitthichai on Sunday arrested 17 suspects who were charged with smuggling 11,320 kilogrammes of marihuana.

A police source said yesterday the policemen made a swoop on a smuggling gang while the gang was unloading 566 metal cases from trucks onto three fishing trawlers at the Tambon Parktako village beach in southern Thailand.

Police suspected there would be some heroin in some containers there, but at presstime police had not yet opened all the cases.

The suspects told police investigators the marihuana belonged to an American citizen, Mr Tom (surname unknown), who escaped during the said. [as published]

One of the 17 suspects arrested was a Vietnamese, Nguyen Sy Ty, who offered to give police 1 million baht if they would release him.

A man driving a Lancer car, plate number KOR-TOR 00403, identified as Mr Sakchai Chettanakom accompanied by a foreigner, Mr Mike Rober, asked to take a 10-wheel truck, claiming that it belonged to a relative of one of the men.

Police investigators searched the two men and found 490,000 baht in cash in their possession.

Police are holding the two for further interrogation.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

DRUG RINGS SUSPEND OPERATIONS--The Police Department said yesterday that major drug traffickers in Thailand have suspended operation temporarily because of an increase in narcotics suppression and the threat of summary punishment under Article 21 of the Constitution. A department source told the EXPRESS that heroin-related drugs were being stockpiled in the mountainous northern region along the Burmese border. He said most of the traffickers still operating were small-timers who changed their routes frequently. The department said that during the first 4 months of the year, police seized 16 kilograms of heroin, 51,672 kilograms of marijuana, 134,194 grams of opium and 19,239 grams of morphine. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 77 p 2 BK]

FEW STUDENTS TAKE DRUGS--Only a small 1.4 percent of the 65,000 students who sat in the university entrance examinations this year were found to have drug problem. An informed source said the final tally of urine tests found that only about 910 students out of the total 65,000 were found to have tried drugs, mostly morphine. The source said of these 910 students, 200 had passed their academic examinations in various faculties of universities. It had been earlier announced that students would not be automatically disqualified if the urine test found them to have used drugs. The urine test for all students applying for seats in universities was launched for the first time this year by the National Narcotics Control Board in cooperation with the universities bureau to determine the extent of narcotic addiction among youth. The urine samples had been tested at the SEATO Laboratory since the middle of March. While the identities of the "problem students" will be kept confidential, their parents would be informed by officials who will advise on treatment and prevention of future addiction. Informed sources said that a team of doctors will carry out a similar test of vocational students in three northeastern provinces of Sakhon Nakhon, Kalasin and Maha Sarakham. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 22 Jun 77 p 1 BK]

FINES FOR TWO AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS--Two Australian students were put on 2-year probation and fined 3,100 baht by the criminal court yesterday on charges of possessing nearly 3 baht worth of heroin and marijuana. Gerald Palvin, 20, and Richard Belles, 21, were arrested at Miami Hotel in Bangkok a few months

ago for possessing .02 grams of heroin, worth at 60 stangs, and 29.2 grams of marijuana at one baht and 80 stangs. Each of them was sentenced to 1 year in prison and fined 6,200 baht. The fine was reduced by half and the imprisonment term was commuted to 2-year probation. [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 22 Jun 77 p 8 BK]

POLICE SEIZURE OF MARIJUANA--One ton of marijuana costing over \$30 million baht was confiscated and 5 suspects have been arrested yesterday in a village chief resident's house in Bang Khen District, police said. The narcotics suppression police were informed yesterday about the trafficking of marijuana in Saphan Mai area, close to Don Muang. The police went to the spot immediately and searched a house and traced a later [as published] that belonged to the village chief of the area, identified as Mr Somnuk Naparit. The police confiscated from the house about 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. Five suspects were captured on the spot. The marijuana is worth 30 million baht in the Western countries, police said. They were identified as Mr Uthit Champan of 24, Mr Dam Sasean of 25, Mr Prasoet Channungkun of 32, Mrs Urairat Naparit 35 and Miss Nit Yuyen. Mrs Urairat is the wife of Mr Somnuk, the village chief. Police said no suspect accepted the possessing the marijuana [sentence as published]. The suspects claimed that they were hired for the transportation of 1 ton of marijuana from Nakhon Phanom to Bangkok, including the packing of the marijuana into small boxes. The local price of the marijuana is around 300,000 baht, police said. The police also claimed that this is the biggest haul of marijuana made during the first half of this year. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 77 p 1 BK]

OPEN CULTIVATION OF OPIUM IN NORTH--About a million rai of forest land in Tak and Chiang Mai provinces have been destroyed by hill tribesmen who practice the slash and burn type of cultivation for rice and opium poppy farming, an official source said yesterday. An environmentalist recently returned from a trip to Doi Inthanon Mountain in Chiang Mai said that opium poppy cultivation has increased to such an extent that they are cultivating the crop on the road side fields. A Chiang Mai official told him that the authorities did not have the police to arrest these hill tribesmen for opium cultivation because a campaign was being launched to persuade the hill tribesmen to grow substitute crops rather than opium, he said. However, the facts are that the effort is fruitless as opium cultivation brings more income to the hill tribesmen than any of the substitutes. One family can earn about 5,000 baht a year from growing opium, a crop with a ready market for the product, at the same time the price of other crops is lower and the markets for other crops are not steady, he said. Because of the easygoing attitude of the authorities towards opium growing, secret cultivation in the past is now open and they cultivate the crop even on the roadside, he said. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jun 77 p 3 BK]

SCIENTISTS TO KILL POPPY PLANTS--A breakthrough in controlling opium may be in the offing, according to a Kasetsart University official, Mr Bhunphot na Pomphet said yesterday. He said the University's Pest Control Research Centre has been experimenting with insects, bacteria and certain kind of

weeds to destroy narcotics plants such as opium, cannabis and negro peach. Similar projects were carried out in the Valley of Kashmir and in Romania. The Kashmir Valley is known as one of the major opium-producing areas, along with the infamous "Golden Triangle," he said. Experiments in Pakistan show there are eight kinds of bacteria which can stop the growth of opium seeds. One kind of fungus was found to be able to destroy 42 percent of the seeds in the ground and about 60 percent of the seeds under laboratory conditions, Mr Phumphot said. If the use of bacteria to destroy poppy plants proves successful, then it would be of great help to the government's project to get hill tribes to substitute cash crops for opium. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 24 Jun 77 p 2 BK]

MEETING OF NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD--For the first time, a set of official "standards" will be instituted to control clinics and hospitals providing treatment to drug addicts. The National Narcotics Control Board and the Medical Department will hold a seminar soon for all persons related to treatment of drug addicts to "set down definite standards" for all drug treatment centers. The Public Health Ministry will draw up a preliminary set of standards of consideration. Yesterday's meeting of the National Narcotics Control Board, chaired by Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian, also agreed to launch a large-scale substitute crop cultivation on the Mae Chaem River Basin in Chiang Mai where local hill tribes are still engaged in opium planting. The meeting agreed that with an effective substitute crop project in the area all hill tribesmen could be persuaded to drop opium cultivation in 5 years. The meeting agreed that with an effective substitute crop project in the area all hill tribesmen could be persuaded to drop opium cultivation in 5 years. The meeting also heard a report from Dr Bunsom Matin, chairman of the Prevention and Publicity Subcommittee, that training courses had been drawn up to inform students throughout the country of the danger of drugs. Posters and publicity documents have also been published to launch the scheme. The meeting noted with satisfaction the recent success in suppressing narcotic traffickers and producers. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 24 Jun 77 p 1 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN CHIANG RAI--Chiang Rai--Northern narcotics policemen seized 2.5 kilograms of No 4 high-grade heroin and arrested four suspects, including a policeman and a civil servant, in a hotel raid in Muang District on Tuesday afternoon. The heroin was worth about 200,000 baht on the local market. As a result of continuous investigation a police team raided a room in the Rungnakhon Hotel in Muang district, reportedly being used as a center point for distribution of narcotic drugs. The police raiding team found six packages of No 4 grade heroin. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jun 77 p 3 BK]

TRAFFICKERS ON TRIAL IN BANGKOK--Two Burmese nationals and a Thai woman were charged by the prosecutor yesterday at the criminal court for drug trafficking. The prosecutor told the court that Mr Lin Kai Su, Mrs Chingwey Sae Ma, Chinese ethnics but Burmese nationals, and Miss Mayuri Lichantharakun were arrested last March 2 for possession of 10 bags or 4,200 grams of heroin worth 126,000 baht. Mr Lin and Miss Mayuri denied the charge, but Mrs Chingwey half denied and half confessed. The prosecutor asked the court to take action against the defendants. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 77 p 3 BK]

AMERICAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING DRUGS--A suit was filed at the criminal court yesterday where an American was charged with possessing drugs. The public prosecutor told the court that on April 22, the defendant, identified as Kenneth William Hendric, 25, of Washington State, USA, was arrested for possessing an illegal 0.15 gram of drugs, a vial of white heroin power and one set of hypodermic syringe worth about 704.50 baht. The court accepted the case for further hearing. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 77 p 3 BK]

HEROIN PUSHERS--Four heroin traffickers were sentenced to 30 years imprisonment after the criminal court found them guilty of possessing and selling heroin. The four men--Wichai Kitchamnong, Subin Muangsiang, Thawi Puangkaeo and Kiang Matso--were arrested on 9 November of last year in a house at Soi 64 off Sukhumvit Road with 2.8 kilogrammes of No 4 first grade heroin. They were arrested by police who laid in wait at the rendezvous. The men arrived in a car and the waiting police approached for a search and found the heroin neatly packed in eight plastic bags in the trunk of the car. The court reduced Thawi's sentence by one-third, to 20 years after he confessed his guilt. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

COCA LEAVES SEIZED, 12 ARRESTED--Salta--In different operations members of the 20th and 21st Squads of Oran and La Quiaca arrested 12 persons who were carrying coca leaves into the country from Bolivia. During the operations 287 kilos of coca leaves were seized. The persons arrested are: Ambrosia Lamas de Mamani, Primitiva Carrasco, Emilio Castro, Lucia Cruz, Lindaura Gutierrez, Juan Gutierrez, Nicolas Sandoval, Alberto J. Flores, Pedro Culcuy, J. Abraham Daniel Farfan and Francisco Cruz. [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Jul 77 p 31 PY]

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--La Plata, 4 Jul--Personnel of the Moron Investigation Brigade have discovered and arrested 8 drug traffickers and addicts. The persons arrested were: German Enrique Wiegger, 24; Silvia Schers Countess of Khevenhuller Metsch, 34, Spanish citizen; Jack Sammy Rosemberg, alias "The Bionic Man," 22, Uruguayan citizen; Yolanda Beatriz Lobos de Cassano, alias "Bebe," 18; Julio Alberto Burman, alias "Tony," 24; Luis Mauricio Grana Drommond, alias "Paton," 23; Ana Mercedes Aquino Salguiero, alias "Piel Naranja," Paraguayan citizen, 22; and Claudia Ines Tortorelli, alias "Finita," 21. These persons were discovered in Apartment 21H, 897 Arroyo St in the federal capital, where the officials also seized 20 grams of cocaine. Another person, a radio announcer, is also being sought by the police under charges of drug trafficking. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1935 GMT 4 Jul 77 PY]

DRUG RING BROKEN UP--San Miguel de Tuouman, 2 Jul--The police have broken up a ring of drug traffickers and arrested Anibal Rene Caram, alias Aranita, 34 years of age who was found in possession of 120 grams of cocaine. Ruben Aldo Sierra, musician; and Hector Gustavo Vazquez, alias Baby, 38 years old, were also arrested in connection with this operation. The three men confessed that the drug was distributed by Ramon Ernesto Parajon, 20 years old and that Juan Padilla, 44 years old was the main supplier. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0515 GMT 3 Jul 77 PY]

FAKE DRUG RING--Federal police have broken up a ring which was counterfeiting a large number of therapeutic products contained in the pharmacopeia, among which are some whose sale is forbidden by the narcotics law. The ring made a geriatric product known as "K.H.3," the resulting product being so perfect that it was exported to neighboring countries, an operation which yielded millions in profits. The mixture was made in the Lando, S.A., laboratory at 2186 Allende St., which also made amphetamine tablets, the use of which is strictly forbidden by law. At the same time, another clandestine laboratory located at 1709 Conesa St., Muniz, was in charge of hand-bottling the mixture prepared by Lando under the name of K.H. 3. In addition, elements were also found there for the packaging and sealing of bottles of Pervitin, carrying the label of a local laboratory. [Text] [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 5 May 77 p 27] 8735

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

WOMAN'S MURDER BELIEVED CONNECTED WITH BUZIOS DRUG NETWORK

Police Search for Witnesses

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 May 77 p 12

[Text] The Cabo Frio police believed that the arrest, night before last, of Swiss citizen Jean Philippe Henri Scherer at Armaçao de Buzios will lead to the breaking up of the local network of drug traffickers with which, according to commissioner Newton Waltz, German citizen Gabrielle Dayer is probably connected. A large quantity of marihuana and cocaine was discovered in the restaurant-night club Le Pirate, owned by the Swiss, which, he claimed, belonged to Argentine citizen Eduardo Tata Parker. Police authorities hope to soon locate Mercedes Avellaneda -- the only witness of Gabrielle's death -- and her father, Ramon Avellaneda.

Jean Philippe was interrogated yesterday in the early morning hours at the Cabo Frio police headquarters, and said that Eduardo Tata Parker left the country just a few hours after learning of Gabrielle Dayer's death. Besides the Swiss citizen, these other foreigners were arrested in Buzios: François Philippe Caballero, French, Paul Gerard Huspel, French, and Armando Herraden, Argentinian. Mercedes and Ramon, who are sought by police, are also Argentines.

Certainty

Cabo Frio commissioner Newton Waltz said yesterday he definitely believes that Gabrielle Dayer's death is linked to the drug traffic in Buzios. In his view, when Mercedes called on the fishermen to help the German woman, she did not indicate to them the exact spot where Gabrielle had fallen, because, if Gabrielle died in the Poço do Calombo, her body would still be caught among the rocks. Besides, the commissioner added, there is a serious discrepancy between the testimony of Mercedes and that of Rosemary Peixoto Siqueira:

"Mercedes pointed one way, while her friend Rosemary pointed another. At any rate, the former did not show the exact spot where Gabrielle fell."

However, fisherman Manoel Aurelio de Souza, nicknamed Mineli, former tenant of Angela Diniz, disagrees with commissioner Waltz. According to him, another fisherman, Joao Tatu, fell some time ago from the same spot and his body was only found 15 days after the accident.

Besides being certain that Gabrielle was a drug trafficker and was assassinated, commissioner Newton Waltz firmly believes that she meant to set up in Armaçao de Buzios an agency for young girls from 15 to 18, to entertain executives and foreign tourists on week-ends. The commissioner's belief stems from the fact that a file was found in the German woman's residence, which revealed that while in Sydney, Australia, from 22 March to 24 December 1974, she had noted names of men and women and the dates they met, schedules and the addresses of men and the prices charged (from 30 to 40 pounds).

Throughout the day yesterday, a helicopter leased by the German consulate of Rio flew over the Buzios area, in an attempt to locate Gabrielle's body. In the early evening hours, policemen began looking for a hippie called Sergio, who had been seen talking with Gabrielle the day she died.

Last night, commissioner Waltz started looking for Bolivian dentist Walter Ilanez, who has an office in Armaçao de Buzios, because it is believed that when Gabrielle returned from Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia on Monday, she may have brought back a quantity of drugs for him.

Another person sought by Cabo Frio police is Renata Deschamps. According to police authorities, she was using her boutique in Buzios as a front for her real business.



The prisoners from left to right: Jean, Francois, Paul Gerard, Armando

Woman's Companion to Testify

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Jun 77 p 16

[Text] The Buzios region in Cabo Frio is infested with traffickers and addicts, commissioner Newton Watzl [sic] stated yesterday. He added that he will take advantage of the investigation centering on the German Gabrielle's disappearance to initiate a permanent policy of repression against various known drug traffickers. The commissioner already has a plan to "settle this situation once and for all."

He admitted that he is running into certain difficulties: Buzios is almost 30 miles from the municipal seat, there is no police equipment and not enough gasoline. He also mentioned that some important families, through their significant influence, are allegedly pressuring police authorities to quash the investigation. One of the drug traffic centers, the night club Le Pirate owned by Frenchman Jean Philippe, is still closed and the owner is in jail.

Mercedes Sends Word

The Cabo Frio commissioner yesterday received a telegram from Ramon Avelaneda who was with Gabrielle when the latter disappeared. Mercedes' father was stating his desire to meet with the commissioner at the Argentine consulate in Rio.

In the evening, the commissioner went to the consulate, did not meet Mercedes' father, but received assurances from the consul that he (the consul) would telephone him to let him know the time when Mercedes would come to the Cabo Frio police headquarters to testify. Reportedly, she will later assist the police in reenacting the accident to help in the police investigation.

The commissioner is apparently convinced that Gabrielle is dead, but he would like to hear from Mercedes about what really happened, given the fact that, in his view, her first testimony was rather confusing. According to Mercedes' first report, Gabrielle slipped on the steep rocks and fell into the sea, already dead.

Moreover, the police want to know why the two women went to a rather inaccessible spot reached after more than an hour's arduous climb, scaling rocks and following narrow paths. The commissioner, who had not yet received Mercedes' father's telegram, yesterday asked for the cooperation of federal police authorities to locate her.

Commissioner Watzl also gave a new version of Sergio Carrero's unexpected departure through a hole in the back of the police building. The young

man had been taken there to testify on the two young women and had become irritated by the presence of reporters. The commissioner also confirmed that the youth did testify, but that he added no new element to the investigation. He said only that he had invited Mercedes and another colleague to accompany him to his farm and that, one day before Gabrielle's disappearance, he went to Buzios to excuse himself for not being able to keep the appointment.

"I cannot say whether Mercedes is involved in the disappearance," the commissioner explains; "she is an important witness, she is absent, and must appear to recount what she knows. I cannot follow up this case indefinitely, because we have other cases to solve."

Some policemen admitted that they made a mistake in letting Mercedes leave town, because her testimony was not verified, especially on some of the most obscure points such as the reason for her having gone to the location of the accident with Gabrielle. Also, why she did not have any scratches, given the fact that the access to the place is through a perilous path almost overgrown with bushes, heavy foliage and even thorns, and Mercedes, despite being clad only in a bikini, did not present any evidence of wounds.

8980

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

AGREEMENT CENTRALIZES PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING DRUGS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 77 p 16

[Text] All publications concerning narcotics or drugs causing physical or psychological dependency will only be published by the Council for Drug Prevention, through the Center for Scientific Information, directly connected with the Sao Paulo Society for the Development of Medicine. In this regard, an agreement was signed yesterday in Brasilia between the Ministry of Health and the Society.

The protocol will initially be for 1 year, during which time the Ministry of Health will provide the Society with a sum of 405,000 cruzeiros to enable it to compile an implementation plan regarding the mechanisms to be used in the centralization of drug information for the Center for Scientific Information.

The Sao Paulo School of Medicine commits itself to implement 10 projects, among which will be the establishment of a system of gathering and cataloging publications and scientific studies, both Brazilian and foreign, on drugs, medicines or pharmaceuticals whose abuse could lead to physical or psychological dependency, and their distribution to Council members; the control of the use of funds provided the Society; and the cooperation with official entities, providing them with statistical data and educational health programs on narcotics.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

POLICE DESTROY COCAINE, MARIHUANA IN CAJU

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 77 p 11

[Text] Yesterday morning, 209 kilos of marihuana, 600 grams of cocaine and many psychotropic drug pills were destroyed by special police from police headquarters who burned them in the Sao Sebastiao Hospital furnace in Caju.

Police estimate that the amount of drugs destroyed would have supplied 50 thousand addicts in a week and if sold in various city outlets, would have netted 3 million cruzeiros. Destruction of the drugs was witnessed by Pedro Jose Chediak, a representative of the security secretary; Doctors Gilberto Silva and Dulce Cunha, from the Medicine Control Service, and Valdir Tavares, the hospital director who permitted the furnace to be used. Three months ago, police destroyed 400 kilos of cocaine valued at 4 million cruzeiros at the same place.

Dr Gilberto Silva, from the Medicine Control Service, said that the large amount of drugs seized lately in Rio points to two facts: consumption has been increasing and more drastic action to suppress the traffic is being taken. He reported that the government is also becoming more concerned about addiction. So much so that at present it has 10 treatment centers prepared to accept addicts for treatment. This lasts from 3 to 90 days and starts with administering patients progressively lower dosages of drugs until the drugs are replaced by medication.

Inspector Chediak explained that all narcotics seized in the state are taken to the headquarters of the special police and kept in a safe-deposit box until release for burning by the justice department under the supervision of the medicine control service.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

SEIZURE OF MARIHUANA, WEAPONS IN MARANHÃO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jun 77 p 23

[Text] The seizure early this year in Maranhao of 77 tons of marihuana, 300 weapons and arrest of 20 persons implicated in planting and trafficking in drugs was announced yesterday by the Federal Police Department [FPD].

According to Flavio Cavalheiros Vanderley, director of the drug suppression division, the value of the first harvest, plus the yield from contraband, customs fraud and unlawful seizure confirmed by the FPD amounts to 1,196,992,000 cruzeiros, twice the income anticipated for the agency's annual budget.

In the suppression of contraband alone, merchandise valued at 100,943,961 cruzeiros was discovered. Other crimes such as embezzlement and illegal seizure, confirmed through police investigation, amount to 27,737,543 cruzeiros.

According to FPD estimates, the 77 tons of marihuana were to be sold in Brasilia for 5,000 cruzeiros a kilo, depending on supply and demand, which would amount to a total of 385 million cruzeiros.

After identifying what the FPD calls the "traffic route," the agency decided to leave for the source of production "in 'a general,' as we say in police language," Flavio Calheiros explained. A "CP" -- a command post -- was then shifted to the interior of Maranhao, where there are two marihuana harvests, one in May and June, and another from the end of August to the beginning of September. Helicopters from the Ministry of Aeronautics were used to facilitate access to regions difficult to reach.

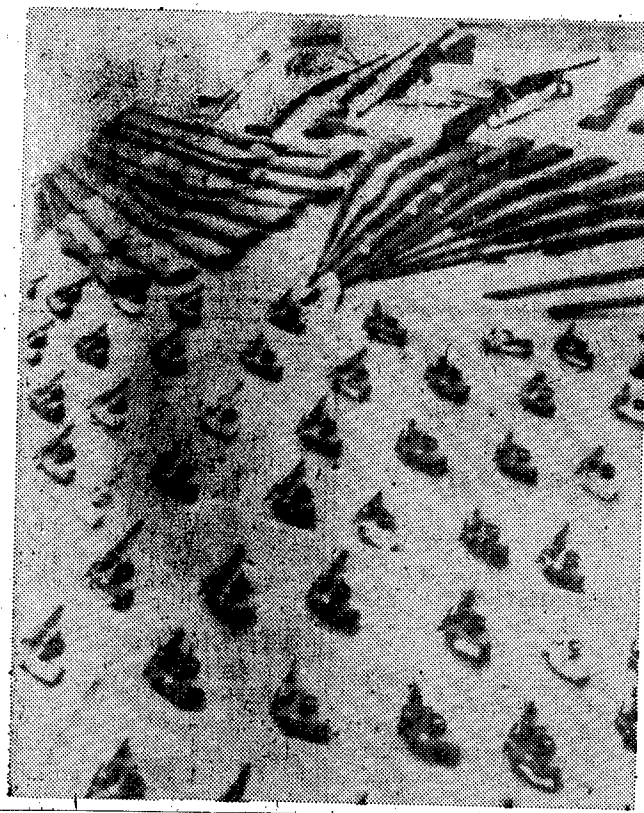
Before the interview, the FPD distributed the following memorandum to the press:

"The federal police department, on the basis of the latest estimates on traffic and use of drugs, established directives for rapid, coordinated action on a national scale at the sources of marihuana production.

"At the same time, the suppression effort was directed toward the different modes of transportation. In line with this, preventive measures were taken.

"To begin with, operations were undertaken in the states of Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso and Pernambuco. The result was the seizure of the following amounts of drugs: 77 tons of marihuana, 12.5 kilos of cocaine and 1,000 units of psychotropic drugs."

The cooperation of federal and state agencies contributed much to the success of operations. In the treasury department aspect of police surveillance, FPD preventive and suppressive action is extended to crimes against property, services and interests of the government.



In addition to marihuana, 300 weapons were seized

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BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT -- Following an anonymous telephone tip from a woman, federal police arrested Jandoval Martins Nunes when he was on the verge of leaving for Salvador from the Rio International Airport. A matchbox full of cocaine was found in his possession. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 May 77 p 16] 8980

MILITARY POLICE SEIZE MARIHUANA -- During a 3-hour search yesterday evening at the Morro da Mangueira, a patrol from the 4th Military Police Battalion seized almost 100 kilos of marihuana. Besides the drug, the tactical motorized Military Police patrol -- the group which conducted the operation -- also found 15 marihuana cigarettes already rolled; a large quantity of paper normally used to pack cocaine; three rifles similar to those used by bank security guards; a scale; a sphygmomanometer; a gun and a large quantity of ammunition of various calibers. The operation started in those places generally known as bocas-de-fumo [small hangout where one can get marihuana]. Not having discovered anything, the patrol -- a major, a sergeant and six soliders -- continued its ascent up the hill. They discovered the articles that were seized in a locked hut bearing no number. The Military Police patrol also arrested three persons, although only under the suspicion of being addicts; they are not connected with the traffickers who dominate the Morro da Mangueira. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 May 77 p 16] 8980

TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--Yesterday morning, a military police patrol arrested trafficker Jose Roberto Bernardino, 25, who was hiding behind a grocery store on Oito de Maio Square in Rocha Miranda. Police found with him 8 packets of cocaine hidden in an empty can, 2 packs of marihuana, a 38 revolver, 5 cartridges for a 7.65 pistol, and a blouse used by postmen from the ECT [Postal Telegraph Company] which he was using to visit his customers in order to throw police off his track. He is being held at the [illegible] police headquarters. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 77 p 11] 6244

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

POOR PROSECUTION RECORD AGAINST TRAFFICKERS PROBED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jun 77 p 3-B

[Article by Lucy Samper C. and Daniel Sanchez A.]

[Text] Colombia is infested with drug traffickers; however, in the office of the man responsible for such matters only 160 cases are being processed.

The official, Fernando Navas Talero, said that this is due primarily to the incoherence and anarchy of our laws in this sector.

Things had gone so far that the personal dosage unit--annulled by the Council of State--had risen to 28 grams per person per day, an amount considered excessive because it is equivalent to three daily packets of marihuana.

Moreover, the existence of a sui generis "police confidentiality" makes it next to impossible to obtain the truth during judicial proceedings. That is the reason very few drug traffickers "of importance" are found in prison, while the jails are crammed with sick drug addicts.

The preceding material is part of the great wealth of information supplied during a "question and answer panel discussion" organized by the Greater Colombian Association of Professionals which was held in the Officers' Club of the National Police.

Taking part in the proceedings were Drs Elsa Guttmann and Marta Monsalve, of the association; Abel Rivera Llano, a person knowledgeable in criminal matters; Guillermo Restrepo Isaza, director of the Institute of Legal Medicine; Fernando Navas Talero, drug expert; and Dr Restrepo Fontalvo, of the National Drug Council.

In a summary of what was the first seminar on the drug problem in Colombia, Drs Guttmann and Monsalve reasserted that the problem has four primary causes: first, deterioration of the family; second, the consumer economy of the country which does not have sufficient purchasing power; third, the influence of tourism; and finally, the lack of attention being given to the problem and the incorrect manner in which it is being confronted.

The first cause stems from the fact that the institution of the family is slowly but progressively falling apart to the point that there no longer is any dialogue: there are simply arguments or fights. What is more, parents are more concerned about material things than the psychic, moral or temperamental conflicts of their children, and this leads to a situation under one roof, as in prison, where each person has his own problems and solves them with the counselor on duty or whoever is closest at hand. Also, because of the bad example being set by most parents when they poison themselves with tranquilizers anytime they have a complication.

Furthermore, there is no love, no understanding, no authority which is not characterized by its tyranny or capriciousness, no order, no respect and, what is most serious, there is no hierarchy: authority is exercised by the person who shouts the most or brings in the most money, but not by the person who should exercise it. This irremediably leads to the "escape" of children through alcohol or drugs.

As for the consumer economy, Dr Guttman stated that this is an indirect but important factor because everything is geared to the exciting of the buyer's demand and nothing to facilitating productive work to make it possible to satisfy it, "in an inversion of values which pops up here and then enslaves everyone."

Because of this, people get into a race "against the clock" to obtain money by any means whatever, "and it is thus that they begin to replace food crops with sources of hallucinogenic drugs, or to exchange their modest but honest positions for the job of a 'mule' at transport terminals, or of a 'trafficker' with a drug addiction middleman."

Dr Monsalve then made reference to the influence of tourism which "produces dollars, it is true, but also increases the number of migratory currents of degradation represented by drug addiction."

This has the disadvantage of causing drug addiction to increase geometrically rather than arithmetically. Because of this phenomenon, "if there are five drug addicts today, tomorrow there will be 15, because each of them will take it upon himself to get three more, and so on."

As for the lack of focus on the problem, the seminar recalled the words of Dr Braulio Mejia, of the Ministry of Public Health, at the last conference:

"Influence is being exerted in favor of the use and abuse of drugs by the communication media: radio, television, movies, magazines, etc., by presenting the consumption of tranquilizers, cigarettes, alcohol, etc., in an attractive manner, as well as by sensational news accounts of drugs with little objectivity and without scientific basis.

"All of this, not to mention the campaigns which make drugs seem to be the only problem, without analyzing its causes and which, naturally, produce paradoxical and counterproductive results.

"What is more, without taking into consideration that prohibition wets the appetite and that young people, by their very nature, are seeking new experiences and different sensations."

After some of the causes of this "grown and growing" phenomenon were presented in this way, in broad outlines, the panel directed its attention toward its legal aspects, with the point of departure being that the laws are contradictory and incoherent and, moreover, are oriented especially and specifically toward repression rather than prevention.

Decree 17 of 1973 gave extraordinary powers to President Misael Pastrana Borrero to issue the decree law by means of which the use of drugs was regulated and penalties were established for users and traffickers.

At the end of several months, and on the basis of a rigorous study of the situation in Colombia, Decree 1188 was issued by means of which criteria were set for a personal dosage unit, an overdose and a limit of 3 to 12 years in prison for anyone found carrying marihuana, cocaine, heroin, LSD or any other stimulant drug.

At the beginning, everything went very well; however, it wasn't long before there started to be cases in which persons found with kilos of cocaine maintained that they were personal rations for several years.

In the face of such arguments and the inoperability of Decree 1188, a change was made with the personal dosage unit set at 28 grams of marihuana or 10 of hashish, with a "personal dosage unit being considered as the amount that an individual takes in a single ration."

The panel argued that the personal dosage unit should be controlled by a doctor from the Institute of Legal Medicine, since there is a difference in the degree of tolerance for drugs.

The inoperability of the law resides, then, in the fact that marihuana, for example, is not assimilated by the blood and it is impossible to determine whether the amount found on a drug addict does indeed correspond to what he can tolerate in a single ration.

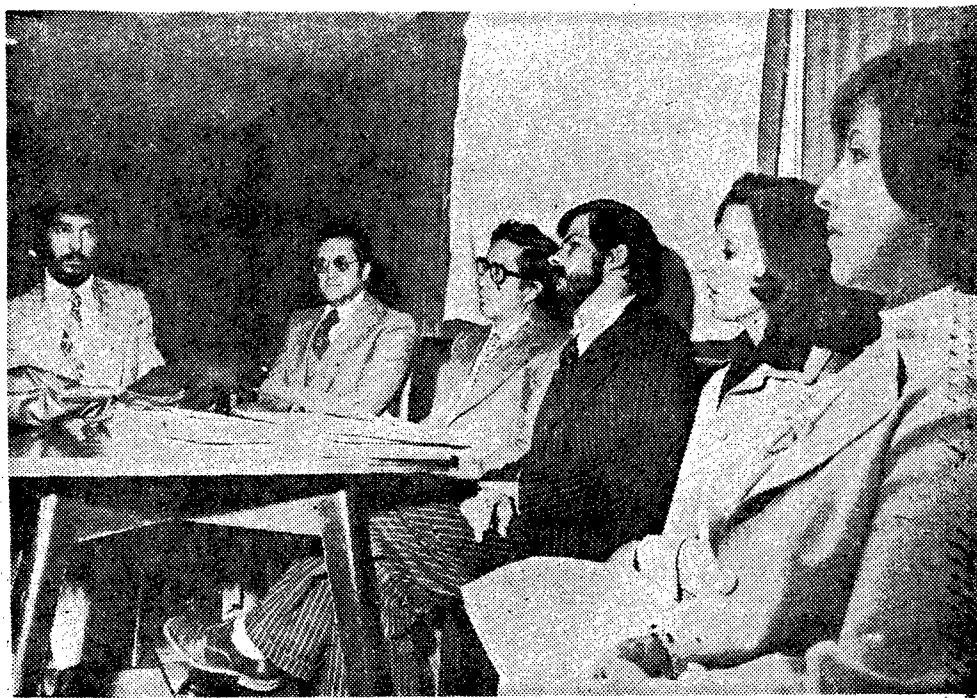
Violation of the Laws

No one is unaware of the fact that the articles of Decree 1188 order the communication media to transmit antidrug information, institutional wedges whose purpose is to check the drug abuse currently taking place.

With the full knowledge of the authorities, this law is being broken day after day without their lifting a hand to enforce it. Why? "Simply

for lack of social discipline," said one panel member, "because of the tenuous feeling of human solidarity in the country."

In the meantime, drug addicts continue to be imprisoned in dark jails which do not have the medical resources needed for treatment, while drug traffickers, who head rings, are free to walk the streets poisoning not only young people but also older persons who find in cocaine a way to escape reality.



Participants in the panel discussion on "The Drug Problem," organized by the Greater Colombia Association of Professionals. From left to right, they are: Jorge Restrepo, Abelardo Rivera Llano, Guillermo Restrepo, Fernando Navas Talero, Elsa Guttman and Marta Monsalve, president of the Association. (Special photo for EL TIEMPO)

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

FURNITURE FACTORY FRONTS FOR TRAFFICKERS

Compressed Marihuana In Furniture Legs

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Jun 77 p 11-A

[Text] Ornamental wood tables of the "export type" were being used by rings of drug dealers to send large amounts of marihuana out of the country to Europe and the United States.

The discovery of this system of exporting marihuana destined for international markets was made by special agents of the Antinarcotics Unit (UNICONA) of DAS [Administrative Department of Security], after a series of surveillance activities which lasted 15 days and which culminated yesterday at noon in the barrio of San Jose, south Bogota.

Several persons were arrested on a provisional basis; however, the head of the organization, a woman who has been fully identified and who lives in El Chico barrio was followed closely yesterday and her arrest was imminent.

The Business

Secret agents of DAS received a report 15 days ago according to which a woman who travels around in expensive automobiles and who lives in a luxury residence in El Chico had established a high quality, "export type," furniture business. Apparently, marihuana was being concealed in the furniture for shipment to the United States and several countries in Europe. According to the report, the next drug shipment was to be sent to mafiosi with headquarters in Rome.

The surveillance exercised over the female suspect led the detectives to a building at No 12-B-29 24th Street South in San Jose barrio.

The building was totally innocent in appearance, and inside the normal movements of any other cabinetmaker's shop were observed.

At a given moment, a pair of detectives entered the shop--where work was going on with the doors open--and inquired about the kind of work being done there.

The worker stated that they were filling an order for turned pieces of wood, apparently to be used in the manufacture of decorator tables. The secret agents noted, however, that the "table legs" had a lengthwise round hole from one end of the piece of wood to the other.

The Operation

In view of the fact that the woman who had placed the order with the cabinetmaker began to notice the detectives following her, an order was issued for the patrols to raid the shop.

The detectives found 15 wood tables duly packed and ready for export which had recently been subjected to the Duco paint process.

When the tables were dismantled and the legs were cut from the tables, the police found a large amount of pressed marihuana in each of them, which on the already-prepared invoice weighed approximately 100 kilos.

However, the most significant discovery was that of thousands of pieces of wood, some already turned and others ready to be subjected to the same process, which in reality were good-sized "boxes," obviously designed to hide marihuana for export concealed in the above-mentioned furniture.

According to the early investigations conducted by the detectives, the shop owner, whose name is not being released pending further investigation, had initially received an order from a woman who identified herself only as "Elvira," to paint the tables which had already been assembled and which apparently arrived at the shop duly packed.

The "lady who placed the order," according to the cabinet shop owner, paid him in dollars for his first job.

Later, still according to his account, "Elvira" recommended him to a stranger who identified himself as Humberto Ramirez. The latter placed an order for the manufacture of several thousand "table legs" which had to meet the specification of being hollow and which, to all intents and purposes, were to be used in the assembly of real decorator tables, the location of which DAS detectives were attempting to verify yesterday.

Technicians of the investigations institution said they thought that these tables had been designed by real experts in the field of decorator art. The finished product is perfect and the design so attractive that connoisseurs stated that as works of handicraft they are a dream, with high enough quality to permit their competing on world markets in this sector.

The number of boxes being prepared in the cabinetmaker's shop--several thousand--permitted estimates according to which several tons of the best quality marihuana were to have been sent out of the country by this method.



The pressed marihuana was inside the table "legs," as can be seen in the photo, and was to have been sent out of the country by traffickers to markets in the United States and Europe.

Woman Factory Owner Arrested

Bogota EL TIEMPO 11 Jun 77 p 15-A

[Text] DAS UNICONA (Antinarcotics Unit) agents arrested a woman yesterday whom they had been seeking as the alleged "owner" of a furniture factory in which she was sending marihuana to the United States and Europe.

The arrest took place as the woman was driving a luxury automobile in the vicinity of 12th and 102d Streets in El Chico barrio. The police action occurred near the luxury residence in which the woman lived in this barrio

and which had been under surveillance since Wednesday, 8 June, when DAS discovered a shipment of furniture in a cabinetmaker's shop in the southern part of Bogota where it has been taken for finishing touches before export to Rome.

She was identified as Elvira Zapata Ortiz; however, DAS did not supply additional information about the background of the alleged chief of the marihuana export operation.

The arrest of Elvira Zapata Ortiz was the culmination of an operation which was started nearly a month ago, when UNICONA detectives took up surveillance of the female suspect. Elvira was arrested as she was taking 15 wood tables, in whose legs the marihuana was hidden, to the cabinetmaker's shop for Duco paint processing at No 12-B-129 [sic] 24th Street in San Jose barrio.

In the same shop, Elvira Zapata and a man who is known as Humberto Ramirez placed an order with the cabinetmaker for the turning and processing of more than 3,000 hollow legs for export tables. These legs, obviously, were to be used in the assembly of the furniture which took place at another site. This site has not yet been located by the authorities.



Elvira Zapata Ortiz

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

ACID-DISFIGURED TRAFFICKERS' BODIES FOUND

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jun 77 p 6-A

[Text] Two men were kidnapped in Bogota, taken to a ranch in the vicinity of the municipality of Mosquera and shot to death, after which their faces were disfigured with acid in what the authorities believe is the latest episode in the chain of crimes between various rival mafias of drug traffickers.

The disappearance of the victims, according to what EL TIEMPO was told by the chief of the Cundimarca F-2, Capt Rodriguez, took place last Thursday, 26 May; however, their bodies were not found until yesterday when they were stumbled upon accidentally by two laborers who were walking down the Mosquera-La Mesa highway.

According to official reports, the Mosquera police inspector was informed yesterday morning by several peasants that there were two bodies in a field on the Mondonedo farm, a few meters from the highway. The official went to the site, where he was able to confirm the laborers' story.

The bodies were those of two men between the ages of 28 and 30 years, each of which bore numerous bullet wounds. The faces and the upper part of the bodies were totally disfigured by the action of acid which the criminals had used to make it difficult to identify the victims.

The officials found a number of identification papers which permitted establishment of the fact that the bodies were those of Jose Ernesto Ochoa Gil, age 28, and Eduardo Rivera, age 30.

Accounts of Witnesses

The Mosquera inspector received information from several witnesses, including a woman who only gave the name of Isabel for fear of reprisals on the part of the criminals.

The witness stated that on the night of 26 May 1977 several men, who were riding in a small European-make automobile, were searching for two individuals near the site where the bodies were found.

"I became frightened and left the area," the witness stated. "A little bit later, I heard several shots."

In Bogota, members of the victims' families said that Rivera and Ochoa had disappeared from their homes during the early evening hours on 26 May.

Another Disappearance

As a result of an investigation conducted yesterday by the crime reporting section of this newspaper, a brother of Jose Ernesto Ochoa Gil has been missing since the early morning hours yesterday; and his family fears that he, too, may have been killed.

The man is Ricardo Alberto Ochoa Gil who, according to our reports, was accosted yesterday morning--before the discovery of the two bodies in Mosquera--by an individual who intercepted him near the so-called "Calle del Cartucho."

The unidentified man, according to available information, told Ricardo Alberto, apparently referring to his brother: "If you don't want the dove to die in its nest, go to the Pentagon Cafe at the corner of 9th and 17th Streets."

According to the families of the brothers Gil Ochoa, Ricardo Alberto indicated his intention of keeping the appointment; and, as of last night, there has been no information about his whereabouts.

The authorities said yesterday that they were disturbed both by the dissimilar personalities of the two victims of the Mosquera crime and their social status.

In this regard, while early reports indicated that Jose Ernesto Ochoa Gil apparently was a humble worker who engaged in the sale of fritadas [fried dishes of various kinds], assisted by his wife, Teresa Fernandez--owners of this type of business in the southern part of the city and near the El Campin stadium--Eduardo Rivera is a Colombian who left the country eight years ago to live in the United States. It is known that the latter had returned to Colombia barely a week ago; however, the authorities were unable to establish the nature of the connection between the two victims.

Initial indications, however, seem to link Rivera with drug trafficking rings. This was gleaned by the authorities from a pocket notebook found in his clothing. In it, there are addresses described as suspicious in the United States, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador and France, as well as several encoded phone numbers opposite these addresses in the various countries.

The families of the victims told EL TIEMPO the circumstances under which [unknown number of words missing: ?the two men had disappeared].

Teresa Fernandez de Ochoa, wife of Jose Ernesto Ochoa Gil, said that her husband had made arrangements to meet her at the home of a woman friend of both of them at the corner of 77th and 42d Streets to take her to the movies.

"I waited for him until 2030 hours at which time I saw him crossing a field near the house," said Mrs Fernandez de Ochoa. "Suddenly, I saw three men get out of a brown volkswagen. They walked to the field and pushed my husband toward the car. They made him get in and drove off with him in the direction of the Medellin super highway."

For her part, Nohemi de Rivera, wife of an uncle of Eduardo Rivera, said that the latter had returned to the home of a relative at 17-26 South 34d Street, after eight years of absence.

"He told us that he was living in the United States; however, he had never written us a letter. A week before his disappearance, he came to the house. We hardly recognized him because he had changed a lot. He did not tell us what kind of work he was doing during his entire absence. Thursday, the 26th, at 0800 hours, he left us. We didn't notice anything unusual about him; he did not seem to be worried. We received no word about him until today (Monday) when we were told that his body had been found," asserted Nohemi de Rivera.

Although the investigators believe that the modus operandi of the crime points to a vendetta between rival rings of mafiosi, they have been unable to find any connection between the two victims.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

HK-1291 CREW TURNS UP, CLAIMS HIJACKING

Crew Alleges Escape from Hijackers

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Jun 77 pp 1-A, 8-C

[Article by Humberto Diez]

[Text] Riohacha, 1 Jun -- The crew of airplane HK-1291 of the AEROSUCRE [Sucre Airline] Company, which was seized by the authorities of the state of Kansas (United States) on 10 April 1977, with more than five tons of marihuana, showed up under mysterious circumstances near the town of Uribia in upper La Guajira. The crew told military and police authorities a fantastic tale, according to which they had been assaulted and kidnapped in the air and finally held prisoner "somewhere in La Guajira" for 50 days.

The three crew members of the DC-6 showed up right at the time that the authorities were painstakingly looking for them to answer for a series of crimes with which they have been accused, after a series of investigations that extended even to the United States where another person who accompanied them the day they left Barranquilla, presumably for El Banco, is under arrest.

Captains Roberto Lopez, pilot; Walter Olarte Yance, copilot; and Rafael Visbal, flight engineer of the HK-1291, were picked up early yesterday morning near a road in the vicinity of Uribia by the Maicao inspector of police who took them to the military post of that town.

Bearded, dirty, ragged and with signs of fatigue on their faces, the crew of the mysterious airplane went to the Uribia court to file a complaint of airplane theft and kidnapping. In the judge's office, Capt Visbal fainted and had to be taken to the local hospital where this special correspondent interviewed him while he was being treated by a team of nuns, doctors and nurses.

A little later, the three crew members were transferred under heavy military escort to Riohacha. The escort was requested by the crewmen themselves in fear of an attack by the alleged kidnappers.

It is worth recalling that the airplane occupied by the men who turned up was found in the vicinity of the town of Jetmore, in the state of Kansas, with a large shipment of marihuana and cocaine, worth some \$4.5 million (about 150 million pesos).

The American police--who still do not understand how the airplane could have flown over several American states without having been detected by the security systems--arrested three Americans and one Colombian at the landing site whose connection with the owners of the aircraft was fully demonstrated in Barranquilla during the investigation of this notorious case which was conducted by our correspondent in that city, Jose Cervantes Angulo.

The errant aircraft, a DC-6 with registration number HK-1291, landed for unknown reasons in a wheat field near an old abandoned airport and a few meters from the highway. The aircraft became mired in the field and for that reason could not take off again.

When he learned of the seizure of the airplane, our correspondent in Barranquilla started an investigation which revealed both the names of the crew and the owners of the DC-6. The owner of the airliner, Capt Visbal, father of the flight engineer, was arrested by the authorities, although he steadfastly maintained his innocence, despite the fact that the Colombian seized with the airplane was linked with him specifically in the negotiations for the purchase of the craft.

Reports circulating in the days immediately following the arrest indicated that the three Colombians had possibly turned over the aircraft at some clandestine airport in La Guajira to pilots who knew the route to the United States with a view then to awaiting the return of the airliner to take it back to Barranquilla.

In recent days, the authorities of the Office of Civil Aeronautics fired three employees of El Banco airport who were deeply involved in the mysterious disappearance of the airplane.

Film Seized

The exclusive filmed interview granted to EL TIEMPO by Visbal, Olarte and Lopez was begun on Sunday afternoon, 10 April 1977, at the Barranquilla airport:

"We had just put our personal baggage in the airplane when a stranger came out of the washroom. We asked him who he was and he said that he was with DAS [Administrative Department of Security]. He pointed a pistol at us and then said 'Don't move; this is a hijacking.'

"Immediately afterward, two other men appeared armed with machine guns. The man who had aimed his pistol at us spoke with a Colombian accent; he was tall, black, thin, with side whiskers and short hair. Another man was a huge gringo with a big paunch, about 45 years old. The third man spoke with a Cuban accent; he was thin, dark, and about 25 years old. All of them were armed. The Colombian with a pistol; the Cuban with a machine gun; and the gringo with hand grenades.

"The Cuban forced the pilot to complete a flight plan for El Banco airport (Magdalena). In an effort to alert the Barranquilla control tower, Capt Olarte purposely garbled the call sign of El Banco, putting down MCEL instead of the correct call sign MCBL. However, a little later the Cuban returned with the flight plan approved and corrected by the control tower.

"With machine gun and pistol at our backs, we had to take off. As we were gaining altitude, the control tower told us that El Banco airport had a maximum weight allowance of 12,202 pounds. The captain responded that we were flying in an airplane with 58,000 pounds dead weight, in the hope that we would be ordered to turn around.

"However, the control tower gave us an OK and we had to continue the flight.

"As we were flying over the region of "El Dificil," near El Banco, they forced us to leave the controls and the Cuban and gringo took over the aircraft. In the meantime, the Cuban tossed us a roll of adhesive tape and told us to blindfold ourselves.

"A little later, we felt them cut back the motors and make ready to land. The airplane touched down on the landing strip abruptly, in a violent manner, and slipped along on an irregular surface which made the aircraft bump up and down. They helped us out of the plane, blindfolded as we were, and made us get into the bed of a pickup truck which took off with us over unpaved and rough terrain. In a short while, we heard the sound of the airplane's engines which was taking off again.

"We traveled down the road for some distance. They made us get out then and enter a building where we were ordered to take off our blindfolds. We were in a narrow hut and with us was the black Colombian who pointed his machine gun at us.

"My name is Lucho," the black told us, 'if you take it easy, nothing will happen to you. We need the plane for two or three emergency flights. You won't lack for a thing, if you behave yourselves.'

"We were cared for by four Indians in loin cloths and sandals. They were armed with machine guns. One of them was named Fajardo and they called another Juaco. The food was very bad; however, they never mistreated us. Some 10 or 12 days later, we were taken to another hut at night, blindfolded once again. We had to walk for 6 or 7 hours. The second hut was

more comfortable. We were given Venezuelan canned goods, roast goat and chicken stew. At this site, in addition to Juaco and Fajardo, we were also cared for by an Indian woman named Cristina. At night, they would get drunk and break the liquor bottles with gunshots.

"Some five days later, Lucho arrived bringing us cigarettes, a straight razor and toothbrushes. At times, during the night, people arrived in automobiles and then they closed the door of the cabin.

"We stayed in this place for the rest of the time. Monday night Lucho returned in the truck. We were blindfolded again and they made us get into the bed of the pickup truck. We rode for 6 or 7 hours. All at once, the pickup truck stopped and Lucho ordered us to get out. We thought that he was going to kill us. He ordered us not to remove our black rag blindfolds until we could no longer hear the sound of the pickup truck's engine. Before he left, he said to us: 'Don't talk too much or we may 'fry' you at any time.'

"When we took off the rags, morning was already breaking. We walked down the road for awhile until we came upon a highway. Several cars passed by; however, perhaps because of our horrible appearance, no one wanted to pick us up. Finally, a red jeep stopped near us. It was the inspector of the Maicao police, Dr Henriquez. He took us to the Uribia court. There we handed the judge the black rags which had served as our blindfolds and filed a complaint of airplane theft and kidnapping."

In Barranquilla

After they made their statement in court and filed their respective complaints, the three crewmen went to the Uribia armed command post where they washed their clothes, cleaned themselves and spent the night.

From Uribia, they were sent under protective military escort to Riohacha. From that town, they were sent with the same precautions to Barranquilla, where they are expected to arrive before midnight.

Crew Arrested, Licenses Revoked

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jun 77 p 7-A

[Article by Jose Cervantes Angulo]

[Text] The Office of Civil Aeronautics announced today that it had revoked the professional flight licenses of the three crew members of the HK-1291 of AEROSUCRE.

This information was received by EL TIEMPO directly from the national administration department of Civil Aeronautics.

The organization's resolution also covers three aviation mechanics of the AEROSUCRE Company who participated in the preparation of the flight of the HK-1291.

Elsewhere, it was learned that in Jetmore, Kansas, an attorney paid a fine of \$25,000 in the U.S. Department of Immigration for the release of Juan Manuel Retat Diaz Granados, who was seized with three gringos along with the marihuana plane.

In this city, the second criminal circuit judge, Edilberto Altamar de la Cruz, was preparing to summon to a hearing the three crewmen who made a surprise appearance at a La Guajira location.

In F-2 circles, it was said that a trap had been set to capture the fourth crew member, Fernando Gutierrez, who is a fugitive and who according to witnesses, was seen in the town of Sitionuevo, department of Magdalena.

From the United States, it was reported that Juan Manuel Retat Diaz Granados will be deported in the next 24 hours. The local police have officially notified the U.S. police that they want the man.

Retat Diaz Granados, although not charged in Colombia of any crime, must explain to the authorities what he was doing in the marihuana loaded plane.

Also, the whereabouts of Jose Gonzalez Bett, the purchaser of the aircraft, is a complete mystery to the police.

For its part, the Office of Civil Aeronautics reported that the internal investigations at the Barranquilla airport will continue to establish responsibilities for the charges made against the control tower personnel by the three crew members who turned up.

According to the national subdirectorate of Civil Aeronautics, massive discharges of personnel at the Barranquilla airport are foreseen.

Previously, the operating license of the AEROSUCRE Company had been canceled.

Both the aviation company and the three fliers will not be able to regain their licenses until after an official decision has been rendered in this case.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MORE ON THE LA GUAJIRA 'SEA OF MARIHUANA'

Military and Police Move In Force

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 1 Jun 77 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Text] The entire territory of La Guajira was placed under strict military control as the result of the discovery of enormous fields of marihuana, promoted and financed liberally by American drug traffickers.

This restrictive measure, designed to prevent plantations of this kind from continuing to proliferate, was taken during the last meeting of the National Security Council, an organization whose membership includes the Ministers of Government, Defense and Justice; the head of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation; the director of the National Police; and the chief of DAS [Administrative Department of Security].

Against Drug Traffickers and Smugglers

Pursuant to this decision, patrols of the Army and the National Police have begun to exercise stringent control over highways, roads and trails which criss-cross the territory of La Guajira with a view to preventing the movement of marihuana shipments that must be ready in various places for export to the United States, a country which has the most active market for this product.

In addition to this mission, the Armed Forces have the responsibility for looking for new fields and informing the competent authorities of any irregularity they may observe as they carry out their work.

The Army and the National Police, as is known, also are responsible for preventing coffee smuggling in the alarming proportions experienced last year.

Official sources said that the National Navy will soon join the fight against marihuana trafficking by means of control activities in the coastal region and sea patrols.

Mobile Patrols and Fixed Posts

An official of the National Drug Council told EL ESPECTADOR that the Armed Forces are exerting a great effort in La Guajira; and, therefore, it is anticipated that the fight undertaken against the drug traffickers will produce the desired results.

After stating that the purpose of the militarization of the territory of La Guajira is to discourage big foreign investors, he said that control is being exercised through the action of mobile patrols and fixed posts.

He stated that in the last few hours several envelopment operations had been carried out by the Armed Forces to surprise persons linked with the drug traffic.

He revealed that in the next few hours several plans will be implemented which are designed to discover new marihuana fields, as there are more or less specific reports about places where these are located.

An official who has just arrived in Bogota from La Guajira told EL ESPECTADOR that military control over the highways is quite strict and indicated that on the Riohacha to Santa Marta stretch there are three fixed checkpoints in operation at this time. One of them is located in Buritica, another in Camarones and the third at the entrance to the capital of Cordoba.

Destruction by Tractor

Dr Jairo Eduardo Rivas, executive secretary of the National Drug Council, when questioned by this newspaper on the method selected to destroy the marihuana plantations discovered in La Guajira, replied:

"The destruction of the marihuana will be accomplished through the use of tractors. This work will be complemented, logically, by such personnel as may be needed to carry out the proposed objective."

Dr Rivas asserted that the government carefully considered the proposals which were made through this newspaper last Sunday by Drs Esteban Bendeck Olivella, Santiago Alvarez Van-Lenden, Isaac Lopez Freyle and Juan Luis Gomez Enriquez.

Assistance for La Guajira

In a related matter, official sources told EL ESPECTADOR that the National Government was interested in finding adequate solutions to the socioeconomic problem confronting the inhabitants of La Guajira which made it possible for many peasants to decide to abandon their traditional crops to engage in the planting of marihuana.

It was stated, for example, that the Agrarian Credit Bank will implement a special credit plan to encourage the growing of food products and those destined for industrial use.

The same government sources said that other state organizations will take steps to encourage the development of this department which has been completely forgotten, according to statements by officials and civic and political leaders of that section of the country.

Thus it was that yesterday the governor of La Guajira, Mrs Lola de la Cruz de Pastrana, held talks with the Minister of Public Works; however, it was not possible to learn the scope of the dialog. It was learned, however, that the official requested the intervention of this ministry to insure the reconstruction and paving of the main highway from Riohacha to Valledupar.

Drug Traffickers Burn Airplane

National Police sources reported yesterday afternoon to this newspaper that persons linked with drug trafficking set fire to an airplane when it was spotted by a patrol as its occupants were preparing to pick up a shipment of the "evil weed."

The incident occurred in fields of the "Codegua" farm, located in the district of the Riohacha municipality, some time after the aircraft had taken off from Manaure, a town from which it had departed at 1000 hours.

The burned airplane was a silver gray DC-3 and bore registration number N-2733. The authorities reported that the flames almost totally consumed the plane; however, they did not state whether the plane had already picked up its cargo.

There were reports that the farm on which this incident took place is owned by a citizen originally from Antioquia; however, his name was not revealed. This is the first concrete result of the militarization of the La Guajira territory.

Preliminary Statements

It was also learned that to advance the investigations connected with the discovery of extensive fields of marihuana First Criminal Examining Magistrate Dr William Lesport was commissioned.

The official heard the preliminary statements of 14 persons, including Hilda Toro, widow of Monroy, owner of one of the plantations discovered by the Police, whose area is estimated at some 30 hectares.

The legal situation of the prisoners will be clarified in the next 5 days, according to well-informed sources.

DC-3 Burned; A 'Stoolie' Talks

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jun 77 p 1-A, 6-A

[Article by Humberto Diez]

[Text] Riohacha, 3 Jun. Attempting to detect the members of the "marihuana mafia" in La Guajira and the northern coast of Colombia is as difficult as trying to step on a ghost's sheet.

In La Guajira, everyone knows the identity of the "capos" and "godfathers" of the international "marihuana" trade. But nobody--almost nobody--dares to mention them by name, even less so before strangers who might be newsmen or supersecret agents of the investigative organizations.

Anyone can start an investigation in hotels and dance halls, in bars and taxis; and it is possible that in conversations with a number of persons a small clue begins to be delineated. However, the time comes when the "informant" clams up and becomes crafty, like an unbroken colt: and when the investigator reaches out his hand to seize the "head" of the mafia, the hazy details which started to creep out slip through his fingers and the informer maintains an impenetrable silence. Or he simply changes the subject.

This is nothing more nor less than the counterintelligence service of the godfathers in action. When a person interested in finding out things thinks that he is beginning to get somewhere, in reality he is being investigated. And his presence in the area is automatically detected.

An Informant

However, in a small streak of luck, someone turns up suddenly who is ready to talk about the subject. It is not known whether he is fulfilling a mission at the orders of the "godfathers" or whether he is someone who wishes to harm the organization because he was cut out or "knocked down a peg" in one of their dirty businesses. What is certain is that he doesn't give his name, does not say where he lives, nor where he works. He limits himself to saying things which do not compromise him because he knows that breaking the "law of silence" in La Guajira is equivalent to a death sentence.

"What you published about 1,500 hectares of fields is a lie. The fields are bigger, much bigger than you can imagine. Go into the mountains, right into the mountains, and you will realize that what they found are merely 'kids' play'," says our informant beginning his confidential account.

"Those people have better weapons than the Army and the Police, he continues. "However, even though it seems untrue, they haven't armed themselves against the authorities. They have done so to protect themselves against rival groups which at one time used to loot other people's marihuana fields. However, I know that those in the mountains who are growing "marihuana" would turn their weapons against the authorities if an effort is made to oust them. There are more than 10,000 families living off this business

and they will not allow their bread and that of their children to be taken away. Without exaggerating, I can tell you that any effort to oust those people could lead to a small civil war. They are quite ready and they have weapons good enough to even down airplanes....

"The mountain people feel that the sowing of marihuana is work just like any other. Like growing wheat or cotton, or gathering coconuts, for example...."

My informant stops suddenly and tells me with suspicion:

"You won't get anything new out of me. I'm telling you what everyone in La Guajira knows. You want to know who is involved in the 'dance'? Better ask me who isn't. Here, everyone talks about El Capi, Maracas.... They are very powerful men because they are extremely rich. But they are not the most powerful nor the most important. Behind them is the invisible head of 'marihuana,' and he remains hidden: only two or three persons know who he is.

"That head makes and breaks heads. I don't want to scare you. However, many like you are putting their noses into places where they're not wanted and will end up 'with their eyes filled with maggots'.... Let me give you a bit of advice: go home and devote your time to finding out things that are easier and less dangerous....

"The mafia is everywhere and nowhere. You feel it like the air; however, you can't see it. It is all around you, like a ghost; but if you try to handle it, it slips through your fingers, like a little fish.... Here, however, the people know the mafia. They have the appearance of good people; they are good family men and collaborate with social works and in activities of other kinds and keep up their 'front' as honest businessmen or farmers."

"Generous Businessmen"

"However, behind the scenes of their activities, they have established an indestructible organization. They have succeeded in winning to their cause the efforts and the conscience of almost everyone. And they are generous as 'businessmen.' For example, they hire the owner of a truck to move a shipment of 'marihuana'; and it is carried over the back roads to clandestine airports or to wharves on the coast. They are paid 50,000 pesos for 5 or 6 hours of work. And if the Police confiscate their vehicle, they are repaid its value and more.

"Why don't the peasants now want to work in the traditional useful fields? Because the honest farmer cannot compete with his 'marihuana' colleagues. Legal work brings the farmworker between 60 and 80 pesos per day, but in the clandestine fields he earns 200 pesos or more.

"But money isn't everything. When they are arrested by the Police, the peasants' families are not left abandoned. The 'capo' takes charge of keeping the wives and children of the prisoners. And on top of that, they have food in jail and attorneys 'on the house'...."

The "Golden Asses"

Humble lowland donkeys, which in normal circumstances are not worth more than 1,000 pesos, are "golden asses" in La Guajira. Our informant tells us why:

"The 'marihuana gang' has driven up the prices of burros and mules. They became more costly because of excess demand when the 'marihuana gang' started to use them to transport marihuana from the fields to the caches where the marihuana is kept and processed. As the fields grew, the animals started to become a luxury article. Any burro or mule without much 'pedigree' could be worth as much as 25,000 pesos in this region. The mafiosi buy them at the price asked.

"Fishermen, too, have joined the brotherhood. The mafiosi started to hire them to carry shipments of marihuana in their boats between the coast and ships which were waiting on the high sea. Each trip was worth at least 30,000 pesos to them, and thus a new class was born on the coast: former humble fishermen who now drive their own 'Ranger' and have no desire to go back to shrimp, clams, lobsters or anything that reminds them of their impoverished past.

"Taxi drivers are another story. Almost all of them serve as 'guards' for the capos when they carry large sums of money to pay for harvests. For this bodyguard service, they earn 5,000 pesos a trip and for that reason you can't get a taxi here that charges an acceptable fare. Any trip of five or six blocks costs you 40 pesos and a trip to the neighboring city, 20 kilometers away, will 'hit' you for 200 'bills'.... Our drivers no longer want to do menial chores.... They are, moreover, a counterintelligence corps which communicates all Police movements to the 'godfathers'."

Families Pledged

Our informant told us something unusual, difficult to believe: the Americans have established a system in their dealings with the Colombian "capos," in accordance with which they "pledge" their families during negotiations for the purchase of a harvest. Our informant puts it this way:

"There were cases in which the gringos were killed in La Guajira when they went to the fields with their millions of dollars to purchase the harvest. Others took the 'merchandise' away with them promising to return and pay for it and never came back.

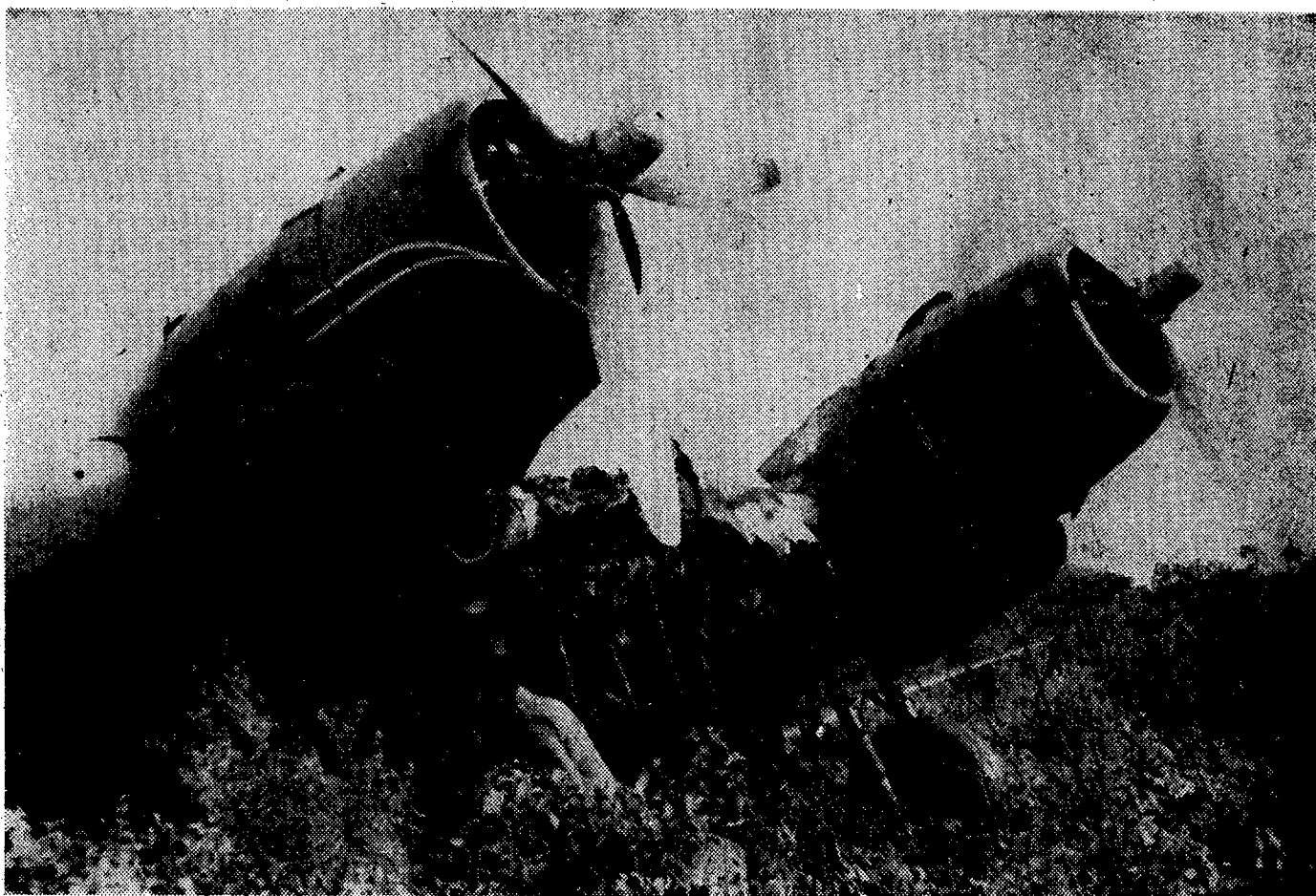
"Then something incredible happened: to avoid handling money 'in the bushes' on the back roads and defending their lives, they come to Colombia with their wives and children and stay in the homes of the 'capos' selling in

Barranquilla or Santa Marta. They receive the shipment and escort it back to the United States. In the meantime, they leave their family 'in hock' and redeem it when they return to the country bringing money...."

Our informant thinks that at this point he has perhaps said more than he should have. He says so and takes leave with an "adios," without shaking hands.

"I saw you, but I don't know you...."

Two minutes later he is no longer in the bar where the interview took place.



Only the engines of this DC-3 remained "presentable" after drug traffickers set fire to it when the aircraft was wrecked on the "Tedagua" ranch last Sunday, 40 kilometers from Riohacha. The pilots of the plane, which bears American registration number N-2733, badly misjudged the landing strip. They entered the pasture and hit a ditch. Dozens of planes have been burned by the mafiosi. The price of each plane doesn't make a dent in the fantastic economic capabilities of the mafia.

Arrests Begin In Riohacha Area

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Jun 77 p 8-A

[Text] Riohacha, 7 Jun. Thirteen of the 25 persons arrested initially during the discovery of the so-called "sea of marihuana" in the vicinity of Riohacha, were covered by detention orders issued by the 1st and 3d lower criminal court judges of this city.

The judges, William Robles Doncel and Wilner Lesport, included the following peasants in their orders: Hector Enrique Rodriguez Suarez, Dionisio Delgado Rondon, Donaldo Pena Suarez, German Martinez Rondon, Julio Cesar Maya Pimienta, Gerardo Segundo Rivadeneira Castano, Euclides Isaias Vergara Guevara, Juan Manuel Vasquez Gonzalez, Carlos Emilio Suarez Escalona, Mariano Rodriguez Pena, Misael Escala Tobias, Marcos Pena Suarez and Rita Toro, widow of Monroy.

These persons were arrested by the Police at the end of May when an envelopment operation was carried out in the area of the marihuana fields.

However, as of the moment, only manual field workers have been arrested; and it was learned that several official letters which the La Guajira chief of Police had sent to the offices of the notary and the recorder of deeds to determine the names of the owners of the land had not been answered.

Today, a special commission from the National Police arrived which was sent from Bogota to begin destruction of the fields. No information was released concerning the number of members of the commission; however, it was said that tractors will be used to raze the marihuana plants on the flat areas; and the traditional system of manual uprooting and subsequent burning will be utilized in the hilly regions.

Through the use of tractors, the work of destruction will be speeded up; and it is expected that the total razing of the fields will be completed in a month and a half, if new fields are not discovered in the sector.

Another Plane Burned; Engines of First Stripped

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Jun 77 p 7-A

[Article by Anibal Crespo Polo]

[Text] Another DC-3 plane, this time of Panamanian registration, was burned by drug traffickers in the vicinity of the "Codegua" farm, 40 kilometers from Riohacha.

According to reports provided by the police, this incident took place before the one which occurred recently on the same "Codegua" farm where a similar aircraft which misjudged the landing strip, "hit a ditch" and was burned by the mafiosi when they realized that the aircraft was no longer serviceable.

It is estimated that the airplane involved in this latest discovery had been burned several months ago, since the weeds have already started to grow around its wreckage.

All indications point to the fact that the DC-3--which was rendered totally unserviceable--could not take off and suffered damage because it was overloaded with several tons of marihuana.

It is assumed that the marihuana which the wrecked airplane was carrying was transported to the United States in another aircraft.

Motors Taken

With regard to the last plane burned by the "marihuana runners"--as EL TIEMPO was duly informed--it will be recalled that it was found at a site near the one where the new aircraft with Panamanian registration was discovered.

The only things left of the first plane in usable condition were the engines. A recent inspection of the site on the "Codegua" farm revealed to the police that the mafiosi had returned, removed the powerful engines and carried them off to an unknown destination.

Investigations conducted by the authorities indicate that the mafiosi in a gesture of incredible audacity went to the farm at night when there was no police patrol in the area and removed the engines for use in other planes employed to smuggle marihuana into the United States.

8143

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

DRUG ADDICTION IS 8.3 PERCENT AMONG YOUTHS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jun 77 p 11-A

[Article by Daniel Sanchez Aranguren]

[Text] "Paradoxically, at a time when the authorities are stepping up their efforts to ferret out drug traffickers, drug consumption at the school level is increasing to an ever more critical degree."

This statement appears in a report by Martha Monsalve, president of the Greater Colombian Association of Professionals, and one of the leaders in the fight against the sale of the so-called "hard drugs."

According to police statistics, in one year drugs were confiscated worth more than 61 billion pesos; i.e., something on the order of the total annual budget of the nation. Also, for every 1,000 Colombian youths, from 110 to 120 are drug addicts.

And if consideration is given to the fact that the confiscations represent no more than 20 percent of the drug total, the National Drug Council states, what would the drugs be worth which manage to escape the hands of the secret and uniformed police? And what would the drugs be worth which succeed in achieving their lethal objectives?

A survey conducted during the seminar organized by the Greater Colombian Association of Professional Women permitted the reaching of the following conclusions:

Dr Elsa Guttmann said that there is no single cause for drug addiction: "It is a combination of complex, intermingled factors which are subdivided in such a way as to make it difficult to understand the subject, let alone to come up with an approximate diagnosis; even less is it possible to determine proper therapy."

"Today, however, there are four general causes for drug addiction, according to those most knowledgeable on this subject: the collapse of the family society; problems produced by the consumer economy, in countries

without purchasing power; the growth of tourism which brings in dollars, it is true, but also multiplies the migratory currents of moral decadence; and finally, the mistaken manner in which the problem is being handled and the problem confronted."

Carlos Velez Gallego, Greater Colombian professor, joined the discussion to state that "although drug addiction goes back to rather distant times, it is only since the beginning of the present decade that it has received special attention from all sectors of society for an obvious reason: the problem has taken on the characteristics of a full-blown and growing phenomenon of contamination of all the nuclei of the community without any exception whatever."

"Accustomed as we are to generalizations," he added, "we do not particularize nor do we make distinctions in a subject which, like this one, compromises the individual and the community alike, as well as the law, medicine, the present as well as the future..."

"For that reason, we only see the products which are drugs, or the victim who is the drug addict; and for that reason, we limit ourselves to the confiscation of the former and the punishment of the latter..."

According to Dr Elsa Guttmann, "The danger lies in the fact that it is no longer only the adolescents who are using drugs: at the present time--and this information comes from the Ministry of Public Health--children 10, 11 and 12 years of age are taking drugs.

"The problem is one of drug addiction which can affect any of the unaddicted children at any moment, or those on the way to becoming addicted, due to complexes or problems which originated in childhood, or hidden in the subconscious which affect the physical person at every moment of his existence, no matter what his age, and which can lead us first to experimentation and then to drug addiction."

A police official observed:

"From our standpoint, the problem consists in the fact that on the day a drug addict doesn't have any money to buy his dosage unit (the price of which the traffickers are raising beyond reach) he will start to steal at school or at home; and then commit robberies or holdups in the streets, if necessary, to obtain what has become absolutely necessary to him. And we, ourselves, could become victims in our homes or out of them. The number is terrifying: it is estimated, and this is easy to prove, that of every 1,000 there are from 100 to 110 young people who are already drug addicts with large habits, that is to say, they take drugs once or several times a week."

"Our young people are, therefore, in serious danger," said a woman from the Christian Family Movement.

"Yes, ma'am," the official replied and then added: "And it is a danger that we must absolutely get them away from as soon as possible, because one more cigarette, one pill or another injection can make the problem irreversible..."

"What is really disturbing is that it does not seem that we are recognizing the magnitude of the problem or the threat which it entails..."

8143

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Three drug traffickers were arrested by DAS [Administrative Department of Security] at the Cartagena airport as they were preparing to travel to Guatemala carrying two kilos of very pure cocaine. The persons arrested are Carmen Vasquez, a native of Bogota who said that she is a dress maker by profession; Ana Lilia Tauta de Garzon, a native of Bogota and a resident of Cucuta; and Jorge Buitrago Riano. Carmen Vasquez was carrying the cocaine hidden in her private parts and in a suitcase which constituted the luggage of the woman and her companions. Yesterday's police action brings to three the number of blows delivered by the coastal DAS to the drug trafficking mafias in the last few days. The trio of cocaine smugglers were going to board a SAM airplane when they were intercepted by the secret police. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 27 May 77 p 17-A] 8143

COCAINE SEIZURE IN CARTAGENA--The National Office of Customs Inspections reported that during the last three days more than 7 million pesos worth of assorted merchandise, as well as 2,000 grams of cocaine, were seized in Cartagena. The cocaine, worth \$400,000, was found in the possession of two women and one man who were trying to carry the drug over the San Andres-Guatemala-El Salvador route. These persons were turned over to the local authorities. In this same city, contraband merchandise worth \$16,000 was confiscated. Two vehicles and the merchandise were confiscated by the customs authorities because those who were transporting these goods did not have the papers required for legal import activity. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Jun 77 p 7] 8143

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The military authorities of Riohacha have reported that a strong band of narcotics traffickers made up of Venezuelans and Colombians was intercepted by military units this morning on the Venezuelan border while transporting 3,500 kg of marihuana in a truck. Eleven persons were arrested. Meanwhile, Administrative Department of Security of Santa Marta, Magdalena Department, seized marihuana valued at 2 million pesos in the town of Tucurinca, 30 km south of the department's capital, which was about to be shipped to Mexico. The authorities have withheld the names and number of persons arrested in this operation. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jul 77 PA]

COCAINE SEIZURE--Marino Pavon Camacho has been arrested in the neighborhood of San Martin in connection with the police seizure of a large amount of marihuana and cocaine. The drug shipment was seized as it was being taken to the border with Ecuador. [Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Jul 77 PA]

MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED; POPPY PLANTS SEIZED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 16 Jun 77 pp 2-A, 4-A

[Article by A. Lamas, DIARIO reporter]

[Text] In four cases the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] caused setbacks to drug and narcotics trafficking by confiscating a large amount of heroin and marihuana and seizing a large number of poppy plants.

Commander Alvaro Orozco Novelo informed DIARIO DE NOGALES that PJF agents under his command found 82 grams of heroin in the possession of Rodriguez Trujillo when they were arrested at Avenida Lopez Mateos in front of Purisima Concepcion Church. Verdugo is employed at Centro Comercial VH and Rodriguez at "Cananea" tire shop.

During their interrogation by the PJF, they confessed that they planned to sell the drug for \$4,500 to some Americans and that the drug belonged to "El Chato" who is from Sinaloa. The latter has not been arrested.

PJF Agents Seized 550 Grams of Heroin

In another operation, the PJF agents under Commander Orozco Novelo seized 550 grams of heroin and arrested four drug traffickers, a pharmacist, a medicine salesman and a taxi driver.

Jose Jorge Ortega, a medicine salesman, and Ismael Moreno Valdez, a taxi driver, were the first ones arrested. The 550 grams of heroin were seized from Jorge Ortega. He had brought the heroin from Santa Ana to deliver it at a well-known hotel to some Canadians who were to buy it for \$57,000.

The salesman said he was given the drug by Joaquin Molina Contreras, the owner of a drug store. The PJF agents also arrested the latter.

At the Centro de Readaptacion Social, Alberto Martinez Sierras, alias "El Cheveto", was arrested when he attempted to smuggle into the jail about 1/2 kg of marihuana. No additional information was given on this case since more arrests are expected.

Finally, the PJF agents confiscated about 100 poppy plants at a house in this city. No arrests were made because the house is evidently abandoned.

MEXICO

EDITORIAL SAYS DRUG WAR PROVING EFFECTIVE

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 2 Jun 77 p 5-A

[Text] In no way is the fight against the production and traffic in drugs easy. It is the occupation that produces the greatest amount of illegal profits and therefore the one that awakens the greatest ambitions. This infamous trade knows no boundaries, and the criminal organizations that engage in it are economically more powerful than many international companies and have more resources than numerous countries of the Third World.

To battle the international drug "mob" means facing a monster with a thousand heads, almost all of which are invisible, endowed with immense power and accustomed to trampling on all the laws and riding roughshod over human rights. There is nothing more pitiless than the world of the drug trafficker and no one more cunning in corrupting by all manner of means than the producer or the distributor of those substances that threaten to annihilate our species.

In such circumstances the fight against the traffic in drugs acquires exceptional aspects. It is necessary to confront desperadoes ready for anything, from bribery to murder. How many times has it been said, for example in the United States, that Mexico does not offer effective cooperation in the battle against drugs.

The figures provided by General Felix Galvan Lopez, secretary of defense, appear to us to be very eloquent: in only 6 months 4,443 hectares of poppy plants and 1,950 hectares of marihuana have been destroyed; 505.5 million kilos of that weed have been destroyed and 134 kilos of poppy seed, 3,603 million kilos of marihuana seed and 66,070 kilos of depressants have been confiscated. At the same time millions of toxic pills have been confiscated and destroyed.

As a consequence of this incessant action, it has been possible to cripple 80 percent of the narcotics traffic, which signifies a triumph without precedent. It should not be forgotten that, in collaboration with this fight, the customs authorities at borders and airports have confiscated hundreds of kilograms of pure drugs and have arrested the traffickers. Thus, Mexico is joining the battle on all fronts against this modern scourge of mankind and will continue to do so to fulfill its commitment to protect the health of new generations.

MEXICO

HASHISH, COCAINE, OTHER SEIZURES LISTED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 1 Jun 77 p 8-A

[Text] In the city of Tijuana, Baja California, the Federal Judicial Police broke up an international gang of narcotics traffickers when they captured 15 of its members and confiscated drugs that were to be taken to the United States.

Police agents arrested four traffickers on the outskirts of the city of Oaxaca with 100 kilos of hashish which were to be packaged for sale.

In the international airport of Merida, Yucatan, an American, John Hebert Kennedy, was apprehended with 1 kilo, 275 grams of pure cocaine in the false-bottomed suitcase that he was bringing from Bogota, Colombia.

The Judicial Police in Tijuana intercepted a car on a highway near the beach in which four narcotics traffickers were traveling with 5 kilos of marihuana in packages. They stated that they were taking the drug to the United States and gave information on the distribution center in Tijuana.

A group of agents went to 501 and 502 Josefa T. de Abasolo Street, where the center was and found the other 11 traffickers with 17 kilos of marihuana. The traffickers revealed that the greater part of the weed had already been delivered.

Under arrest are Fred Flores Castro, Alfonso San Juan Perez, Alfonso Santiago Lopez, David Flores Castro, Gumersindo Camacho Camacho, Isidro Robles Topete, Virginia Ramirez de Camacho, Antonio Fregoso Mujica, Melesio Gonzalez Jimenez, Luis Arturo Castillo Sandoval, Everardo Ponce Tarula, Hector Manuel Calvillo Sandoval, Everardo Ramirez, Moises Asuncion Ponce and Moises Saldana Figueroa.

In Oaxaca two automobiles were also detained--in which 100 kilos of hashish were being transported--in the outskirts of the city; in them were Roberto Alonso Lopez Soto, Enrique Rafael Esperon, Leonel Villanueva Urbina and Gregorio Escamilla Leon.

The traffickers said that the drug had been picked up at Tlacolula, Oaxaca, where the agents went, but they only found 400 grams of marihuana, which they also confiscated.

Finally, the American, John Hebert Kennedy, arrived at the international airport at Merida, Yucatan, on Aviateca Flight 110 from Bogota, Colombia, where he had picked up the false-bottomed suitcase containing 1 kilo, 275 grams of pure cocaine.

At the same time, in Tampico the Federal Public Ministry agent, Jose Humberto Rojas Ruiz, confirmed that an army lieutenant and three individuals involved in narcotics activities had been detained.

The federal official indicated that the four prisoners were in the Eighth Military Region and that today their statements would be taken relative to the crimes they are accused of.

He said also that army personnel had destroyed a marihuana plantation in an area in the high mountains along the boundary line between the Ocampo and Tula municipalities.

He stated that he went to the mountains at the head of military and Federal Judicial Police forces and that probably an indiscretion permitted the principal culprits in the cultivation of the drug to escape.

Rojas Ruiz refused to provide the identity of the prisoners and said that he would only release the information today when they are sent to him along with the proceedings.

9015

CSO: 5300

HEROIN, MARIHUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 27 May 77 p 10-A

[Text] In five actions yesterday throughout the country--some accompanied by gunfire--the Federal Judicial Police arrested 10 drug traffickers, seized 4 tons of marihuana, 1.135 kilos of heroin and various caliber arms.

The largest amount of drugs was seized in Tijuana, Baja California, where police agents discovered a marihuana storage and distribution center, stocked with 2 tons of the drug ready to be shipped to the United States.

In the 20 de Noviembre colony at Avenida Pacifico and 199 del Carmen Street, Narciso Gonzalez Rios was arrested and 3 rifles, 1 carbine and a shotgun were seized.

In the city of Culiacan, Sinaloa, federal agents exchanged gunfire with a drug trafficker, who wounded two policemen but was ultimately arrested, while 300 kg of packed marihuana ready for sale were found in his possession.

The fighting took place on Leyva Solano Street, in the Guadalupe Victoria colony, where police had been investigating when they were fired upon by the trafficker, whose identity was not revealed.

Heliodoro Nunez Ibarra was arrested in the center of this same city. He was selling heroin in small doses and 1.35 kilos of heroin were found in his possession.

Later, police agents went to a house bearing no number at the corner of Pino Suarez Street and Avenida el Barrio in the Emiliano Zapata colony, where they arrested another trafficker, Graciano Quintana Contreras, an accomplice of Nunez Ibarra.

Other federal agents, while traveling at dawn yesterday on the Miguel Aleman-Reynosa highway in Tamaulipas, surprised Rogelio Guzman Preciado as he was cleaning up marihuana residue from a station wagon bearing California, U.S. license plates.

Guzman Preciado and his accomplice Manuel Diaz Caballero declared that they were returning from Colima state, where they had delivered a marihuana shipment in Ciudad Miguel Aleman.

The agents traveled immediately to Tecoman, Colima, where they arrested Rodolfo Rios Moreno and Jose Garza Trevino with 600 kilos of the drug they had received.

Lastly, in a ranch in Topia, Durango, 1.056 tons of marihuana ready to be shipped to the United States were seized. The growers of marihuana were arrested [text incomplete].

8980

CSO: 5300

TRAFFICKERS CONFESS MARIHUANA RING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 May 77 p 26-A

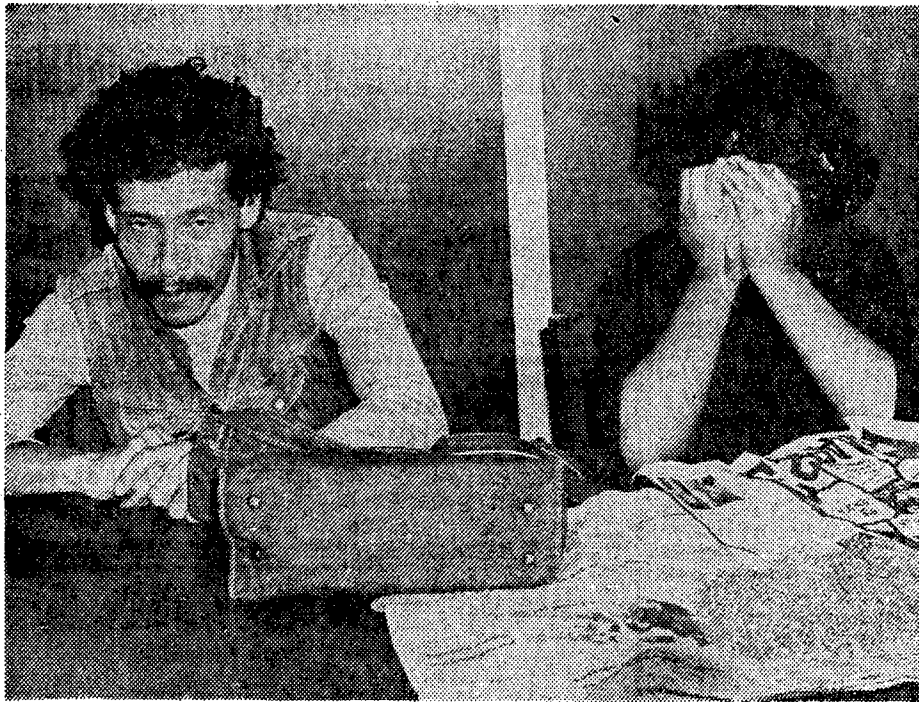
[Text] Agents of the Investigations Division arrested Sandra Rodriguez Suarez and Jaime Gutierrez Cortes, who have been selling marihuana in the Zona Rosa and some school areas of the Roma colony for a long time.

The pair belong to a marihuana ring headed by a man known only as Raul, originally from Sinaloa as are the other criminals.

Both told police they are merely "couriers of the organization." "We only make contact with the other distributors," they stated.

The Investigations Division agents arrested the pair at the corner of Rio Tiber and Paseo de la Reforma, where they had been waiting to meet another distributor.

The woman was carrying several kilos of marihuana in a pouch. She said that she has been involved in the traffic of drugs for about 1 year. Prior to that, she used to work in a beauty salon, where she met Jaime, who claims he is a beautician. They stated that the leaders of the organization bring the drugs from the state of Sinaloa.



Sandra Rodriguez and Jaime Gutierrez Cortes were selling marihuana in the Zona Rosa and other places in the Roma colony. They were arrested by agents of the Investigations Division.

8980
CSO: 5300

MARIHUANA CRACKDOWN IN U.S. BORDER AREA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 May 77 p 30-A

[Text] In Monterrey, Nuevo Leon yesterday, following a chase that ended in an automobile crash, the Federal Judicial Police seized 3 tons of marihuana being transported on a truck. The driver and his helper escaped.

The vehicle crashed into a house on the side of the Monterrey-Nuevo Leon highway. There were no casualties.

The drug was found hidden under a load of pineapples which, according to the documents in the truck, originated in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca and was to be delivered to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

The federal agents opened the investigation with the documents found on the truck bearing license VW-4128 from Tamaulipas.

The public ministry agent, who was informed of the incident, stated that the drug was to be delivered to Mexican and U.S. traffickers who distribute the narcotic in night clubs of the border cities.

Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, chief of the Federal Judicial Police, announced that the persons who were supposed to receive the drug in that city have already been identified.

Nevertheless, he declined to mention any names because, as he said, police authorities are hoping to arrest all the members of a ring operating out of the Nuevo Laredo frontier.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic stated that the village of Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, is under tight watch, because more than 60 tons of marihuana have been seized there in recent weeks.

In another development, federal agents arrested Ignacio Espinosa Cordova, Mario Contreras Hernandez and Esteban Vargas Valles in Hermosillo, Sonora, when they were buying and selling cocaine and heroin on a street in the center of the city.

They declared to the Public Ministry agent of this city that they obtained the drug in Culiacan, Sinaloa, and were reselling it in Hermosillo and in Nogales, Sonora.

MEXICO

MARIHUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 May 77 p 30-A

[Article by Consuelo L. de Avalos]

[Text] Tijuana, B.C., 24 May--Today, agents of the Federal Judicial Police seized 7 tons of marihuana, laboratory equipment for processing the drug and high-power weapons. Two individuals were arrested.

The Federal Judicial Police announced that in a locality near Hermosillo known as El Caballo, a trailer was intercepted carrying 5 tons of marihuana to be delivered in Tijuana. The vehicle was driven by Roberto Benco Rodriguez.

The marihuana was to have been taken to 199 Avenida Pacifico in the 20 de Noviembre colony of this city, a building used as a storage area. Police found 2 more tons of marihuana in this same place.

Police also arrested Genaro Gonzalez Rios at 21 Avenida Montes Urales of the Lomas residential district of this city, while federal agents in Hermosillo arrested his brother, Narciso Gonzalez Rios.

The agents seized high-power weapons, mechanical presses and precision scales found in the storage area of Avenida Pacifico.

8980

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA, VEHICLES, TRAFFICKERS BUSTED IN SONORA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 May 77 p 30-A

[Article by Francisco Santa Cruz Meza]

[Text] Hermosillo, Sonora, 17 May--The Federal Judicial Police yesterday seized drugs worth 3.5 million pesos when they arrested six drug traffickers who were staying at the Bolivia Hotel in Nogales, Sonora, awaiting the buyers.

The Federal Judicial Police commander, Margarito Mendez Rico, announced that the individuals arrested will be remanded to the Federal Public Ministry, together with two cars which were also seized. He said that the drugs were found in 21 safe containers, of which 18 were hidden in a Ford car trunk, and the others inside the hotel.

The arrested are: Juan Gonzalez Martinez, Roman Maken Lucero, Guillermo Ayala Zarate, Patricia Murray Duarte, Juan Dolores Gonzalez Castano and Roberto Perez Espinosa.

Weapons and Marihuana in Caborca, Sonora

The Federal Judicial Police today arrested four drug traffickers on a clandestine track, 55 km south of Caborca, who were awaiting the arrival of marihuana buyers; a 1968 Ford station wagon, 3 guns and 2 .22 caliber rifles were seized.

The Federal Judicial Police chief said that the traffickers "were going to sell a large quantity of marihuana" and were expecting the buyers on the clandestine track when they were arrested. They are: Jose Ramon Canes Romero, Diego Gutierrez Garcia and Alfonso Martinez Garcia, of Culiacan, Sonora.

8980

CSO: 5300

MARIHUANA BUST IN TIJUANA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 May 77 p 30-A

[Article by Consuelo L. de Avalos]

[Text] Tijuana, B.C.N., 17 May--Agents of the Federal Judicial Police today seized 2 tons of marihuana in a clandestine workshop in the basement of a house on Bucareli Street in the Obrera colony. Three drug traffickers were arrested. The drug was to have been sent to the United States.

The criminals, members of an international ring, would ship the drug to the United States concealed under false bottoms of the gas tanks of tankers, which were especially outfitted.

The marihuana was hidden in the basement of the house at 123 Bucareli Street of the Obrera colony, which was raided by the federal agents; however, some of the traffickers were able to escape.

Special tools were found in the workshop, which were used to modify the gas tanks and adapt them to the vehicles transporting the marihuana to the neighboring country.

The drug was packed and ready to be loaded into 10 gas tanks.

The owner of the house where the drug traffickers conducted their business, Miguel Angel Bazan, was arrested by police and interrogated; he revealed names of persons involved. Two other individuals were arrested as they were leaving for Durango.

The Federal Police confirmed that the supplier of the marihuana shipped to the United States is Francisco Samaniego Rubio, a well-known trafficker from Sinaloa, who was arrested yesterday in Culiacan by the Federal Police.

8980

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE IN MERIDA--Merida, Yucatan, 28 May 77--An American, John Herber Kennedy, 32, was arrested today by agents of the State Judicial Police at the international airport when he tried to bring cocaine worth two million pesos into the country. Herber Kennedy confessed that he had brought cocaine into the country on five previous occasions. Twice he did it in powder and the other three times in liquid. This time he did it in powder. He hid the drug in a suitcase with a false bottom. His capture was prompted by his suspicious actions; upon being arrested he tried to hide the bag. Police sources reported that thus far this year five foreigners--three Americans and two Colombians--have been apprehended at the Federal Airport and imprisoned in the state penitentiary. For their part, the American lawyers who are working for his freedom are in difficulty since they do not have a license to practice in Mexican territory. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 May 77 p 26-A] 9015

ANTI-DRUG FIGHT CALLED 'ENDLESS'--Hermosillo, Sonora, 28 May--In the fight against the trafficking and production of drugs "we are at an impasse, in a blind alley, and the fight goes slowly," it was admitted at a meeting between legislators of Mexico and the United States. It was recognized, in addition, that "as long as consumption does not abate, human ingenuity, particularly that directed toward evil, will find a way to produce in order to obtain profits. "It is necessary, then, to provide incentives to the farmers for other crops and in some cases change their activity," said Representatives Enrique Ramirez Ramirez and Benjamin Gilman, during the session presided over by the Mexican, Augusto Gomez Villanueva. Likewise, it was recognized that narcotics traffic affects our bilateral relations, but we also accept the fact that it is a general problem and not just a border one. Representative Gilman assailed the "golden triangle," formed by Thailand, Laos and Burma, which has increased production, and he spoke on the production of carrabis in the Middle East. Gilman said, "Heroin, which tortures the mind and the body of man, especially among the youth, knows no frontiers. There is a great need for our two great nations and all the producing and consuming nations to intensify their efforts to eradicate this menace and put a final end to the criminal influence that affects all society." [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 28 May 77 p 8-A] 9015

CLANDESTINE AIRFIELD DISCOVERED--Hermosilla, Sonora, 30 May--A Cessna aircraft whose occupants were transporting marihuana worth over 1 million pesos crashed today on a mountainside just before it was to land on a clandestine airfield on the Santa Fe Ranch, 5 kilometers southwest of Caborca. The narcotics traffickers made a forced landing when they realized that the police were waiting for them on the strip. The Federal Judicial Police had set up a surveillance of the field when they learned that a group of narcotics traffickers transporting drugs to the United States were to stop there. However, the criminals saw that they were being surrounded, and upon landing on the mountain they crashed. The machine was damaged and bloodstains were found, but no narcotics trafficker was apprehended. The drugs were in 18 sacks and the machine was a red, gold and white Cessna 210, with an altered registry number, XB-LEO, of American origin. The police found documents inside, but they did not reveal what they were in order not to prejudice the investigation. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 May 77 p 32-A] 9015

DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--A murderer and drug trafficker was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. Yesterday, Luis Garcia Romero, the Second District Court judge, sentenced Martin Quinones Arevalo to 5 years and 3 months imprisonment and fined him 5,000 pesos for a crime against public health.

[Excerpt] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jun 77 p 5-C] 8923

SEVEN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--During the early hours of yesterday, the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] in a joint action with the national army captured a group of drug traffickers. The arrests were made at the places known as Anzalduas in the municipality of Reynosa and Valadeces in the municipality of Diaz Ordaz. The detainees said their names are Juan Abel Gonzalez Ramirez, Humberto Gonzalez Acevedo, Juan Antonio Gonzalez Panuelos, Sergio Gonzalez Panuelos, Odiseo A. Cuevas, Rael Gonzalez Acevedo and Eulalio Gonzalez Salinas. Besides breaking up the gang, the PJF and the army seized 33 sacks containing 554 bricks of marihuana weighing 1,374 kgs. They also confiscated \$9,180 which the gangsters had received in payment for drugs, three precision scales, one .22 cal rifle and two .30 cal M-1 carbines. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Jun 77 p 3-B] 8923

COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE INACTION--Yesterday, residents of Calle Puerto Rico charged that drug traffickers who live there put into operation another "shooting" gallery where neighborhood youths who are their victims buy drugs from them. The "shooting" gallery is on Calle Brasil. Its owner is a notorious drug dealer and trafficker but for unknown reasons investigation agents do not arrest him. The accusers said they denounced this case to the press and the authorities because there are several criminals involved. The owner of the "shooting" gallery has several partners and accomplices who even draw young women into the drug circle. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 16 Jun 77 p 4-A] 8923

CSO: 5330

CUZCO INVADED BY 'HIPPIES'

Lima GENTE in Spanish 2 Jun 77 pp 51-58

[Article by Hugo Prusso and Luis Torreblanca]

[Text] The city of Cuzco and the entire Sacred Valley of the Incas have been virtually invaded by thousands of foreign hippies. They come for a short stay and remain here to live for years. They work the land and plant crops. They take up in handicrafts. Almost all of them are in Peru illegally. A good number of them traffic in dollars from Bolivia. And most of them devote themselves openly to the production and use of drugs. They are causing real problems. The townspeople are complaining that the young people of Cuzco are imitating the hippies. The police say that they loot the churches and sell the paintings. Two GENTE reporters traveled to Cuzco to investigate this matter. After living with the hippies for 4 days, they filed this exclusive report.

Sandles. Jeans almost in rags. Peasant ponchos purchased in a secondhand store. You see them everywhere in Cuzco. In the Plaza de Armas, frequenting "pop" bars. In the poor barrios, buying potatoes in the market. Or in the countryside, living in the ruins of traveling over Inca roads where only the llamas dare to pass. They are foreigners. Most of them are Americans. The others are Europeans, Swiss or Frenchmen. There are few Latin Americans. They are "economy tourists," as they are officially called. The hitchhikers "raidistas" as they are called by some. Or "backpacking hippies" as they are called by the people. There are thousands of them. In Cuzco alone, they constitute nearly 10 percent of the population. They have practically invaded the city and the entire Sacred Valley of the Incas, creating real problems. They come for a short stay and remain here to live for years. They go to the countryside and settle down with the peasants. Some rent land and grow crops, others dedicate themselves to handicrafts. Almost all of them are in the country illegally. A good number of them traffic in dollars from Bolivia. And most of them devote themselves openly to the production and indiscriminate use of drugs. They are a serious problem. The townspeople are complaining that they are contaminating the young people of Cuzco. The police say that they loot the churches and traffic in drugs.

What do they do? How do they live? Why do they come to Cuzco? What are they seeking by entering the Sacred Valley and living with the peasants? These are some of the questions that are posed. To get to the bottom of this enigma, two representatives from GENTE, Hugo Prusso and photographer Luis Torreblanca lived with the Cuzco hippies for several days. They talked with them. They observed the problem at close hand and prepared this exclusive report...

Plaza de Armas. Ten in the morning. Seated on a bench, we await the arrival of the hippies. At around 11, they begin to come down. They come from the high barrios. From Saphy or San Blas. They are dressed in an outlandish manner. Some are carrying their handbags and are going to market for food. There are many of them. According to unofficial figures from the Office of Tourism, more than 1,500. Nearly 10 percent of the population of Cuzco. They come here attracted by two basic things. The peacefulness of the place and the possibility of getting cheap drugs. That is because throughout the province of La Convencion, both basic cocaine paste and marihuana are produced in industrial quantities. At times even by the hippies themselves.

How They Live

They have their own barrios. Perhaps the best known are San Blas, a few blocks from Plaza de Armas, and Saphy, somewhat further out, on the old royal road of the Incas. They rent rooms in squalid hotels opened especially for them. They pay very little. The "Bolivar," for example, charges them only 60 soles a night. But there are cheaper hotels. As little as 10 soles. Although lodging at this price is equivalent to merely four walls and a roof, generally shared. They spread out their sleeping bags on the floor and that's how they spend the night. Some rooms are occupied by more than five. Men and women, most of them young, not older than 25.

However, this is limited only to those who are staying Cuzco for short time. For those who have decided upon a longer stay, for months or years, the solution is to rent a house away from town. The mechanics are simple. They pay 500 soles per month, which they divide among all those who live in it. At times more than the capacity of the house permits. Those houses are veritable holes. Up until a short time ago, they were accepted by the people and were able to rent a house without anyone's bothering them. However, because of the fact that there were hippies who rented a house and completely "emptied" it out, a negative attitude toward them has developed.

But the real life of the hippies begins at night. Shortly after the lights of the city are turned on, the Plaza de Armas and the bars which encircle it are inundated by "shaggy gringos." There are "recommended" places. El Retablillo is perhaps mentioned most often. It is located at 44 Procuradores Street, half a block from the Cathedral. They meet there to talk and drink beer and other beverages, preferably hot wine with cinnamon and special "punches." They remain until late, speaking English and listening to loud pop music.

This type of bar is forced to close after a certain time, because the ambience degenerates rapidly and it becomes a center for drug consumption. Not long

ago, there was a restaurant called "Rosa de los Vientos" in the Plazoleta de las Nazarenas, in the heart of the barrio of San Blas. The hippies used to get together there to hold their smoke-ins. They would sit on pillows on the floor, singing and reading outloud. When the police found out about it, they closed the place. However, no sooner had "La Rosa de los Vientos" disappeared when the hippies opened another restaurant, the "Samana Huasi," where vegetarian food was served and one had to remove his shoes before entering. This, too, was closed by PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police].

At the moment, no restaurant with the characteristics of the previous ones has been detected; however, there are other meeting sites. The one most frequented is the "Mandala," which also serves vegetarian meals. But because of police pressure it was forced to close at 1700 hours in the afternoon to avoid complications.

It is in these places that one finds one of the most serious facets of the problem of the hippie invasion: drug addiction. This is a really serious problem because the young people of Cuzco, imitating the practices of these "romantic backpackers," are getting into the massive consumption of marihuana and what is worse, cocaine. And today there is not a single secondary school in the city in which at least a joint of marihuana is not smoked. There is a logical explanation: the drug is very cheap. It is possible to obtain "grass" of good quality right in the Plaza de Armas for only 10 soles per "troncho" (cigarette), or 30 for a matchbox full of the product.

It is because of this problem that the police are intervening in the situation, conducting constant raids. This forces the hippies to look for secret spots to engage in their practices. However the most daring still take chances by using drugs in front on the Cathedral in Plaza Regocijo in plain sight of everybody.

"I Smoked With Them..."

L.O. is a Peruvian. Some time ago, he became acquainted with a French hippie and fell in love with her. He lived with the hitchhikers and participated in their rituals. Here is his story:

"I had a room on Tecsecocha Street, near the Bolivar. The friends of my girl used to come there to hold their rituals. I took part in them. They began spontaneously. Without prior commitment. I remember one of those nights. They brought out their little boxes of marihuana and shaped cigarettes using 'Inka' cigarette papers. They started to pass them from hand to hand. One cigarette went out and they lit another. I smoked, too. After the cigarettes, they brought out a kind of pipe. They filled it with marihuana and cocaine paste. At this point, I began to feel the effects of the drug. My body went to sleep. The pipe passed from mouth to mouth gushing smoke and was constantly refilled. They smoked in silence, breathing in the smoke with all of their might. Soon they began to laugh boisterously. I didn't know why, but I also began to laugh. Then they started to talk. 'There are strange worlds,' they would say. 'And God lives because we see Him. And the angels, too.' The

peals of laughter continued. And guffaws rocked the room. We were flying high. All at once, one of the girls took off her clothes and began to make love with one of the fellows. In a minute, we were all imitating them. We even changed partners. It was done with surprising naturalness. Without fear or shame."

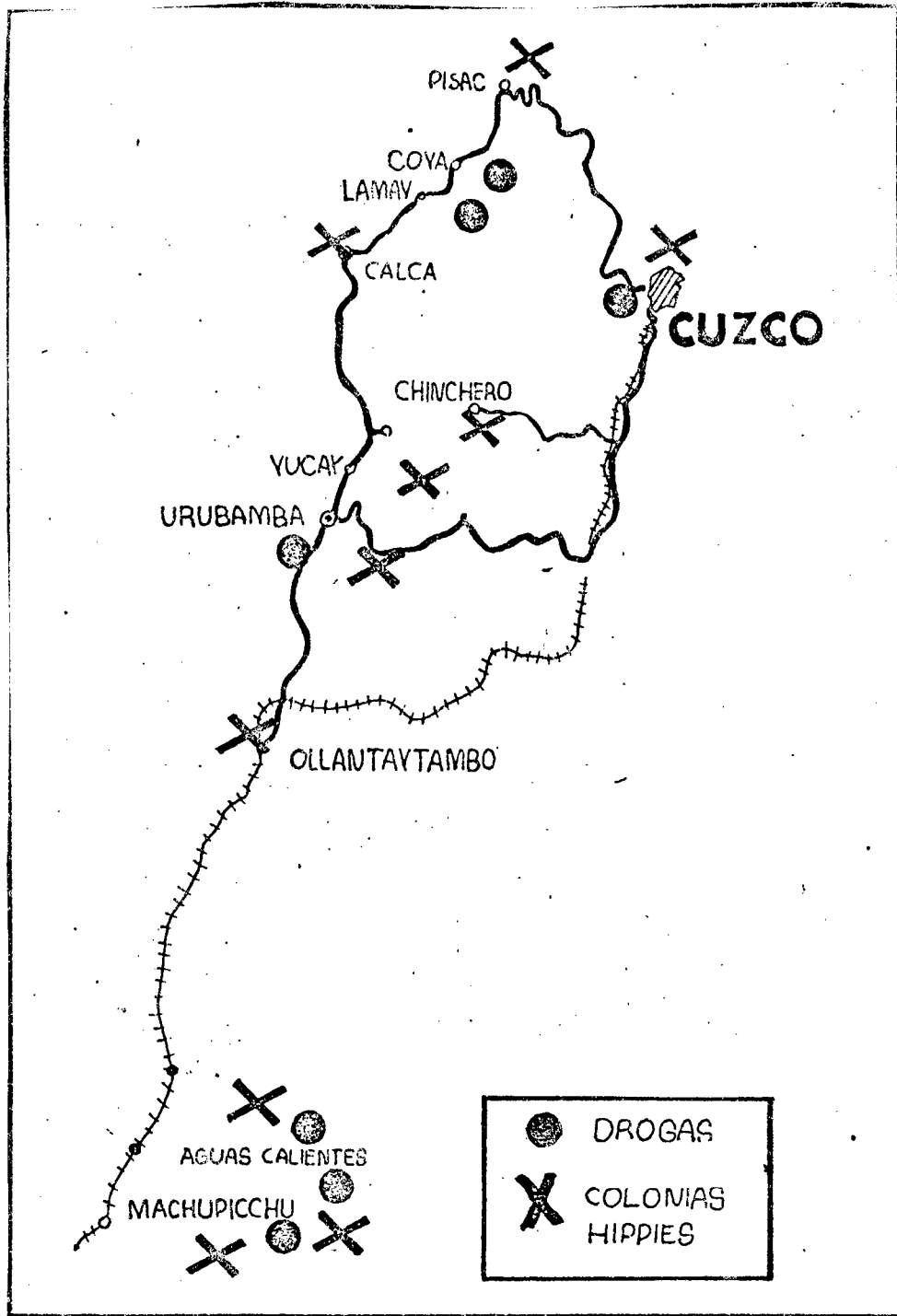
Colonies in the Sacred Valley

One of the places preferred by the hippies who remain here to live is the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This is a territory with a gentle climate which covers the area from the city of Cuzco to Pisac, Coya, Lamay, Calca, Yucay, Urubamba, Ollantaytambo (see map), and especially the region of the Inca roads to the ruins of Machu Picchu. That is where the real colonies are located. Where commune living and drug consumption are practically wide open because there is no control. It is a peaceful region and, except for the populated centers, is not often frequented by tourists or the police. What is more, the climate is suitable for the growing of marihuana. And there is one strange fact. Recently, an unusual phenomenon has been observed. In the entire region of the Sacred Valley the hippies have become so assimilated in the peasant population that they are living alongside of them. There are cases of Americans who have rented small parcels of land on which they grow garden vegetables, fruits and other produce. Others raise animals or are engaged in handicrafts. Perhaps the most outstanding example is that of the Huayras Punku (Puerta de los Vientos) farm which is located near Ollantaytambo. This is farmland which belonged to a Cuzco family which was dislodged during the Agrarian Reform. A real hippie colony became established there. They totaled more than 70. The police had to evict them after complaints from the inhabitants of the region. They said that in the camp "scandalous acts against morality" were being committed, and the hippies were using large amounts of drugs. The neighbors were concerned because many of their young people had gone to live with the hippies.

To go more deeply into this subject concerning the establishment of colonies in the Sacred Valley, GENTE talked with Richard Zamalilloa, an experienced guide who constantly traverses that region.

"The whole valley is very benign, both as regards the climate and productivity which permits the establishment of human [settlements]," says Richard. "Many people of Cuzco, particularly officials and professionals, make their homes there on weekends. The hippies like to live in the area for the same reasons. And in all of the towns in the valley there are many of them living in rented houses or out in the fields. In Pisac, there is an inn called 'Chongo Chico' whose proprietor is a foreigner. The hippies go there for 2 or 3 days to attend the handicraft fairs or visit the ruins. Afterward, they return to their houses lost in the fields. But the largest concentration is in Ollantaytambo. There the phenomenon of assimilation in the peasant community is observable."

Descending by railway from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu, one also encounters numerous hippie settlements. At kilometer marker 111, there is a town named



The Sacred Valley of the Incas and the hippie colonies. The paradise of drugs.

Key: ● = drugs
X = hippie colonies

Aguas Calientes which has thermal springs and very cheap lodging. From 50 to 10 soles. They stay at this place when they visit Machu Picchu. Since it is very expensive for them to go to the Tourist Hotel to spend 2 or 3 days, they travel the kilometer which separates the Ruins Station from Aguas Calientes and spend the night in the little town. In the morning, they return to the ruins. In this town, the hippies have caused some problems. There are complaints that these people bathe in the nude in the hot water springs, causing an uproar. They go so far as to state that these same springs have been contaminated by the hippies with an illness commonly called "scratch scratch" (scabies). And this disease is creating real havoc among the inhabitants of the whole La Convencion Valley and the city of Cuzco. That is because the disease is very contagious and quite difficult to cure.

Drug Paradise

"However, there is an area especially preferred by the hippies for the establishment of their colonies. It is the Incan road that starts at kilometer marker 88 of the railway to Machu Picchu and runs to the ruins through forests and uplands. I know that area very well," Richard Zamalloa asserts, "because I am always moving about guiding tourists. There is one sector, between the Huaymy Huanuska pass, at the 4200-meter level, and Sayacmarca, where the climate is very warm. There are valleys, ravines and plains where you can live without problems. I had reports that there were hippie colonies in this area. I was able to corroborate this when I traveled there a few days ago. I saw many hippies coming to the Inca road from other paths which told me that there were colonies scattered about in that sector. Maybe on the Sarkantay slopes or the Huarmentay snow peak. Or in the Pacaymayo and Sayacmarca region. That section is completely uninhabited. There is only one town, at railway kilometer marker 88, called Huayllabamba. But from there to Machu Picchu there are no communities, small towns or settlements. The hippies get there on foot, carrying special backpacks and food. Once in the area, they pick fruits in the forests: oranges, mangoes, limes, avocados. It is a veritable drug paradise because, as I understand it, that's the kind of activities the hippies engage in there. This is the most likely place to carry on these kind of activities. For that reason, they make a sacrifice, traveling on foot from Cuzco some 30 or 40 kilometers through rugged terrain to live in those colonies, because nobody bothers them there, not even the people who may occasionally pass through the place."

What Does Machu Picchu Have?

Many ask the question: why do so many hippies go to Machu Picchu? We were given the answer by a man who has been researching the subject for a long time, the editor of the newspaper EL SOL of Cuzco, German Alatriza. According to our colleague, the reason for the hippie invasion of Machu Picchu is due to the fact that a special weed grows in that area known as "chujno," which reportedly has hallucinogenic properties much stronger than marihuana.

"This weed grows in the entire area of the ruins and most particularly on the Inca road which runs to Cuzco, in the archeological groups of Puyupatamarca and Sayajmarca. Since no police come here for lack of time, they go out tranquilly, gather the weed, dry it and smoke it. And they say that it is extraordinary. I had the opportunity of living with them for several days, doing a bit of work. That was when they wanted to hold a hippie congress in Machu Picchu. That was 5 years ago. They were living in the ruins, in places called "the refuges," watchtowers used by the Incas to exercise surveillance over the valley. During the day, they disappeared completely. They went to the ruins. At night, they would return to the refuges. These were rooms 15 meters long and 4 meters wide. They slept there and smoked chujno cigarettes, although there were people who were taking other kinds of drugs, heroin, for example. Of course, they all chewed coca. That was the way it was until the police kicked them out. However, they still come here. The only difference is that they settle in the surrounding area."

"A Very Serious Problem"

As a result of the increase in drug addiction cases and drug trafficking in Cuzco and throughout the province of La Convencion, promoted by the hippie invasion, the Supreme Court of Justice has appointed an "ad hoc" judge to investigate the cases. The judge is Dr Luis Alcazar Castilla, a Cuzco attorney who confided to GENTE some of the details of drug trafficking and consumption in the region.

"The problem is more serious than you think," says Dr Castilla, "because in reality the province of La Convencion is the one which supplies the largest amount of basic cocaine paste consumed in Peru. Despite the fact that there is a law which limits coca production, such a limitation does not exist. It is produced on all of the rented lands. And I can assure you that there are thousands of hectares planted with coca. Coca is planted in the shade of fruit, coffee and cacao trees. And since it is the raw material from which cocaine is extracted and its manufacture is so simple, on almost all of the rented lands of La Convencion not only is coca planted but it is also macerated and cocaine is extracted. Not long ago there was a raid on a farm where 36 kilos were confiscated from a single processing site. This activity is encouraged by foreigners and by Peruvians themselves who come here with technical know-how and incentives for the peasants; i.e., offers of great profits."

Cheap Drugs

"Since Cuzco is the Mecca for coca and marihuana production," asserted Dr Castilla, "it is logical that this is a lure for all classes of people, especially the so-called hippies--to obtain cheap drugs. However, it is very difficult to control the use of drugs. PIP constantly apprehends groups of hippie marihuana users. But it is very difficult to find the traffickers. And as for the coca producers, it is even more complicated. Generally because an individual shows up on several of the rented plots in the valley and encourages the peasant to produce cocaine by offering him excellent profits."

They supply him with kerosene, sulfuric acid and calcium carbonate. The problem has reached such magnitude that coca is no longer macerated in cement tanks inside of the houses. This is done in the open air, in large holes in the ground lined with heavy plastic. When the operation is completed--in 3 or 4 days--the 'chemist' disappears with the product. When the police raid the place and discover the bagasse of the leaves buried or cast aside at a particular site, they arrest the peasant. However, the latter cannot tell them to whom he sold the cocaine, because he doesn't know him. As for marihuana, it is a weed that is produced in remarkable abundance throughout the Sacred Valley of Incas. And it has invaded Cuzco to the point that it is even being distributed in the secondary schools. And the problem of increased drug addiction among our young people surely derives from their imitation of the practices of the hippies..."

Churches Dismantled

Inspector Cesar Horna Galvan, chief of the legal office of the 4th PIP Region, has spent many years working in this sector. He have us surprising information. To get money to live on, many hippies steal objets d'art and then sell them. Particularly paintings which they take from the churches.

"This is one of the most common cases we have to deal with," he states. "Almost all of the temples of the region have been practically dismantled by the hippies. They remove the paintings and sell them. Some they take out of the country. The problem is so serious that we are conducting a joint campaign with other authorities and even the National Institute of Culture, trying to stop them from looting and attempting to recover the stolen paintings."

The inspector asserts that PIP is attempting to permanently control the hippies. He has a list of all of them. However, because of a lack of police manpower they are unable to follow them. "That's because they go to live in the fields or the forest and disappear. Perhaps because many of them are intimately linked to drug trafficking..."

Epilogue

However, despite everything that is said or done, sandles continue to trod the Plaza de Armas; ponchos purchased in a secondhand store conceal drug traffickers and the acrid smell of fresh marihuana impregnates the bodies in the "pop" bars. The problem is serious. And the people have begun to be concerned. It is perhaps for this reason that on a sticker plastered to the window of a microbus which incessantly circulates in Cuzco, a local wag has written:

"Please don't scorn the hippies..."

"They are as happy as any other pig..."

URUGUAY

INFAMOUS INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKER, SWINDLER ARRESTED

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 18 May 77 p 13

[Text] An extremely dangerous Uruguayan criminal who operates internationally in several types of crime ranging from drug trafficking and business bankruptcy to counterfeiting documents with the most modern equipment has been arrested again in the Argentine Republic, according to a report confirmed yesterday afternoon by the Interpol National Central Bureau.

Ruben Nelson Siri Suarez, alias "Cacho," eluded Uruguayan police in 1973, fleeing to the neighboring coast. Some time afterward, however, it was thought that he had been arrested. It is not known how he was able to avoid judicial-police action, but he remained at large with a warrant out for his arrest until he was captured within the last few hours by the Argentine Federal Police in an unidentified area of the port capital.

"Cacho" Siri is a clever swindler connected with underworld gangs which in time must be flushed from our midst and penalized according to the law. Two of the gangs, linked with the "Corsican Union" and specializing in the counterfeiting of documents, swindling and drug trafficking, have been broken up, their members having been arrested by agents of the National Information and Intelligence Bureau. Others have succeeded in fleeing the country, taking advantage of the fact that the information against them was vague, giving them adequate time to flee.

In all of the cases Ruben Nelson Siri Suarez appeared as an important figure, and the search therefore centered on him, even to the discovery that he had escaped to the Argentine Republic. It was there in March 1973 that the Uruguayan police, through Interpol, broadcast the first call for his arrest.

Clandestine Press

We might recall here briefly the shady history of the criminal captured by the Argentine police. At the beginning of March 1973 agents of Department 5 of the Information and Intelligence Bureau, being aware that at that time there was in circulation a large quantity of forged checks and money orders drawn

against foreign banks with branches in Montevideo, sought the individual responsible for the swindle. After extensive investigation, they arrived at 3033 Brazil Avenue, a location which apparently had been rented for the opening of a "boutique." The location, through its lease, had then been acquired by the "Cacho" Siri gang for 12 million old pesos (an enormous sum at that time), and it was remodeled, apparently in preparation for the installation of another business. Inside, however, the leaders of the gang of swindlers had established their base of operations. In order to avoid suspicion, the unscrupulous Siri Suarez did not hesitate to involve his own wife, Elvira Lidia Carabel Franco de Siri, renting the place in her name. In addition, and having thought of everything, the woman told the building agent that she was separated from her husband (dissolution of the marital bond having been initiated and accomplished some time before), which obviously would prevent any legal action against the criminal.

When the place was broken into by investigators, they impounded an IBM machine with six tapes containing names, amounts and dates of checks for foreign currency, forged by the organization and cashed in the area by another international criminal, Guillermo Ruben Bernal. The machine in question had been brought from Brazil.

Ruben Siri Suarez, who fled Uruguay using a counterfeit document he himself had made, with the name of "Velasco Pusitano," had left in another apartment in Pocitos irrefutable proof of his connection with the international narcotics trade. He was also linked, according to the captured documents, with the now defunct gang formerly headed by the notorious Armando Nicolaic. The Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade, in June 1973, shortly after its establishment as a special agency of the National Bureau of Information and Intelligence, then returned to the property at Brazil Avenue, and after a thorough, inch-by-inch search found a plastic box containing several grams of pure heroin.

The alert concerning Siri's flight and the warrant for his arrest had already been broadcast; however, his activities as a narcotics dealer were added to it, since they had hitherto been unknown or perhaps overshadowed by the scope of his other crimes. This gave the investigators a new field to explore in the many-faceted personality of the long-standing criminal.

When it became known in June 1973 that Siri had fallen into the hands of the Argentine authorities--it is not yet known how he later escaped--it was expected that a long period of negotiation would be necessary to obtain his extradition since he was accused of the holdup of the Argentine Coastal Bank in mid-1965, a fact not known at that time. Charges are also pending against Siri in a swindle of the Bank of the Nation.



Ruben Nelson Siri Suarez, arrested in Buenos Aires and charged also with several crimes in our country. The swindler and narcotics trafficker faces a long prison term in Argentina, as well as in our own country once he had served his time there.

8735

CSO: 5300

IRAN

SHOCKING STATISTICS, WARNING TO FAMILIES

Teheran ETEELA'AT in Persian 12 May 77 p 30

[Text] The statistics on the activities of the Police Department from 21 March 1976 to 21 March 1977 in fighting against narcotics has been released. Although the statistics show the continuous efforts of the officials in uprooting the distribution and consumption of narcotics in the country, it also indicates how much tendency the people have shown towards narcotics. The publication of the statistics is a serious warning to the families to know how addiction threatens their health and prosperity: 18,523 persons imprisoned and 136 kilos of heroin, 20,770 [? pills of] dangerous drugs, 9 heroin processing laboratories, and 2,067 kilos of opium [seized]. The Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department has advised all families to introduce any addict among their families to the police for treatment, so that before facing a catastrophe, the family's health could be protected.

Based on the issued statistics, in one year, the officials of the Narcotics Bureau have arrested 18,523 men and women who had a hand in distributing, dealing and using narcotics. This figure includes only those who have been tried and received a long-term prison sentence. Considering that some are also released on bail after getting arrested, it becomes clear what a dreadful figure the total number of those involved in narcotics is.

During the same period of time, the officials succeeded in seizing 15.85 kilos of heroin solution. The solution is used as normal heroin after physical changes. Using the seized solution is very dangerous. Last year, the officials discovered 136.117 kilos of heroin and 16 kilos of special heroin making acid. The discovery of 9 heroin laboratories also shows the dreadful attempts made by the death dealers which have spread horrible traps for the people, especially the youth.

The officials of the Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department seized 20,770 [pills] of dangerous drugs. As we have already warned in this and other pages of the newspaper, these pills gradually poison the blood and suddenly kill the user. Last year, tons of deaths occurred in Teheran as a result of using such pills. Most of the deaths occurred on the sidewalks and along the streets. The police call the dangerous drugs mental derangers as it has been proved that the gradual use of the drugs affects the mentality and generally produces mental derangement.

The rest of the narcotics discovered by the officials last year was reported to be more than 443.757 kilos. In addition, the officials also confiscated 2,418 opium residue devices.

The amount of illegal opium discovered from various people in the annual statistics of the police department is the astronomical figure of 2,067.488 kilos which shows the desire and interest of people in using opium for fun.

The same statistics show that the officials had discovered 40 grams of morphine, 188.329 kilos of burned opium, 98.613 kilos of opium residue, and more than 89.753 kilos of hashish.

Furthermore, last year 30.759 kilos of residue starter yeast, which could have been used for providing tens of kilos of opium residue, were seized from the addicts and narcotic dealers.

9044

CSO: 5300

IRAN

CACHE OF OPIUM DISCOVERED IN OIL TANKER

Teheran KHORASAN in Persian 15 May 77 p 1

[Text] The narcotics team of a Mashhad police company, under the leadership of Lt Ali Ahmadi succeeded in discovering 1,420 kilos of opium and arresting 7 persons involved in the case.

The Event

On Friday, the police officials noticed the movement of oil tanker license plate number 36226-Mashhad on Cento Avenue. They ordered the driver to stop the tanker. The driver did not pay any attention to the order. The police narcotics team followed the tanker and finally forced the driver to stop. Upon investigation, the officials discovered many heroin bags hidden in concealment devices. After counting the bags, the total number was announced to be 200 with the approximate weight of 1,420 kilos. The eight persons who were involved in the smuggling were all identified as follows: Haj Ibrahim Iqta'i Haj Bizhan Teymuri, the tanker driver; Asad-ol-lah Ramazani, the codriver; Ali Yadegari, the owner of the tanker; Mohammad Ozbak Farahi; Mahmud Fuladi and Jamshid Mandel.

Mahmud Fuladi and Jamshid Mandel were identified as opium owners. Besides Jamshid Mandel, the rest were arrested and turned over to judicial authorities.

Our reporter reports that the smugglers had brought the opium from Zahedan and intended to take it to Mashhad when they were arrested at International Cafe' site located 11 km east of Mashhad.

The accused were sent to the public prosecutor's office for trial.



Drugs Seized on Oil Tanker

9044
CSO: 5300

THE ARREST OF INTERNATIONAL HASHISH SMUGGLERS

Teheran ETTALA'AT in Persian 10 May 77 p 30

[Text] The Drug and Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department announced that police officials have arrested a gang of international hashish smugglers by a prearranged plan. One of the arrested was once sentenced to imprisonment by a Yugoslavian court. Before his arrest he had also cooperated with smugglers in Teheran and had been imprisoned in Mashhad.

Some time ago, the officials of the Drug and Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department discovered that a smuggler by the name of Kamal Salamat, one of the international smugglers who had previously been sentenced by a Yugoslavian court to two years of imprisonment, accused of carrying narcotics, was active in smuggling narcotics in Teheran and cooperated with other smugglers. Some time previously he had been imprisoned in Mashhad; after he had been under police surveillance he was imprisoned, accused of two unintentional cases of murder. This time he was under surveillance by the narcotics officials.

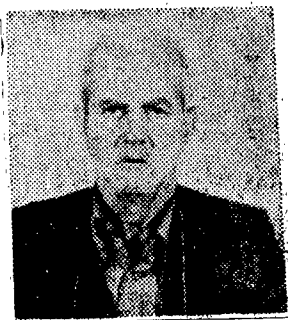
According to a prearranged plan, the police officials made a deal with the smuggler to buy a great deal of hashish from him. Kamal Salamat received some money as advance payment from the police officials, who had acted as narcotic buyers. And, he gave them some hashish as a sample. He promised that he would deliver 200 kilos of the same type of hashish in front of Babolsar Casino.

The police officials who had all the activities of Kamal Salamat under surveillance, met him at the specified date and place. In order to mislead the police, he made them follow his car.

Therefore, from the north the police followed him towards Teheran. At last Kamal Salamat parked his car in one of the parking lots located on Abali Road. He delivered 150 kilos of hashish from the 200 kilos he had undertaken to sell. He was immediately arrested.

Following the arrest of Kamal Salamat, 3 other smugglers named Aqajan Aqajani, Reza Rastegar and Abas Rastegar (father and son), who had cooperated

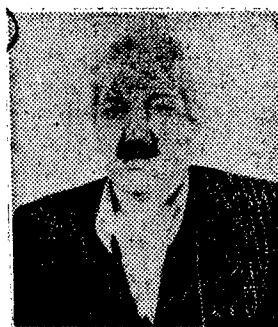
with Kamal, were arrested. They all confessed about smuggling. They were imprisoned by the interrogator of the Public Prosecutor's Office with the issuance of the required interlocutory decree.



Aqajan Aqajani



Kamal Salamat



Abas Rastegar

9044

CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

300 GRAMS OF HEROIN SEIZED--The Mashhad police company discovered that three heroin distributor and dealers, named Javad Mirza'i, Mohammad Ahmadi and Hushang Salimi, had bought some heroin from Hamadan to Mashhad and intended to sell it through one of the heroin dealers alias Morqhi, resident of Gloshad village, located in the suburbs of Khajeh Rabi. The police officials went to the above-mentioned village and succeeded in arresting them. The police seized 300 grams of heroin from their location, and the smugglers were turned over to the legal authorities with their files. They were sent to prison with the issuance of interlocutory decree. Akbar Morqhi, who had used his residence as a pleasure house and for the addicted to gather, was also arrested. [Text] [Teheran KHORASAN in Persian 20 May 77 p 2] 9044

TEN SMUGGLERS SEIZED--In a shooting which went on between the police sub-post of "Shorak", subordinate to the Mashhad police company, and some armed smugglers, the smugglers were arrested with 37 kilos of opium. The police officials of Quchan and Shirvan arrested some smugglers who had 11.40 kg of opium. The Drug and Narcotics Bureau of the Police Department announced: Some of those involved in smuggling narcotics were arrested with some heroin, opium and dangerous drugs (mental derangers) and were turned over to the judicial authorities. The Drug and Narcotics Bureau announced their name as following: Ali Saberi, 63, municipal employee, with some heroin and narcotics using devices; Seyyid Ali Akbar Banihanhemi, 27, employee of the Chamber of Syndicates, with some dangerous drugs--had been arrested before for the same crime; Ibrahim Naba'i, 33, with some hashish; Ali Ruhi, 25, with some hashish--he is one of the active in hashish distribution in Teheran; Hashem Panjali, 20, with 1.5 grams of heroin; Mohammad Falahi, 29, employee of Iran Bark Company, with some opium; Gholam Reza Ahubei, 24, guitarist, with some opium residue and narcotic pills; Firuzeh Islahi, 38, peddler, with some opium residue and narcotic pills and Shahbaz Zamani, 28, tailor, with some heroin. [Text] [Teheran ETELA'AT in Persian 17 May 77 p 26] 9044

3 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE--A young man who was arrested with some heroin was sentenced to 3 years of criminal imprisonment. His name is Mahmud Shirazi, alias Mahmud Tuti. Yesterday, he was sentenced to 3 years of second degree

criminal imprisonment by the second branch of the Supreme Criminal Court, accused of carrying heroin. Last year, in the month of Esfand, Mahmud Shirazi was suspected by the officials of the Drug and Narcotics Bureau when he was carrying some heroin. As soon as he saw the officials, he got into a Paykan sedan and ran away. Because of high speed and losing the control of the car, he caused four vehicles to hit one another. The police officials followed and arrested him on Zhaleh avenue. Some heroin was discovered from his car. After preliminary actions Mahmud Tuti's file was sent to the second branch of the Supreme Criminal Court. Yesterday the judges of the court sentenced Mahmud to 3 years of second degree criminal imprisonment and payment of 18,000 rials in cash for carrying heroin. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 May 77 p 26] 9044

SHIRAZ--A report received from an ETTELA'AT reporter indicates that a young man who seduced and addicted young girls was arrested by the officials of the Drug and Narcotic Bureau of Shiraz Police Department. He is 20 years old. His name is Daryush Mehrsaz, alias Daryush Kalimi. He had rented an apartment on Zakaolmolk Avenue in Shiraz and decorated the rooms beautifully. He took the young girls to his apartment and persuaded them to use heroin and morphine. The police officials of Shiraz discovered 160 special heroin ampules, 7 heroin cooking spoons, a box full of heroin using devices, 61 grams of heroin, and 40 grams of hashish at his house. Upon investigation, he said that he is one of the heroin distributors in the country and that his mission is to get acquainted with young girls and get them addicted. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 May 77 p 26] 9044

BALU VILLAGE COUPLE ARRESTED--The narcotics officials of the Reza'iyeh police discovered 18 grams of heroin upon inspection of Abdol Husayn Farhadi's residence. The heroin was discovered on Gol-Andam, Husayn's wife. The couple were both turned over to the judicial authorities of Reza'iyeh. [Text] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 15 May 77 p 16] 9044

OPIUM, ACID POWDER, HEROIN--A police spokesman announced that through the efforts of Malayer police, 4.5 kilos of heroin, 14.5 kilos of acid powder and half a barrel of opium with the weight of 85 kilos were seized. Five persons were arrested while they were making morphine. [Text] [Teheran KHORASAN in Persian 6 May 77 p 8] 9044

HEROIN DISCOVERED IN VILLAGE--A man called Ibrahim Javanmard was suspected by the police. Upon inspecting his house, located in Khodavardi Khal Kandi village, subordinate to Rezaiyeh, 10 heroin packages with the weight of 5 grams were seized. The accused was turned over with his file to the judicial authorities of Rezaiyeh. [Text] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 7 May 77 p 16] 9044

AHVAZ DISTRIBUTION NETWORK--A report received from an ETTELA'AT reporter indicates that two narcotic smugglers belonging to a narcotic distribution network were arrested by Ahavaz police officials. At the time of the arrest they had some narcotics with them. The arrested were Mohammad Ali Khabaz Khub and Mohammad Khabaz Khub (father and son) who had established a supermarket in the small town of Hafttapeh. For a long time, they had used the supermarket as the main location of their activities for distributing heroin to the different parts of Khoseztan. Ahvaz policemen were referred to Mohammad Ali Khabaz Khub as buyers, and while he was selling 225 gram of heroin to them, he was arrested. Five hundred grams of opium and one opium smoker's pipe were also seized. Upon cross examination they (the father and son) confessed that for a long time they were cooperating with a big narcotics network. [Excerpt] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 May 77 p 30] 9044

TEN DISTRIBUTORS IN SHIRAZ--The Drug and Narcotics Bureau of the Shiraz Police Department arrested 10 narcotics distributors in different areas; one was arrested while selling heroin in a mosque. Javad Bidari, alias Ali Gardan Koloft was arrested by the police officials while selling heroin in Nou Mosque in Shiraz. Hojat-ol-lah Sangabi, Ali Gardan Koloft's nephew was also arrested while distributing heroin and hashish by motorcycle in the vicinity of Shahcheraq. The officials also arrested a mother and daughter selling opium and heroin. Six others, including heroin dealers

and those who had set up opium dens, were arrested with some heroin, hashish, opium, opium residue and opium smoking devices by the narcotics officials of Shiraz Police Department. [Excerpt] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 May 77 p 30] 9044

COUPLE ARRESTED IN RASHT -A report received from an ETTELA'AT reporter indicates that 360 centigrams of heroin were seized from a female smuggler in Rasht. The heroin was hidden in her underwear. Her name is Ihteram Akbari who was arrested with her husband, Ibrahim Shabdi Nezhad, alias Abi Zai, and Naser Sadiq Khedmati. They were all arrested by the 2nd Police Station of Rasht. Abi Zai and Naser Sadiq Khedmati were arrested while smoking heroin. Some narcotic devices were also discovered from Ibrahim Shabdi Nezhad's house. The couple had been active in heroin dealings for some time. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 May 77 p 30] 9044

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

FRENCH POLICE DISCOVER HASHISH AT SAINTE-MAXIME VILLA

Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 5 Jul 77 LD

[Text] One ton of hashish was seized in a villa at Sainte-Maxime on the Cote D'Azur. The drug was hidden in a house let to a distinguished visitor, the former German motorcar constructor, Von Opel. His daughter, Maria-Kristina, has been arrested and so were six friends of hers, all West German, and all scions of German high society. The police of Saint-Tropez, Frejus and Sainte-Maxime have been conducting an intensive inquiry for 3 days. The police raided the villa during the night and found the hashish. The seven young people arrested are now being questioned by the antidrug brigade at Marseille and the police believe that this is not the end of the story. One ton of hashish hidden away may lead to the discovery of a drug network. We may expect further developments.

DRUGS FOUND IN SAINT TROPEZ--A further 200 kilos of drugs have been found in the villas in Saint Tropez and Plan de la Tour which the police raided last Monday. This brings the total to 1,300 kilos in all found hidden all over the villas. Six of those arrested last Monday were charged with drug trafficking yesterday evening. The police will burn the drugs tomorrow. [Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 9 Jul 77 LD]

CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

HEMP PLANTATION INSPECTION--Konya (Turkish News Agency)--Inspection of hemp plantation areas in Konya province have been completed. As a result of inspections conducted by provincial gendarmerie command narcotics teams in Konya's Aksehir, Beysehir, Doganhisar and Ilgin districts, a total of 220 farmers have been turned over to judicial authorities for appropriate action. According to a statement to Turkish News Agency correspondent by Lt Col Besir Olgac, commander of the Konya Gendarmerie, it was indicated that in the inspected zone of 117,254 square meters, 12,934 meters had been illegally cultivated in hemp, and another 8,918 square meters had been planted in improper locations. [Excerpts] [Istanbul AKSAM in Turkish 14 Jun 77 p 7]

INDIAN HEMP ROOTS DESTROYED--Gendarme forces destroyed 7,287 million roots of illegally planted Indian hemp in Nizir, Yavuzeli and Islahiye districts of Gaziantep. Officials said that these roots were being used in the manufacture of narcotics. Legal action has been taken against those who planted these roots illegally. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 23 Jun 77 TA]

HASHISH SEIZED IN HATAY--Some 3.5 tons of hashish were seized in Hatay's Samandag District. The hashish, the market value of which is about 17 million liras, was found in 35 sacks thrown into the sea. Gendarmes who found the sacks acting on a tip brought the hashish to Mersin and delivered it to the officials concerned. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 27 Jun 77 TA]

INDIAN HEMP DESTROYED--Three persons have been apprehended for cultivating indian hemp in the Ayvazpinar Village of Kocaeli's Golcuk District. According to information obtained by a TRT correspondent, acting on a tip the Golcuk gendarmerie found illegal hemp plantations in a corn field near Ayvazpinar. The indian hemp has been destroyed. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1900 GMT 6 Jul 77 TA]

CSO: 5300

END

110

CANADIAN HEROIN IMPORTER RECEIVES BAIL

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Jun 77 p 3

[Text]

A Perth magistrate yesterday issued an order unique in Australasia when he changed the bail terms of a Canadian man charged with importing heroin with a street value of \$80,000.

Magistrate T. R. McGuigan granted \$30,000 personal bail to Timothy Fraser Strus (27), on condition that Strus allowed his photograph to be displayed in passport-issuing offices throughout Australasia.

He also ordered Strus to deposit \$10,000 in dash.

The order for the change in the bail conditions was issued in the East Perth Court. It was opposed by Mr N. L. Roberts, for the Commonwealth.

Strus, an oil driller, allegedly imported 64 grams of heroin at Perth airport on June 4.

He was previously allowed bail of \$10,000 with a similar surety.

Yesterday, his solicitor, Mr R. S. French, said that a close friend of Strus was willing to deposit \$10,000 but had to return to his job in the Netherlands tomorrow.

He said that the court had already agreed to bail. Security lodged by a close friend of good character, together with reporting conditions, should be proper security.

Mr French said that it was late in the day for talk of opposition to bail.

Mr Roberts opposed the change in the bail terms and said that Strus had no ties in WA. The heroin had a street value of \$80,000.

Mr McGuigan ordered Strus to report to the customs office in Fremantle between 1pm and 2pm and 7pm and 8pm each day. He must surrender his passport and must not apply for a new passport.

The relevant passport authorities were to be informed that Strus had been instructed not to apply for a passport.

Strus was remanded till

Commenting on the move last night, Mr McGuigan said he was bound to release a person on bail unless there were strong reasons for not doing so.

He had to consider the possibility of the person committing other offences, the possibility that he might interfere with crown witnesses or that there was a strong chance that he would abscond if released on bail.

He was certain that his direction on the photographs of Strus was unique in Australasia and also doubted whether any similar direction had been made in England.

Mr McGuigan said: "The photograph is an integral part of the passport.

"It cannot be forged unless, of course, a person is willing to submit himself to a plastic surgeon.

"There is still the black

market type of passport to be considered but I think these are very rare."

Mr McGuigan said that the prime consideration in allowing bail was, that in the light of all the matters before the court, the defendant would answer the charge.

He said: "Everyone has been racking their brains for a way to apply further stringency to secure attendance without leaving people in custody.

"I think that this idea has possibly been overlooked in the past."