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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

No. 290

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DRUGS BLAMED FOR CRIMES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Feb 77 p 8

[Text] Organised crime and rackets were growing in the Newcastle area, a judge said in the District Court at Newcastle.

Judge Redapple said it had been his experience in the past that Newcastle district was relatively free from organised crime, but with the growing use of drugs, rackets and organised crime were growing.

Judge Redapple was sentencing Leslie Connolly, 22, labourer, of Clare Street, Cessnock, who was found guilty on Wednesday of having conspired with Alan James Pacey, and Ronald Paul Batko to cheat and defraud a certain person or persons of sums of money between September 1 and October 6 last year at Cardiff, Mayfield and elsewhere.

Connolly and Batko had conspired to make an agreement with some people to sell a substantial quantity of marihuana, but grass clippings had been substituted for the drug, Judge Redapple said.

The offence had been made more serious because a shotgun had been carried by Connolly and used to threaten the victim, a man named Reilly.

Connolly was sentenced to four years' hard labour, the term to begin on June 7 at the expiration of a six-month sentence he is already serving for the possession and use of heroin.

Judge Redapple also sentenced Pacey, 29, painter, of Michael Street, Cardiff, to one year and nine months' jail with a non-parole period of six months.

Pacey had pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge in court on Tuesday.

At the opening of Connolly's trial on Tuesday, Mr A. J. Coates, for the Crown, had said that the third man involved in the conspiracy, Ronald Paul Batko, was dead.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BAIL ON \$1 MILLION DRUG CHARGE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Feb 77 p 19

[Text] A Commonwealth solicitor yesterday opposed bail without surety for two men charged with importing cannabis worth \$1.25 million at Shark Bay last month because he said that nothing was known about them.

In the East Perth Court, Mr Sean O'Sullivan said that the men, both New Zealanders, had no connections with or in WA.

Peter Lawrence Miller (30), a company director, and Kevin John Lampshire (32), an engineer, are charged with importing about 141 kilos of cannabis into Australia about January 27 at Shark Bay.

Counsel for the two men, Mr G. P. Miller, said that they intended to plead not guilty.

However, Magistrate T. McGuigan refused to allow bail unless each man had a \$20,000 surety. He said that too many people had absconded after being given bail without surety.

Mr Miller told the court that the men had no cannabis when arrested.

"There have been no admissions that they were involved in the importation of drugs," he said.

Mr Miller asked Mr McGuigan to consider releasing Miller and Lampshire on their own personal recognisance and making them report to the Narcotics Bureau twice or even three times a day.

He said it would be impossible for them to get surety in WA.

Opposing bail without surety, Mr O'Sullivan said that Miller and Lampshire had done everything to avoid detection.

"When they realised that they were under surveillance they tried to escape," he said.

"When their boat was chased by narcotics agents, cannabis was found floating around it and another amount was found on the beach near where the yacht had been anchored."

Mr McGuigan set bail at \$20,000 with surety of \$20,000 and ordered that Miller and Lampshire report twice daily to the Narcotics Bureau.

He said that their passports were to be surrendered.

If the passports were unavailable, applications to have them cancelled were to be made.

Miller and Lampshire were remanded till February 27.

CSO: 5300

HEROIN WORTH \$200,000 FOUND IN WOMEN'S CORSETS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Feb 77 p 38

[Text] The second of two women who were caught coming off a ship at Fremantle with heroin worth a total of more than \$200,000 hidden in their corsets was sentenced yesterday to seven years' gaol.

Rita Pia Dilauro (22) was carrying about 200 grams of a substance found later to contain 97.9 grams of heroin worth about \$109,000 on the market.

This was many times the prescribed traffickable quantity of half a gram, Judge Ackland said in the District Court.

Miss Dilauro, computer operator, of Sanoni Avenue, Dolls Point, New South Wales, was liable to a fine of \$4000 and 10 years' gaol.

He was satisfied that she imported the prohibited drug to sell. This was plain from her conversation with customs officers.

"You were to receive \$5000 as a reward and were to share another \$2000 for expenses," the judge told her.

"For that money you were prepared to play your part in degrading unfortunate people.

"I have said before that the use of heroin would certainly lead to addiction which might result in degradation, diminution of pride, broken health and even death.

'Vicious Trade'

"You knew what you were doing but you were still prepared to take part in this vicious trade for gain."

The judge said it was essential that what steps were open to the court should be taken to eradicate the heroin trade completely.

He said that Miss Dilauro must serve a minimum of 22 months before parole and that this took into account the two months she had already been in custody.

Jillian Gayle Boone (25), comptometrist, of Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury, Victoria, had earlier pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years' gaol with a minimum of two years before parole.

The two women admitted illegally importing the heroin at Fremantle on December 7 last year when the heroin was found taped into their corsets after they left the ship Turkmeniya, which had arrived from Singapore.

The heroin was to be delivered by the women to a man they knew only by his first name in Sydney.

(Before Judge Ackland. Mr N. L. Roberts for the crown. Mr E. W. Nielsen for Miss Dilauro.)

CSO: 5300

\$1500 FINE FOR POSSESSION OF HEROIN

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Feb 77 p 37

[Text] A truck driver had been in possession of a traffickable amount of heroin for only two minutes, a lawyer told the East Perth Court yesterday.

"This means he has really been convicted on technical evidence rather than substantiated evidence," he said.

Mr R. M. Utting was addressing Magistrate T. McGuigan after Michael John Moxom (27), of Knutsford Street, Fremantle, had been convicted of possessing 9.5 grams of heroin, suspected of having been illegally imported into the country at Fremantle on November 24 last year.

Moxom, who denied the charge, was fined \$1500 and ordered to pay \$50.50 costs.

Mr Utting said that Moxom had been unlucky and had no previous record concerning drugs.

"There is no evidence that he was trafficking in the goods," Mr Utting said.

"There is only evidence that perhaps he would have kept the drugs for himself."

Mr McGuigan said a letter bearing South-East Asian stamps had been sent to a fictitious person.

Moxom had opened it and had found a package with powder in it.

Proposition

The court had been told earlier that Moxom met a man named Mohammed Ali in Penang last year. Ali had asked Moxom if he was interested in importing drugs into Australia.

He had pestered Moxom so much that Moxom finally said: "I'll think about it."

After returning to Australia, Moxom had received a letter asking him if he was still prepared to go along with the plan.

He had not answered and later the letter with the drug arrived.

(Before Magistrate T. McGuigan. N. C. Roberts for the Commonwealth.
Mr R. M. Utting for Moxom.)

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

WOMAN CHARGED ON IMPORTING OPIUM

Melbourne THE AGE in English 15 Feb 77 p 10

[Text] A 21-year-old woman imported opium to help beat her heroin habit, Melbourne Magistrate's Court was told yesterday.

Kerry Anne Christian, unemployed, of no fixed address, appeared before Mr. L. T. Griffin, SM, on a charge of importing opium into Australia.

She pleaded guilty.

Mr. Griffin fined Christian \$100 and ordered her to pay \$30 costs.

Mr. B. F. Hansall, a narcotics agent, told the court that on December 11 last year, Christian arrived in Melbourne on a flight from Singapore.

He said Christian had placed a rubber contraceptive containing opium into her vagina before getting off the plane in Melbourne.

Christian told him she was given the opium in Penang.

Christian, according to the record of interview, said she thought the opium would help her get off her heroin habit.

She told Hansall she planned to take the opium orally over four days.

"We planned to cut down on the dosage of smack to enable a small dose of opium to cure us."

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

\$100 A DAY HEROIN ADDICT SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS IN JAIL

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 12 Feb 77 p 5

[Text] A 27-year-old man who spent about \$100 a day on heroin while addicted to it, was sentenced yesterday to four years jail for selling the drug.

John Wilbur Keep, assistant manager, of Grosvenor Crescent, Cronulla, pleaded guilty to having sold heroin on March 5 last year.

The Crown alleged that Keep, a former Qantas flight steward, and now involved in a family business, had received \$5,000 from the sale of the drug.

Passing sentence in the District Criminal Court, Judge Gee, said he believed Keep had broken from the drug scene and had cured himself.

He said Keep had occupied an "intermediate" position in the hierarchy of the drug scene, because he was not an importer and did not have an established business in drugs. "You are not to be regarded as a drug pusher in the full sense of that term," Judge Gee said.

He added that Keep became addicted to heroin and, to cater for his addiction, he turned to selling the drug. He had made some profit from individual transactions.

Judge Gee said the evidence showed that Keep was not a "seller in the market-place" but had supplied heroin to a circle of his friends, who were addicts.

"The community has shown its alarm as to the prevalence of drug taking and the ravages it causes among young people, in particular," he said.

Judge Gee fixed a non-parole period of one year.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BAIL FOR WOMAN ON HEROIN CHARGES

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Feb 77 p 11

[Text] The death early yesterday of a young man alleged to have used heroin led to a woman appearing in court later charged with using the drug.

Carola Ann Graham, 21, conductress, of Curlewis Street, Bondi, was charged in Waverley Court of Petty Sessions with having used heroin on Wednesday.

"About 1 o'clock this morning a young man died and it could well have been an overdose of heroin," the prosecutor, Sergeant W. Evans, told the court.

He said Graham and a man had gone to a Bondi hotel and bought a cap of heroin.

They returned to the flat where they lived, halved the cap, and injected heroin into their arms.

After the injection the man collapsed.

Graham had tried to assist him by resuscitation but the man apparently died before other help was available.

Mr J. Byrne, SM, granted bail of \$200 on condition that Graham report to police daily.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

PORTABLE MARIHUANA PLANTATION--A portable marijuana plantation has been found on the NSW South Coast. The plants were discovered by a ranger in small drums in bushland near the Sussex Inlet garbage depot. The plantation was surrounded by a metre-high chicken-wire fence to keep animals out and there were packets of fertiliser and drums of manure nearby. Police said: "We believe transient young people brought the plants to Sussex Inlet and planned to take them with them when they moved on." Sticks had been placed across a small track leading into the plantation. [Text]
[Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Feb 77 p 3]

CSO: 5300

BURMA

NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION FORCES DESTROY POPPY PLANTATIONS

Pekon Township

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 26 Feb 77 p 4 BK

[Text] Loikaw, 20 Feb--"Operation Agati," launched to suppress narcotic drugs under the leadership of the party and the supervision of the people's councils at various levels and with the assistance of the local people, was able to destroy between the first week of January and the first of week of February 1977 over 600 acres of poppy plantations cultivated illegally in Pekon Township, southern Shan State.

So far poppy plantations have been cleared in the eastern section of Moby Dam--10 acres in Ponlong village and 23 acres in Saungoulanan village--and in the western section of Pekon Township--88 acres in Yepwai village, [?8] acres in Yelon Yekan village, 35 acres in Lawe village, 42 acres in Bawkan village and 409 acres in Latain village--with the help of local working people.

Over 2,000 acres of poppy was cultivated in Pekon Township in 1976. However, poppy cultivation in the township has declined by over 50 percent this year as a result of an education campaign and the work of the party, council and people's police force personnel who took part in "Operation Black Ball" launched in 1976, which urged the peasants to replace poppy with crops. The members of "Operation Agati" are also educating and organizing the local peasants this year.

'Black' Areas

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 27 Feb 77 p 4 BK

[Excerpt] Namsan, 5 Feb--The members of "Operation Agati," launched under the leadership of the Namsan Party Unit and supervision of Chairman of Namsan Township People's Council U Sun Yi and township people's police force commander U Kan Htaw to destroy poppy plantations, have entered the "black"

areas with the help of army personnel led by Capt Yoke Kyi, commander of the 3d Company of the 16th Infantry Regiment of the People's Army and destroyed poppy plantations.

They destroyed 121 acres of poppy plants in Peinse, Wanhin and Kho-Oot villages between 24 and 30 January.

Lashio Township

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 28 Feb 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Lashio, 21 Feb--A poppy plantation destruction team led by Lashio Township People's Police Force commander U Saw Myint, Commander Maj Maung Soe of the 5th Company of the 68th Infantry Regiment, and U Khaw Thaung of the township people's council Executive Committee and comprised of personnel from the People's Police Force and the agriculture and land record departments began operations on 18 February. So far they have destroyed 78.5 acres in Manaing and Panhone villages. Some poppy plantation owners themselves have assisted them in destroying poppy plants.

Under the direction of the Lashio Township people's council, subinspector of police U Khin Maung Than and people's councilors of No 3 Shwebontha Ward searched the residence of Hoke Phoo Lein at 1600 yesterday and seized about .108 lb of heroin powder worth 3,000 kyat. Hoke Phoo Lein testified that he bought the heroin from Han Tee of Ward 3, Thukha Road. Action has been taken against Hoke Phoo Lein and Han Tee under sections 6 (b) and 10 (b) of the narcotic drugs law.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

LA-WA INSURGENTS--Nong Nai, 20 Feb--A force headed by police inspector U Tin Hla under "Operation Agati" yesterday clashed with a seven-member group of La-Wa insurgents near Nanhu-Lonkyain village in Na Lwe Village tract, Mong Nai Township in southern Shan State. The horse ridden by the La-Wa insurgent section leader was shot dead and three packages of heroin, each weighing 1 kilogram, were seized. The force from "Operation Agati" headed by police inspector U Tin Hla was informed by dutiful persons, and after the 30-minute battle the insurgents fled in disarray. The dead horse and the three packages of heroin worth more than 200,000 kyats were taken by the police. The police did not suffer any casualties. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 3 Mar 77 p 5 BK]

CLANDESTINE POPPY PLANTATIONS--Tangyan, 25 Feb--A narcotics prevention and suppression campaign launched early February by the armed forces at the frontline together with the police from Tangyan Township in Shan State has destroyed a total of 790.55 acres of clandestine poppy plantations. The campaign, launched by the soldiers of the 106th Light Infantry and 67th Infantry Regiments, together with the police, headed by Tangyan Township police station officer U Min Naing, was in Pa Hsan, Nanhu, Na Muse and Pan Nwe Villages, which are in Loi Maw or Nawng Lai Village tract. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 3 Mar 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN LOIKAW--Loikaw, 4 Mar--Acting on a tip, a police force from Loikaw Township at 1400 today searched a passenger bus--Ngwe Taung-U--coming in from Taunggyi and found five heroin packets from Maung Than U of Daw U Khu Ward in Loikaw. Maung Than U has been arrested and police have taken action. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 5 Mar 77 p 8 BK]

POPPY PLANTATIONS IN MONG NAI--Mong Nai, 20 Feb--It was learned that a joint force from Mong Nai, composed of council and party functionaries, representatives of the military, police and people's militias and officials responsible for land surveying yesterday destroyed 128 acres of illegally cultivated poppy in the forest near Nanhu-Lonkyain village of Na Lwe Village tract in Mong Nai Township. As a result of a narcotics educational program conducted by the narcotics suppression force, working people are now giving information, showing places where poppy is grown and actively participating in destroying it. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 6 Mar 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN IN AUNGBAN--Aungban, 28 Feb--Yesterday police at Aungban checkpoint searched a car with license plate no F5846 going from Mandalay to Taunggyi and seized six packages of coffee-colored heroin powder weighing about 2 viss [1 viss equals 3.60 lb] and worth about 150,000 kyats. Three packages were found in the pillow of the bedroll of Hon Chit Phu, alias Maung Aik San of Yegan Road, Ward No 5, Lashio, and three others in a bag of tea. The police force of Aungban has taken action against car driver Ko Ni and his assistant, Ko Tun Aye, and heroin owner Hon Chit Phu under section 6 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 6 Mar 77 p 5 BK]

RANGOON HEROIN SEIZURE--Rangoon, 27 Feb--Acting on information, Secretary U Tha U and councilors of Pabedan Township People's Council and personnel of Pabedan Police Station searched the resident of Ko San Yun on the ground floor of No 245 Shwebontha Road at 1400 today and found Ko San Yun and his younger sister Ma Mya Than and younger brother Maung Soe Tint using heroin. They seized 21 packages of heroin worth 5,000 kyats from Than Maung, who is a resident of Bagyi Ward in Tamwe and a heroin broker, as well as five pornographic books from Sami of Aungbawga Road, Kamayut. All of them were arrested and action is being taken against them. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 28 Feb 77 p 7 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN MANDALAY--Mandalay, 17 Feb--A team of policemen led by the commander of the Mandalay Division Heroin Suppression Squad, U Nyunt Shwe, and commander of the police radio unit, U Chit Hlaing, combed the city in five radio cars for heroin traffickers and seized a Duya cigarette canful of heroin worth 4,000 kyat from the residence of Kyaw Khin of Aungmyethazan Paukkaro Ward. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 25 Feb 77 p 10 BK]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA TO HAVE ANTIDRUG OFFICER FOR EVERY DEPARTMENT

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sun--The chief secretary to the government, Dato Abdullah Salleh, has agreed that an antidrug officer be appointed for every government department to help wipe out drug addiction among government servants.

Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim, who announced this today, said that these officers would work closely with the National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM) and other antidrug bodies.

At present, he said, there were a total of 125 government servants undergoing treatment at various rehabilitation centres.

Encik Rais, who is also the president of PEMADAM, was opening a two-day forum and exhibition on drugs organised by the 4B youth movement, Bandaraya branch.

Encik Rais expressed the fear that drug abuse, if left unchecked, might become a way of life in this country within a few years. Between 1970 and 1976, 14,536 arrests were made in connection with various drug offences.

Among schoolchildren, a survey had shown that there were 1,866 drug addicts in Penang and Selangor alone, he added.

He said a careful study must be carried out by the Education Ministry to determine the best way of educating schoolchildren on drug abuse. "It would be difficult, but necessary," he added.

The deputy minister urged youths to treat the drug problem with seriousness. He told them to make use of PEMADAM's hotline whenever necessary. The number is 80883.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DRUG TRAFFICKING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0630 GMT 27 Feb 77 BK

[Text] There is indeed progressive cooperation among narcotics officials in Malaysia and those in Southeast Asian countries to stamp out drug trafficking in the region. Speaking at the launching of the association against drug abuse or PERMADAM's branch in Kelantan today, the deputy minister of law, Mr Rais Yatim, said intensified antidrug measures had already been taken by ASEAN nations.

Mr Rais noted with satisfaction a report by the International Narcotics Control Authority that Laos, Burma and Thailand had also taken effective steps to tighten their laws against drug distribution.

He said in the past 7 years, a total of more than 14,500 persons were arrested because of their involvement in illegal drug activities. Last year more than 5,100 people were arrested and about 450 lbs of heroin, 647 lbs of morphine and more than 22,000 lbs of raw and refined opium seized.

Meanwhile, the Postal Department said it had intercepted a few letters containing drugs sent under fictitious names and addresses. The deputy director general of post, Mr (Rajasingham), said today the detections were made possible as a result of public cooperation. He said the department was fully aware of drug pushers using the postal system to deliver drugs to customers locally and internationally. The department was taking the necessary measures to detect such letters.

CSO: 5300

DRUG SYNDICATES USE SINGAPORE AS EXPORT GATEWAY

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Mar 77 p 6 BK

[Text] Johore Baru, Wed--Drug smuggling syndicates are sending their "goods" overseas via the causeway to Singapore port, according to police sources.

The sources said the scheme was so lucrative that many tin ore smugglers had turned to smuggling drugs.

They said the syndicates, formerly based in the north, moved their operations to the south because of intensified activities by the police, customs, and antinarcotic officers.

Lorries carrying commercial goods from the north are being used to smuggle drugs like raw opium, morphine and heroin to Singapore.

The drugs are hidden in specially constructed secret compartments under the floorboard between the driver seat and carrier.

On 4 Jan, police here seized drugs worth more than \$2 million from a lorry at 10th Mile Jalan Scudai and arrested three men.

The sources said that traces of tin ore were found in the secret compartment where the drugs were kept. Hence police believe the tin ore smugglers have switched to smuggling drugs.

The smugglers are willing to take the risks because they are given a "cut" instead of just being paid a small sum for the service.

A certain percentage of the drugs smuggled is given to them to do as they please.

Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim confirmed the existence of these drug smuggling activities at an antidrug rally in Muar recently. Following his speech, the police, customs and Central Narcotics Bureau officers have intensified their activities here.

However, because of the shortage of manpower, their attempts at destroying the drug pipeline has not been too encouraging.

The government, Encik Rais told the rally, was aware of the shortage of manpower and was taking action to increase the staff for the three departments.

CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

PATROLMEN ARREST MAN--Kuala Lumpur, Tues--Four Rukun Tetangga [community self-reliance] patrolmen arrested a man who had a mouthful of heroin in Sentul here yesterday. The man "coughed out" 28 straws containing the drug. The commander of "D" division, DSP [deputy superintendent of police] K. Selvanayagam, said today: "We suspect the man to be a drug pusher operating in the Sentul area. The Rukun Tetangga members have done a good job." He said four Rukun Tetangga patrolmen stopped a man in Sentul Pasar at about 5:25 pm yesterday. They frisked him but found nothing. One of the patrolmen then questioned the man, but he was not able to talk. They ordered him to open his mouth. When he did so, he coughed out the drug. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 77 p 7 BK]

POSTAL OFFICIALS INTERCEPT DRUGS--Kuala Lumpur, Sun--The Postal Department has intercepted a few letters containing drugs sent by people using fictitious names and addresses, the deputy director general of posts, Mr M. Rajasingam, said today. He said the interceptions were possible as a result of public cooperation. Mr Rajasingam said the department was fully aware of drug pushers using the post to deliver drugs to customers locally and internationally. The department was taking the necessary measures to detect such letters. It was not working in close cooperation with the Central Narcotics Bureau, customs and police. There had also been an intensification of surveillance within the Postal Department itself. Mr Rajasingam called on the public to cooperate with the authorities. All information would be treated in strictest confidence. According to post office regulation 1947, it is forbidden to send opium, coca leaves, indian hemp, morphine, cocaine and any other form of dangerous drugs through the post. The regulation also empowers the Postal Department to intercept and open any letters which it feels is suspicious in nature--Bernama. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Feb 77 p 1 BK]

PAINTER GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT--A painter, (Leong Fuk Chan), was today sentenced to life imprisonment by the high court in Kuala Lumpur after he pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing several hundred grams of drugs for the purpose of trafficking. This was the first case to be recorded under section 39B of the Dangerous Drug Ordinance, which carries the death penalty or life imprisonment. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Feb 77 BK]

THAILAND

NARCOTICS BOARD SETS UP SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEES

Preventive and Suppression Measures

Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 23 Feb 77 BK

[Text] The Narcotics Prevention and Suppression board, with Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian as chairman, at its meeting on 21 February set up four special working subcommittees. Those committees were as follows: a subcommittee in charge of investigation and suppression--that subcommittee will be headed by Pol Maj Gen Phao Sarasin--a subcommittee responsible for crops to replace the opium poppy and for hilltribes development--that subcommittee will be headed by Phisit Woraorai--a subcommittee responsible for medical treatment and mental rehabilitation of the hilltribes people--headed by Dr Amon Nonthasut--and finally a subcommittee in charge of prevention and of public relations--headed by Dr Bunsom Martin.

The board also reviewed the problem of narcotic drugs, which has become a national and international problem involving increased trade and consumption, particularly in morphine and heroin. In addition, other forms of narcotic drugs such as tranquilizers and hallucinators, have spread in use among the nation's youth, and this poses a great danger to the country.

The board agreed on plans and preventive and suppression measures, and also touched on the question of a permanent headquarters for the board, as well as discussing coordination of activities with other countries, the various powers invested in the board and the preservation and destruction of narcotic drugs seized as evidence. For example, the board resolved to destroy all of the heroin which had been seized as evidence and which is presently being held by the Ministry of Public Health and to do so as soon as possible.

The temporary headquarters of the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Board is at Government House. The secretary general of the board is Pramot Sawatdimongkhon.

Seven Sections; 335 Employees

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 3 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] The newly-established National Narcotics Prevention Board, which earlier sought to recruit 500 employees, will be given 334 personnel instead to carry out its work.

The civil Service Commission which approved the employment said it believed the number of officials would be sufficient for the prevention and suppression of narcotics.

The board will include seven sections: Office of the secretary, policy and planning division, foreign affairs division, information division, investigation and suppression division, legislation and scientific crime detection division, and co-ordination and examination division.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

RIVAL NARCOTICS GANGS BATTLING NEAR BURMA

Bangkok DAILY TIME in Thai 27 Feb 77 pp 1, 2, 16 BK

[Text] It was reported that from 0530 on 24 February heavy fighting between the two Burmese minority groups who engage in the narcotics trade broke out in the border areas of Mae Hong Son Province. The fighting lasted 2 days and 2 nights.

The report said that 700 soldiers, well equipped with modern light and heavy weapons, of Chang Si Fu or Khun Sa's group, under the leadership of Khun Sa himself and Maj Chai Thisaeng, launched a surprise attack on the military camp of Khun Sa in the Huai Makhuasom area of Tambon Champapae in Muang District of Mae Hong Son. The rival groups belong to the Thai Yai ethnic group.

The attack was launched while the 200 soldiers in the camp of Khun Sa were still in their beds. However, the fighting continued until 1200 on 24 February before the soldiers of Khun Sa decided to abandon the camp. Four soldiers were killed and 14 others wounded. Casualties on Khun Sa's side are still unknown.

The soldiers of Khun Sa later regrouped on a hill near San Na Pa Daet but were heavily attacked for a second time by the forces of Khun Sa, which caused the death of three additional men and the wounding of four others.

While the fighting was going on, Pol Lt Col Banlu Thongkon, the deputy police superintendent of Mae Hong Son Province, ordered the police forces of all districts in the province to stay alert to maintain peace in their areas of responsibility. Border Patrol Police platoons No 521 and No 522, under the leadership of Pol Lt Pluang Khamlumi and Pol Sub-Lt Siri Phungphut, were also instructed to help the Provincial Police maintain peace in the province.

The fighting between the two Thai Yai groups was very grueling and continued for the whole day, with the Thai Border Patrol Police forces and Burmese Government soldiers guarding the other border areas of their respective countries. At 1600 on 25 February, when the report was received, the fighting was still going on.

According to the report, the story behind this fighting is that the two groups are contesting with each other to control the narcotics trade in the border areas of Thailand and Burma in Mae Hong Son Province.

The soldiers of Khun Sa and Maj Chai Thisaeng were asked to leave Thai soil 2 days ago at the request of the Thai Border Patrol Police. The soldiers of Khun Sa were also to be requested to move out, but they were attacked before negotiations could be conducted.

Additional reports said that the fighting between the two groups ended on the evening of 25 February with the defeat of Khun Sa's side. Ten of his soldiers were killed and 15 others wounded. However, the Khun Sa group did not reveal its casualties, but said that it seized 30 M-16 assault rifles, 10 M-79s, 3 motorola radio transceivers and 15 horses.

At 0800 on 26 February, Pol Lt Col Banlu Thongkon met with Maj Chai Thisaeng at Ban Yangthapsok village in Tambon Mae Suya of Muang District to ask him to move his armed forces out of Thai territory. At 1200 hours of the same day Maj Chai Thisaeng withdrew his troops from Thailand and headed toward the Thung Khahan area in Burma.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

FOUR DRUG PUSHERS SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS EACH

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 77 p 5 BK

[Text] The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced four men, three soldiers and a civilian, to 24 years' imprisonment each after they were convicted of possessing and selling three kilogrammes of No 4 first grade heroin.

The four were identified as Sgt Phian of the Supreme Command Hq, Sgt Suchin Yimyong of the signal battalion at Saphan Daeng, and Sgt Montri Wichairat of the light armament regiment in Lampang Province. The civilian was identified as Bunphoem Manirat.

The four were arrested last June 1 after they handed over the heroin to plain-clothes narcotics agents outside the Women's Hospital near the Victory Monument.

Sgt Montri's sentence was reduced to half after he confessed, while Sgt Phian and Bunphoem were jailed for 24 years each.

Sgt Suchin, who also faced a robbery charge, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment addition to the 24 years. He will have to serve a total of 39 years in prison.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

TWO CHINESE ARRESTED FOR HEROIN POSSESSION

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Narcotics police arrested two Chinese Haws from Tha Khilek and seized 4.1 kilogrammes of No 3 'brown sugar' heroin in their possession yesterday in two coordinated swoops.

The two were later identified as Lin Thai-siang (45) and Mrs Ma Chin-muai (50).

A police officer said last night that he believed the haul was only part of a huge 50-kilogramme consignment of No 3 heroin recently smuggled into Bangkok from Tha Khilek for sale to drug traffickers from Hong Kong. The officer also expressed belief that a clandestine refinery was located somewhere in Bangkok to process the contraband into high-grade No 4 heroin.

Narcotics police who had trailed the couple for some time first apprehended Mrs Ma Chin-muai at the Star Hotel on Rama I Road and discovered the heroin packed in 10 plastic bags of about 400 grammes each. The man, Lin Thai-siang, was nabbed shortly afterwards in front of the Broadway Hotel in Chinatown.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

JANUARY TO MID-FEBRUARY ARRESTS--Pol Lt Gen Wichian Saengkaeo, metropolitan police commissioner, revealed to newsmen that from 1 January to 14 February police arrested 119 persons on charge of selling narcotics, 144 for using narcotics and 1,498 for having narcotics in their possession in Bangkok. He said that narcotic suppression operations in the Bangkok metropolitan area during that period was satisfactory. [Excerpt] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 28 Feb 77 BK]

AMERICAN WOMAN--Heroin proved its potency when an American woman was sent to 6 months' imprisonment yesterday for possessing heroin together with a set of injection equipment. Miss Alice Sleeth or Liza Davis was sentenced by the Criminal Court to 1-year imprisonment but the verdict was later commuted to 6 months after she pleaded guilty. Miss Sleeth, a German-born American who lived in Khlong Ton, Phra Kanong District was found to have .04 gram of heroin in a police raid last January 4. [Text] [Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 3 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

BULGARIA

BULGARIAN EFFORTS TO STOP DRUG TRAFFIC, SMUGGLING

Sofia BTA in English 0844 GMT 21 Feb 77 AU

[Text] Sofia, February 21 (BTA)--In 1976 the Bulgarian customs officers confiscated 5,120 kg of narcotics, a top drug investigation officer told a BTA reporter.

Since 1968, 16,500 kg of different drugs smuggled from the Eastern drug-producing countries to Western Europe and the USA have been seized at the Bulgarian customs. Even the smallest portion of these narcotics has not been traced to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian customs officers struck the biggest blow to the drug traffic last year when they seized in an Austrian-driven lorry 1,500 kg of hashish. Five years ago two Englishwomen were detained at the Bulgarian frontier with 927 kg of hashish in the trailer of their jeep. But such sensational quantities are a rarity. Usually the smugglers carry from 10 to 100 kg of drugs.

The specialists in narcotics traffic say that smugglers prefer the motor transportation. They invent various hideouts in the cars--in the seats, doors, control panel, fuel reservoir or plant the drugs in waterproof sacks in the fuel. Some of them use factory-sealed cans with labels indicating different foodstuffs. Railroad drug traffic has increased also of late. The smugglers try to hide the narcotics in carriages. But usually they plant them in the toilets to escape detainment if the drugs are traced.

Hashish is the most frequently smuggled drug, though certain quantities of opium, morphine, marihuana and heroin were also seized sometimes. Contrabanding of liquid hashish, which lethal effect is many times stronger than the powdered hashish, has been also stepped up.

Drug traffic does not affect Bulgaria's interests as there is no drug-addiction in this country: "We shall save some 100,000 leva for the state if we seize 100 kg of hashish," a customs officer said.

"Despite this, the efforts of Bulgaria's customs administration are focused on combating drug traffic," he underlined.

Bulgaria takes an active part in the work of the UN specialized bodies in drug problems and actively cooperates with all interested national organs and with corresponding international organizations. Almost all Bulgarian customs officers have been trained for drug tracing in special courses organized jointly for the fourth year running with the USA.

Bulgaria's effective work in combating drug traffic won high recognition on the part of many national and international services and organizations. Recently the management of the Customs Cooperation Council expressed officially gratitude to the Bulgarian Customs Administration for its effective work. Mr Harold Barbagiolatta, [BTA spelling] a U.S. top customs officer, in an interview before the Bulgarian television highly praised the work of his Bulgarian colleagues against the drug traffic.

After confiscation some of the narcotics are processed in the pharmaceutical industry while the others are burned in the presence of a special commission.

Bulgarian legislation provides 12 years of detainment and fines up to 20,000 leva for drug smuggling.

CSO: 5300

BULGARIA

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZURE ON BORDER--A load of almost 2 tons of hashish was confiscated by Bulgarian custom officers at a Bulgarian-Yugoslav border post. It was on a truck coming from Turkey, which normally transports secret material for NATO units in Izmir. The two drivers said they did not know what the load contained. [Text] [Rome Domestic Service in Italian 0700 GMT 7 Mar 77 LD]

DRUG ADDICTS IN WEST--Sofia, 28 February [BTA]--The sociologists are trying to explain the alarming facts by the dynamics of life, without revealing the roots of ill. Otherwise, it would have meant to admit that the existing social system leaves most of the young people without prospects, ideas and hope, which makes them unstable and yielding to drug-addiction," underlines in his commentary on the growing scope of drug-addiction and crime in West Berlin Mr Peter Bouchoukov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent there. He quotes one of the latest issues of Springer's DIE WELT in which is told the admission that the readiest drug customers are "usually young and unemployed people who see no professional prospects for themselves and are trying to escape through drugs the monotony of the everyday life." According to Mr Bouchoukov the attempts of the different institutions to overcome this negative phenomenon are fruitless not because of their inability but because "the spreading drug-addiction mirrors one of the incurable diseases of the 'free' society, its moral crisis." [Text] [Sofia BTA in English 1415 GMT 28 Feb 77 AU]

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

GUZZETTI RATIFIES AMERICAN DRUG AGREEMENT

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0050 GMT 25 Feb 77 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb--Foreign Minister Cesar Augusto Guzzetti indicated last night that when a society is to be destroyed, it is attacked in body and spirit.

The foreign minister, who with Social Welfare Minister Julio Juan Bardi signed the document ratifying the South American Agreement on Narcotics and Hallucinogens signed in this city in 1973, spoke of the different ways to destroy a society, its way of life and its values.

Speaking to representatives of all South American countries except Peru and Chile, Guzzetti said that a society can be attacked by armed guerrillas through crime, kidnaping and terrorist acts. He emphasized: "Other guerrilla groups, using more subtle methods, intend to destroy its spirit. These are the groups who preach nihilistic or collectivist ideas and who harm people's minds through drugs."

He said that the history of Rome records that the Carthaginian army, when it was only steps away from victory over the Roman Empire, was destroyed by pleasure and not on the battlefield.

In this same regard, he said that just recently the newspapers reported efforts, during a conflict in the Far East, to destroy an army by supplying drugs to the soldiers.

Guzzetti then specifically referred to the agreement and said that it will be enforced beginning next month and will become the backbone of institutionalization, at the international level, of action against the scourge of drugs. The plan includes two aspects: Struggle against drug addiction and struggle against drug traffickers, who not only make an excellent profit but act on the basis of a well-defined ideology.

This agreement is the result of our country's effort to unite the countries of the region to eradicate drug addiction and trafficking."

The secretary for the promotion of social welfare, Col Ramon Gatus (ret), representatives of the U.S. Embassy, and officials of the National Commission of Drug Addiction and Narcotics were also present at the signing ceremony.

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

UNITED STATES CITIZEN SOUGHT ON DRUG CHARGES

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Jan 77 p 4



Thomas Franklin Edmunds O'Gary La Rosa

Text The North American narcotics trafficker Thomas Franklin Edmunds O'Gary La Rosa is a fugitive, according to a report issued by the National Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances.

According to information issued officially, the drug dealer fled from Cochabamba at a time an investigation was being made with a view to taking action.

The North American citizen in question has no connection with the recent discovery in a downtown hotel in La Paz of a ring that was using diving equipment to take out cocaine in cylinders of oxygen. The persons implicated, also of North American nationality, are all under arrest, as none managed to escape.

Thomas Franklin Edmunds O'Gary La Rosa, a native of Michigan, U.S.A., is 1.76 meters in height, with brown hair and eyes. Any information on his whereabouts may be furnished by telephone to numbers 58405 and 57892 in La Paz, and in the interior to the Regional Narcotics Offices.

11532
CSO: 5300

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OFFICIAL NOTES DECREASE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Feb 77 pp 1, 18

[Text] The Chief of Police said yesterday that since he had assumed office drug trafficking in the country had been reduced "to the minimal level."

Maj Gen Neit Rafael Nivar Seijas said that before he had been named Chief of Police, "drug trafficking in the Dominican Republic was widespread."

The Chief of Police was asked whether it was true that illegal sales of drugs are taking place in the country.

Nivar Seijas said, "When I took over the office of the National Police, there was drug trafficking. However, I can now say that it is at its minimal level."

He made his statements through the Public Relations Office of the National Police whose acting chief is Capt Percy Salvador Caminero.

In another connection, Nivar Seijas stated that the Police have been releasing various members of the terrorist group known as La Banda [The Gang] which operated in the country during the 1970-71 period.

The police rounded up some 40 members of La Banda whom they are investigating in connection with the deaths of a private assigned to the Corps of Military Aides of the President of the Republic and of a university student.

The bodies of the police officer and the student were thrown onto the campus of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

Police agent Agustin Maria Roque Salcedo and Luis Hector Maximo Lockward Torres were slain by stabbing. The former was killed at the end of January and Lockward Torres 15 days later.

The similarity of both crimes leads the police to believe it possible that both the agent and the student were slain by the same group.

The Chief of Police considers these crimes "a challenge" and has promised that the guilty parties, whoever they may be, will be brought to justice.

COCAINE DESTROYED BY OFFICIALS

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Feb 77 p 24

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Decree Law 1139, members of Interpol and the Military Customs Police burned 122,265 grams of cocaine which were confiscated during an attempt to bring them into the country over the southern border.

In July 1976, members of the Military Customs Police assigned to Macara seized a shipment of drugs estimated to be worth 80 million sucres during an attempt by Nelson Salazar Ruiz to thwart the military control system.

Legal Action

Once the legal steps had been completed in the 1st Criminal Court of Loja, which is presided over by Judge Juan Leon Figueroa, the police turned over 173 packets of cocaine which had been confiscated on 25 July 1976.

The following persons were present during these legal proceedings: the Provincial Chief of Health, Dr Hugo Guillermo Gonzalez; the Provincial Chief of Police, Lt Col Fausto Vasconez Naranjo; the chief of Interpol, Lt Romulo Correa; the representative of the National Directorate of Drug Service; and the chief of the Loja laboratory of the Leopoldo Izquieta Perez Institute, Dr Maria Chuavin de Garrido. The total weight was verified, and each of the plastic bags was checked after which they were duly sealed under the custody of the National Policy and then turned over to the Health authorities.

Once the court order had been issued, all of the packets of drugs were burned.

Customs Police Burn Confiscated Cocaine. Several days ago, the 1st Criminal Judge of Loja took the legal steps required for the burning of 12,265 [sic] grams of cocaine, which were confiscated by the Military Customs Police on 25 July 1976. In the following photo, representatives of the

court, members of the Military Customs Police, Interpol agents and Health authorities check the cocaine packets. Below, one of the police officers burns the drug which was worth more than 80 million sucres.



8143
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

TRAFFICKER CAPTURED IN MANABI BY INTERPOL

Cocaine Ready for Sale Found

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 24

[Text] Portoviejo (AEP). A ring of drug traffickers with direct connections with other traffickers in Guayaquil was dismantled by the Manabi Interpol Section with the arrest of the ringleader, Fausto Mota Ruiz, in whose possession the police found 115 envelopes of cocaine base ready for distribution to consumers in the city and province.

The arrest of Mota Ruiz was the result of the police agents' having kept his illicit activities under surveillance for several weeks. Once Interpol had obtained the information needed, its agents arrested the man, finding in his home the large amount of drug with which he conducted his lucrative business.

The drug trafficker was sent to the Guayas Training and State Work Institute in consideration of the fact that he is a repeat drug trafficking offender and that he had been detained in the "Tomas Larrea" Prison in 1975; however, in short order he had obtained his release.

The arrest of Fausto Mota led to the discovery of those who were working with him and his connections in Guayaquil and in other cities in the country. Additionally, the Manabi Interpol is in possession of the names of the consumers of the drug. They are being sought with a view to having them receive the medical treatment they need.

Marihuana Field

Continuing its action, the Manabi Interpol discovered large plots of land in the Flavio Alfaro parish, Chone canton, which were being used to grow marihuana.

This find was made possible by a complaint filed with the Political Lieutenant of Flavio Alfaro by the owner of the land being used by the marihuana growers. Interpol arrested Artemidoro Alcivar and Joel Vara as they were filling several sacks with marihuana for transport to the consumer centers.

The prisoners will be turned over to one of the criminal judges for legal action.



Fausto Mota Ruiz Captured

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Feb 77 p 24

[Text] Portoviejo. Fausto Hermogenes Mota Ruiz, a drug trafficker arrested by drug headquarters and the Manabi Interpol. Also shown are the 115 envelopes of cocaine base confiscated from him. In the photo at the left, the reader will also note the equipment used in this illicit activity, in addition to the confiscated drug.

8143

CSO: 5300

POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb 77 p 24

[Text] INTERPOL agents arrested several drug traffickers and discovered places where marihuana was grown and cocaine was stored.

Quito

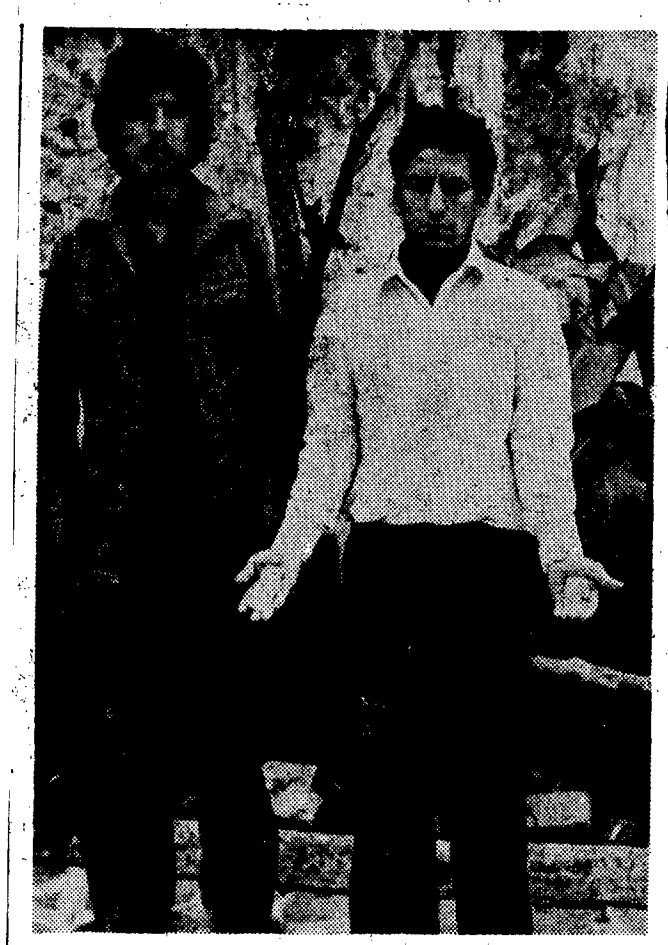
Fernando Hidalgo Arizaga and Alcin Camilo Garcia, delinquents with long criminal records, were arrested in the center of the city when they attempted to deliver hallucinogens to addicts. After the investigations are completed, they will be turned over to the Second Criminal Court judge.

Destruction of Marihuana Fields

Elsewhere, at Los Laureles of Canton Santo Domingo de los Colorados, a 200 square meter field of marihuana was found. It belonged to Segundo Quilino Rivas, Horacio Rivas Alzuber, the Colombians Jose Rodriguez Lozano and Saul Flores Marin who are being subjected to intensive interrogations so that responsibilities may be established.

At Manabi

Patricio Briones Quiroz and Federico Ubillus Sanchez were arrested in the city of Portoviejo while carrying 115 envelopes of cocaine which they planned to distribute in this city.



INTERPOL arrests cocaine traffickers--INTERPOL agents arrested Alcin Camilo Garcia and Fernando Hidalgo Arizaga in the center of the city when they attempted to sell refined cocaine to addicts.

8923
CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

BRIBE OFFER BY CAPTURED DRUG TRAFFICKERS--A drug trafficker offered a bribe of 100,000 sucres to INTERPOL agents when they were caught buying 4 kilos of cocaine. The offer was not accepted and the buyer and the seller were put behind bars. The police department reported that Eloy Gallardo Herrera was arrested at San Francisco Plaza as he was buying refined cocaine from Luis Torres Castillo. Material evidence of the two prisoners' illicit trade are the 4 kilos of cocaine which were being exchanged. When he was discovered by the INTERPOL agents, Gallardo "in a very courteous and tactful manner" offered them 100,000 sucres to forget about this case and to leave him at liberty. However, the agents arrested him, together with the other party to the transaction and attached to their report the 100,000 sucres and the cocaine. On the basis of his first statements and the interrogation made by INTERPOL, Gallardo owns a large rental property between Imbabura and Rocafuerte streets in this city where he has his syndicate. He has accumulated a great deal of money during the long time he has been a drug trafficker. He explained that Luis Torres Castillo always has been his accomplice and helper. Eloy Gallardo Herrera and Luis Torres Castillo are being strictly interrogated. After this, they will be turned over to the courts. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Feb 77 p 20] 8923

CSO: 5300

HEROIN SEIZED IN NOGALES RAID

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 26 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] A shipment of heroin worth over 14 million pesos was seized in this city yesterday by agents of the Federal Judicial Police under the command of Arturo Rojas Diaz. Police also arrested a well-known Sinaloa drug trafficker who has been operating in Nogales for some time and who lived on Independence Street where he was arrested.

A total of 8 kilos 703 grams of drug was taken by federal agents, who also arrested two members of the gang formed by Sotero Ayala Tirado, 50, of number 228 Independence Street.

Commander Rojas Diaz told EL DIARIO DE NOGALES that in an investigation he and several other federal agents made this weekend they discovered that there was to be a drug operation on the international border at the old number three sentry box at Juarez and International streets.

Federal agents waited patiently there until a man arrived. He was immediately arrested, and stated that his name was Domingo Alejandro Contreras Clavero, 23, an employee of the Hotel Martinez on Juarez Street. He had in his possession a sample of the heroin he planned to sell to a North American.

Under questioning by the agents, Contreras Clavero said that the drug belonged to Ayala Tirado, who was later arrested in his home.

After his arrest Ayala Tirado confessed to police that the drug was his and that he kept it in the home of his sister, Otilia Ayala Tirado, an unnumbered house on Sol Street. They went there and Ayala Tirado gave police several bags he had hidden in a privy.

After watching Ayala Tirado's home, police arrested his son, Hector Ayala Zarate, who had just come from the telegraph office where he had just sent 13,100 pesos to his brother Ernesto in the city of Culiacan, Sinaloa, the proceeds of the sale of the drug.

When agents asked him who supplied him with the heroin, he replied that he himself refined and processed the drug in Culiacan, Sinaloa, where there had been orders sent to search his residence.

Yesterday they were turned over to agent of the Federal Public Ministry Pedro Mireles Malpica, together with the heroin, two 45-caliber pistols and a high-power rifle. Investigations will continue today as it was reported that a group of well-known citizens are involved in the crime, which caused shock in Nogales and throughout the country.



Left to right, the son of the drug trafficker, Hector Ayala Zarate; in the center, Sotero Ayala Tirado; and right, the drug distributor Domingo Alejandro Contreras Clavero, all of whom were arrested yesterday by Federal Judicial Police in possession of over 8 kilos of heroin worth more than 14 million pesos.

8587

CSO: 5330

HEROIN AND COCAINE SEIZED, DEALER ARRESTED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 19 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] Yesterday agents of the Federal Judicial Police under Commander Arturo Rojas Diaz struck hard against heroin traffic when they seized 276 grams of pure heroin and 30 grams of cocaine, and arrested the widow of the late boxer "El Pinky Peralta."

Pedro Mireles Malpica, agent for the Federal Public Ministry here told EL DIARIO DE NOGALES that at 1230 hours yesterday several agents of the Federal Judicial Police arrested Maria Luisa Ayala, widow of Morales at her home at Boulevard del Ensueno 477. She had been selling drugs for some time.

Mireles Malpica reported that agents had known that the residence in the Fatima subdivision had been a source of drugs, and upon arriving there found the 276 grams of heroin and 30 of cocaine, and also took from the widow Morales a precision scale, a 25-caliber pistol and 3,100 pesos.

Maria Luisa Ayala had admitted that she has been selling drugs for some time, and is now in the Municipal Public Jail.

The prisoner was the wife of the well-known former boxer "Pinky Peralta" whose name was Hector Morales, also called Hector Gutierrez Morales. Morales died about a year ago of an overdose of heroin. He had been in jail more than three times, once accused of homicide.



Maria Luisa Ayala, widow of Morales, was arrested yesterday at her home on Boulevard del Ensueno, having in her possession 276 grams of heroin and 30 grams of cocaine, in yet another strike here by the Judicial Police.

8587

CSO: 5330

OVER FOUR TONS OF MARIHUANA, ALSO HEROIN SEIZED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 15 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] Agents of the Federal Judicial Police, in three separate actions, intercepted and seized almost 4.5 tons of marihuana, 250 grams of heroin, and 41 more packets of the evil weed, in addition catching four alleged drug traffickers and confiscating a vehicle.

This information was reported yesterday by Jose Piedad Silva Arroyo, agent of the Federal Public Ministry, which is investigating.

A truck transporting fifteen 200-liter drums was stopped to be searched at the "El Caballo" barracks 15 kilometers north of Guaymas.

The truck, apparently belonging to the Public Works Service, as it bore the colors and signs of that office, was being given a routine inspection, but the nervousness of the two persons in it did not go unnoticed by federal agents. They made a more thorough search, noting that the weight of the drums did not agree with their capacity, since they were sealed.

They noticed that the bottom of each drum had been soldered and upon opening them discovered packets of about 1.70 kilos of marihuana.

Each drum contained 58 packets of marihuana, making a total of 1,479 kilos of the evil weed.

The persons in the truck were Pedro Ramirez Lizarraga and Juan Aguirre Garcia.

8587

CSO: 5330

OVER TON OF MARIHUANA; SEVEN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 21 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] A quick strike following a difficult investigation resulted in the seizure of 1 ton, 77 kilos of marihuana and the arrest of seven drug traffickers by Federal Judicial Police in this city yesterday. The investigation had been carried out by the commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Arturo Rojas Diaz, who has distinguished himself since his arrival in the city by his strong blows against drug traffic.

Pedro Mireles Malpica, head of the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, told EL DIARIO how the police smashed this dangerous gang of drug traffickers, who have been dealing in marihuana for some time.

Federal police first arrested Gonzalo Meza Gastelum on a road near Imuris, bringing 100 packets of marihuana to this city in the trunk of his Ford Mustang.

Under questioning by the agents, Meza Gastelum confessed that the marihuana had been bought in Caborca from Humberto Rosales Lopez, who also had 40 packets of the same weed. Rosales in turn confessed that he had bought the marihuana from a man named Jose Flores Garcia, who lived in Caborca, but who had the marihuana in Altar, Sonora.

Agents went to Altar and arrested Flores Garcia, who had at his ranch several rollers such as are used to build highways. Inside them were 684 packets of marihuana.

Police also arrested Ramon Reyna, who was guarding the rollers with the marihuana. The men admitted that on a ranch near Flores Garcia's there were more drug traffickers and marihuana.

Arriving at that ranch, federal agents found Gaston Trevino Serrano, Ramon Bejarano Iglesias, and Rigoberto Morales with 253 packets of marihuana.



In the pictures above are six of the seven men arrested yesterday with more than a ton of marihuana by the Federal Judicial Police. Below is part of the load of marihuana confiscated in Caborca and Altar. (Photo by DIARIO)

8587
CSO: 5330

DRUGS, EQUIPMENT SEIZED IN RAIDS

Nogales EL DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 25 Jan 77 p 4

[Text] In four strikes against drug traffic in as many cities, agents of the Federal Judicial Police arrested 13 alleged criminals and seized about 10 million pesos in drugs, equipment for processing heroin, two pistols and a rifle.

Francisco Castro Iturrios and Blanca Castro Perez were arrested as they boarded a train, Ferrocarriles del Pacifico, having in their possession 250 grams of heroin they intended to sell in Nogales. Moments later Cruz Velazquez and Nicolas Ramirez Neri were arrested. Police took from them two precision scales, an electric grill, two wash basins, and substances in several bottles, as well as 3 kilos of heroin and three firearms.

Elsewhere, in the area called "La Rumorosa," on the Mexicali-Tijuana highway in Baja California, an abandoned car was found with 118 kilos of marijuana in the trunk.

In Ciudad Obregon Federal Judicial Police agents found drug traffickers Gonzalo Meza Gastelum, Humberto Robles Lopez, Ramon Reyna Nunez, Jose Flores Gasca, Gaston Traconi Serrano, Ramon Bejarano Viesca and Rigoberto Morales with 1 ton 155 kilos of marijuana they were carrying in a truck and a car. The prisoners stated that they were taking the drug to the northeast border for sale.

8587

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA FIELDS--Over 200 marihuana fields covering an area estimated to be 265,350 square meters in size have been sprayed with a herbicide over the past few days. The work was done by agents of the Mexican Attorney General's Office assigned to Oaxaca with the help of army troops and light aircraft. EL IMPARCIAL learned of the operation from Ricardo Zamora Apam, state coordinator of the anti-drug fight being waged in the state. An all out effort is underway to destroy as many marihuana fields as possible to stop its cultivation and traffic. The official said that marihuana fields have been destroyed primarily in Oaxaca's critical zones: San Andres Mixtepec, San Pablo Guila and other villages in Totolapam municipality. Zamora Apam also said that reconnaissance flights are still being conducted in various parts of the state in search of marihuana fields. Any fields that are found are immediately sprayed to stop the transportation of marihuana to other parts of the country or abroad. In closing the official said that on the average some 20 to 30 fields are destroyed per day. He denied the existence of any poppy fields. /Text/ /Oaxaca EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 18 Feb 77 pp 1, 8/ 8599

ATTORNEY'S RELEASE--Shortly before noon yesterday attorney Jose Manuel Bravo Ramirez left La Loma Prison after the Monterrey First Court of the 4th Circuit overturned the sentence imposed by the 2nd District Court and ordered his release. Bravo Ramirez was tried on health crime charges for possession of cocaine. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison and fined 13,500 pesos or an additional 90 days in jail in lieu of the fine. Colombian national Rafael Jaller Camat and attorney Carlos Amador Ricardo were tried with Bravo Ramirez. Jaller Camat is serving a 12 year 3 month prison term and Amador Ricardo is serving an 8-year prison term. Immediately after he learned of his sentence, Bravo Ramirez filed an appeal and with documented evidence he was able to convince the First Court to revoke his sentence. The three men were arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents at the San Carlos Hotel in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Rafael Jaller Camat and Carlos Amador Ricardo were guarding a suitcase containing 2 kilos of cocaine. Bravo Ramirez had gone to McAllen, Texas, to find a buyer. He was arrested on his return to the hotel. /Text/ /Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Feb 77 p 3-B/ 8599

COCAINE, HEROIN SEIZURE--Mexico, 12 February (EMSA)--Some 300 million pesos worth of drugs were seized today by the Federal Judicial Police at the Tijuana, Baja California, International Airport from a 6-seater Cessna. Three suspects were taken into custody while they were attempting to take off for the United States. The investigation which began a little over a month ago ended with the seizure of 136 kilograms of cocaine and 5 kilos of heroin wrapped in plastic bags. Marcio Enrique Alvarez Velazquez, the pilot, Jesus Alfredo Aguilar Medina and Oscar Cazares Rocha were riding in the airplane. They said that they had just arrived from Culiacan, Sinaloa, and were on their way to the United States. The Mexican Attorney General's Office ordered that the investigation be continued to determine the origin of the drug so that all the members of the ring could be arrested. The ring is thought to be a major one because of the amount of the drugs seized. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Feb 77 p 1-A] 8599

SEIZED WEAPONS--Customs Board of Inquiry Director Raul Jardon, Customs Chief Jesus Acosta and Deputy Chief Jose Rodriguez yesterday turned over a large number of weapons and ammunition to garrison headquarters here in the city. The military was represented by Captain Torres. It was reported that customs officials seized 30 weapons of different calibers including carbines, rifles and pistols and thousands of live cartridges. Customs officials have been actively working to seize weapons and arrest those who have attempted to smuggle them into the country through this point of entry. The majority of the weapons have been seized at the International Bridge and in many cases they have been hidden behind false walls in the many different vehicles involved. Legal action has been taken in District Court against those involved in these activities. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Feb 77 p 7] 8599

SINALOA DRUG TRAFFIC--Division General Jose Ernesto Toledo, commander of "Task Force Condor," expressed confidence that within 4 months Sinaloa could be said to be free of drug traffic. "Plan Condor," an intense campaign against the planting, cultivation, and traffic of drugs and especially an effort to prevent smuggling and the use of arms, was begun. The operations against drug traffic and violence began with a parade of more than 1,200 paratroopers in full field gear through the streets of this city. There were also parades of military troops in Los Mochis. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 21 Jan 77 p 4] 8587

AMERICAN WITH COCAINE--Federal Judicial Police agents at the international airport [in Mexico City] arrested U.S. citizen Miguel Ricardo Flores as he attempted to bring into the country 1.60 kilos of pure cocaine, valued at 3 million pesos on the black market. The drug was found in a slide projector, a tape recorder, and in some cigarettes. The drug trafficker was arrested in the airport customs inspection room by police when he arrived from Lima, Peru on Flight 102 of Air Panama. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 27 Jan 77 p 4] 8587

PERU

MARIHUANA, COCAINE, HASHISH CONFISCATED BY POLICE

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Feb 77 p 11

[Text] PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] delivered a harsh blow to a dangerous organization of drug traffickers who had their general headquarters in a Cajamarca province where they produced 4,000 kilos of marihuana, in addition to more than 20 kilos of opium paste and 2 kilos of hashish.

The drugs confiscated by the Directorate for the Investigation of Illicit Drug Trafficking (DINTID) are worth the fabulous sum of 143,090,000 soles.

The opium and hashish were manufactured and sold to foreign traffickers, some of whom have been identified. Their arrests will be handled through Interpol.

PIP inspector Ricardo Galvez Bucolini, Director of Illicit Drug Trafficking Investigation, told newsmen that the drug trafficking organization had well-camouflaged fields of poppies and marihuana in a rugged region which the detectives reached after a series of difficulties.

He said that the 2 kilos of confiscated hashish were worth 2.6 million soles on the international black market; while a kilogram of opium is sold for 1.5 million soles.

After apprehending the drug trafficking chieftains, the group of investigators destroyed 2 hectares of poppy fields and 3 hectares of marihuana.

Superior Inspector Reynaldo Garcia Grados said that this is the first time in their drug investigations that they had discovered the sale and production of the dangerous drug called "hashish," which is a concentrate of marihuana and requires a special technique for its manufacture.

The 4,000 kilos of marihuana are worth 140 million soles on the national market.

8143

CSO: 5300

PERU

POLICE CAPTURE TRAFFICKERS, 500 KILOS OF COCAINE PASTE

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jan 77 p 14

[Article by Wilfredo Montoya M.]

[Text] The PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] and Civil Guard seized half a ton of basic cocaine paste from two international rings of drug dealers that were attempting to take it out of the country for shipment to Mexico and Colombia.

Not only drugs but large sums of money and eight vehicles used for transporting the merchandise were also seized from the traffickers.

Two brothers of Mexican nationality, a Colombian, and several Peruvians were captured during the police operations carried out in the regions of Piura and Tingo Maria.

As regards the case in Piura, the PIP Bureau of Narcotics says that pertinent investigations are now under way in coordination with the Civil Guard, to the point that identification has been made of the Colombian trafficker who took flight when the ring was about to be apprehended.

This man is a member of the ring led by Alfonso Rivera Lorent that operated in the Pasaje Solea in Chosica. His identity is being withheld.

Chief Inspector Alfredo Sanchez Tassara, head of the PIP Bureau of Narcotics, said that two types of organizations are presently in existence -- one, made up of Peruvians and Colombians, and the other, of Peruvians and Mexicans.

These organizations are fighting it out to take over the North American market, although they have been unsuccessful due to the effective work being done by the Peruvian police in coordination with neighboring countries and even with the United States.

Cocaine paste in the amount of 104 kilos was seized from the ring broken up by the PIP in Tingo Maria, while the Civil Guard seized 400 kilos of the same drug from the other ring in Piura.

11532

CSO: 5300

CAPTURE OF TRAFFICKERS WITH DRUGS AND MONEY

Lima CORREO in Spanish 8 Feb 77 p 6

[Text] The Civil Guard captured a gang of drug traffickers who had exported cocaine base valued at 5 million soles.

The persons arrested were Ever Melgarejo Falcon (the leader of the gang), Espidio Santa Cruz Enrique, Feliciano Paucanchuco Mendoza, Humberto Balbuena, Arturo Caruzo and Teofanes Borja.

Five Hundred Thousand Soles in Cash

In the home of Santa Cruz Enrique, a 730 gram package of cocaine base and a 137 kilo bag of sodium carbonate were found.

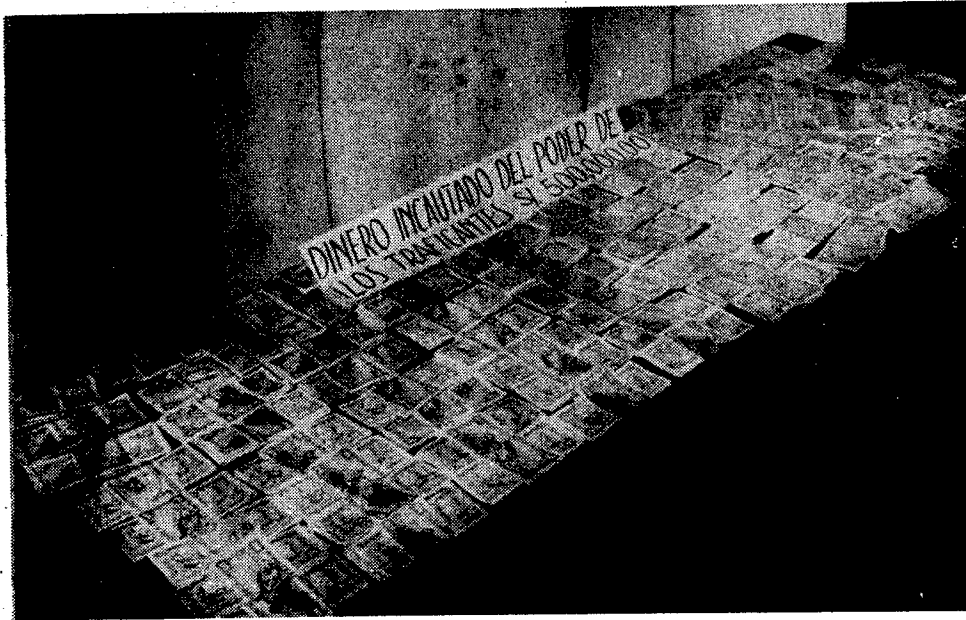
In the home of Melgarejo, 1.08 kilograms of cocaine base, 2 bottles of sulfuric ether and more than 500,000 soles in cash, the proceeds from the sale of drugs, were found.

In other raids, the Civil Guard seized 11.61 kilos of cocaine base valued at more than 1.5 million soles, and 800 grams of marihuana.

The five drug traffickers had well organized and well defined branches throughout the nation. According to the police, their supply centers may be Tingo Maria and Huancayo.



These are the five drug traffickers who were captured by the police, and from whom was seized cocaine base.



The drug traffickers had in their possession 500,000 soles in cash, the proceeds from the sale of drugs.

8923
CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

SUMMARY OF 1976 OPERATIONS--In 1976 the Bureau of Narcotics of the PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] arrested a total of 2,225 persons, including 68 aliens, for trafficking in or using narcotics. The seizure was also made of 2,053 kilos of narcotic drugs and 691 hallucinogenic pills valued at 128 million soles. According to PIP statistical data, a total of 77 vehicles, including a light airplane, 25 firearms belonging to traffickers, and 21,067,000 soles in national currency were also confiscated. As regards drug traffickers and users, the PIP says 2,039 were men and 186 were women, and a total of 292 persons were arrested on suspicion or for interrogation. In respect to drugs seized, these included 1,374 kilos of basic cocaine paste, 27 kilos of cocaine hydrochlorate, 646 kilos of marihuana, and 6 kilos of opium. According to the report, figuring among the foreigners arrested were North Americans, Colombians, Ecuadoreans, and even Europeans. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jan 77 p 14] 11532

DRUG USE INCREASED NOTED -- The consumption of drugs in Peru has increased 400 percent. This information was released yesterday by the Superior Director of the Peruvian Investigative Police, General Inspector Alfonso Rivera Santander, when he was questioned by newsmen at the end of the inaugural ceremony of the Evaluative Meeting of the International Operation for the Repression of Drugs. He said that this increase in the consumption of dangerous drugs is principally due to inadequate control over coca leaf plantations which facilitate massive manufacture of basic cocaine paste. Later, Rivera Santander stated that up until 1970 our country was considered one of the principal producers of cocaine. Today it is also one of the largest consumers, he indicated. He said that the consumption of narcotic drugs had been detected in student ranks; i.e., universities and secondary schools, as well as in a number of trade unions. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Feb 77 p 7] 8143

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Francisco Pena Gonzalez made a deep wound in the forehead of a Civil Guard when he attacked him with a bottle after the guard had seized from him 20 "loaves" of cocaine base. Pena Gonzalez was confined to the first aid station on Grau Avenue because he received a bullet wound in his left leg. He angrily attempted again to attack his captor, Civil Guard Julio Gamero Linares, as he was being put into a patrol car. The episode took place in a restaurant at the corner of Prolongacion Sebastian Barranca and 3 de Febrero streets at which drug traffickers gather. Civil Guard Julio Gamero Linares, after taking his aggressor for medical care and reporting to his superiors, went to the Police Force Central Hospital for treatment of his wound. According to police sources, every day there are bloody incidents at that eatery. Several times the place was closed but soon afterwards it was authorized to reopen. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Feb 77 p 17] 8923

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

LARGE MARIHUANA SHIPMENT SEIZED

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 6 Feb 77 p 20

[Article by Freddy Urbina]

[Text] With the arrest of the driver of a truck which was transporting a large number of bags of marihuana worth more than 3 million bolivares, hidden under a load of bananas that originated in the state of Tachira, detectives of the Anti-Drug Division deepened their investigations [into a recent case] even further. They had already arrested the ringleader and several of his distributors but had not yet apprehended "The Big Boss," nicknamed La Napa, who directed his accomplices from Colombia, his native country.

According to information released yesterday by the Commissioner General, Dr Oscar Rivero Gottberg [incomplete name follows] nzalo Giron and Pedro Miguel Hurtado Carvallo, Secretary General, Chief of the Divison of Commissariats and the Drug Division of PTJ [Technical Judicial Police], it was learned yesterday that the driver of the truck bearing license plate number II-3904 had said that his name is Lucio Agustin Suarez Medina and that he is 44 years old. He was transporting 120 pounds of marihuana in plastic bags hidden in a suitcase.

Our informants stated that the prisoner who was being sought on the heels of the dismantling of the ring known as "Los Plataneros" [The Banana Gang] because of their method of bringing marihuana into the country. They would hide bags of the drug under a load of bananas from the state of Tachira, concealing the true nature of their cargo from the police and National Guard authorities along the stretch of highway which enters the city from the west. The ringleader would receive the shipment and distribute it among his accomplices. The latter were arrested at the start of the investigations and were identified as Rene Marichales Diaz, who was chief of the ring's operations in Venezuela; Henry Ramon Martinez Diaz, alias Cara e [sic] Guante [Face and Glove], named as the group's wholesaler; William Leon, named as a distributor. The police were able to establish the identity of the "top man" in the ring, a native of Colombia, who answers to the name of Helmer Morales and is known in the underworld as "La Napa."

Finally, the police chiefs said that with the arrest of the truck driver additional evidence had been obtained against members of the powerful ring of marihuana traffickers which had been dismantled. This is the largest amount of marihuana confiscated in Venezuelan police history.

FRANCE

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE IN PARIS, LE HAVRE--A total of 1 kilo 750 grams of pure heroin have been seized and five men arrested in Paris and Le Havre. The drug was destined for the American market, and it came from Thailand. The arrested men include a member of the Mafia, the buyer, a 37-year-old American called Frank Cattino; the supplier is a 43-year-old Frenchman, Jean Fourgermole, who has just returned from Thailand. [Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 7 Mar 77 LD]

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

GERMAN COURTS STRICTER ON DUTCH DRUG PEDDLERS

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAF in Dutch 26 Jan 77 p 3

Text Dusseldorf, Wednesday. The West German minister of justice, Dr Dieter Posser (52) warned yesterday that the Federal Republic will take even stricter action against Dutch drug peddlers, who supply Germans with narcotics, even if the actual drug sale takes place in the Netherlands.

Arrest Order

"Arrest orders already are out in West Germany against several Dutch drug peddlers, who themselves do not have the faintest idea that they are going to be picked up, as soon as they cross the border," according to Minister of Justice Posser of the province of North Rhineland/Westphalia, bordering on the Netherlands, in an exclusive interview with our reporter. Minister Posser declared "in addition to the fact that the Dutch drug peddlers involved do not know the fate which awaits them here, Netherlands justice also knows nothing about these arrest orders. We only inform the Dutch authorities when the arrest has taken place. We notify the Netherlands Consulate-General in Dusseldorf, only when the Dutch drug peddlers are locked up in our jails."

Cooperation

As reported by the West German minister, this remarkable state of affairs is completely separate from the cooperation between the Dutch and German narcotic investigation forces; a cooperation which Dr Posser considers good, in the case of hard drugs. "But regarding soft drugs such as hashish, the views of the German and Dutch experts differ too sharply to hand over all our investigative results completely to the Netherlands at this point," according to Minister Posser, who warned that the sentences for narcotics peddlers in the Federal Republic will soon be increased to 15 years.

NETHERLANDS

DUTCH-DANISH POLICE SMASH HEROIN LINE

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 18 Feb 77 p 3

[Report by one of our editors: "Heroin Line Smashed"]

[Text] Amsterdam 18 Feb--Netherlands criminal police in cooperation with the Danish police have managed to smash a still comparatively new heroin line. The smuggling route ran from Bangkok via Copenhagen to Rotterdam.

The big boss and organizer of the smuggling ring, the 43 year old Chinese C.H.N., was arrested last weekend in Amsterdam.

A total of 10 men were arrested. It was possible to smash the smuggling organization after the arrest of the 42 year old native of Utrecht C.V.L., who was caught red-handed by the Danish police, when he hid 5.3 kilograms of heroin in his car's spare tire, at his residence in Copenhagen. L. turned out to have contacts with Dutch dealers in Terneuzen. Moreover the police in The Hague arrested a 43 year old Chinese who, it was revealed, had 260 grams of heroin. In Rotterdam, a 38 year old Dutchman was arrested.

After the arrest of two Thai dealers in Copenhagen, the Danish police in Copenhagen were able to tip off their Amsterdam colleagues, where a Malayan and a Hong Kong Chinese could be caught there. The Amsterdam police hope they have as good as smashed the heroin line between Copenhagen and Rotterdam with this series of arrests.

8490
CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

STIFF SENTENCES--Almelo, Wednesday--Almelo court sentenced two young Hong Kong Chinese yesterday to 6 years imprisonment for attempting to smuggle 14.8 kilograms of heroin into the Netherlands. The couriers, who had obtained these hard drugs with a market value of 1.5 million guilders in Bangkok, traveled by plane to Denmark to take the international train there to the Netherlands. The heroin was discovered in their suitcase on 25 November at Oldenzaal on the border. The Chinese (24 and 26 years old) did not come under the new opium law, in which the penalties for possession and sale of drugs were increased. Public prosecutor, doctor of laws, R. A. Gonsalvez had demanded 7 years imprisonment for the pair a week ago. [Text] [Amsterdam DE TELEGRAF in Dutch 26 Jan 77 p 2] 8490

ANTI-OPIUM PROJECT--The Hague, 18 Feb--The Netherlands government has not officially declined the request of a UN fund for a contribution for the costs of a project to combat the production of raw opium in the countries of the so-called golden triangle in Southeast Asia. Minister Vorrink (health and environment) declared this yesterday in the Second Chamber in answer to the questions of the members Veder and Dees VVD [People's Party for Freedom and Democracy]. Consultations will still be held with Minister Pronk (development assistance) about possible cooperation in crop replacement (alternative agriculture) in the countries involved. According to Minister Vorrink, who has objected to slurs about lack of action, the problem lies not only in poppy growing; alternative agriculture would have to produce the same (high) prices as poppies do now. [Text] [Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 18 Feb p 3] 8490

HUGE HEROIN SEIZURE--Customs has discovered 120 kilograms of heroin at the port of Rotterdam. The market value is estimated to be 12 million guilders. As far as it is known, this is the largest seizure of heroin ever made in a non-producing country. The police have announced two arrests but they do not wish to give any details on the identities, in view of the further investigations. The heroin was hidden in a container which came from the Thai capital city of Bangkok. The bags with heroin lay among other goods and were discovered by customs after intensive detective work. Not even in the United States has such a large amount of heroin ever been discovered at once. There has been a larger seizure in Thailand previously. [Text] [Rotterdam NRC
HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 4 Mar 77 p 1/ As a result of information provided by agents of the DEA in Europe, Dutch customs officers seized 120 kilos of heroin that was packed in a container offloaded from a ship coming from Bangkok. The seizure was effected on 3 March. [Text] [Brussels LE SOIR in French 8 Mar 77 p 4/

CSO: 5300

END