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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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No. 269

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AUSTRALIA

PREMIER TAKES A HAND ON DRUGS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Sep 76 p 27

[Text] Brisbane. A statement on drugs by the Queensland Premier timed for release only a short time before the Cedar Bay drug raid hearings are due to be heard has caused much political comment.

The statement was given to Queensland media on Friday by Mr Bjelke-Petersen's press secretary, Mr Allan Callaghan.

The statement referred to drug plantations in thick bush areas "such as Cedar Bay."

There were references to fears that foreign fishing vessels were bringing in hard drugs and that there was anxiety that the hippie communes on Cape York might try to grow the opium poppy, the source of heroin, as well as cannabis.

The embargo on the statement meant that it would not have been released until last night or early today.

However, parts of the statement have already been used or broadcast by Queensland media. The drug charges against two of the Cedar Bay people will be heard in the Cairns Magistrate's Court today at 1000 hours.

The Speaker of the Queensland House of Parliament, Mr J. Houghton, has ruled debate on Cedar Bay out of order.

He said that it was up to the courts to deal with the matter if Mr Bjelke-Peterson wanted to make such statements.

The president of the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties, Mr D. Fielding, said that references in the statement to drug areas "such as Cedar Bay" were deliberate attempts to influence the magistrate in Cairns.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

MINISTERS LOOK AT \$100,000 DRUG FINE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 30 Sep 76 p 3

[Text] A Commonwealth-States conference will look at Federal draft legislation which proposes a \$100,000 maximum fine or 25 years in jail for hard drug pushers.

Soft drug pushers, including those peddling marihuana, would get a maximum \$10,000 fine or 10 years in jail.

The 2-day Melbourne conference will look at drug laws and the effect of existing penalties.

The federal minister for health, Mr Hunt; Customs, Mr Howard and Administrative Services, Mr Withers, will represent the commonwealth.

Federal and state departmental officers--representing police, health and customs on the National Standing Control Committee on Drug Dependence--will meet tomorrow to iron out details for the ministers' meeting.

The Victorian Chief Secretary, Mr Dickie, said last night the conference would exchange views and discuss cooperation between the states and the commonwealth.

"We will look generally at the proliferation of drug taking and the results and effects of existing statutes and penalties," he said.

Mr Dickie said "drug pushers and others associated with the dissemination of drugs" would be scrutinised.

The contentious draft legislation incorporating the heavy penalties is intended to override state laws.

It would place responsibility for drugs with federal authorities.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

STIFFER DRUG PENALTIES RECOMMENDED

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 29 Sep 76 p 5

[Article by Wallace Brown]

[Text] A 25-year-old woman is apprehended by narcotics agents at Sydney International Airport recently, and allegedly is found to have \$750,000 worth of heroin around her waist.

High school children get "stoned" on cough linctus and hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Federal Parliamentary committee chaired by Queensland Liberal M. P. John Hodges finds there are 870 old, usable airstrips in northern Australia and that there is a heavy illicit traffic of drugs coming in and protected birds, animals and reptiles going out.

A light aircraft with Australian markings is seized on Bali after Indonesian authorities discover it is packed with 664 kilograms of marihuana apparently designed for Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The Federal Government collects about \$1 billion annually in taxation revenue on those legal drugs--alcohol and tobacco.

According to a police survey in a Canberra school, about 90 percent of senior students are experimenting with drugs, especially marihuana.

More than 200 Australian nationals are in foreign jails serving sentences imposed for possessing drugs or trafficking in them.

Again according to police, 2 kilograms of heroin, worth about \$500,000 reach Canberra from Sydney recently, and are disposed of in about a month, mainly on the campus of Australian National University....

So the drug scene goes. Such are some of the ingredients of Australia's most complicated political-social-health-education-and law enforcement problems.

It is spread throughout all states and territories and involves people on both sides of the tracks.

Tomorrow and on Friday in Melbourne the government "authorities" most involved will hold a key conference which they hope will get somewhere.

The particular "authorities" are top representatives of the various state and federal bodies--for example, customs, health, attorneys-general, social welfare and police--who make up the National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence.

It has been operating since the Gorton Government in 1969 saw the need for federal-states coordination, and it meets under the chairmanship of the secretary of Federal Business and Consumer Affairs Department (which is now responsible for customs).

Current long-time holder of this post is Mr Alan Carmody, now acting secretary of the Prime Minister's Department pending permanent and procedural appointment.

Mr Carmody will chair tomorrow's N.S.C.C. meeting for the last time. On Friday the top officials will be joined by the relevant federal and state ministers.

The main business is to consider a "consensus" recommendation from a working party of the committee on which all states were represented, that there be uniform Australiawide legislation to make penalties much stiffer for peddlers in hard drugs--such as heroin, cocaine and morphine.

The recommendation will be that the maximum penalty for such an offence be lifted from 10 years jail and/or a \$10,000 fine, to 25 years jail and/or \$100,000 fine.

Federal officials are confident the recommendation will be accepted by all states.

There seems little doubt that it will be, since the only real criticism may come from representatives of the Queensland Government, which wants even heavier penalties.

The significance of the recommendation, according to federal officials, is that it marks the first attempt to differentiate firmly, precisely and uniformly between hard and soft drugs, and between users and peddlers of hard drugs.

It also is worth noting that, at this stage at any rate, the committee's working party is not recommending any change in penalties for the use of hard drugs, on the grounds that such use is more a medical than a penal problem.

Nor is it recommending any change in the penalties for use or peddling of soft drugs.

These penalties--for use of hard drugs and use and peddling of soft drugs--vary from state to state, but under federal law run up to \$4,000 fine or 10 years in a superior court, and \$2,000 or 2 years in a summary court.

Where do we go from here? In this context it is worth examining the Canberra drug scene as presented by the police, and the law enforcement scene as presented by the Narcotics Bureau. In both cases there has been considerable study.

The Narcotics Bureau recently put its case to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, and made the point that the Federal Government is responsible for the administration of controls over the importation, exportation and manufacture of narcotics.

State Governments are responsible for control over the distribution and use of drugs of dependence within their own boundaries and for the treatment of addicts.

The bureau reported an increasing incidence of drug smuggling by small boats and aircraft in the north and northwest. It said heroin was coming from Malaysia and Thailand and there was a continued upsurge in its illicit use.

The bureau reported that the majority of drug importers and traffickers detected in the last 2 years had arrived at ports and airports by recognized routes, but more and more drugs were being concealed in cargo and first-class mail.

It further reported that following a change last year in operating methods, it had arrested fewer drug users and peddlers, but had seized more drugs, especially supplies of heroin, and had apprehended more big-time traffickers.

In 1975, there were 840 people arrested at ports and airports, and so far this year 295 have been arrested.

But whereas 5,938 grams of heroin were seized from drug traffickers in 1975, so far this year the haul has been 9,633 grams. In 1975, there were 885,476 grams of cannabis seized, and so far this year 1,002,374 grams have been seized.

The Narcotics Bureau said that trafficking in drugs was big business on the illicit drug market.

Heroin was worth \$400 to \$650 for 14 grams, domestically-grown marihuana \$300 for 500 grams, imported marihuana \$1,000 for 500 grams, hashish \$1,200 for 500 grams, and cannabis oil \$4,500 for 500 grams.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

HARD DRUG USE RISING SHARPLY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] Canberra. A drug expert warned yesterday that the use of heroin in Australia was increasing dramatically and the amount seized this year could reach 14,000 grams, with a value of about \$700,000.

Mr Harvey Bates, assistant secretary of the customs investigations branch, said heroin and other drugs worth several million dollars a year were being smuggled into Australia, mainly from Southeast Asia.

In an effort to check the inflow long-range maritime patrol aircraft were conducting regular anti-smuggling searches in the waters between Indonesia and northern Australia.

Mr Bates told the Senate standing committee on social welfare that the customs bureau's coastal air-sea operations support group aimed to set up an extensive intelligence network in northern Australia.

It wanted a rapid flow of information to assist in the battle against smugglers.

The committee, which is inquiring into the misuse of drugs, was told that the Customs Department had taken delivery of a number of high-speed patrol craft. Four would be stationed in the north for surveillance and pursuit.

Mr Bates said that cannabis remained the major illegal drug used in Australia, with cannabis oil increasing in popularity.

"Clearly, while there is no abatement of the cannabis problem, it does appear it isn't escalating at the same rate as heroin," he said.

"Heroin is the in-drug in Australia at the present time."

Mr Bates said that the narcotics bureau was giving first priority to detecting the importing and distribution of heroin and was concentrating on high-level traffickers.

The most popular importing methods--couriers and mail--gave the bureau serious detection problems because of the volume of people and mail entering Australia.

Another major problem was a big proportion of people who absconded on bail while waiting to appear on drug charges.

Since 1972, 113 people had absconded. Most of these remained at large.

There was strong evidence that heroin produced in the "golden triangle" area of Southeast Asia and marketed through Malaysia and Thailand would continue to improve in quality and availability.

The volume of heroin abuse was unlikely to diminish while this situation persisted.

There was also increased illegal use of other opiates such as morphine. This was reflected by the incidence of forged prescriptions and thefts from doctors' surgeries and pharmacies.

Prices on the illicit drug market had remained fairly constant. He said that 14 grams (half an ounce) of heroin was worth about \$700 in its pure form.

Australian-produced marihuana was fetching \$300 for 500 grams, imported marihuana \$1,000 for 500 grams, cannabis resin (hashish) \$1,200 for 500 grams, cannabis oil \$4,500 for 500 grams and a dose of LSD was worth \$3.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

AGENTS SWOOP DOWN ON HEROIN FACTORIES

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Oct 76 p 6

[Article by Karl Wilson]

[Text] Federal narcotics agents have arrested scores of people in recent raids and broken one of the nation's biggest heroin rings.

The ring, which operated in all states, had set up manufacturing plants in four capital cities where heroin was produced from codeine.

The operation may have made millions of dollars on the illegal drug market.

The raids have only now been made public.

Factories, in Cairns, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, were raided some weeks ago in a nationally planned operation.

The raids were kept so secret that local police did not know they had been carried out.

It is believed that the heroin factories used a process developed by the Germans during World War II to extract heroin from codeine, which is used in many headache tablets and powders.

Narcotics investigators described the plant as one of the most elaborate they had seen.

The heroin produced was impure but it was described as equally destructive.

Some of the heroin had been sold in capital cities.

Federal narcotics agents are scrutinising the wholesaling and distribution of painkilling tablets which contain codeine.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

2,000 DRUG CHARGES IN 1 YEAR

Canberra THE AGE in English 7 Oct 76 p 1

[Article by Gerry Carman]

[Text] More than 2,000 people will be charged with drug offences in Victoria this year--the first time the 2,000 barrier will have been broken.

This was predicted yesterday by the Chief of the Victorian police drug squad, Detective Inspector Roy Kyte-Powell. He also said that:

Drug traffickers in Melbourne were taking as much as \$10,000 a day;

Police were hoping that tough new penalties would prevent organised crime controlling the drug rackets in Australia;

The number of drug raids on pharmacies was declining possibly because more illegal drugs were available.

Inspector Kyte-Powell said it was expected that most drug offenders would be under 30. About 85 percent would be cannabis users.

Police hoped the new penalties for trafficking--\$100,000 fine or 15 years jail--would prevent a Mr Big-type monopoly."

"While we have no evidence of a single local organisation controlling illicit drugs, the possibility that one will emerge is real. It could appear if the market is allowed to develop," he said.

The increased size of drug operations in the state could be gauged by the fact that some traffickers were taking \$10,000 a day.

"These are independent operators, not the top men."

"It's common for us to get a fellow with \$10,000 on him, made in the previous 24-hour period.

"Of course not all is clear profit, probably a third. But you can see \$3,300-odd profit in a day is no ordinary business."

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AUSTRALIA

ADDICT SENTENCED FOR HEROIN POSSESSION

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Sep 76 p 44

[Text] Sydney. A man became addicted to heroin while he was a national serviceman in Vietnam, a special federal court was told yesterday.

Anthony Leigh (29), of Centennial Park, pleaded guilty to possessing heroin.

A narcotics agent, Mr E. Colma, told the court that heroin worth \$75 was seized at the defendant's premises on 26 July.

Leigh had later admitted that the heroin was his and that he was addicted to it.

Mr P. Costello, for Leigh, said that Leigh had served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970 as a conscript.

He had been honourably discharged in 1970 after serving with the 107 Field Battery as a forward adviser for artillery.

Colma, who is a Vietnam veteran admitted that this task was dangerous.

Magistrate P. Cooney placed Leigh on a 3-year good-behaviour bond and ordered him to pay \$140 costs.

CSO: 5300

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION WORK DISCUSSED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 2 Oct 76 pp 1, 4

[Text] Rangoon, 1 Oct--The Chairman of the Central Board for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Treatment of Addicts, Deputy Minister for Health U Khin Nyein this morning met with Medical Superintendent Dr Ne Win, specialists, medical officers and nurses in charge of drug addiction treatment unit of the Psychiatric Hospital, parents and guardians of drug addicts receiving treatment at the Hospital, Party and Council functionaries at the Psychiatric Hospital to discuss matters relating to the prevention of drug abuse and treatment of drug addicts.

Deputy Minister U Khin Nyein disclosing that the use of opium, heroin and other narcotic drugs is prevalent among the youths called attention to the fact that the majority of drug abusers were the children of affluent persons and people engaged in black-marketeering and their children.

He said that the number of drug abusers who have registered for treatment is much lower than the actual number of people using narcotic drugs. The failure of the Township Medical Officers, who are members of the Township Drug Abuse Prevention Committees, to report accurately and regularly to the Central Board weakens the Board's planning and acting abilities. Cooperation between drug addicts receiving treatment and their parents is also needed, he said.

He also spoke of the need for patients and their parents, relatives and friends who come to visit the patients to strictly observe the rules and regulations of the Hospital. Bringing narcotic drugs to the hospital secretly and giving them to the patients hinders treatment and is also a violation of the law. Violators must be educated in some cases and effective legal action must be taken in serious cases. The medical officers and nurses must have patience and work with goodwill towards the patients, he said.

U Khin Nyein also stressed the need for parents of drug addicts and the People's Councils at different levels, especially the Ward People's Councils to use educative and organizational methods as well as by taking legal measures to expose drug addicts, to make them register and to receive treatment at hospitals.

U Khin Nyein also explained the program to extend curative services in 20 major towns and the reinforcement of trained medical officers and workers.

INDONESIA

HARD LINE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS IN INDONESIA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Aug 76 p 4

[Article by Colin MacIntyre]

[Text] Jakarta. Indonesia has just introduced the death penalty for drug pushers. The country has a small drug problem, compared with that in other countries in the region, but it is already causing serious concern.

"One reason people here are so worried is that the problem is just beginning to be noticed," said Professor Kusumanto Sentyonegoro, head of Indonesia's Drug Dependency Institute.

The new bill also imposes a 1-year sentence on anyone knowing of the existence of illegal drugs. It follows a widespread campaign by police and security officials recently which netted more than 230 suspected traffickers and a pile of morphine, ganja, opium and heroin.

The bill replaces a Dutch colonial ruling of 1928, which carried only a 3-month jail sentence and 100,000 rupiah (about \$6,000) fine for dealing in drugs.

Jakarta's tough governor, Ali Sadikin, was quoted recently as saying he was embarrassed at the derisory fines on pushers by district courts. He advocated death by firing squad.

Addicts

Though the number of addicts has increased steadily since the problem emerged in 1969, standing now at an estimated 5,000 this is small by regional standards.

According to Colombo Plan narcotics experts, Thailand has 400,000 addicts, Hong Kong 100,000, the Philippines 30,000 and Malaysia 8,000.

One reason for Indonesia's new hard line is that statistics show that the addicts are mainly from the cream of the nation's youth, the sons and daughters of wealthy businessmen, civil servants and top military men.

According to security authorities and MPs who recently debated the drug question, their addiction is nothing less than a plot by "the enemy" to weaken the backbone of the nation.

"The enemy" is rarely identified but one Muslim Party MP recently declared in the House that the opium base for most of the drugs came from several centres--all in China.

Another MP said the circulation here of drugs from Southeast Asia's "Golden Triangle" around the Thai-Burmese-Laotian borders was not just for money but was used by the enemy to increase subversive activities.

The English-language INDONESIA TIMES wrote in an editorial that the victims were almost always young people who would form the future backbone of the nation. It added: "For centuries the slow but sure weapon for the enemy has been the use of narcotics to paralyse the country, and this classic political weapon is still in use up to the present day."

Whatever the motives, most observers agree that the drugs are easier to get in Indonesia and that links exist with syndicates in Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Professor Kusumanto said there were two main factors behind the increase in drug use--the availability of narcotics, and increasing pressure as traditional values give way to new ones.

"There is so much liberation now among the young people--sexual, musical and cultural--and many of them are just not prepared for it," he said.

Children of the wealthy and prominent were the first affected because they were most vulnerable. In many families where busy parents spent less time at home, close family ties were beginning to break down, he added.

Another obvious factor was that drugs, at around 1,500 rupiah (\$10) for a fix of morphine before the latest sweep and 10,000 rupiah (\$60) since, are out of the reach of most in a country with a per capita income of only about \$300 a year.

Professor Kusumanto, whose institute has treated 600 patients since it opened in 1969, said there were no signs yet of any rise in petty crime to meet the higher price of a fix. Many addicts were simply turning to softer drugs such as amphetamines and barbiturates which are cheap and easily available here. UPI

CSO: 5300

HEROIN HUNTERS SEARCH FREIGHTER

Heroin Smuggling Increasing

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] A team of Customs Department officers were still on board the freighter Straat Frazer last night continuing inquiries following the seizure of a large amount of heroin in the ship earlier in the week.

A total of about 334 grams of the narcotic was found in raids on the ship at Wellington and Lyttelton.

Customs officers boarded her at Wellington and stayed on board while she went to Lyttelton, then came to Auckland, where she arrived on Saturday.

She will remain anchored in the Hauraki Gulf until tomorrow because of a shortage of berths at the port.

A Customs official in Auckland said yesterday that he thought the Straat Frazer had yielded one of the largest hauls of heroin ever found on a ship in New Zealand.

The problem of heroin smuggling into the country was increasing.

"There is a ready market here for it now," the official said.

"We are certainly getting more and more hauls off the ships."

He could not say whether further quantities of heroin had been found in the Straat Frazer, but he would not discount the possibility that more would be found.

"Inquiries are continuing," he said.

The Straat Frazer brought general cargo to New Zealand from Southeast Asia. In Auckland she will load general and frozen cargo for Southeast Asia before sailing for Tauranga.

Crewman Finds Cache

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 30 Sep 76 p 3

[Text] The large quantity of heroin found on the freighter Straat Frazer in Wellington earlier this week was not found by customs officers, according to the ship's captain, Captain J. A. H. Faber.

Captain Faber said that the 344 grams of heroin were found in a portable extension pipe used in the ship's hold, by a crew member checking that the pipe was not blocked.

On the voyage from Lyttelton to Auckland customs officers found a further 100 sticks of cannabis in the hold.

The heroin, estimated to have a value well above \$300,000, was the largest haul ever made in a ship in New Zealand.

Yesterday customs officers were still searching the ship, which is now at Queen's Wharf.

Since the heroin was discovered in Wellington the ship has been under constant surveillance by customs officers.

They boarded her in Wellington and stayed on board while she went to Lyttelton, then came to Auckland, where she arrived on Saturday.

They will stay on board until she leaves Tauranga, her final port of call in New Zealand.

Captain Faber said the reason many drug hauls were made in ships of the Straat line was that they often called at Southeast Asian ports, including Bangkok and Singapore.

He said that the Drug trafficking was a bad sideline of the trade with Southeast Asian countries, but was understandable because they were the source of the supply.

On Tuesday night police interviewed several members of the ship's crew. No arrests have been made.

CSO: 5300

POLICE MINISTER CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG INCREASES

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 24 Sep 76 p 24

[Text] Drug pedlars were criminals of the worst degree and were no better than a person committing treason, said the Minister of Police, Mr McCready, yesterday afternoon.

Opening the new northern division police headquarters at Takapuna, Mr McCready said he was concerned about the increase in drugs in the country and the danger to the future generation.

Another aspect of the drug problem causing much concern was the age group involved, he said.

The number of persons up to 19 years charged with illicit drug abuses had increased from 40 to 251 in just five years.

He said offenses involving cannabis had increased from 168 in 1970 to over 2000 in 1975, and heroin offenses had gone up fivefold.

Burglaries of pharmacies, he said, had increased from 77 to 1975 to 159 this year.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

PUSHER ARRESTED IN SINGAPORE AFTER U.S. RELEASE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Aug 76 p 24

[Text] Singapore, Thurs.--A Singapore-born heroin trafficker, described as a "mass poisoner" by an American judge who jailed him 30 years in 1973, is back in Singapore--under detention.

Roman Heng Aw Kak, 43, flew home recently after his release on parole after serving only 3 years and 8 months of the sentence--and walked straight into the arms of the law.

He is being detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act.

According to informed sources, he was paroled for being an exemplary prisoner.

He was later allowed to leave the United States, but Central Narcotics Bureau men here, acting on information received, detained him when he flew into Singapore on 17 July.

Heng, a former "dropout" from a giant Malaysian drug syndicate with Australian connections, was arrested with a Malaysian when they attempted to smuggle into New York over \$1.7 million worth of heroin in November 1972.

The drugs, weighing 2.5 kilograms, were said to be sufficient to provide several thousand hardcore addicts with supplies.

Heng's downfall was the result of cooperation between drug bureaus in Singapore, Australia and the United States.

Heng's partner, Lee Koo, 49, is still serving a 30-year jail term in the United States.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POWER POLITICS HAMPERING THE WAR AGAINST HEROIN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Sep 76 p 8

[Article by Sathan Pairao]

[Text] Thailand has 600,000 drug addicts. Hong Kong has more addicts per head of population than anywhere else in the world. In Singapore, Malaysia, Burma and the Philippines, the number of addicts is rising every year.

Heroin has become a serious threat to Southeast Asia. But the situation will never improve as long as narcotics policy is dominated by international agencies paralyzed by power politics, and by foreign governments pursuing their own interests.

The problem will only approach solution when it is handled by Asian politicians who are capable of understanding the intricate social and political conditions that govern the trade in Burma, Laos and Thailand.

As we find it today, the international narcotics problem is the direct result of the UN Protocols of 1946 and 1953. These were produced in the period after World War II when the United Nations was dominated by Europe and America, and the Protocols were drawn up without any real attention to the interests of Southeast Asia.

Opium was banned throughout Southeast Asia in the 1950's in order to protect the heroin addicts of Europe and America. This did not stop heroin reaching Europe and America, but it had the effect of driving Asian addicts off opium--which is relatively harmless--and onto heroin--which is much more dangerous but easier to smuggle. (In Hong Kong many British policemen admit unofficially that the UN ban is the principal cause for Hong Kong's massive heroin addiction.)

The UN Protocols made it legal for farmers in India to grow 800 tons of opium a year for sale to drug companies, but illegal for the much poorer tribal people of Burma, Laos and Thailand to go on growing the 700 tons they produced. This decision was made without consultation with the producers, and without any attempt to replace their opium with other crops.

(It was only around 1970 that the United Nations started its crop replacement program.)

The effect of such an unenforceable ban was to put the governments of Burma and Thailand in an impossible position whereby they outlawed opium as a trade, but permitted it as a crop for tribal people. In Burma this led to the entanglement of the opium trade with insurgency, and to a state of almost total anarchy in the Shan mountains.

Since opium was banned in Southeast Asia, addiction has increased more than 50 times in the United States. Prohibition has therefore failed to prevent an increase in addiction, and many people believe that, by justifying the enormous profits of black market narcotics, it is directly responsible for this increase. The profit from a kilo of heroin bought on the Thai border and retailed in New York is roughly \$1,000,000, or 100,000 percent, and it is these enormous profits which have made it possible to bribe every police force in the world, so that no country has ever captured more than 10 percent of the narcotics being smuggled through it.

The present policy has therefore provided the two ingredients essential to a successful narcotics business:

Prohibition to make the trade profitable, and

Ineffective prohibition to make the trade possible.

This is why many people believe that any alternative narcotics policy--no matter how bad--can only be an improvement.

The only permanent solution to the opium trade is one that involves the replacement of opium with other crops. For as long as there is a supply, there will be a demand, and the demand will always find criminals prepared to satisfy it.

The Royal Thai crop replacement program therefore offers the best long-term solution. But it cannot produce quick results since it involves poor tribesmen using traditional farming methods, and it requires years of research and a complete infrastructure of economic facilities and markets.

It is thus essential to find some short-term measure to deal with the present crisis, and it is important that this measure should be designed to help, not hinder, the Royal Thai crop replacement program.

The world demand for medicinal opium is rising at a rate of 12 percent a year and there is already such a shortage of opium in the United States that the Government has had to release its strategic stockpile. American and European drug companies are desperate for new supplies and are bidding against each other forcing the price up.

At present, the price of legal opium for sale to international drug companies is higher than the price of illegal opium for sale on the Thai black market. The reason that Thai hill farmers cannot sell their opium to the drug companies is that the UN Protocol permits Indian, but forbids Thai farmers to do this.

The Iranian Government was faced by a similar ban when it unilaterally started to grow and market opium again in the 1960's, but the United Nations has now accepted Iranian sales.

Last year the communist government in Laos announced that hilltribes could continue growing opium but would have to sell it to the Government for resale to international drug companies.

Government purchases of opium would give the hilltribe farmer a steady price for his crop and would mean increased cooperation--not opposition--between him and government officials. This would help research for the Royal crop replacement program and build the trust required to persuade the farmer to try other crops in the future.

The profits from opium sales--roughly \$20,000,000 to \$140,000,000--would be diverted to the Government, away from criminals and corrupt officials. This could only have the effect of strengthening democracy and, if some of the money was used to improve police salaries and conditions, it might boost morale in the campaign to catch any opium that was still being smuggled.

Even if the Government succeeded in buying only part of the crop--if 20 percent or even 40 percent still reached the black market--this would be immense improvement on the 90 to 95 percent that escapes the police today.

Any reduction in the flow of narcotics would earn gratitude from the ASEAN countries and Hong Kong and should win approval from China and other communist states.

If the policy doesn't work, nothing could be easier than to stop buying opium. A sudden end to government purchases would mean a massive drop in the illegal, with consequent disruption on the black market.

It is obviously pointless to buy opium grown in Thailand if addicts in Bangkok are still flooded with opium from Burma. On the other hand, the Burmese Government might object when they hear that Burmese opium was being bought in Thailand.

However, it is Burma's responsibility to stop opium grown in Burma reaching the Thai border and it is hardly the Thai Government's fault if they fail to do this. Once inside Thailand, Burmese opium becomes a Thai problem threatening Thai addicts, and as Burmese opium is indistinguishable from Thai opium, there is no reason why the Thai Government should not treat all opium inside Thailand in the same way.

The argument that legal opium purchases would force up the black market price and thus increase opium production is based on total ignorance of conditions inside the Shan States. An increase in price in some cases means a drop in production, and few hilltribes act according to stereotype Western concepts of the market economy. In addition, 60 percent of the opium fields inside the Shan States are taxed and controlled by the Communists, who would be happy to find a solution which took opium off the black market, but continued to provide their farmers with money to buy rice. The remaining 40 percent of the fields are controlled by opium armies such as the SUA, and with the Communists winning in Burma, they are anxious for government approval and any new role that will provide them with security in the future. This should make them possible to control, and willing to attack smugglers who break the agreement.

It is impossible to solve the narcotics problem without the cooperation of the people who grow opium. Legal opium purchases are the only way of doing this while cutting off the crop from the black market.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

FARMERS PAID TO STOP GROWING OPIUM--Canberra--The Freedom From Hunger Campaign is providing money to wean farmers in northern Thailand off the opium habit. The money is not aimed at getting them to stop using the drug but to stop growing it. Northeastern Thailand is one of the world's major sources of opium, from which heroin is derived. Mr Hans Dall, international coordinator of the campaign's Rome-based development action section, announced the "weaning" project in Canberra yesterday. He said that the FFHC had made an initial gift of \$84,000. The money was the opening shot in a sustained drive to break the Thai farmers' economic dependence on opium growing. It would be used to give them a reasonable income while they switched to new crops. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Sep 76 p 13]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BUCARAMANGA JUDGE FREES TWO IN ALLEGED COCAINE RING

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Sep 76 p 11-A

[Article by Jairo Saravia H.]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 18 Sep. The 3d Criminal Circuit Judge ordered the release of two women charged with being members of an international ring of drug traffickers and the surrender of the farms on which 117 kilos of cocaine, worth 100 million pesos, and a modern laboratory for the manufacture of the alkaloid, were found.

This judicial order was issued in behalf of two women, Facunda Aguilar and Agustina Tarazona, who voluntarily appeared before the military authorities.

Similarly, the court ruling ordered the surrender of the Santa Maria and Altamira farms on which the modern laboratory was operating.

As the reader may recall, at the beginning of the year agents of the anti-extortion and kidnapping command of the 5th Brigade located the cocaine manufacturing center on the Ruitoque Mesa while they were looking for a girl named Claudia Juliana Serrano, who was kidnapped.

The investigation was initiated by the 23d Criminal Military Examining Magistrate, Oscar Ortiz, who issued arrest warrants for Pedro Diaz, Jose Hader Alvarez, Jose Atenon Estupinan--as the leaders of the organization--and Agustina Tarazona, Facunda Aguilar, Arturo Aguilar, Ricardo Tarazona, Hernando Garcia, Vicente Suarez, Gonzalo Jimenez, Jose Adan Acosta, Nestor Silva, Jose Eliecer Aguilar and Rafael Garcia.

Although the three chieftains of the international drug trafficking ring escaped, the police captured Jose Adan Acosta, Eliecer Aguilar, Nestor Silva and Rafael Garcia. Then, Facunda Aguilar and Agustina Tarazona voluntarily appeared.

When the state of siege was lifted, the case passed to the civil courts; and this weekend the initial legal actions were taken.

The 3d Criminal Judge ratified the arrest warrants against Pedro Diaz, Jose Atenon Estupinan and Jose Hader Alvarez who escaped from the country and apparently are in Panama.

In connection with this same legal action, the following persons are being held in the Model Prison: Jose Adan Acosta, a Bogota industrialist, Nestor Silva, Jose Eliecer Aguilar and Rafael Garcia. The two women, Facunda Aguilar and Agustina Tarazona, were released.

The judge ordered the surrender of the Santa Teresa and Altamira farms to attorney Octavio Gomez Barrera, acting on behalf of Facunda Aguilar to whom Pedro Diaz, one of the chieftains, signed over the two pieces of property by means of a confidential instrument.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TEN IN 'GLORIA' CASE HELD FOR TRIAL

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Sep 76 p 14-A

[Text] Reliable sources confirmed yesterday the report published by EL TIEMPO last Tuesday to the effect that three officers, three midshipmen and three seamen of the training ship "Gloria" were brought to Colombia in the past few days and placed at the disposition of authorities investigating drug trafficking.

This report, which caused a great uproar in investigative sectors because of the confidentiality of the information, was acknowledged, although it has not been fully established where the nine crew members, presumably linked to drug trafficking, are being held.

However, our sources stated that those implicated had been turned over to the 41st Criminal Military Examining Magistrate, Victor Manuel Nieto Soacha, because the petition claiming conflict of jurisdiction has not been resolved.

In this way, the number of crew members of the National Navy flagship who must appear before the authorities for trafficking in cocaine, discovered on board during the last cruise which began in Cartagena, has risen to ten.

In a related matter, a Cartagena judge has under her jurisdiction four Colombian drug traffickers captured by Mexican authorities. It was explained at the time that their statements resulted in the finding of the cocaine shipment on the "Gloria."

"Gloria," whose arrival is scheduled for the middle of this month, ended a training cruise in the Canary Islands which included ports in the United States, England, France and Spain.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE WORTH MILLIONS--Ipiales, 20 Sep. Customs inspection officials yesterday confiscated 16 kilos of cocaine initially estimated to be worth 80 million pesos on the black market. The cocaine was confiscated from two Colombians at the Rumichaca international port. They were traveling in a Ford pickup truck with license plate number KA-1389. The alkaloid was found in plastic bags hidden in the front bumper of the vehicle. The two drug traffickers were identified as Carlos Alberto Velez Flores, driving the vehicle, and Luz Dary Estrada. Both are Colombian nationals who entered the country from Ecuador. Official quarters indicated that drug traffickers offered to pay 20,000 pesos--especially to drivers--for each pound of cocaine which they managed to bring into the country. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Sep 76 p 4-C] 8143

VENEZUELAN TRAFFICKERS ESCAPE--Popayan, 21 Sep. Two Venezuelan drug traffickers who had been arrested recently in Timbio, south of Cauca, escaped from the city jail yesterday after tying up the guards. Gustavo Zuluaga and Hercules Gomez Perez, both natives of Caracas, had been arrested along with two "ganchos" [informants] as they were traveling in a 1975 Mercedes Benz. The two men were being held in a patio of the city jail from which they managed to escape. Later, the two prison guards were found tied up. As of the moment, the whereabouts of the drug traffickers is unknown; however, it was said that they had received a large sum of money several days ago. Three police officers were placed under preventive detention because of the escape of the two Venezuelan drug traffickers. Zuluaga and Gomez Perez were arrested by F-2 agents when cocaine worth nearly 1 million pesos was found in their possession. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Sep 76 p 8-B] 8143

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED--DAS [Administrative Department of Security] agents confiscated 2 kilos of cocaine in Ipiales as it was being transported to the interior of the country by two women and one man. This new blow against the drug trafficking mafias was delivered at Ipiales Checkpoint 4 when an auto with license plate number MB-2002 was inspected. The automobile was driven by Jose Miguel Ubidia and carried the two women, Amanda Florez de Hernandez and Marta Isabel Rodriguez. When the 2 kilos of cocaine were found in the vehicle, the occupants were arrested. They have already been turned over to the proper authorities. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Sep 76 p 7-A] 8143

TRAFFICKERS' PLANE CRASHES--Cali, 13 Sep. The owner of the light plane which crashed last Saturday at a clandestine airport in Viru, Peru, was identified as Gabriel Eduardo Romero. The Cali police said that Romero had a record as a drug trafficker and that he is widely known in Cali because a report of his kidnapping was circulated last January. EL TIEMPO was able to establish that the aircraft, KH-661-P, had its base in Cali several months ago after which it was taken to Medellin where it is reported to have been sold to Ernesto Vergara, a resident of the latter. The aircraft had departed from Medellin for the place of "Los 90," in Sinu territory. Later, its pilot reported that he was about to land; however, at that moment--1700 hours--the aeronautical officials lost all communication with the airplane. On Sunday international agencies indicated that the aircraft had burned in the town of Viru, 500 kilometers north of Lima. The Peruvian police said that the crew of the airplane had attempted to obliterate the registration number and the flag on the plane before taking flight. They added that clandestine landings are made frequently in that region by persons connected with drug trafficking. It was stated unofficially in Cali that Romero, the owner of the aircraft, was piloting the plane when it burst into flames; however, that report was not confirmed. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Sep 76 p 2-A] 8143

COCAINE IN DUTCH SHIP--Buenaventura, 13 Sep. Some 35 kilograms of cocaine were confiscated by the Buenaventura DAS [Administrative Department of Security] on the Dutch flagship "Ganimedes" yesterday afternoon, according to the police. DAS indicated that a Colombian national was arrested in connection with this incident. He was identified as Victor Bahamon. The drug was concealed in cans of butter and, according to DAS sources, was embarked in that Pacific port. This is the second DAS blow against international drug trafficking rings in this port. On the previous occasion, the secret services seized 27 kilos of cocaine paste bound for Panama for subsequent distribution in the United States. Yesterday's cocaine was found in the holds of the cargo ship which has been anchored in this port for a week. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Sep 76 p 2-A] 8143

TRANSFER OF FORMER DAS CHIEF--Barranquilla, 1 Sep. Maj Antonio Jose Vega Perez was transferred today to a cell of the Narino Battalion, it was learned officially. Vega Perez, who was DAS [Administrative Department of Security] chief here, is being tried for drug trafficking in complicity with informant Sergio Nates. Vega Perez' defense attorney, Diego Leon, succeeded in having the Directorate General of Prisons order the transfer of Vega Lopez from the Model Prison to the Narino Battalion. Counsel for the defense alleged that Vega Perez suffers from diabetes and will thereby receive better medical treatment. The 5th Criminal Municipal Judge, who is hearing the case, opposed the transfer, maintaining that Vega Perez had not yet been found guilty and that he is, therefore, not definitively within the competence of the Directorate General of Prisons. This organization took exception to the judge's opinion and ordered the transfer. In turn, defense attorney Diego Leon filed a defamation of character complaint in the Regional Office of the Attorney General. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Sep 76 p 12-A] 8143

DRUG TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--Narcotics agents this morning arrested Ivan Parra, who was preparing to leave from EL Dorado airport. The authorities seized cocaine valued at 2.5 million pesos which he had hidden in a false-bottom suitcase. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Oct 76 PA]

DESTRUCTION OF MARIHUANA FIELD--Fundacion. Police officers under the command of Lt Carlos Acosta Argoty destroyed more than 30,000 marihuana plants worth more than 2 million pesos. The operation was carried out at a farm named "Las Marimondas," located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in the jurisdiction of the city of Aracata. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Sep 76 p 8-A] 8143

FIRST MORPHINE SEIZURE--Officials engaged in combating drug trafficking were surprised by the possibility of new, illicit drug traffic in the country when they confiscated Saturday .5 kilogram of morphine destined for Leticia. DAS [Administrative Department of Security] sources indicated that it is quite possible that morphine is being manufactured in Colombia because poppy fields were discovered in the western part of the country. The confiscated drug, the first of its kind, was evaluated at 2 million pesos. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Sep 76 p 3-B] 8143

DRUG STATISTICS--Statistics from the Office of the Judicial Police indicate that last month was not at all fruitful with regard to confiscations of drugs such as cocaine and marihuana. In the entire month of August, only a small amount of "snow," found in the heels of a tourist's shoes, were seized. This indicates that traffickers and smugglers are using other methods to bring in and take out of the country these dangerous substances. It is no longer believed that "mules" are the perfect system, nor are the mules carrying on business in that manner. Nevertheless, it is known that there is continuing traffic in all kinds of narcotics through the Colombian airport, a place much to the liking of the international and national mafias. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 3 Sep 76 p 30B] 8143

COCAINE FOUND IN CAR--Popayan, 3 Sep. Cocaine worth 1 million pesos was found in a Venezuelan automobile in the town of Timbio, 15 minutes from Popayan. The occupants of the car, a Mercedes Benz with license plate number 462473, were arrested by the agents who carried out the operation. The prisoners are Gustavo Zuluaga Martinez, from Caracas; Norberto Moreno Carrillo, age 44; Hercules Gomez Perez, age 45, a native of Caracas; and Misses Patricia Sanchez Trillo, age 18, and Luz Nelly Rodrigues Borja, age 25. According to the police report, the two women were playing the role of "ganchos" [informants] to make it possible to pass the alkaloid undetected. It is believed that the cocaine, which weighed 463.5 grams, came from Almaguer, Cauca. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Sep 76 p 14-A] 8143

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Santa Marta, 3 Sep. A field of 3 hectares of marihuana was found by the police in the Arenosa region, city of Aracata, north of Magdalena. The official report reveals that the field was on the Palestina farm owned by Juan Angarita. A police patrol under the command of an officer went to the farm to look for the marihuana whose worth is estimated at 1.5 million pesos. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Sep 76 p 14-A] 8143

DRUG RING IDENTIFIED--Cali, 15 Sep. The Colombian police and Interpol announced today the identification of a ring of drug traffickers, made up of Colombians, Peruvians and Americans, which had its bases in Cali, Buenaventura and Trujillo. The last named city is in Peru. The identification of the members of the Colombian ring was made in Lima, according to the police here. The Colombians are Hugo Silva and Alfonso Rivera; however, the authorities of this capital did not supply personal data concerning these men. The two Colombians were part of the crew of the light plane, HK-661, which burned Saturday in the town of Viru, 500 kilometers from Lima. According to what EL TIEMPO was able to learn, the Colombian aircraft left "Olaya Herrera" airport in Medellin at 1600 hours 9 September bound for the place of "Los 90," in Sinu. There he reported his arrival at 1700 hours. Since that day, nothing more was heard about the whereabouts of the airplane until the international agencies indicated that it had burned in the Viru region as it was making a clandestine flight. At first, it was said that the plane was the property of Gabriel Romero Rebolledo, a Tulua farmer; however, this man appeared at the Valle division of the police command to deny the report. Romero Rebolledo said that it had belonged to him but that some months ago he had sold it to Bernardo Escobedo Bermudez and Jaime Gaviria Mejia. According to information obtained by EL TIEMPO, the light plane is now the property of Ernesto Vergara Casas, who apparently resides in Medellin and is the plane's pilot. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 2-A] 8143

COLOMBIANS SENTENCED--Panama, 20 Sep. Three Colombians received prison terms totaling 20 years from the Costa Rican judicial system, according to a report published here today by the Central American News Agency. San Jose courts sentenced Jose Fidel Bermudez to 12 years in prison; Maria Amparo Velez Correa, 6 years; and Sonia del Socorro Rojas, 2 years. The three were arrested at the San Jose airport on 13 May 1976 during a stop in a flight which originated on the Island of San Andres. They were found in possession of an undetermined amount of pure cocaine. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Sep 76 p 8-A] 8143

COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS--Lima, 15 Sep (UPI). The drug police arrested three Colombians and two Peruvians on a charge of being members of an international organization which sent basic cocaine paste abroad worth 500 million soles (\$7,692,300). The Colombian prisoners are Hugo Renato Silva, age 44; Jose Manuel Ruiz Hernandez, age 51; and Luis Eduardo Gonzalez Cardenas, age 36; as well as Peruvians Jorge Lopez Paredes and Hector Saravia Sanchez. This source also said that the alleged chief of the organization, Alfonso Rivera Llorente, and two other persons implicated, whose nationalities were not given, are listed as fugitives. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 11-A] 8143

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SMUGGLERS SENTENCED--The Alajuela supreme court has sentenced three Colombians--Jose Fidel Ramirez Chavarro, Maria Amparo Velez Correa, and Sonia del Socorro Rodas Rodas--to 12, 6, and 2 years imprisonment respectively, after being convicted of belonging to an international narcotics organization and using Costa Rican territory for trafficking in narcotics. Ramirez and Velez were arrested at the Juan Santa Maria international airport on 13 August 1975 upon arriving from San Andres. Sonia Rojas arrived the following day from Panama and was also arrested. Ramirez was carrying a small amount of cocaine, while Velez had 1 kg of cocaine hidden in her luggage. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Oct 76 p 8-A PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

DRUG RING CAPTURED--Guayaquil, 2 Oct--The INTERPOL office in El Oro Province was able to break up a cocaine trafficking ring after it had captured Peruvian Sixto Delgado who revealed the names of the other ring members. A large amount of cocaine was found in the possession of drug traffickers Luis Luzon, Francisco Gutierrez, German Cueva, Julio Roman, and Sulema Sanchez. [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Oct 76 p 16 PA]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--INTERPOL has detained Carlos Manuel Pardo Larrea, Luis Francisco Jimenez Jimenez, and Modesto Torres Alfonso for possessing processed cocaine. These criminals have a long police record not only as traffickers and drug addicts, but also as common criminals. [Excerpt] [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 25 Sep 76 p 9]

CSO: 5300

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Guatemala City, 9 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Foreigners Fernando Merchant, Ricardo Gerini, and Rodolfo Aznares have been sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined 39,000 quetzales for cocaine trafficking worth several million dollars. Today's sentencing leaves proceedings open against John Allen Clark, a U.S. citizen considered to be leader of the group. The foreigners will be expelled from the country after serving their sentences. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1803 GMT 9 Oct 76 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

FEDERAL PUBLIC MINISTRY AGENCIES UNDERGO HOUSE CLEANING

Puebla EL SOL DE PUEBLA in Spanish 15 Sep 76 p 4

/Text/ Mexico, 14 September--A thorough house cleaning has taken place in Puebla in the Federal Public Ministry and Federal Judicial Police agencies. Since March of this year "special interest ties" have been severed and this has led to some dismissals and arrests and to some transfers.

The Mexican Attorney General's Office announced that it had appointed Alfredo Borboa Reyes supervisor of the Federal Public Ministry agencies in Puebla, Tlaxcala and Veracruz and indicated that a general house cleaning had taken place and in some instances some arrests were made.

One of those taken into custody was Antonio Morales Castanon who until May was a Federal Public Ministry prosecutor attached to the First District Court in Puebla. He was fired from his post and turned over to the proper authorities for misusing his office. His two subordinates, Rafael Rosales Gonzalez and Jose Alvarez Ruiz suffered the same fate. The three men were released on bond by the judge hearing the case.

Similarly, in April Luis Gonzalez Moreno, Federal Public Ministry agent in charge of agrarian and forestry affairs, was fired. Also, in May Ignacio Alcala Garcia "left his post" as Federal Judicial Police chief in Puebla along with agents Antonio Herrera and Eustaquio Lorente who were his "right-hand men." They were transferred to the Federal District.

More recently on the 8th of this month, Federal Public Ministry prosecutor Abelardo Edmundo Sosa Santos attached to the First District Court in Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, was transferred to what is known as the "Mexican Attorney General's Office Siberia," Salina Cruz, Oaxaca. Federal Public Ministry and Federal Judicial Police employees consider it to be a "form of punishment."

It was emphasized that the vigorous action by the Mexican Attorney General's Office would continue along these lines and that Borboa Reyes had been appointed to enforce it in Puebla in the interest of public services in keeping with our institutions.

MEXICO

PROSECUTOR SEEKS FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE REORGANIZATION

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Sep 76 p 5-B

Text Referring to the unfortunate incident caused by Federal Judicial Police auxiliary agent Jesus Talavera, Federal Public Ministry agent Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe yesterday told EL MANANA that Chief Heliodoro Valencia Gama had been ordered to dismiss Talavera immediately, to open a special investigation and if warranted, following testimony by eyewitnesses, Talavera should be consigned to public ministry officials of the court of equity. "Based on the evidence of improper conduct by Jesus Talavera, his immediate dismissal was ordered at the same time that a broad warning was issued to all personnel who are guilty of misconduct," Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe told EL MANANA.

At the same time, Third District Court prosecutor Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinosa, who along with the Federal Public Ministry agent communicated the order for Talavera's dismissal, emphatically said that he personally would see to it that these irregularities are brought to the attention of Salvador del Toro Rosales, the assistant attorney general for Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, so that a complete reorganization aimed at eliminating these irregularities within the Federal Judicial Police will take place as soon as possible.

The order is precise: no agent either of the Federal or State Judicial Police will escape punishment for his actions and anyone who is caught or against whom charges are made will be dismissed immediately and placed in the custody of the proper authorities.

EL MANANA, which yesterday published a fully documented story on the subject, questioned Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe who was visibly upset by the Jesus Talavera incident. Hoyos Arizpe said that he is in a position to bring an end to the irregular activities of those working for the Mexican Attorney General's Office. He added that his orders have been transmitted to Federal Judicial Police Chief Heliodoro Valencia Gama who is directly responsible for that police force.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

WOMEN'S PRISON OFFICIAL LINKED TO TRAFFICKERS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Sep 76 p 26-A

[Article by Eduardo Chimely]

[Text] The former director of Women's Prison appeared this morning before Federal Public Ministry agent Manuel Villanueva. She is involved in the escape of narcotics trafficker Ema Quintana Molina de Valles.

According to the Federal Judicial Police, Director Araceli Souza Duenas denied the charges made against her by rural police officer Pedro Rivera Lopez, who was bound and gagged by the persons who freed the narcotics trafficker.

Souza Duenas stated she was not the person who spoke by telephone to the sanatorium, ordering the transfer of the prisoner to the Hotel Holiday Inn, although police say she was. However, it was learned that the director was friendly with the narcotics trafficker and admitted she received a fine watch from her.

The rural police officer stated that the white Maverick automobile, with special radio receiver and antenna, was driven by Marcia Ivonne Valles Quintana, daughter of the prisoner, and that after the escape, they fled in the same automobile. The police reported they arrested Carlos Rivera Felix on a charge of fleeing to avoid arrest. They expect to rearrest within a short time the narcotics trafficker and the two murderers who fled to Michoacan.

8735

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

RETIRED CAPTAIN INVOLVED IN GUADALAJARA DRUG RING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Sep 76 p 27-A

[Text] Guadalajara, Jal. 18 Sep. Agents of the Judicial Police arrested six drug traffickers here, among them a retired military officer. Those arrested, who were in the business of producing and selling hashish and marihuana in Mexico and the United States, are Elias Navarro Torres, Jose Trinidad Navarro Valencia, Vicente Valencia Alvarez, Antonio Barrera Salinas, Jose Hernandez Montelongo and the retired captian, Roberto Ortiz Ramirez.

Some of those arrested were apprehended while making a sale of 10 ounces of heroin valued at 84,000 pesos. The heroin was seized by the agents.

Vicente Valencia, who was arrested first, identified the other members of the ring, who were arrested at their homes and other places in the city.

The six admitted their guilt and said they produced the drug in a clandestine laboratory in the village of Zacoalco de Torres. There police found test tubes, distilling equipment and scales used by the traffickers in the manufacture of narcotics.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

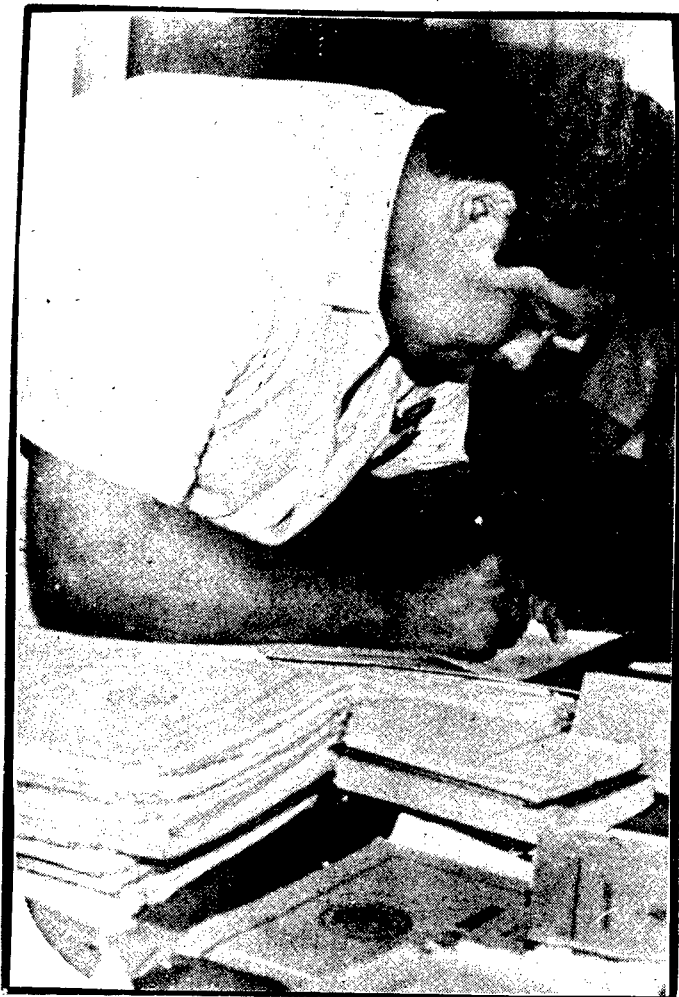
DRUG COURIER IDENTIFIES OWNER OF HEROIN

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Sep 76 p 4-B

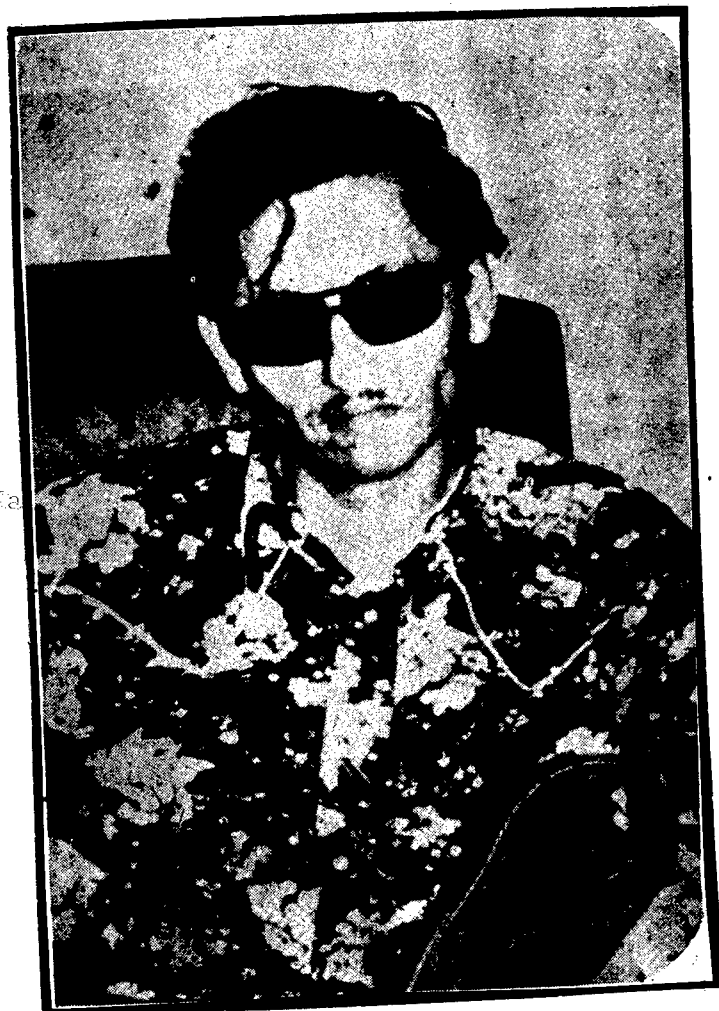
/Text/ Additional testimony given by Inocente Rodriguez Rodriguez, on trial for possession and transportation of heroin, to the Coahuila District judge identified Manuel Gutierrez as the person who made the arrangements for transporting the heroin to the border. EL DIARIO was informed by attorney Javier Luevano that Inocente Rodriguez was arrested on the first of the year by Federal Judicial Police agents while he was driving a pickup truck in which he was allegedly carrying fruit from the interior of the country to this city and surrounding areas. The heroin was found in a plastic bag. The case was turned over to the Federal Public Ministry and later to the Coahuila District Court which issued a formal order of commitment against Inocente Rodriguez for possession and transportation of heroin.

Yesterday while giving additional testimony, Inocente Rodriguez identified a photograph of Manuel Gutierrez which had been made a part of the record by the Federal Public Ministry prosecutor. Inocente Rodriguez said that Gutierrez was the person who gave him the heroin to bring to this city. EL DIARIO learned that the individual identified by Rodriguez was none other than infamous drug dealer and illegal migrant agent Rafael Chavez Baldazo who on many occasions has been accused of committing these crimes. Chavez has never been prosecuted because of the prosecutor's inadequate preparation for the case.

Rafael Chavez Baldazo, known as "El General" by those who do business with him, was recently arrested on drug charges and for violation of Article 118 of the General Immigration Law. However, inadequate preparation by the federal prosecutor led to Chavez' release for lack of sufficient evidence to prosecute.



Inocente Rodriguez Rodriguez, on trial for possession and transportation of heroin, yesterday told the district judge that drug dealer Rafael Chavez Baldazo is one and the same as Manuel Gutierrez who gave him the bag of heroin that was to be delivered to this city.



Infamous drug dealer Rafael Chavez Baldazo, who is perennially accused of illegal migrant and drug trafficking, was identified as the owner of the heroin seized from Inocente Rodriguez. The transaction was made at the beginning of the year with Chavez who used the name of Manuel Gutierrez.

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DRUGS PANDEMIC AMONG YOUTH OF WORLD

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Sep 76 p 20-A

[Article by Silvestre Gonzalez]

[Text] Drug dependency is spreading like a pandemic that directly threatens the youth of the world. In the United States drugs are already an element of political and even electoral manipulation. International traffickers are taking advantage of the poverty of Third World peasants, encouraging them in the development of illicit cultivation. National governments throughout the world are urged to endeavor to lessen the demand that triggers the supply of stimulants, and to confront this problem, which gives evidence of social maladjustment or disease.

Concurring in this opinion yesterday were Drs Thomas A Lambo, deputy director general of the OMS [World Health Organization], Pieder Konz, director general of the Institute for Social Defense of the United Nations, and Guido Belsasso, director of the Mexican Center for the Study of Drug Dependency [CEMEF], an agency already recognized by OMS as a world center of scientific investigation and of prime leadership in the field. President Echeverria, who presided over the annual session of the Administrative Council of CEMEF, recognized that Mexico faces the double problem of combating the production of narcotics and of being on the doorstep, as it were, of the "biggest world market in drugs," with its 3,000 kilometer border on the north. He called for a careful study of these questions, starting with the home itself and carrying through home-school relations, in such a manner that our youth may be saved. Present at the meeting were the head of SSA [Secretariat of Health and Welfare], Dr Gines Navarro Diaz de Leon; the secretary of the interior, Mario Moya Palencia; the assistant attorney general of the Republic, Manuel Rosales Miranda; Fernando Narvaez Angulo, attorney general for the federal District of Mexico; Dr Roger Diaz de Cossio, undersecretary of planning for the SEP [Secretariat of Public Education] and other officials.

Pandemic Without Limits

In his report, Dr Belsasso said the abuse of drugs is a phenomenon involving the entire community, and he declared that Mexico chose to face up to the problem, since it is a question of saving the future of the younger generations "who are susceptible to contamination by a pandemic which, in its genesis and development, does not recognize any limits and expands itself as if evil were inherent in the vast communities which it affects."

He indicated that the problem has ceased to be "strictly biomedical and must be visualized in the social context in which it is produced and disseminated, because in order to understand all its facets and dimensions, other things must be taken into consideration, such as the common border with the United States, considered to be the biggest consumer of drugs."

"A consumer market," emphasized Belsasso, "and exporter of life styles and capital for the production of drugs; a society in which a drug culture has been created that arrived at probably irreversible levels and which is also being exported--or attempts are being made to do so--to countries whose national goals and plans differ profoundly from those of a consumer society. It is a complete and immensely wealthy community in which, unfortunately--while we recognize the efforts of the medical and governmental authorities of the United States--drugs constitute an element of political and even electoral manipulation, an escape valve from the tremendous internal problems brought on by a culture in crisis in a changing world which creates new systems of values overnight."

He alluded to requests already made that the United States make greater efforts to reduce the demand for drugs, because it is clear that "we wish to avoid for Mexico the unfortunate fate of the United States in drug dependency, with a view to close collaboration between the two countries." As for Mexico, it will continue to fulfill its obligations, and "we are obliged to take extreme measures to avoid our country's becoming the seat of a culture phenomenon such as that which endangers the United States."

Poverty of Farmer Assists Traffickers

Belsasso pointed out the importance to this problem of the "Charter of the Rights and Economic Duties of the States," proposed by President Echeverria, said to be a "fundamental code of international relations," because "the poverty of the farmer in a Third World country like Mexico--a poverty that strengthens the position of the international traffickers in inducing the peasants to cultivate illegal crops--although it obeys internal factors linked to the distribution of income and the character of our economic development over the decades, it cannot be separated--and therein lies, perhaps, the origin of the problem--from the malformation of poor economies by the unfavorable character of exchange relations; from displacement toward the periphery of problems of productivity and occupation that are generated in industrial countries; from that kind of economic inequality which is known as neocolonialism."

He expressed the opinion that many of these problems would not exist, nor would they require the diversion of enormous human and material effort, had certain minimum objectives foreseen by President Echeverria in worldwide forums been given their full force in international economy.

Work of CEMEF Outstanding

With respect to what CEMEF accomplished since its formation in 1972, Dr Belsasso said the National Program to Fight the Problems of Drugs was designed to reduce indices of drug production and traffic in the country and the use and abuse of drugs among Mexican youth. In relation to the fight against drugs, he added that epidemiological studies are already being made of the problem. To date, 20 investigative plans have been carried out, including those concerning alcoholism and the inhalation of solvents. He called attention to the responsibility of the communications media, because there is a sort of "two-edged sword" here, which, if used indiscriminately or inadequately, can make the problems worse. For this reason CEMEF edits scientific publications and a monthly bulletin with continent-wide information obtained by the cooperation of some 20 national institutions of Latin America.

Besides having already created 30 Juvenile centers for the detection, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent youth, Belsasso repeated that CEMEF, set up as an intelligence center that does without any complex and costly bureaucratic systems, and having the active participation of experts from various agencies of the government, scientific institutions, universities and centers of higher learning, was able to create a low-cost laboratory that has even been exported to other countries.

The purpose of this Center, he said, is to analyze all the pressures placed upon an individual in such a manner that anxiety, insecurity and fear of the future may be eliminated; and that human coexistence--living together in harmony--may be furthered, because in response to aggression in the cultural environment, drugs have become an escape from or an apparent solution to man's need for tenderness, personal contact and social integration. All of this reflects a symptom of the fact that our society is sick in many ways, he concluded.



President Echeverria observes one of the electronic monitoring devices used at the Mexican Center for the Study of Drug Dependency. On the left are the head of SSA, Dr Gines Navarro Diaz de Leon and Dr Guido Belsasso.

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OJEDA PAULLADA: 600,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF MARIHAUNA, POPPY FIELDS

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 28 Aug 76 p 1-A

[Text] Cuernavaca, Morelos, 27 Aug. In our country there ar now more than 600,000 square kilometers planted with drugs--Pedro Ojeda Paullada, the attorney general of the republic, said here.

"While 5 years ago the illicit plantation--marihauna and poppies--were found mainly in the northwest of the country--Sinaloa, Durango and Chihauhau-- today, on the other hand, they appear over and area of more than 600,000 square kilometers stretching as far a Oaxaca, Chiapas and south of Veracruz," he told this daily.

Interviewed before the closing session of the Third Latin Seminar on Research Programs into Drug Addiction, Ojeda Paullada, in his capacity as chairman of the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, said:

"Facts are clear. Every day more fields are planted over wider areas of our territory. In an attempt to dodge the authorities whose operations have increased in scope, depth and range, the growers have dispersed the location of their fields, have put them in increasingly inaccessible places and have reduced their size.

He said that the complex orography of our country and the fact that it has a common border with the biggest consumer market in the world have encouraged international gangs to think that in our territory they have found a suitable center for their operations, to bring new and harmful criminality into our country, a criminality which is not of Mexican origin and whose members are not always [Mexican] nationals.

To emphasize his words, the attorney general of the republic stated that "without adequate channels to reach the consumer centers, the product itself would be of no use. And this fact is proved by the inhabitants of the mountain regions whom the trafficking manages to corrupt and who are induced by organized crime to participate in the illicit cultivation of drugs because of their poverty.

He stressed that "under the present administration we have managed to reduce the production of drugs. However, in the Guerro Sierra there are several hundreds, perhaps thousands, of planted fields, but the pressure and vigilance will be maintained and we can assure you that this year they will not be harvested."

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MEXICO

'SHOW BIZ' DRUG RING ARRESTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Sep 76 p 26-A

[Text] Twelve persons were brought before the Third District Judge of Penal Instruction of the Federal District yesterday and in their preliminary statements admitted they had been supplying several performing artists with drugs for a long time. They also identified to Fernando Ramos Hernandez, secretary of the court hearing the case, their suppliers and the places where they carried out their operations, as well as prices on contracts.

Among those arrested is Consuelo Jaramillo Estevez, daughter of the late "Lola la Chata," considered in her time to be the "Queen of Drugs" in Mexico.

Those accused of crimes against public safety, namely, possession and sale, are Armando Moreno Nava, Fernando Gonzalez Espinosa and Jose Moreno Lara, all of whom denied the charges of trafficking but admitted possession. However, they claimed to be drug addicts and insisted that the drugs in their possession were for their own personal use.

In addition, Jose Aguilar Castro, Consuelo Morales, Armando Perez Martinez, Jesus Alberto Ferral Nava, Raul Jacinto Rocha Alana, Norma Pino Vong Boortel, Alejandra Ramirez Cruz, Rosa Ramirez Cruz and Fernando Suinaga Barrera were arrested.

The Moreno Lara brothers said they gave some "merchandise" to a famous singer in a dance hall located in the red light district and at other known locations.

They identified as their suppliers Consuelo Jeronimo Estevez, of 759-9 Dr Barragan Street, Doctors' Colony, in this city, and two other individuals whom they identified only as "Rosana and Pepe" who, according to their story, offered them the "merchandise" periodically by telephone, every 12 or 20 days.

Prices paid to their suppliers fluctuated between 10 and 11 thousand pesos per ounce. They sold the cocaine thus acquired at the rate of 500 pesos a dose. From one ounce they obtained "between 33 and 35" doses, which they distributed among their friends and also used for the personal needs. Jesus Alberto Ferral stated that one Jorge Isaac sold him on one occasion, 21 grams of the drug.

This investigation was carried out by Federal Public Ministry agents J. Jesus Gerardo Serrano, Francisco Roldan Cortes and Jose Gerardo Sanchez, with assistance from Federal Judicial Police units commanded by Jose Abigail Garcia. The office handling the case is number 315-76.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED, DRUG INCINERATED

Three Men Arrested, Thirteen Cleared

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 28 Aug 76 p 2-A

[Text] Thirteen of the 16 people arrested and accused of health crimes by the General Coordinator of the Anti-Drug Campaign have been released by Federal Public Ministry Agent J Norberto Salinas Navarreta because they were not guilty of these criminal activities.

The persons released are: Roberto Chavez Gonzalez, Roberto Hugo Chavez Dominguez, Ernesto Flores Marquez, Silvestre Tarango Arevalo, Felipe Carrizola, Casimiro Herrera Gallegos, Ramon Vargas Moreno, Guadalupe Avila de Chavez, Armando Valenzuela Martinez, Cecilio Acosta Tarango, Enrique Polanco Villalobos, Jesus Chavira Reveles and Concepcion Jurado Mendoza.

They Make Preliminary Statements

Yesterday morning, Luis Rene Morales King, Leonardo Chavez and Pablo Valenzuela Quintero made their preliminary statements before the judge of the Second District Court where they will be indicted on charges of presumed responsibility in health crimes.

This development is the result of the fact that, on the basis of their statements before the Anti-Drug Campaign Coordination [Office], the assigned federal prosecutor found they they had made a full confession to having engaged in these illicit activities for some time.

In fact yesterday, the three individuals confessed that they were the only ones to be guilty of the criminal activities.

Moreover, the prosecutor reported that legal action will start next Monday against the three arrested men in connection with the crime of contraband including archaeological jewels. This is so because they managed to obtain the protection of the federal law.

When the investigation is completed, they will be handed over to the federal judge while a Telex message is sent to the Attorney's Office asking whether or not the Treasury has incurred any losses as a result of these criminal activities.

Marihauna Seized From Morales King Burned

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 28 Aug 76 p 2-A

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning, at 1100 hours, 1 ton of marihauna was burned on the Pan American Highway opposite the Federal Airport.

This was the drug recently seized by agents of the Federal Judicial Police in a rance called San Pedro de Ojitos, in the municipality of Janos, Chihuahua, from the suspect traffickers Luis Rene Morales King, Pablo Valenzuela Quintana and Leonardo Chavez.

The burning was watched by: Manuel Benjamin Rodriguez Delgadillo, general coordinator of the Anti-Drug Campaign; Drs Luis M Ochoa, Evaristo Bernes and David Reyes Castro, representing the titular head of the Federal Health Service, Fernando Herrera Negreto; Gen Carlos Rosas Pedrote, commander of the local garrison; Isidoro Villalba Mendoza, commander of the Preventative Police and other high-ranking civil servants.

Rodriguez Delgadillo said that on instructions from the office of the state attorney general of justice, all shipment of narcotics and drugs impounded by the Federal Judicial Police and other police forces will be burned immediately. Only samples of the "cannabis indica" or drug need be kept.



MEXICO

THREE MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Nogales EL DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 2 Sep 76 p 4

[Article by Antonio Lamas, correspondent of EL DIARIO]

[Text] Unofficial sources in this town have told EL DIARIO that yesterday the Federal Judicial Police delivered a harsh blow to drug trafficking when it seized 300 parcels of marihuana in a "Blazer" type van and arrested three drug trafficker suspects.

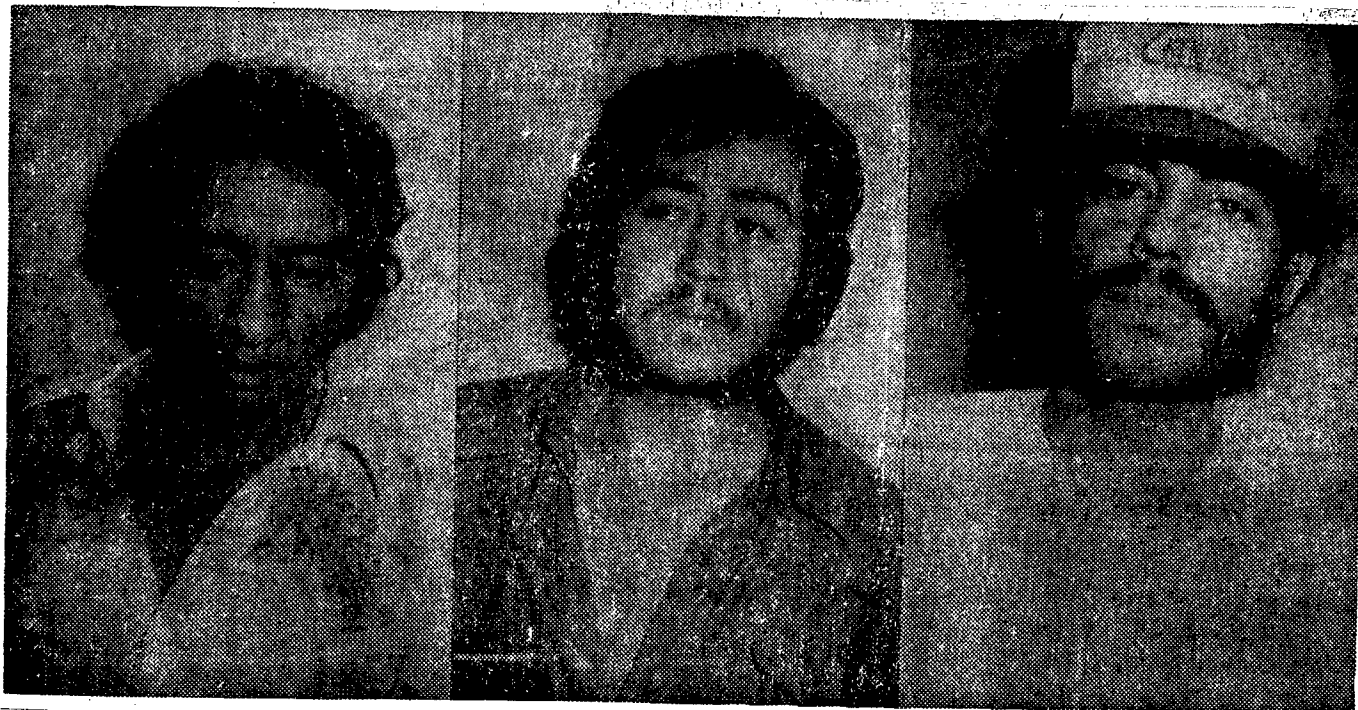
Manuel Dicochea Partida, 26, Hector Manjarrez Lopez and Javier Martinez Ortiz, both 20, are the drug traffickers arrested yesterday with the drug, which was deposited in the local garrison.

Immediately afterwards, the Federal Judicial Police agents got down to the task of locating other accomplices of the arrested men. They are already being traced and it is also reported that their whereabouts are already known.

The arrested men are being held in the cells of the Municipal Public Jail from where they will be transferred to the Social Readaptation Center.

Unofficial sources have also reported that the arrested men are members of a gang of traffickers which has succeeded in bringing into this border area large shipments of drugs and, therefore, the men will appear before the Federal Public Ministry agent, Pedro Mireles Malpica, who today will order and intensive investigation.

Photo caption: These men are Manuel Diochea Partida, Hector Manjarrez Lopez and Javier Martinez Ortiz, the three drug traffickers who were arrested yesterday by the Federal Judicial Police with a large shipment of marihuana and are already behind bars.



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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

POLICE MOVE AGAINST CUSTOMS DRUG, ARMS RING

Request For Amparo

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 14 Sep 76 pp 1, 2

Text Matamoros, Tamaulipas, 13 September--Some 203 customs employees, including majors, corporals, guards, inspectors, controllers and clerical workers, who fear arrest by the Federal Judicial Police today filed as a group for the right of amparo. The group was led by the secretary general of the Customs Affairs Section of the Union of Treasury Workers, Ignacio Davila Carpio. The right of amparo was granted today by Second Criminal Court Judge Humberto Salazar Cardenas who is assisting the Nuevo Laredo District Court.

Customs employees sought group amparo after federal agents yesterday in a surprise move arrested five guards on suspicion of belonging to a powerful ring of drug dealers headed by the former customs administrator here, Jorge Humberto Rodriguez Ortega. Arrested along with other employees were millionaire poultry farmer Fernando Trevino Trevino, customs inspector Joaquin Cadena Zapian, suspected smuggler Fernando Mendoza Mazuquiel, customs warehousemen Jorge Luis Valdez Gomez, Manuel Garcia Collado and Ricardo Ramos, and guards Angel Mayo Perez, Carlos Morales and Francisco Gabriel Ortiz Alvarado. They are accused of collaborating with Rodriguez Ortega to charge U.S. pilots \$5,000 to cross the border and land on clandestine airstrips.

Arbitrary Arrests

The matter was brought to Mexico's attention after one of the pilots, whose name has not been made public, complained about the high price to the State Department. The State Department in turn notified the Mexican Government about the matter and the Mexican Attorney General's Office began an investigation and made surprise arrests.

Yesterday afternoon large numbers of federal agents arrested the five customs guards and took them to the offices of the Naval-Military Department where they were questioned by Jose Franco Villa, a special investigator for the Mexican Attorney General's Office.

The men were taken from their homes, some of them in their underwear. As a result the secretary general of the Treasury Workers Union, Matamoros Customs Affairs Section, Ignacio Davila Carpio filed a note of protest against federal and state authorities. One of the arguments that Davila Carpio used to gain amparo for the 203 customs employees was that "the arrests by the Federal Judicial Police were made without a court order and therefore violate Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution." He told the press that "we are not opposed to any official investigation but we do expect them to be carried out within a legal framework."

Speculation Over Arrests

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 12 Sep 76 pp 1-B, 9-B

[Excerpts] Informed sources indicated that the Federal Judicial Police launched the manhunt on orders from their superiors as a result of a recent investigation which uncovered links between chicano activist Mario Cantu (who heckled Echeverria in San Antonio) and the arms smugglers led by former customs administrator Jorge Humberto Rodriguez Ortega. This is why, the sources said, the police acted so swiftly and secretly.

At the same time the Federal Public Ministry announced that over 60 Federal Judicial Police agents left here yesterday afternoon for their home base in Nuevo Laredo. Those taken into custody were identified as Geronimo Resendez, Jesus Artemio also known as Javier Guillen, Pedro Martinez Constante, Pedro Hinojosa Trevino and Francisco Ortiz. Also arrested were Jose Francisco Loera, a non-government worker, and a prominent poultry farmer who was arrested in Tampico.

The group was taken yesterday at 0200 hours to Nuevo Laredo. The party left from the barracks of the Naval-Military Sector in several vehicles. Prior to their departure over 15 agents were dispatched to the bus depot where with machine guns in hand they conducted a thorough search of the building, frightening passengers and bus company employees alike.

Judge's Decision

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 18 Sep 76 p 8-A

[Excerpts] Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Exclusive)--After being notified about the formal orders of commitment, the five customs employees and Fernando Trevino and Javier Loera were informed by the clerk of the Second District Court that they had the right to request amparo or to file an appeal.

The seven defendants being held at La Loma Prison fully believed in their innocence and felt that they were going to be released. This is what their attorney and others helping them had led them to believe. Nevertheless, contrary to what they and the general public expected

formal orders of commitment were issued against them which gave rise to expressions of shock, dismay, anger, despair, disappointment and violence.

The formal orders of commitment issued by Second District Court Judge Luis Garcia Romero were read one by one to Pedro Martinez Constante, Jeronimo Resendez, Jesus Artemio Guillen, Luis Humberto Guzman and Pedro Hinojosa Trevino. They are charged with official accountability while Fernando Trevino and Javier Loera are charged with smuggling.

The question most often being asked is: "Why is legal action not being taken against the truly guilty party, Jorge Humberto Rodriguez Ortega?".
/According to Matamoros daily EL BRAVO of 16 September, Rodriguez Ortega is still at large./

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

POLICE SMASH MAZATLAN-JUAREZ DRUG RING

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 15 Sep 76 pp 1-B, 10-B

/Text/ The brothers Eduardo and Gilberto Madrid Salvador, believed to be the leaders of a dangerous international drug ring, were arrested by the Federal Judicial Police here and taken on Tuesday to Mazatlan, Sinaloa, where they will be tried on health crime charges along with four other accomplices. The two were identified as the sole owners of 56 kilos of hashish valued at 50 million pesos which Federal Judicial Police First Chief Pedro Ismael Diaz Loredó seized at the maritime customs post in that Pacific port city.

The persons being held in that city were identified as Roberto Varelo Munoz and Adan Reyes Douriet, Treasury and Public Credit Secretariat examiners; their driver Aurelio Barraza Fong and Jorge Patino and Rafael Lopez N. who were working for the Madrid Salvador brothers. The four were in Mazatlan to pick up the valuable drug shipment and bring it here. The press release was read by Federal Judicial Police Chief Margarito Mendez Rico. He said that the hashish came by sea from Pakistan for the Madrid Salvador brothers whose activities have been watched by the Mexican Attorney General's Office for several months.

The federal examiners assigned to maritime customs, the police chief added, were working with the drug dealers. When the drug arrived in Mazatlan, they would notify the Madrid Salvador brothers here. The brothers would then send their henchmen after the valuable shipment. Patino and Lopez were sent to the Pacific port to pick up the hashish and transport it to this city. However, after they were recognized they were arrested by Chief Diaz Loredó and several Federal Judicial Police agents under his command.

At the same time it was reported that the drug shipment was carefully boxed and made to appear to be a shipment of precious stones called "lapis lazuli" or rough turquoise. With the complicity of the two federal examiners there was nothing to keep the drug from reaching its destination. It was also reported that the two men had made a full confession and indicated that they had been working for the Madrid Salvador brothers for several months and had made a sizable profit from this dirty business.

Chief Mendez Rico said that when the hashish arrived here Gilberto Madrid was responsible for delivering it to the foreign buyers in El Paso, Texas. One of his tasks was to ensure that payment for the drug was what had been agreed to beforehand with the drug dealers. Mendez Rico added that Eduardo Madrid, identified as the brains of these illicit operations, was wanted by the police in the United States. Several months ago the police seized a ton of marihuana from him but he managed to escape arrest. There is a warrant out for his arrest which is why he did not make trips to the United States. The Madrid Salvador brothers have been engaged in these criminal activities for over 5 years. This has led the Federal Judicial Police and the Mexican Attorney General's Office to believe that they have negotiated several billion dollars worth of business.

Cocaine Seized

It was also reported that when the two brothers were arrested in their home on Paraguay and Plan de Ayala streets the Federal Judicial Police seized 50 grams of cocaine which they had hidden in the basement which they used as a pool room. In the basement the police also found a secret chamber which was used to store large quantities of drugs before they were sent to buyers in the United States.

With this major blow to drug traffic activities, the Mexican Attorney General's Office can demonstrate that Mexico and primarily its border areas is used as a springboard for smuggling large shipments into the United States. The proof lies in statements made by the Madrid Salvador brothers to the effect that they bought large shipments of hashish from Pakistan and other Asian countries.

In closing, it was announced that the suspects will be tried in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, and it is expected that they will all receive long sentences. Chief Mendez Rico promised to provide details today on the statements made by the suspects in their preliminary deposition.



Eduardo and Gilberto Madrid Salvador were taken to Mazatlan, Sinaloa, by Federal Judicial Police agents. The two were identified as the leaders of an international drug ring.

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MEXICO

POLICE RAID RANCH, SEIZE MARIHUANA, PRESS

APR 1976 \$100,000, Drugs Seized

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 3-D

Text The Narcotics Division of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, has dealt another serious blow to international drug traffic operations with the seizure of a marihuana shipment at a ranch in Linares, Nuevo Leon, and the arrest of at least eight suspects, including a U.S. national. Federal agents found that the U.S. national had an estimated \$100,000 in his possession which unquestionably was to be used to buy the marihuana.

Monterrey federal authorities refused to release the identities of the suspects so as not to hamper the investigations. It was reported that federal agents were searching for others connected with the same drug ring and expected to make some arrests.

In a warehouse at the ranch located near Linares, Nuevo Leon, the narcotics division found an estimated 1 ton of unprocessed marihuana. There were reports that the U.S. national has ties with Nuevo Laredo residents.

More Details

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 9-A

Text A marihuana baling machine was found yesterday at a ranch in Linares. Federal Judicial Police agents arrested six people and seized 55 kilos of marihuana.

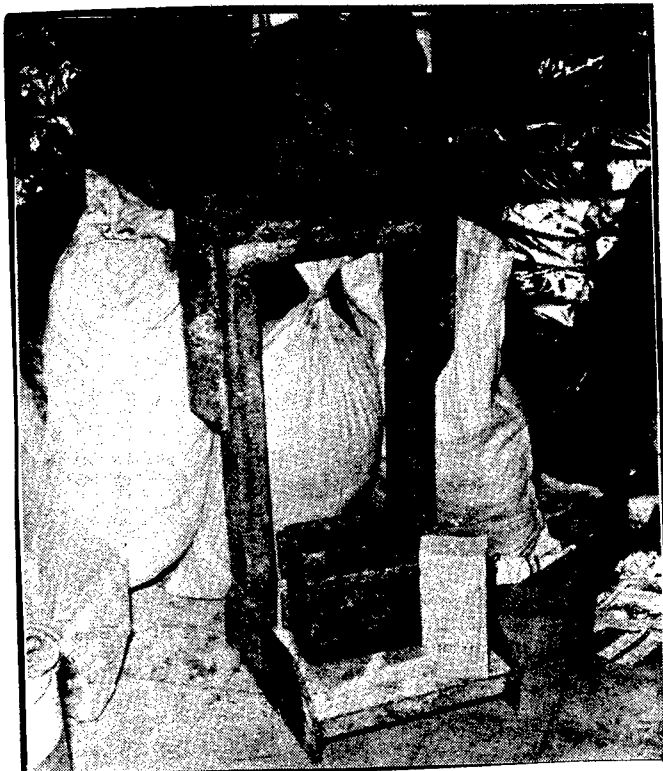
Federal agents manning a roadblock on the Linares highway stopped a car with Texas tags LU-283 which was driven by Bernabe Baltazar Rodriguez Guerrero. A search of the car uncovered marihuana residues in the back seat and resulted in the driver's arrest. Under questioning Rodriguez Guerrero said that four persons were waiting for him at the Geby Hotel in Linares. At the hotel the agents arrested Emilio Rodriguez Guerrero, Juan Carlos Cantu Vazquez, Pedro Reyes Alejo and U.S. national Mack Burton Montgomery. After questioning the suspects, the police learned that the marihuana was pressed into bricks at the La Nora Ranch of the San Rafael communal farm located south of Linares.

APR 1976

At the ranch the police arrested the key figure in the marihuana traffic, Antonio Perales Cepeda. Two minors were also arrested. They were identified as the sons of Emilio Rodriguez Guerrero and, according to Perales, they helped him to bale the marihuana.

Perales said that the marihuana was to be sold to U.S. national Mack Burton Montgomery, also taken into custody, for 400 pesos per kilo. The police found a press which, according to official reports, was used to compress the marihuana into "bricks." The U.S. national told the police that he was buying the marihuana to take back to the United States. The agents found that the U.S. national was carrying 92,000 pesos and \$2,680 in cash. According to the suspects, the marihuana was brought to the ranch for baling from Matehuala.

The Federal Public Ministry in charge of the case said that there might be a possible connection between yesterday's arrests and an automobile carrying marihuana that overturned several days ago in that area. At that time the car's occupants exchanged gunfire with federal agents at the Linares highway roadblock. The prosecutor said that one of the roads used by the fleeing suspects leads to the La Nora Ranch and this suggests a possible link between the two cases.



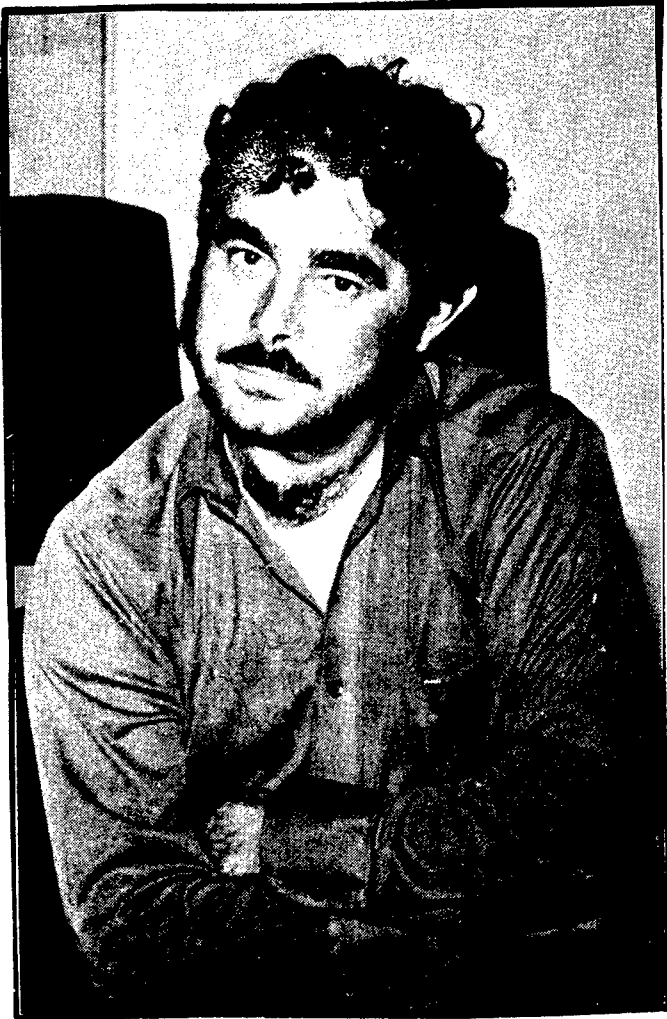
This press was used to make
the marihuana bricks.



Pedro Reyes Alejo, Bernabe Baltazar Rodriguez Guerrero, Emilio Rodriguez Guerrero and Juan Carlos Cantu Vazquez.

Mack Burton Montgomery, the marihuana buyer.





Antonio Perales Cepeda, the owner of the ranch where the marihuana was pressed into bricks.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

RAID NETS TWO AIRPLANES--Another serious blow was dealt to the drug traffic by Federal Judicial Police agents with the arrest of Ismael Contreras Vila on a ranch near Jimenez, Chihuahua. According to Chief Margarito Mendez Rico, 36 sacks containing an estimated 550 kilos of marihuana were seized and two airplanes, one a Piper Aztec with registration No. N-9982 and the other a Cessna with registration No. XD-ABD, were impounded. It is believed that the airplanes were used to fly the marihuana into the United States. As a result, the coordinator general of the anti-drug fight, Manuel Benjamin Rodriguez Delgadillo, left for the state capital. It was reported that he would listen to Contreras Villa's testimony. Villa admitted that he was the owner of the ranch where the "cannabis indica" and the airplanes were found. It was learned that one of the airplanes had been forced to return to Delicias, Chihuahua, after it was chased over U.S. territory by another plane. It is believed that the airplane was carrying marihuana at the time. The coordinator general's office did not comment on alleged accomplices since this information will be made public once the investigation is completed. [Excerpts] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 11 Sep 76 p 5-A] 8599

CONTROL OF TOXIC PILLS--Federal health [officials], being fully aware that minors and adults are intoxicating themselves through the excessive use of psychotropic substances (tranquilizers, sedatives and so forth) that are dispensed by corrupt pharmacists or obtained through other means, will enforce tight controls over the distribution of these drugs. The announcement was made by the head of the Sub Regional Office for Food, Beverage and Drug Control, Dr Evaristo Bernes. He said that tight controls would be implemented by the federal office so that an exact record could be kept of the manufacture and distribution of psychotropic substances. He added that one of the steps to be taken is to control the supply of prescription pads used by doctors solely for these drugs. Bernes also said that tight security measures would be implemented to prevent the diversion of these drugs from pharmacies into the hands of inexperienced young people and adults who are outright addicts. "Those doctors wishing to use these prescription pads," Bernes said, "must provide the federal office with three official-size photographs, three

copies, both back and front, of their degree which has been stamped by the Health and Welfare Secretariat; three copies, both back and front also, of their professional license along with a 10 peso cashier's check or money order made out to the state Coordinated Public Health Services." In closing Bernes said that only one prescription pad per doctor would be issued and these would be issued under very tight controls. [Text] /Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 14 Sep 76 p 1-B/ 8599

MARIHUANA FIELDS--Pihuamo, Jalisco, 6 September (INFORMEX)--Agents from the Mexican Attorney General's Office and army troops today launched a campaign aimed at destroying marihuana fields found in the La Quebrada de los Negros mountains, 20 kilometers from here. The work against the marihuana fields is conducted from a helicopter which sprays the fields. This destroys the plants but does not affect the quality of the soil. Another helicopter and a light plane piloted by agents and military personnel scout the area for possible signs of drug dealers trying to sabotage the operations. On the first day over 80 marihuana fields covering a 20-hectare area were destroyed. It was learned that marihuana growers have different ways of hiding the plants from view as much as possible. One way is to plant the marihuana alongside corn. The plants are also weighed down with rocks so that they grow along the ground and cannot be spotted by those trying to destroy them. Both the representative from the Mexican Attorney General's Office, Esteban Fernandez Martinez, and the commander of the 5th Military Zone, Gen Julio Monroy, said that the work of destroying the marihuana fields would very likely be completed in 2 months and the operations against poppy fields would be begun immediately since poppies are planted before the marihuana is harvested. [Text] /Minatitlan LA OPINION in Spanish 7 Sep 76 p 8/ 8599

MARIHUANA DESTROYED--Yesterday 2 tons 143 kilos of marihuana were burned on the grounds of the local military base. The marihuana was seized by the local Federal Judicial Police with the help of the State Judicial Police, federal highway agents, army troops and agents working under the CANADOR Plan. The marihuana which has an estimated black market value of 3.7 million pesos was seized during July and August of this year in Agua Prieta, Santa Ana, Nogales and in several mountain areas. [Text] /Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 10 Sep 76 p 4/ 8599

MARIHUANA ARRESTS--Four alleged drug dealers were arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents yesterday in Nuevo Laredo. Those taken into custody are: Jose Luis Mata Pedraza, Homero Flores Lopez, Nicolas Juarez Rodriguez and Pablo Vazquez Flores. They were arrested on charges of exporting marihuana to the United States. Homero Flores Lopez told the police that he sold a ton of marihuana to Mexican-American Oscar Martinez of Texas. The marihuana was packaged in 26 sacks, according to officials. The investigation then turned to the United States where U.S. agents found the marihuana along the edge of the Rio Bravo. Apparently the marihuana was taken into the United States through Nuevo Laredo. The Mexican consul in Laredo, Texas, attested to the marihuana's existence

and Mexican authorities took samples as evidence in the case against the four men. Federal agents reported that they seized three trucks from the defendants. The four alleged drug dealers are being held in the Nuevo Laredo prison. /Text/ /Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 9-A/ 8599

MARIHUANA BURNING--A ton of marihuana will be burned today at 0900 hours on level ground adjacent to the local military grounds. The marihuana was seized recently by Federal Judicial Police agents and turned over to the proper authorities. In making this announcement, it was also reported that last Monday a smaller amount of marihuana had been destroyed by the health center on its own property. The marihuana is being burned because the storage areas are too small to hold all the marihuana that has been seized recently in this area from drug dealers who operate a powerful network dedicated to smuggling marihuana. /Excerpts/ /Ciudad Reynosa EL MANANA in Spanish 8 Sep 76 p 3-A/ 8599

DRUG SENTENCES--Tiburcio Rodriguez Rodriguez was sentenced yesterday to 6 years in prison and fined 5,232 pesos or in lieu thereof an additional 65 days in jail by the judge of the Second District Court. Rodriguez Rodriguez was arrested on 1 March 1975 with 10 ounces of opium which he planned to sell in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, where he is currently in jail. According to his own statements, Rodriguez had been working as a "mule" for dangerous drug dealers for some time but he had never been caught with any drugs in his possession until he was picked up by the Federal Judicial Police last March. Orders were also issued yesterday so that Tiburcio Rodriguez Rodriguez would be notified of the judge's ruling. /Excerpts/ /Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 10 Sep 76 p 3-B/ Victoriana Hurtado Lomas, 37, was sentenced to 7 years in prison and fined 7,245 pesos and her codefendant, Hector Guerrero Ortiz, was sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined 1,635 pesos. The ruling was handed down by Second District Court Judge Luis Garcia Romero during the trial of the two accused of health crimes for possession of marihuana and heroin. /Text/ /Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Sep 76 p 8-C/ 8599

POLICE CHANGES--On orders from Mexican Attorney General's Office and from the director of the Federal Judicial Police, Lt Rodolfo Moises Calvo and 5 agents under his command have been transferred to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where they will take part in the anti-drug campaign, according to federal prosecutor Regino Vargas Gonzalez who made the announcement yesterday. Vargas said that he does not know who will replace the men and added that the orders merely covered the transfer of Calvo and his men and did not mention who was to be sent to Reynosa to conduct the drug fight. The State Judicial Police were given orders to investigate drug traffic matters and in highly dangerous cases they were instructed to notify prosecutor Vargas Gonzalez so that he could dispatch army troops if the police feel that it is necessary. Statements made by anyone taken into custody by the police in connection with the drug traffic will be considered as legal evidence. However, in case an accused retracts his statements the federal judge will have to give orders that the accused be allowed to face his accuser

so that a decision can be made about the good or bad performance of the arresting officer. Calvo and the other agents had been here only 2 weeks. They replaced Chief Carlos Matosian Valdez who was reassigned to Mexico City. New State Judicial Police Group Chief Crisoforo Garza Pena has a very difficult job. He was very recently appointed to his job and now he has been ordered to help with federal operations, that is to combat drug traffickers, with the support of the federal prosecutor until the arrival of replacements. [Excerpts] [Ciudad Reynosa EL MANANA in Spanish 7 Sep 76 p 4-C/ 8599

CUSTOMS CHANGES--Our special report about the transfer of customs chief Genaro Guerra Dena was confirmed yesterday. Guerra Dena will be transferred to Reynosa, Tamaulipas, according to information received by EL DIARIO from the border customs administrator. Guerra will receive his orders today from the Directorate General of Customs. His transfer is part of the reorganization program affecting the entire customs agency. The announcement of the reorganization program was made by Customs Director General Oscar Reyes Retana who added that Chief Guerra Dena was being promoted because of his brilliant record in Piedras Negras and throughout his entire career with the agency. In Reynosa Chief Guerra Dena will replace Jesus Avalos Ficachi who is being transferred to the Third Customs Zone in Hermosillo, Sonora. [Excerpts] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Sep 76 p 6-A/ 8599

NEW POLICE CHIEF--Today, Manuel Hoyos will take over the post of police chief in the progressive town of Caborca; in Nogales he did an outstanding job as director of the Social Prevention and Readaption Center of that town. Hoyos was much congratulated on his new appointment in Caborca where he will also be called upon to do a clean job as head of the Police Chief Office since he has vast legal knowledge and experience acquired in other public posts. Yesterday, it was still not known who will be taking over the post of director of the Prevention Center in our border. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 7 Sep 76 p 4] 8796

AERIAL COMBAT OF TRAFFICKERS--The occupants of two light aircraft fired upon each other in the air, knocking down one of the planes, whereupon the occupants of the second plane fled after setting fire to it. The light plane bears registration XB-ABABQ, and according to Public Ministry agent Celestino Torres Mata, was partially burned. Witnesses to the aerial combat said the crew of a red-and-white light aircraft, whose registration number they were unable to ascertain, shot down the plane. They landed and burned it, then reboarded their own plane and fled. Torres Mata said the craft showed several 38 caliber bullet holes. At the present time the whereabouts of the attackers is unknown. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Sep 76 p 26-A] 8735

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER'S ARREST--Panama City, 27 Sep--(ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian authorities arrested Colombian Alvaro Suarez when they found 2.5 kg of cocaine hidden in his suitcases. The Colombian had arrived at Tocumen airport from Cali, Colombia, enroute to Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 27 Sep 76 PA]

DRUG CONTROL STATISTICS--Dario Arosemena, director of the National Investigations Department, reported that last year national narcotics authorities seized 35 kg of cocaine valued at \$15 million which was in transit from South to North America. He said that authorities also seized 320 kgs of marihuana coming from Colombia. A total of 35 drug traffickers, all foreigners, were arrested. Arosemena said that the government has eliminated marihuana fields on the islands in the Pacific Ocean by granting peasants land through the agrarian reform and helping them cultivate food crops instead. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 76 PA]

THREE FROM U.S.--Three U.S. citizens, two of them women, were arrested recently by narcotics agents of the Finance and Treasury Ministry fiscal investigations department while in possession of 2 kgs of cocaine valued in the international narcotics market at approximately 1 million balboas. Their names are: Kristie Ann Platz, 24; (?Maione) Alice Shumacher, 46; and Bavis Chase Mahan, 56. The latter had previously visited this country on several occasions. This leads authorities to believe that he came here in connection with narcotics trafficking. The narcotics agents of the Finance Ministry have thus smashed another gang engaged in international trafficking. [Text] [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Oct 76 PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

STATE DRUG LAW--A Peruvian state drug law, being drawn up by an intersectoral committee presided over by Supreme Court Spokesman Dr Guillermo Figallo Adrianzen, will establish that in the future only the state will be authorized to produce and trade in coca leaves, both locally and internationally. It has been established that 57,500 kgs of cocaine are produced illegally and sold to the Mafia each year. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 1 Oct 76 p 4 PA]

COCAINE-PROCESSING LABORATORY--Ica, 30 Sep--The Ica civil guard has discovered a cocaine-processing laboratory in Quilpe, about 10 kms east of Rosario del Yauca District on the road to Santiago de Chocorvos. The police found 54 sacks of coca in the laboratory, which apparently had been operating for a long time. Two men were arrested but their names were not divulged. It is believed the coca was bought by the gang in Ayacucho and Cuzco and that the laboratory had processed about 150 kilos of cocaine paste. The gang is thought to have had both local and international connections. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Oct 76 p 28 PA]

COCAINE PASTE SEIZED--Ayacucho, 28 Sep--Local police have seized 15 kg of cocaine paste which had been brought from the jungle town of Ayna in the province of El Mar. Eleven persons were arrested. They are: Epifanio Rivera Carbajal, Flor Entivo, Durand Huaranga, Teodocio Romero Carrillo, Felix Yauli Miguel, Salvador Cayo Vilca, Pedro Quina Marquina, Honorato Taype Huicho, Eliseo Vila Gamboa, Cirilo Morales Vila, and Marcelino Quispe Yufra. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 29 Sep 76 p 29 PA]

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Police have arrested the members of a drug trafficking gang involved in smuggling cocaine from Peru and Colombia. The police confiscated 1 kg of cocaine during the arrest of Peruvians Jose Ramon Valera Vivanco, Guillermo Jaime Delgado Maquino and Victor Orland Lay and Venezuelans Blas Hernan Molina Contreras, Freddy Enrique Rodriguez Orta and Yajaira Elena Estrada Ramirez. [Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 Oct 76 p 73 PA]

CSO: 5300

SMUGGLERS CAPTURED AFTER MACHINEGUN BATTLE

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Oct 76 pp 1-2

[Article by Hammudi Salim]

[Text] Recently, the Frontier Guard thwarted an attempt to smuggle 3.5 tons of narcotics worth about 8 million pounds and arrested nine smugglers after an 8-hour machinegun battle during which one of the Frontier Guard men was killed.

Director of Frontier Communications Brig Gen Sayyid al-Tarabulsi, having received information concerning the smuggling of large quantities of narcotics across the northern frontier, marshaled the narcotics sectors and offices to thwart these operations and reinforce the Frontier Guard in the area which the information had mentioned. He sent patrols of Frontier Guard sea launches to the territorial waters off the Western Desert and reinforced the offices and posts with heavy forces to support and strengthen the ambushes and patrols and encourage the investigations men to gather more information.

The information said that a large quantity of narcotics would be smuggled through Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman and Ghazalah on the northern coast. When Frontier Guard commander Maj Gen Ibrahim Kamil Muhammad received this information, he commanded that the sectors and posts be coordinated so as to stimulate the men of the guard in those areas and intensify the watch.

Early last Tuesday morning, one of the patrols spotted some men near the shore at Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman and ordered them to halt. They responded by opening fire on the patrol with a machinegun, and the patrol answered them in kind. The battle lasted 8 hours, during which one of the members of the guard was killed. The guard gained control of the situation, seized a quantity of narcotics, and arrested nine major Western Desert smugglers. The narcotics had been put into 82 automobile tires.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor conducted an investigation, impounded the narcotics, and ordered the imprisonment of the smugglers, whose names were Muhammad Tupchi Sa'id, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Alwani Saliqah, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Alwani Sulayman, Nasif 'Alwani Sulayman, 'Ubayd 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Alwani, Mufarrij 'Ali-al-Karim Da'ir, Harun Jum'ah Jibril, Miftah 'Alwani Sulayman, and Mufarrij Sulayman Shu'ayb.

AUSTRIA

NO LONGER DOUBLE SENTENCING OF DRUG SMUGGLERS

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 26/27 Jun 76 p 14

[Text] In future drug smugglers will only be subject to penalties as provided by the narcotics law. Additional sentences imposed in accordance with the finance code will be waived. This change in sentencing was agreed last Friday by the expanded senate of the Supreme Court, chaired by Councillor Breycha.

Eleven judges of the Supreme Court gathered around the oval table to consider once again the question discussed briefly at the session of 11 May. At that time Alfred Kysela from Sankt Poelten appealed the judgement according to which he had been sentenced for smuggling hashish, and which imposed 15 months imprisonment as per the narcotics law and a fine of 15,000 schillings as per the finance code. The senate meeting in May had routinely remitted the matter to the expanded forum.

The point of law arising was the contradiction inherent in the judgement by the fact that on the one hand it is unlawful to import hashish, but that on the other hashish is considered merchandise subject to customs duties, so that the narcotics dealer must repay the duty "defrauded." In plain words: Is it possible to smuggle goods the import of which is illegal?

Attorney General Hartmann, assisted by Solicitor General Knob, opposed the annulment of the double sentence as requested by the defense. He justified his opposition in part by legal considerations, in part by consideration of the crime involved: A change in favor of drug traffickers was unwarrantable in view of the steadily rising drug-related criminality "which amounts to murder by instalments."

After prolonged discussions the senate (which was also attended by President Pallin) decided on the future abandonment of the smuggling aspect.

11698
CSO:

NEW DRUG THERAPY CENTER OPENED

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 18 Aug 76 p 4

[Text] Although the authorities describe the addiction rate in the Tyrol as giving little cause for concern and believe to be able to cope with the problem, narcotics addiction and the concomitant criminality may not be underestimated in this province either. This holds true especially because, according to the evidence presented by the expert Professor Kryspin-Exner, head of the Innsbruck University Psychiatric Clinic, the estimated figure of unknown cases amounts to 1:10. This unpleasant development seems to have peaked in the past 3 years and certainly was the main contributory factor in the establishment in Innsbruck of the KIT [Contact-Information-Therapy] association. It is the purpose of this association to cure drug addicts and reintegrate them into society. The chief mover in the project is 28-year old Manfred Reicher from Graz.

His system is the "long-term therapeutic residential community." This method was applied successfully in the first domicile of the KIT association, a one-family home at Innsbruck's city limits. Lack of space necessitated the search for a more suitable building, and last year the Tyrol rehabilitation center for drug addicts relocated in the Taxerhof, above the village of Ampass in the Innsbruck foothills.

This ranch, owned by the Jesuit Order, provides excellent conditions for the KIT drug therapy chain which focuses on the meaningful occupation of the "clients." Before an addict may be accepted for membership in the residential community, he must undergo medical withdrawal treatment. Entry to the center is voluntary. The only condition for admission and continued residence is total abstinence from drugs.

In addition to meals taken together, the daily routine in the Taxerhof includes handicrafts, gardening, group discussions and lectures.

11698
CSO: 5300

ITALY

BRIEFS

HEROIN ARRESTS IN FLORENCE--Viareggio, 16 October--A large antidrug operation took place in Florence. The narcotics department of the local police arrested two persons and confiscated 230 grams of high-grade heroin, valued at about 30 to 40 million lira which, according to the local police, would supply the Florentine drug market for several days. Those arrested, coming from Amsterdam, were Guglielmo Apruzzo, age 24, resident of Naples, and Enzo Masi, age 40, resident of Rufina in Florence. After several stakeouts, the two were arrested in the Piazza Leopoldo area. Eight envelopes of heroin, totaling 230 grams, were found in Apruzzo's suitcase. His accomplice, however, was carrying an overnight bag which contained more heroin, wrapped in a Dutch currency note. [Excerpt] [Rome L'UNITA in Italian 17 Oct 76 p 5]

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BANGKOK POLICE CONFISCATE 150 KG OF HEROIN

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 31 Aug 76 pp 1, 7

[Article by Wim van Geffen]

[Text] Amsterdam, Tuesday 31 August. -- Bangkok customs police have arrested two Dutchmen who were trying to smuggle in 150 kilograms of heroin (valued at 15 million guilders on the Dutch drug market and twice that much in Germany and Sweden) in drums of aviation lubricating oil bound for Brussels.

Those arrested are the 37-year-old former owner of a parachute jumping school on Ameland, Albert Johannes Hans C., and his assistant M.A.M.

The pair are said to play a central part in a six-man smuggling gang with contacts in Singapore and Hongkong.

The former parachute school owner turned in two drums of lubricating oil at Bangkok addressed to the Belgian capital. The customs, however, considered it suspicious that anybody would ship motor oil in such an expensive way from one end of the world to the other.

Upon inspection, bags containing a total of 150 kilograms of heroin showed up -- one of the biggest seizures in the orient. The customs police contrived to hold C. and his assistant in Bangkok.

C. was recently living in Sneek, where his father is a well-known criminal lawyer. In the telephone book his name is given with the occupation of instructor and examiner.

According to reports, however, C., who was born in Sneek on 6 August 1939, is never at home. C. is known as an adventurer who has operated on the criminal level in the past. He has been convicted in Amsterdam of fraud and fencing.

In Ballum, on the island of Ameland, he conducted a parachute school, for which he eagerly sought publicity. The school was run on a paramilitary basis and went bankrupt. C. gave it out that his school gave the best parachute training in the Netherlands. The school appears to have had a continuation in France.

Police Superintendant Toorenaar, a specialist in narcotics, sees in this arrest a new confirmation of his theory that the Dutch underworld is taking over the management of the heroin trade from the Chinese more and more. He wonders how the organization got hold of the 1.5 million guilders that must have been paid out for such a quantity of heroin.

8815

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BANGKOK TERMED WORLD CENTER FOR HEROIN TRADE

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 9 Sep 76 p 3

[Text] Amsterdam, 9 September. — "Hardly a gram of heroin is coming from Hongkong, now. Bangkok has taken over the role of principal supplier of heroin to western Europe."

The head of the narcotics brigade in Hongkong, Chief Superintendent J. Johnston, who is here for a two-day visit with the Amsterdam police, showed no surprise at the record capture of 138 kilograms of heroin at the Bangkok airport. Two Dutchmen were arrested in the incident and are now being interrogated by the head of the Amsterdam narcotics brigade, C. Sietsma.

At a press conference he called the seizure "a fantastic amount," which, if it had reached the Netherlands, would have drastically reduced the price of heroin, "with the result that the number of addicts would have increased. Later, of course, the prices would then have risen again."

Collaboration

According to Johnston, Amsterdam is still decidedly the heroin center for western Europe. For that reason his visit was partly for the purpose of getting the police of Amsterdam and Hongkong to collaborate more closely. Two officers of Johnston's narcotics brigade are stationed in Paris and London. The Amsterdam police can make use of their information at any time.

Like his colleague, Commissioner G.J. Toorenaar, he regarded the placing of policemen from the British crown colony in Amsterdam as less desirable, since at least ten former police officers from Hongkong are active in the heroin trade in Amsterdam.

The Hongkong detectives would be immediately recognized by their "defected" colleagues, who "would shake hands with them cordially, but would wonder what they were doing here. Their work would then be made impossible in advance," Johnston says.

Less Risky

In support of his view that Bangkok has taken over Hongkong's place, Johnston said, "From time immemorial Thailand has been the producer of raw opium, from which heroin is made. It is also less risky to import drugs from Bangkok than to smuggle them to Hongkong first and then have to distribute them from there over the rest of the world. Another factor is that the street price of heroin in Hongkong, which until a year ago was only about one fifth as high as in Amsterdam, has now reached approximately the same level. Hongkong has to import just as Amsterdam does."

The narcotics detective said that the heroin problem is also a political problem. "In Thailand, a country with about 400,000 addicts, about half a million people make their living from the yield of the poppy harvest. If you prohibited the growing of poppies, what would you do with the half a million farmers? What would you do with the Scots if you prohibited whiskey?" added Johnston, who comes from Scotland.

Octopus

He compared the problem with an octopus. "If you chop one foot off, he has so many left that he can do damage with."

Still, in the last few years his service has succeeded in closing up several big heroin refineries. Seven in 1974, eight last year, and four this year. Although the manufacture of heroin has moved to Bangkok, the big financiers are still in Hongkong. In the British crown colony it is easy to take money in and out. The big bosses, or, as Johnston calls them, "the big fish," are Chinese without exception. The "big fish" living in Hongkong do not engage in the manufacture and trade in heroin, and for that reason can hardly be caught. He estimated the number of them in the crown colony at about 25. In the last few years, however, the police in Hongkong have succeeded in arresting a few.

"But," says Johnston, "they swim in a number of ponds and have a flexible organization; they work on a sort of ad hoc basis, so that they are hard to catch."

The superintendent praised the collaboration with the American drug enforcement agency and the Amsterdam police, whom he invited to go to Hongkong to learn Chinese. Commissioner Toorenaar rejected the invitation, however, on the grounds that it would be much too expensive.

8815

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

POLICE CONFISCATE 3,500 KG OF HASHISH

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 25 Sep 76 p 3

[Article by Henk Schroeder]

[Text] HELLEVOETSLUIS, Saturday. -- A joint national police action based on an anonymous telephone tip early yesterday yielded the biggest hashish capture of Dutch drug history. A total of about 3,500 kg was confiscated, with a retail value of about 12 million guilders.

In addition, the notorious drug trafficker Sjef F., 35 years old, of Hulst, was caught red-handed with the shipment of drugs. He is considered one of the biggest traders and financiers of the hashish traffic in Western Europe.

Tipster

The hashish was stored at a farmhouse in Hellevoetsluis and would, according to the anonymous tipster, have been forwarded from there during the night of Thursday to Friday to a still unknown address. Squads from the Middelburg, Dordrecht, Hague, and Den Bosch groups of the Dutch national police then jointly formed a cordon around the farm.

About midnight a delivery van loaded with hashish left the farm, while a second van was being loaded. To the surprise of the police, Sjef F., who had never before been known to soil his hands with the hashish transport organized by him, was one of the party this time.

Trap

In a simultaneous lightning strike, the first van was seized on the Haringvliet bridge while at the same moment, 0115 yesterday morning, a raid was made on the farm. In the van on the Haringvliet bridge, driven by Sjef F., 2,500 kg of hashish was found, while the raid on the farm yielded another 1,000 kg.

Detective Lt D. Schoneveld of the Middelburg national police post, who directed the whole operation, said, "We have kept an eye on Sjef F. for

years. Everybody makes a mistake once in a while, and he made one this time. With his arrest we have cut a very important artery of the importation of hashish into the Netherlands."

Besides the dealer from Hulst, Ferdie F., a 37-year-old Amsterdam man, who was following the van in his own car, was also arrested at the Haringvliet bridge. Although the part played by the Amsterdam man has not yet been precisely determined, -- interrogations are in full swing, -- it is suspected that Ferdie F., incidentally no relation to Sjef F., was a cofinancier of the gigantic transport operation.

At the farm the farmer A.S., 43, was caught loading the second van. His 37-year-old wife M. S.-Th., his 17-year-old daughter M.A.S., and her fiancé, 24-year-old D.H., all of Hellevoetsluis, were also held.

Fear

The hashish is of medium grade and came from Lebanon -- "yellow Lebanon" hashish. How the group at the farm got mixed up in the business may still be learned from the questioning now under way, but so far the suspects have kept their mouths tightly shut out of fear of possible reprisals from the Dutch underworld.

In yesterday's operation 35 policemen were used to cover any vehicles that might have been used. While the larger batch was evidently intended for the southern part of the Netherlands or possibly Belgium or France, the police did not wait to learn the destination. According to Lt. Schoneveld, "The arrest of Sjef F. was too important to us to take any risks. Anyway, the seizure took place very quickly, as none of those arrested turned out to be armed at the time of the arrest."

8815
CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

38 HEROIN DEALERS ARRESTED--Eindhoven, 5 Oct (ANP).--In recent weeks the police forces of Nijmegen, Uden, Den Bosch, and Eindhoven have arrested 38 heroin dealers. In the last 2 years they had distributed at least 40 kg of heroin from Uden. The retail value is estimated at 4 million guilders. The gang was headed by a 29 year-old Chinese living in Nijmegen. Ten detectives from four police forces worked on the investigation. The police had suspected for a long time that Uden was the center of an extensive traffic in heroin. The operation got well under way 2 weeks ago when the leader of the group was arrested. One of the suspects has been to the Far East three times in recent years to get heroin. The narcotics were smuggled into the Netherlands in boxes with false bottoms. The leader of the group apparently took charge of the heroin at Amsterdam. According to the police, the result of the operation is that the heroin market in Nijmegen is "drained dry," but that is not yet the case of Eindhoven, since there are several import channels there. [Text] [Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 5 Oct 76 p 3] 8815

HEROIN CONFISCATED--Nijmegen, Saturday (ANP)--In a raid on two Chinese residences in Wijchen, Gelderland, the Dutch national police found 6 kilograms of heroin yesterday. Ten Chinese were arrested in the raid, according to the detective force of the national police in Nijmegen. After an intensive preliminary investigation they were able, in cooperation with the detective force of the national police in Wijchen, to make a simultaneous raid on the two houses. A "heroin dog" was used in searching the houses. The heroin, packed in plastic bags, represents a trade value of about a million guilders. The police also found objects in which heroin had evidently been transported in large amounts. The investigation is continuing. [Text] [Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 25 Sep 76 p 1] 8815

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

POLICE SAID TO BE LOSING BATTLE AGAINST HEROIN

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[TEXT] [From Paul Martin] Paris 30 September--This year more than 1,000 of the estimated 50,000 heroin addicts in Western Europe will die by the drug. For every 500 kg of heroin seized by national police forces, Interpol and American narcotics agents, at least 10 times as much will eventually find its way into the veins of addicts via the "pushers" in Europe's cities.

Next year, like 1976 and 1975, will see the problem double.

Such are the alarming effects of the so-called "Chinese connexion"--the Mafia-style drug trade from the Far East to Europe through Amsterdam.

Two years after the last secret heroin laboratories of the notorious "French connexion" were found and destroyed, highly-organized and ruthless Chinese heroin peddlers have taken over and created a far more dangerous situation.

Whereas until recently large-scale heroin addiction was identified with the United States, nowadays it increases monthly in the capitals of Europe.

The phenomenon is experienced in West Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and Italy. Heroin is now so easily obtainable that pharmacy burglaries by addicts in West Germany and France, common until recently, have virtually ceased.

Successful as Interpol and the various police forces of Europe have been in their anti-heroin war--so far this year they have seized 350 kilos as opposed to 283 kilos in 1975--at the moment they are losing.

The chiefs of the Triad-based heroin smuggling operation could not be more secure than in Amsterdam where drugs laws are weak, where there is an astonishing degree of tolerance towards the menace, and where police are powerless to tackle an indigenous addiction problem.

From Kuala Lumpur, Penang Bangkok, Singapore and other places in the East, the couriers smuggle their deadly cargo of "Chinese heroin No 3," also called "brown sugar" or "Hongkong rock" on regular flights in sausages, in the bellies of fish, in golf clubs, trophies, clocks or the linings of suits.

Recently an Asiatic courier arrested on landing in Europe was found to have concealed his cargo in tiny cavities in hundreds of Mah-jong pieces.

The point of entry to Europe may vary, but nine times out of 10 the destination is Amsterdam. The Chinese smuggling network has begun to switch from using Asiatic couriers to Europeans, making detection more difficult.

This change was emphasized by the recent arrests and trials in Moscow, a transit point for the Asia-America run and for less important inlets into Europe.

A second disturbing development is the increase in the average quantity carried by a courier, from between two and three kilos to between 10 and 12.

Experts discussing the Chinese heroin problem sometimes use the analogy of the spread of rabies. For, once the drug is on the continent in quantity it is only a short taxi, bus or train ride from one country to another.

As in the case of rabies, Britain has not yet been much affected, and its tough laws and efficient police and customs methods keep it a jump ahead.

But in West Germany, for instance, entries noting small heroin seizures from couriers or users returning from Amsterdam fill volumes of police and customs registers.

The Germans are highly respected for the manner in which they deal with the drug problem, but it is something that can only be tackled at source.

With an estimated 15,000 addicts, West Germany runs a close second to Holland, whose heroin-taking population is thought to be anything from 10,000 to 30,000. France has between 5,000 and 6,000 addicts, Belgium about 3,000, Britain 3,000, while in the rest of Western Europe the drug problem created by the "Chinese Connexion" worsens each week.

An indication of just how much "brown sugar," which originates in the "Golden Triangle" where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, is available is indicated by the recent sharp drop in the price of heroin. With an annual opium crop estimated at between 500 and 700 tons, the men who manipulate the "Golden Triangle" are in a position to meet new demands.

Another of their deadly products, the pure "Chinese No 4 heroin, has also begun to make its appearance in European cities. With a purity of almost 100 percent, it is many times more potent than "brown sugar."

Its potency is believed to be partly responsible for some of the recent fatalities among addicts, who unwittingly take an overdose.

"Like the French Connexion, the Chinese Connexion could be smashed," says Det Supt Michael Huins, the Scotland Yard man who runs Interpol's drug division. "We are making real efforts to mobilize all we can to fight the problem and eradicate it. But our problems are great."

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