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6 May 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

No. 298

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BURMA

BURMESE POLICE SEIZE HEROIN IN MYITKYINA

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 8 Apr 77 p 4 BK

[Text] Myitkyina, 3 Apr--Acting on a tip, police inspectors U Hla Win and U Soe Thein of State Police Intelligence, accompanied by ward councillors U Ohn Pe, U Tin Win and U Khin Maung Myint, at 1100 hours today raided the residence of U Ba Maung at No 77 in North Shansu Ward and seized two packets of "Minthame" brand heroin from Hkun Mong--son of U Kyaw Sein of U Gyi Khan Ward, Taunggyi--and Hkun Myo Zaw--son of U Laung of Pyidawtha Ward.

After taking a statement from the culprits, a search was conducted of the house of U Hla Maung of Min Ward in Myitkyina where three big packets of heroin, hidden in a pillow, were seized. The two culprits, in possession of 150,000 kyats worth of heroin, have been charged under sections 6 (B) and 10 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.



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BURMA

BRIEFS

ARREST FOR HEROIN POSSESSION--Mandalay, 18 April--Sub-inspector U Pye Thein and police cadets of police station No 6, together with ward people's councillors, at 1600 yesterday searched and found heroin--five packets each worth 15 kyats, and two packets each valued at 25 kyats--from the residence of Ma Rita, alias Kyi Kyi Lwin, at Thanwin Ward, east side of Thirimalar in Mandalay. The heroin was hidden in the kitchen. Kyi Kyi Lwin has been charged under section 6 (b) [of the narcotics drugs law] by police station No. 6. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 22 Apr 77 p 4 BK]

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INDONESIA

AUSTRALIAN TRIED FOR POSSESSION OF MORPHINE

Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 23 Feb 77 p 2

[Article: "Morphine-Addicted, Pretty Australian Girl To Be Tried"]

[Text] A pretty girl of Australian nationality will soon be brought to trial at the District Court, because of her involvement in the use of narcotics without authorization.

J, just turned 23, was caught red-handed smoking morphine at Pusat Kesenian Taman Kamil Marzuki [Marzuki Garden Arts Center].

During the investigation, she admitted to the officials that she has been taking drugs such morphine for a long time without authorization. This is a practice common with one of her profession as an artist.

J is in Indonesia as an artist. She has been detained by the authorities since her arrest in August.

As in the case of Carol Jeff, who was apprehended and sentenced by the District Court for using drugs without authorization, J is detained at Lembaga Pemasarakatan Bukit Duri [Bukit Duri Social Institute], where she teaches English.

Her case will soon be turned over to the District Court, Jakarta Central, by the Jakarta Chief Public Prosecutor.

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SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE DRUG PUSHERS ADOPTING NEW TACTICS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Apr 77 p 9 BK

[Article by Masie Kwee]

[Text] Singapore, Sun.--Drug pushers here are now adopting new tactics to escape Operation Ferret--the government's latest strategy to catch pushers and flush out addicts.

A reliable source said today that there was now "utter confusion" in the drug market.

He said: "The pushers were now using addicts in order to beat Operation Ferret, with transactions carried out at different places and times. The pushers avoid carrying the drugs themselves, and do not go to their usual haunts like backlanes and coffee shops.

"Addicts have also gone 'underground.' Many meet together at a secret place to smoke or take drugs instead of doing it in more open areas like before."

According to the source, some pushers get addicts to work for them before selling them drugs, such as by waiting at corridors of flats to scout for the law.

When there is no danger, they give a signal to the pusher who then proceeds to the designated flat for business.

The pushers were also limiting their sales to a selected clientele of 15 or so, 2 or 3 days of the week, selling larger amounts at a time.

"In the actual operation, the pusher will choose a place where there are people so that the sale is not likely to be noticed and where access for escape is easier," the source said.

Some addicts and pushers do not carry drugs on their persons, except at the time when the sale takes place. This is to insure their own safety.

Another hope for escape for the addicts is that if a urine test is conducted, there could be no trace of the drug, because the drug might be taken long before the test was carried out. The quantity of food taken by addicts would also affect the test.

The pushers, on the other hand, would collect the money from the addict first so that even if he is caught at this moment, he could say that money changed hands "because my friend owes me money."

When the money is paid the pusher will direct the addict to a second man stationed nearby.

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SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

DOGS SNIFF OUT DRUGS--Drug abusers and traffickers already harassed by a stepped-up campaign will soon face an additional hazard--dogs that are able to sniff out narcotics. Four dogs, a gift from the United States Customs Service, will be handed over to the local police and customs in July. Two of the dogs will join the police dog unit, and the remaining pair will form the nucleus of a customs dog unit. It is not known what breed these dogs will be, but they are being specially trained to detect drugs. They will be quarantined for 4 weeks. All four dogs will be kept at the police dog unit kennels. Cpl Stanley Tee and Constable Johnny Wong, both from the police dog unit, are now doing a 14-week drug-dog handlers course at the U.S. Customs Service's Detector Dog Training Center in Virginia. Two customs officers are also doing the same course. They are being trained to handle all breeds of dogs, including mongrels, and will return in July. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 77 p 13 BK]

TRUCKER GETS 2 YEARS--Tay Giap Eng, 22, a Lorry attendant, was jailed [as published] 2 years for having 0.998 grams of heroin and another 6 months for consuming drugs, the sentences to run concurrently. The court heard Tay was fleeing from a vigilante corps patrol along Choon Guan street on December 27 last year when he ran smack into the arms of a policeman and was arrested. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 77 p 13 BK]

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THAILAND

SPEECH BY GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 77 p 8

[Excerpt from speech given by Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, Deputy Supreme Commander and Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on 19 April to the Joint Chambers of Commerce]

[Excerpt] Determination

I would like to commend the American Government for their long fight and strong determination to combat illegal narcotics. This is evidenced by the new Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. This committee was set up to coordinate and investigate the U.S. narcotics control efforts in the United States and overseas. This House of Representatives Committee has responsibility for work previously assigned to seven committees in the House.

By assigning Mr Lester Wolff, Democrat of New York to chair this committee, the U.S. Government has put the right man in the right job. I am sure that it will produce positive results. Mr Wolff has been my good friend for a long time. He is competent, strong-willed and has the determination to perform this mission of combatting narcotics. Mr Carter's personal interest and these new control measures are most reassuring.

We fully support the campaign against narcotics as does the Dutch Ambassador, and our government has declared this as one of its top priorities. Narcotics are a danger to national as well as individual health. We condemn narcotic traders who have been aptly described as "merchants of death." International cooperation is necessary to combat the spread of narcotics.

I would like to commend the United States Government for its prompt response to our government's announcement of its anti-narcotics policy. The helicopters it supplied are being used for sighting and tracking down opium caravans and for spotting heroin factories along the border area.

However, I hope that it is not presumptuous of me to make certain points with regard to the American drug suppression operations. They are meant not as criticisms, but as constructive comments.

1. American administrators appear to heed self-deluding reports without making their own on-the-spot observations. I hope you don't mind me saying this. As a result, they fail to have the facts necessary for the right decisions and actions. That is why mistakes, regrettably, have been made.

2. Apparently, American administrators put too much trust in computers, banking on immediate short-term results from any expenditure in terms of dollars and cents. There have been many jokes about embarrassing mistakes made by computers as you know. It is better to consider making a few wise investments which will have long-term effects and obtain general policy objectives.

I would like to inform you, as maybe some of our colleagues do not know, that last year we recovered about 200 kgs of opium and this year over 600 kgs. If the computer shows this is a good result, we disagree. You cannot satisfy me because 600 kgs of heroin can be produced from 6 tons of opium (at the ratio of 10:1). The crop in the "Golden Triangle" is known to be about 500 tons if there is good rain, but if there is no good rain, the crop will be around 26 tons. In the years of good rain where have the other 494 tons of opium gone? So you can see that the computer output makes things seem much better than they really are.

3. American administrators seem to forget the poverty of the people in developing countries. Because they are not hungry, the Americans appear to desire only to see the results they wish to see, without giving thought to activities which can bring permanent success for the general benefit of the world. Many people think--people in Europe, people in the United States and people elsewhere throughout the world--that opium grows only in the Golden Triangle. That is not true.

4. It may be harsh to say this, but American administrators seem to be selfishly seeking results in the narcotics campaign while forgetting that over 200 million people are anxious about their future and survival. These are the people of the ASEAN countries.

5. A team sent out on a case may be capable, but seems to have no idea of policy and strategy.

False Data

6. The United States should analyse and reassess its policy. It should take a cool look at what it has done, how much money it has spent and what results it had achieved. To obtain intelligence, questions are asked, and if the interviewer falls victim to a crafty informant seeking to advance his own purposes, false data is obtained.

7. We wonder what sort of policy makes it difficult for the United States to obtain the full and willing cooperation of the Union of Burma.

8. Most of the opium is in the hands of the Communists. Only 30 percent of the opium grows outside the communist area. The Burmese Communist Party has gained control of the Burmese states between the Chinese border and Kengtung through the force of arms. This is the most important part of the drug-producing "Golden Triangle." Though famous, the "Golden Triangle" is but a small area where opium is grown. The rest of Asia must not be forgotten. Turkey, Iran and India, where opium growing is sanctioned by the government, can and do provide large amounts of opium for the world markets. Efforts to eradicate illegal opium production have so far met with dismal failures because of the increasing lucrative markets. In the highlands of northern Thailand, communist-infiltrated hill tribes are still growing opium.

Here it is worthy of note, that there appears to be a conflict of interest between our campaign against narcotics and our campaign against the communists. Wherever we have pushed hard against the hill tribes for planting opium--in Tak, Chiang Rai, and Nan provinces for example--they become hostile to the government and are easily manipulated by the communists. That is why today so many hill tribes are communist-infiltrated and led.

We have to carry on the two contrary campaigns along parallel lines in order to rid ourselves of two evils--one, communism, which directly affects our security and survival; and the other, narcotics, which is affecting the youth not only of Thailand, but those of the United States and other countries as well.

9. The opium trade has been going on for a long time, over 300 years. Existing even before the United States came into being.

10. Where there are markets, there is bound to be trade, either legal or illegal. The problem of getting rid of the sources of the drug trade is as enormous as that of getting rid of the Mafia in America which is dealing in narcotics. The United States Government which finds it so difficult to deal with the narcotics sales problem in its own country, should appreciate the dimensions of dealing with our end of the problem--dimensions which are larger because they are so intricate, involving poppy cultivation by thousands of hill tribes, the changing jungle trails of the opium caravans, the manufacture of heroin in factories hidden in the jungles of indeterminate border areas and the various smuggling gangs with their clandestine methods. In solving the problem of narcotics you have got to solve it all the way--from the producer to the trafficker to the trader and to the fourth, the consumer. We have other factors to consider also.

11. Those who criticise Thailand for corruption among officials concerned with drug enforcement, should also look into the corruption in other official circles which has made it possible for the narcotic trade to flourish in many countries.

12. The United States has been able to send men to the Moon. It has built sophisticated weapons for its own defence. Why can't it do anything effective about preventing narcotics getting to its shores?

Cooperation

Gentlemen this is a time when the United States needs all the friends and cooperation it can get. The narcotics problem must be solved or all countries and all civilisations will be destroyed. There are only a relatively few countries left in the world which truly subscribe to the idea of democratic government and which sincerely desire to stamp out the narcotics trade. America cannot sit in moral judgment, for none of us are perfect. America is not perfect. It has its racial problems, its civil or human rights problems and its prejudices, but America has noble objectives, and so have we.

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THAILAND

MILITARY RECRUITS REFLECT INCREASED DRUG ADDICTION

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 16 Apr 77 p 3 BK

[Text] The number of new military conscripts found to have drug-taking habits has been growing, according to Col Arun Chaowanasai of the Phra Mongkut Klao hospital.

Doctor Arun produced statistics yesterday which showed that the number of military personnel treated in four regional military hospitals and Phra Mongkut Klao had jumped from 357 in 1975 to 615 last year.

Most of the drug addicts in the army, he said were new conscripts and some sergeants.

Col Arun said the growing number of addicts in the army had caused several serious problems, particularly those concerning mobilization and the deployment of personnel.

"Many suggestions have been put forward to solve the problem of drug addiction among the conscripts, including one which recommends that all conscripts found with drug addiction should be dismissed," he said.

"But that recommendation could not be taken since many young people prefer to be out of service anyway. Such a decision would indirectly push up the number of addicts among the youth," he said.

Col Arun also disclosed that the Public Health Ministry had approved the establishment of an out-patient service for drug addicts at the Phra Mongkut Klao hospital.

"We now have about 200 out-patients who usually get a 21-day treatment," he said.

Following 6 Oct last year when severe restrictions were imposed on narcotics, the number of drug addicts had dropped, he said.

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THAILAND

THAI PAPER URGES RENEWED UN-AIDED FUND FOR DRUG CONTROL

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 77 p 6 BK

[Editorial: "UN Fund Vital for Drug Control"]

[Text] For many years now, for geographical and political reasons Thailand has become one of the key countries where international illicit drug trade is concerned. Due to our central position relative to the so-called Golden Triangle area Thailand has become a main route through which a great deal of narcotic drugs are carried to the various illicit markets of the world.

While the narcotics, notably heroin, have a tragic effect on the recipient countries in America, Europe, Asia and Australia, Thailand itself has not escaped the fate and some 300,000 people in this country may have been turned into helpless heroin addicts.

In an effort to fight against the heroin menace the Thai Government, with assistance from the United Nations and certain friendly countries, has tackled the problem in a number of ways--through suppression of traffickers, through preventive education, through rehabilitation programmes and through a crop replacement programme.

While suppression by the police has been the most spectacular, with large seizures of drugs and arrests of major traffickers which earned widespread press coverage, suppression can only be at best a short-term measure to reduce traffic volume and win time for a more definite long-term solution.

And ultimately the long-term solution must lie in two things--preventive education to teach the public about the dangers of drug addiction and a crop replacement programme to cut the source of supply and, therefore, to do away with the availability of the drug.

The trouble with these two methods is that they are basically preventive measures and, therefore, do not produce spectacular results. Rather, they produce a negative result in that they aim at reducing the number of addicts or amount of opium produced. Partly because of this, it had been difficult to obtain financing for either programme.

But due to the foresight of His Majesty the King and the United Nations, a sum of money had been allotted through the UN Funds for Drug Abuse Control for a 5-year crop replacement programme. The project is now nearing the end of its last year.

While being basically an experimental project, the crop replacement programme has undoubtedly demonstrated over the past 5 years that it is feasible to replace the opium plant with other cash crops so that the poppy plant could be gradually phased out without affecting the livelihood of hilltribe farmers.

In view of this it is unfortunate that so far there has been no confirmation that the fund allocated to this programme by the United Nations will continue after the expiration of the present 5-year period. In fact, a member of the UN Funds for Drug Abuse Control recently voiced concern that crop substitution work may be reduced to mere pilot projects unless further funds are allocated in the near future.

Should the fund be discontinued it will prove a tragedy for the group of hard-working and dedicated people who had done so much for the crop replacement project. More seriously, it will mean that the United Nations has abandoned a project which ultimately may prove to be the only realistic solution to the global narcotic problem.

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THAILAND

COLUMNIST BACKS GENERAL'S HARD LINE ON U.S. DRUG ACCUSATIONS

Bangkok SIANG PUANGCHON in Thai 21 Apr 77 p 3 BK

["Speaking Thai" column by Rattana Yawapraphat]

[Text] General Kriangsak Chamanan's address on Thailand's security delivered yesterday is significant, indeed.

Is it significant because the general spoke so impressively that members of the American Chamber of Commerce and Japanese, Indian and Chinese participants in that meeting now believe that Thailand is secure for their continued investment?

Is it significant because the general said straightforwardly that Thailand is not quite secure because of subversion by the communists and by neighboring countries and that friendly countries, whose trade representatives were present, should cooperate with the Thai Government in bringing about joint security?

No.

It is not because his address at a luncheon at the Oriental Hotel pertained to Thailand's security that has made him the talk of the town.

It is because of the way the tiger-eyed general lashed the United States like a modern father giving a lesson to his children.

The United States has alleged for a long time, since 1957 when Pol Gen Phao was still in power, that Thailand has been the largest source of narcotics in the world; but while the United States so condemns Thailand, the Americans are the greatest narcotic dealers in the world.

I have several times mentioned evidence of this in my column on this page.

Thailand has changed its government many times; yet nothing has improved in the eyes of the United States, which regards itself as being the big boss of the world.

While the number of American drug addicts is not precisely known, it appears that Thailand has more drug addicts than any other country in the world.

Has the United States ever looked at these Thai addicts with humane eyes?

No, on the contrary, the United States tends to increasingly slander and accuse Thailand before the world of being the greatest offender in narcotics matters.

Therefore, General Kriangsak's speech is what most Thais like to hear: He hit those members of the American Chamber of Commerce right in the forehead, warning them that the American assumption that Thailand is the largest narcotics source should be rectified.

The tiger-eyed general tempered his remarks by saying that the Americans should rely on newspapers and on what they can see for themselves. When they do not see things with their own eyes, they should not alledge that Thailand is the only narcotics source in the world. As a matter of fact, only 30 percent of the world's illicit narcotics is produced outside communist-occupied areas; the other 70 percent is produced in communist-occupied areas. Of the 30 percent produced outside communist-occupied areas, some comes from Turkey, as everybody knows.

After that, the tiger-general slapped the United States in the face with rhetoric which President Jimmy Carter's speech makers do not have the wit to invent. He said, "Everyone knows that the United States has been able to use hundreds of thousands of baht [as published] to build spacecraft and successfully go to the moon, but why doesn't it have the capability of preventing opium smugglers from reaching its shores?"

The most significant point is that after giving his child this lesson, the father packed his bags for a physical check-up in the United States.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

COLUMNIST LOOKS AT PROBLEM OF INCREASED ADDICTION RATES

Bangkok DAILY TIME in Thai 25 Apr 77 p 5 BK

[Son Thale Column]

[Text] I have said in this column earlier that whilst I support the prime minister's use of article 21 to execute heroin traffickers, the government should set up more rehabilitation facilities so that the 500,000 addicts can again become useful to the country.

Today, I received a letter from Thirasak Tuwachirakun, a public welfare official at Thanyarak Hospital, saying that the government is carrying out such a rehabilitation effort. However, he said there are two serious problems facing that effort.

First, the agency involved in rehabilitating and curing the addicts has only a limited capability. Thanyarak hospital and the Tham Krabok Monastery have between them only a total of about 1,000 beds, and as each addict needs 15 days for recovery, it would take about 30 years for all 500,000 drug addicts to be cured. Second--and this is a more serious problem than the first one--about 90 percent of heroin addicts who have recovered will return to addiction within 1 year. This means that of 1,000 addicts receiving treatment, only 100 will be completely cured, and at that rate, it would take 300 years to cure the 500,000 addicts.

What the government must do besides executing the heroin traffickers is: One, arrest all traffickers and execute them. Two, enlarge the capacity of the treatment facilities. The treated addicts would be unable to return to addiction because they would not be able to buy the drugs as a result of the drastic suppression of traffickers. Three, the government must mentally rehabilitate the cured addicts. Four, it must extensively advertise the dangers of narcotics in order to cut down on the number of people who might become addicts as a result of being misled or of experimenting with narcotics.

Half a million addicts out of a population of 43 million is a very high and dangerous rate, especially when compared with a figure of only 30,000 addicts 20 years ago when opium smoking was prohibited.

The government must do something quickly or the number of addicts might reach a million--which would give us all sleepless nights.

THAILAND

POLICE PROPOSE EXECUTION FOR DRUG PUSHER

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Crime Suppression Division police have proposed to the police chief that article 21 of the constitution should be used against an alleged drug trafficker who they say is a close associate of Thawon Udomrudet, the drug dealer summarily executed 15 April, according to a reliable police source.

Thai-Chinese Charoenkhun Thananet, alias Kow Sae Ngow, (46) was arrested by police at his home in Rong Pha Si Kiao Lane on 4 April--1 week after Thawon was taken into custody with 16 kilogrammes of No 3 heroin.

The raid was led by Captain Pramuk Phongthongcharoen, the investigator in charge of the Thawon case.

Charoenkhun is now detained at Crime Suppression Division headquarters on charges of being detrimental to society.

Police said he was arrested after they had gathered enough evidence to prove that he had an interest in the 16 killogrammes of No 3 heroin which was found in the trunk of a car Thawon was driving outside the French Embassy on 25 March.

The embassy is close to Charoenkhun's house.

Crime Suppression Division Commander Maj Gen Sa-nguan Khlongchai yesterday submitted the investigation report to the police department, labelling Charoenkhun a "major drug trafficker" and recommending the use of article 21.

According to police, Charoenkhun and Thawon were buying heroin from northern Thailand and Laos and sending it abroad.

They said Charoenkhun used a seven-storey flat he owned on Plaeng Nam Road in the Yaowarat area as a front.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

TWO RECEIVE LIFE TERM ON HEROIN CHARGE

Bangkok MORNING EXPRESS in English 19 Apr 77 p 1 BK

[Text] The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a Hong Kong Chinese and a Thai citizen to life imprisonment and another Thai to 33 years and 4 months jail term after being found guilty of possessing 8.3 kilogrammes of heroin.

The three drug pedlars were identified as William Cheng, a Hong Kong Chinese, Siri Sirikun (49), a Thai national and Prasan Riaophanitkun (57), also a Thai citizen. The first two were given life imprisonment term and the last person was sentenced to 33 years and 4 months term.

Crime Suppression Division police arrested the three narcotics traffickers on 5 October last year while attempting to smuggle out heroin at Don Muang Airport.

Prasan was quoted as telling the police investigators that he was a merchant who had to travel to and from Hong Kong to do his business. He said he knew William Cheng quite well because the two were engaged in business with one another. Siri said he was an ordinary "black plate" taxi driver and was hired by Prasan to carry suitcases to the airport.

William Cheng said he was only a passenger and knew nothing about the drug.

The Criminal Court, after deliberations, ruled that the three persons were guilty. However, as Prasan confessed to the court, his punishment was commuted to 33 years and 4 months imprisonment.



CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK COURT SENTENCES FOUR DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 77 p 5 BK

[Text] The Criminal Court yesterday handed down stiff penalties on four alleged drug traffickers--a Hong Kong Chinese and three Thai.

The Hong Kong Chinese, Fa Yu-Tong (23), was sentenced to 80 year's imprisonment after the court found him guilty of possessing 3 kilograms of No 3 heroin (brown sugar) and attempting to smuggle it out of the country.

He was arrested last 30 December while he was about to board a flight to Hong Kong. Suspicious customs officers requested a search of his suitcase and found the heroin inside.

Fa denied knowledge about the heroin after his arrest but later pleaded guilty to the court, saying that one of his Thai friends had asked him to deliver the suitcase to his wife in Hong Kong.

The court then reduced his sentence by half to 40 year's imprisonment.

The three Thai were sentenced to 25 year's imprisonment each after they were found guilty on charges of smuggling heroin for sales purposes.

Noi (alias Fa) Sae Low, Chamlong Disanthia and Pramot Rattanawong were arrested on 5 October last year in front of the Women's Hospital in the Victory Monument area while they were about to hand over 1.4 heroin to a purchaser.

However, the court reduced Pramot's sentence to 16 years and 8 months when he pleaded guilty.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

CHIANG MAI HEROIN FACTORY--Chiang Mai--Border patrol police seized a heroin factory at Ban Huai Chae, Tambon Muang Kong of Chiang Dao District last Wednesday, according to delayed reports reaching Bangkok. The factory consisted of four stoves for cooking heroin, two stoves for drying heroin and equipment for heroin production. Police reportedly found no trace of the factory owner or workers. [Text] [Bangkok POST in English 24 Apr 77 p 3 BK]

THAILAND, FRANCE MAY COOPERATE--The French Government has approached Thai drug enforcement authorities to post its anti-drug officials in Bangkok for better coordination with the Thai authorities, it was disclosed yesterday. Chairman of the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Board, Mr Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon said that negotiation will be made on the French proposal. At present the U.S., Hong Kong and the Netherlands have their drug enforcement officers stationed in Bangkok. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 25 Apr 77 p 1 BK]

TWO HEROIN RAIDS--Chiang Mai--Five men, including a Haw Chinese and a Musur hill tribesman, were arrested here yesterday and a total of 6.2 kilograms of No 4 first grade heroin and 9.6 kilograms of morphine were seized in two separate raids. At noon yesterday, Chiang Mai Narcotics Suppression Police Force, led by Gen Phao Sarasin, deputy commander of the Central Investigation Bureau and chief of Chiang Mai Narcotics Suppression Centre, raided room no 420 of the Anodat Hotel after being tipped off about a heroin transaction. On raiding the room, police said they found four men--two Thai, Somdet Koetton (21), Rattana Ong-kaso (24), a Musur hill tribesman, Paimchan (22) and a Haw Chinese, Sientiew Yantan (29), sitting together. Beside them was a big suitcase which police found contained five boxes holding 5.5 kilograms of No 4 heroin and 11 morphine blocks bearing 999 trademark, weighing a total of 9.6 kilograms. Later, at 4 P.M., the same police force searched a house on Tai Wang Road in Muang District where they said they found 700 grammes of heroin in a downstairs room. Jehtang Jehman (32), a Pattani resident and brother-in-law of the house owner, Mrs Chittraphon Klongcham, was arrested. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 77 p 1 BK]

DRUG STATISTICS--Some 4,000 students and youths are being arrested every year for drug abuse, according to the Juvenile Welfare Division of the Police Department. The offenders range from possessing drugs and distributing them. According to the division statistics, in 1973, 746 were held on drug charges; in 1974, 885; in 1975, 755; and last year 800 were reported. Altogether 443 were arrested on charges of possession of dangerous drugs in 1973, 639 in 1974; 514 in 1975, and 537 in 1976. In 1973, 55 were arrested for distribution; 42 in 1974; 39 in 1975 and 37 in 1976. In 1974, 248 were arrested for using illicit drugs, 204 in 1974; 202 in 1975 and 226 in 1976. [Text]
[Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Apr 77 p 1 BK]

SOLDIER ADDICTS--Many people who have been drafted into the army have been found to have used at least some kind of drugs, Phra Mongkhut Khlao general hospital's psychiatry and neurology department chief Col Arun Chaowansai has revealed. He said 98 percent of the people who were treated to overcome addiction used heroin while only 2 percent used other drugs such as marihuana and pills. Furthermore he revealed that the number of addicts in the Royal Thai Army had been increasing steadily every year. In 1972 there were 111 soldiers who were confirmed addicts, 258 in 1973, 277 in 1974, 357 in 1975 and 615 last year, he said. [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 15 Apr 77 p 2 BK]

CSO: 5300

YUGOSLAVIA

DRUG PROBLEM EXISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Ljubljana ITD in Slovenian 25 Feb 77 p 10

[Article by Marjan Skumavc]

[Text] A few days ago all Yugoslav and quite a few foreign papers were full of articles of the big "catch" in Ljubljana, Koper, Sisak and Sremska Mitrovica. Almost 2 tons of hashish destined for consumption abroad was imported to Yugoslavia, but the whole affair ended here. What does all this mean? Is our country really such an ideal place, inviting all to smuggle contraband over our territory? Was part of the contraband intended for our own people? Did foreigners have collaborators in Yugoslavia? A long series of questions.... What is the opinion of the Republic Secretariat of International Affairs about this matter? Their opinion may be most interesting because they deal with narcotics at the heart of the problem, with the smugglers, dealers, and distributors. And what is hashish anyway? With what kind of narcotics are we dealing in Slovenia?

No information about narcotics addiction is available for prewar Yugoslavia, which is an indication of how this situation was dealt with at that time. Soon after the war, however, several narcotics addicts were identified in Slovenia. These were mainly patients who became accustomed to narcotics such as morphine given to them in the course of their treatment. A few addicts belonging to the bohemian and artistic circles also used various pharmaceutical products and the so-called pill-cocktails; however, the authorities were not aware at that time of any widespread drug abuse.

Innocuous Beginnings

According to the Republic Secretariat of Internal Affairs, the situation became more serious around 1957. Until then narcotics had been used by a few older people but at that time the young began to assert themselves. New ideas, views, hairdos and dress styles came, along with new trends. The structure of narcotics use was rapidly changed. The previously used pharmaceutical products gave way to new requirements; hashish and, in places, opium penetrated the market to be followed soon thereafter by LSD as some

kind of Western counterpoise, a synthetic narcotic to compete with the natural ones from the East. Inspectors of the internal affairs authorities who previously paid relatively little attention to the problem of narcotics addiction became aware of the problem after a few cases came to their attention and took action by introducing a series of measures. Supervision of pharmacies, pharmaceuticals plants and people dealing with and producing narcotics was increased. Around 1970 it was clear to everyone that the danger was a serious one, appearing in variegated forms both among our people as well as in the form of transit shipments destined for the countries in the West.

Criminal investigators were surprised by a case where a group of juveniles were distilling some kind of cigarettes. After ingesting the resulting brew a swimming instructor wandered into water and drowned. Another youth was found banging his head against the trunk of a tree calling his mother to help him. In some instances internal affairs authorities succeeded in shutting off the flow of hashish and LSD which brought about the use of opium tar. In another instance distributors appeared who peddled ground brick to juveniles at a cost of 50 dinars a grain and, because of ignorance, scopolamin instead of another, softer, drug, which caused the death of the user. In brief, it became clear that the situation was dangerous and the suppression of drug abuse would be very difficult. The network of operators who sell, transport and distribute the narcotics is bound into anonymity by enormous profits and strict secrecy. In view of the sums with which these operators deal, very small value attaches to human life. The groups resemble various terrorist and mafia gangs with the exception that they are bound together by money, the international world ideology instead of the local political interests.

It is a sad fact that organizations that deal in wholesale smuggling and trafficking of narcotics have at their disposal funds that allow the confiscation of 700 kilograms to be considered a normal "business" risk.

The Lure: Free Narcotics

In the beginning each new market is approached by narcotics dealers who at first offer the drugs free. How many such attempts have been made in this country is not known, nor is it known how many people have turned down the offer and how many accepted, became addicted and at the next opportunity made a purchase or even began to spread the drug further and recruit new clients, thus broadening the market.

Fortunately, hashish rather than opium and its derivatives has become more widespread in Yugoslavia, according to the inspectors--fortunately, because hashish is after all not as dangerous as opium, which causes psychical and physical dependence and inexorable destruction of a person. Some young people in the Maribor area who were using opium were compelled to seek medical assistance in a very short time. They had to be treated in specialized institutions.

In contrast with the Western countries, Yugoslavia's situation is unique. Yugoslavia is a producer of opium. Because old technological methods have long been in use for production of opium one could expect greater availability and wider dissemination of the drug. What does the old technological process consist of? There are large fields of poppy in Macedonia. At a given time in the evening the poppy growers made cuts into ripe seed pods from which milky juice would ooze all night and dry up into a dark foul-smelling tar which was scraped off in the morning and sold. Naturally supervision and control was impossible under such mode of operation. A great deal of the "black gold," as the tar was referred to by the farmers, remained at home, kept in fact as a gold reserve to be used in time of need.

According to the new procedures the growers only plant and reap the poppy but they must turn in even the stalks which can be processed into any desired derivative from morphine to heroin by modern industrial processes. The only factory in Yugoslavia authorized to engage in the processing of poppy is the "Alkaloid" of Skopje. Of course, many farmers have retained their previous supplies, which are becoming more valuable every day. The quality of opium increases with aging. At the same time access to narcotics is being cut off, the market is increasing. In Turkey where the old technology is still being used, smugglers and dealers are discovering new ways. Because large quantities of foul-smelling tar are not suitable for transport, illegal laboratories are set up in which the tar is processed into morphine or heroin, a concentrate that can be readily transported to any place in the world, which is then again diluted at the destination.

Yugoslavia is also unique in the manner in which opium is used. In absence of illegal processing the addicts take raw opium by injecting opium dissolved in water directly into their veins. This method not infrequently causes infections because of failure to observe the basic precautions required by hygiene. Although raw opium tar is smoked in the Orient, this lengthy ritual is unacceptable to our addicts who want immediate results.

Land of Opium Without Narcotic Addicts

It is perhaps interesting that until recently Macedonia, Europe's best supplier of high-quality opium, had the smallest number of narcotics addicts. The upbringing, background and tradition kept the natives away from the narcotics. Unfortunately, according to the latest data, the young are breaking with tradition but they, too, prefer to use hashish.

Hashish and marihuana are produced from the Indian plant *cannabis indica*. Marihuana is a finely ground plant, a relatively mild narcotic, according to some even milder than tobacco, and resembles tobacco in appearance. Hashish is the juice of the same plant, naturally much more concentrated. It is widespread particularly in the Orient and is known under a variety of names--grieffo, gazah, kinnab, bhang. A recent invention is concentrated hashish oil. Hashish is available on the market as a brownish dust. The form most convenient for transportation are tablets, similar to tablets of

glue, and oblong flat cakes. Hashish is inhaled by smoking and is useless for medical purposes, therefore the police normally destroy seized quantities of hashish in presence of special commissions.

According to inspectors, no organized group regularly supplying the contraband market has so far been discovered in Yugoslavia. Several foreign groups, however, enroute with their cargo over the Yugoslav territory to West Europe, have been apprehended.

Naturally, the Yugoslav market also has been penetrated by LSD--lysergic acid diethylamide, a synthetic drug of Western invention. This drug has a stronger effect than hashish and is available on the market in the form of miniature pills.

Effects of Narcotics

Hashish, marihuana, and LSD are still the subject of controversies and, of course, controversial statements of experts. To what extent is each of these narcotics harmful and what are their residual effects on the human organism and the abuser's mind? All are hallucinogens causing unusual, "mind-expanding" experiences and inducing some kind of ecstasy. According to some experts, prolonged use of hashish gradually alters the entire psychophysical makeup of the user and brings about his ethical and intellectual destruction. Others maintain that hashish causes organic changes, changes in the composition of blood, and hereditary problems in offspring. Still others maintain that both marihuana and hashish are quite harmless, causing only pleasure, and are neither physically nor psychically addictive. Some advocate legalization of these narcotics and some American states have in fact already legalized the use of these two narcotics.

"Let us leave legalization of these drugs to the Americans to think about. The United States is facing such a monumental problem in their heroin addicts that hashish is hardly of significance for them. Fine. We, however, have laws and provisions prohibiting the use of narcotics which we have to enforce. If alcohol were prohibited we would enforce that law, too," said an inspector who has been on the narcotics detail for many years.

Some time ago the problem of narcotics became so acute that governments set up the Universal Convention on Narcotics in 1961. At that time 73 countries, including Yugoslavia, signed the convention. All signatories pledged themselves to mutual assistance and cooperation in suppressing the illegal production, smuggling and sale of narcotics. Instrumental and probably even more important in this is the Paris-based Interpol and its national bureaus in all member states. Lately, the Americans have been joining the combat against narcotics with increased intensity. They have found that attempting to suppress narcotics after the shipments have already reached, say, New York is a bit late in the game. All these organizations and services strive to nip the narcotics in the bud, at their source.

Aura of Mystery

The effect of narcotics, particularly the hard ones, useful as it may be in medical applications, is destructive to the users. As the user becomes dependent on them he is an easy prey in the hands of the pusher who, driven by his desire for profits, in turn depends on his widespread and well organized smuggling network.

It is well known that the addicts are sociable. They like to use drugs in groups and frequently work together to perpetrate criminal offenses that may involve the smuggling of narcotics, burglarizing pharmacies or other breakins. Numerous idle narcotics addicts are in dire need of money for their drug purchases. Some psychiatrists feel that a narcotics addict must be treated as an afflicted and mentally ill person even outside the time frame in which he uses drugs. The number of those who seek artificial means to relieve pain, who create their separate paradise casting off their burden is, after all, limited. Society, in condemning them and pushing them aside, is frequently casting them in the role of "martyrs" and "saints." The aura often placed around their heads by exaggerating the danger or "depravity" of narcotics is extremely attractive for their younger or emotionally immature comrades. Similarly it is incorrect to maintain, as many older persons do, that the narcotics addicts are some kind of ideological leaders, prophets of peace and love, and as a rule hippies. Not at all. A great majority of them could be described by much more suitable terms. "Sick" would perhaps be the most suitable description for them.

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CSO: 5300

BRIEFS

POPPY GROWING IN MACEDONIA--Small quantities of Iranian poppy are being grown in the fields of the Tikves region by the Alkaloid enterprise on a trial basis. These poppies contain a higher amount of morphine than local Macedonian varieties. Experts of the Skopje faculty of agriculture believe Iranian poppies can also be grown in the Skopje region and Pelagonija. They are working on a strain which will have an even growth so that harvesting with machines will be possible. [Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 13 Apr 77 p 9 AU]

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

COCA LEAVES CONFISCATED--Salta--Personnel from National Police Station 22 in San Antonio de los Cobres arrested two people in Puerta Tastil. They confiscated 125 kilograms of coca leaves and their van. The value of the coca leaf and the vehicle was estimated at 2 million pesos. Those arrested whose names were not made public were placed under the jurisdiction of the federal judge. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Mar 77 p 10] 7717

COCA LEAVES SMUGGLED--Personnel from the Railroad Transit Police Headquarters arrested Jose Francisca, a 41-year-old Argentine, on Train 3258 for smuggling 5 kilos of coca leaves. He lives in Ciudad Perico, Jujuy. The arrested man was taken to the police in that province. Members of the railroad police also arrested Andres Alberto Fundstein, a 73-year-old Argentine, who lives in Costa Rica and Almagro, Merlo, as he was traveling on the Sarmiento Railroad. When interrogated, he answered evasively. Later he admitted that he "worked" on it, committing crimes. It was learned that he had a record for stealing. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 4] 7717

LSD, AMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKERS--Unofficial sources said that personnel from the Narcotics Division of the Federal Police destroyed a ring of drug traffickers based in the Villa Devoto area. The traffickers distributed alkaloids, drugs and hallucinogens to youths, even addicting children under 12. The ringleader was Hugo Contreras alias Soplete; he was arrested with three comrades whose descriptions were not given. A large quantity of amphetamines and lysergic acid as well as 5 kilos of marihuana tobacco were seized. The men arrested had a marihuana farm in Sarandi. They used forged prescriptions to buy drugs that they then sold to addicts, including minors. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 19 Mar 77 p 5] 7717

MARIHUANA SEIZED--Personnel from the Narcotics Division of the Federal Police seized 2,000 kilograms of marihuana--enough to make 7 million cigarettes--after fields of marihuana were discovered near Lujan, Buenos Aires. Police sources estimated that if that number of cigarettes had been made, the traffickers would have earned about 700 million pesos. Police intervention kept the marihuana from entering the local market and probably also the international market. The marihuana was hidden among other plants on an isolated farm. The federal judge of Mercedes, Dr Juan Jose Galindez, through his secretary Dr Miguel Martinez Urrutia, initiated the proceedings. It was not learned if there were any arrests. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 27 Mar 77 p 10] 7717

CSO: 5300

INVESTIGATIONS OF POLICE CORRUPTION CONTINUE

Civil Police Investigated in Connection With "Tino" Death

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Mar 77 p 47

[Article by Alberto Lucheti Neto]

[Text] The Summary Investigation Commission's work at the Federal Police Superintendency in Sao Paulo was concluded this week by Police Chief Paulo Gomes, and it is reported that 30 federal agents will soon be dismissed by presidential decree under the terms of AI-5 [Institutional Act No 5]. Meanwhile, in connection with the death of the informer and private detective named Eurico Dias Pinheiro ("Tino"), the investigation underway by the principal agencies of the Secretariat of Public Security--the DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order], the DEIC [Criminal Investigations Department], and the CIOP [expansion unknown]--is now centering mainly on the Civil Police, who are under much greater suspicion in connection with the murder than the Federal Police are.

Maurice Korempblit, who distributes goods smuggled in by Jose Luiz da Silva, appeared at the DOPS with his attorney on Friday night. Maurice, a 68-year-old Argentine, was investigated on smuggling charges once before, in 1973. On that occasion he fled following the arrest of other distributors for the smuggler Jose Luiz.

In the course of almost 2 hours of interrogation directed by Police Chief Sergio Fleury, Maurice explained that he had no connections with Tino and had never had any. He merely bought goods from Jose Luiz and then resold them. He also said that "Jose Luiz is not the bigtime smuggler that people say he is. His operation has always been regarded as average sized.

"Jose Luiz, a 37-year-old smuggler who is being talked about so much, brings in one truck a week from Paraguay. The vehicle can carry only 100 or 120 cases of whisky. In the world of smuggling, that is nothing compared to the big shipments."

Maurice was unable to add much to the investigation as it now stands, but he did supply a list of his customers, among whom are a number of influential people in Sao Paulo. Before being dismissed by DOPS officials, Maurice said that in 1973 he was arrested in flagrante delicto in the 5th Police District, along with a married couple, for smuggling. That investigation was dropped, and according to Maurice, the offense had been faked. His attorney in that case was Nacif Bussaf, the same man who is now trying, by means of telephone calls, to arrange a meeting between smuggler Jose Luiz and Secretary Erasmo Dias.

Those telephone calls have been made over the past 2 weeks, and all of them have resulted in meetings being arranged between the secretary and the smuggler, but Jose Luiz has not appeared for any of the meetings. The secretary's first contact with Jose Luiz was made with Sidney De Mori, director of the DEIC, acting as go-between. That meeting was set for 1800 hours. Erasmo Dias waited until 2100 hours, but the smuggler did not appear.

Leaving the go-between in a difficult situation, Jose Luiz asked Nacif Bussaf to try to contact the secretary again. There were more telephone calls and more meetings were arranged, but again the smuggler did not appear.

The matter, which according to Erasmo Dias would have been cleared up on Friday with the appearance of Jose Luiz, was again postponed. But the secretary had promised that things would change beginning that week if the smuggler did not show up.

Attorney Nacif Bussaf would not talk to any reporters, saying that he did not know when his client would appear. By coincidence, Nacif Bussaf, who is the attorney for smuggler Jose Luiz, was once a Federal Police agent. But in 1971 he was fired by an institutional act for corruption and involvement with smugglers.

At that time, Nacif was held in custody at the DOI [expansion unknown] for a week pending conclusion of the investigation of corruption charges involving him and six other police officers. Now, being unable to exercise the duties of a federal agent, Nacif is practicing law. Jose Luiz is the second smuggler, to anyone's knowledge, that he has undertaken to defend.

In the course of the brief contacts by telephone that Secretary Erasmo Dias has had with Jose Luiz, the latter's attorney, and the director of the DEIC, Sidney De Mori, only one thing has been cleared up. The smuggler was accusing the federal agents of being responsible for the informer's death, and he was going into detail, saying that they had several reasons for killing Tino.

But what some officials found strange was the fact that precisely as the investigation was turning its attention mainly to the Civil Police--and specifically the DEIC--the director of the DEIC contacted the secretary to say that he had a smuggler who was going to accuse federal agents of being responsible for Tino's death.

And now, 45 days after the death of informer and private detective Eurico Dias Pinheiro, alias Tino, the mystery remains.

According to police officials responsible for clearing up the case, the interest in the informer's death has made the investigation very difficult. One proof of this is that although the case was practically solved thanks to a smuggler's accusation of the federal agents now in custody at the DOPS, charges of involvement by the Civil Police are now becoming increasingly evident.

As the investigation being carried on by the DOPS continues, agents Pardal and Martins of the 35th Police District, who had been in custody for more than 2 weeks, have been released pending conclusion of the administrative process. Together with informer Tino, they are accused of extortion and involvement with smugglers.

Trial Proceedings in Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Mar 77 p 24

[Text] Yesterday the 23rd Criminal Jurisdiction began its preliminary hearings in the case of 40 defendants--most of them police officers--who are being tried on charges of corruption and involvement with drug traffickers. In view of the large number of defendants, the hearing procedure has been divided up, and at present, prosecution witnesses are being heard only in connection with defendants currently in custody.

One of the accused is Milton Goncalves Tiago ("Cabecao"), who until 1974 headed one of the largest gangs of traffickers in Rio de Janeiro. It operated on Faz Quem Quer Hill in Rocha Miranda.

Witnesses

The three witnesses who testified yesterday were Police Chief Armando Pano, who was head of the 29th DP [Police District] in October 1974, when Cabecao was arrested, and detectives Dagomar Ruas Silva and Vitor Alves da Mota, both of whom were working at the time at the now-closed Vigilancia-Norte police station. Pano said that on that occasion he had merely been in charge of taking down eyewitness reports in which Milton Goncalves Tiago was mentioned by name, but that he did not know Tiago and knew nothing about the latter's involvement with police officers.

The other two witnesses said that they had once taken part in arresting Cabecao on Governador Island and that on that occasion he was found to be in possession of a 38-caliber revolver and large quantities of marihuana and cocaine. Dagomar also said that during that same period, detectives Ivoneo Andrade Ferraz ("Vianinha") and Lincoln Monteiro da Silva had interceded to prevent a minor from being arrested, but that that incident had nothing to do with the confiscation of narcotics.

The defendants involved in this first preliminary hearing are the following: Milton Goncalves Tiago ("Cabecao"), Aracilio Goncalves Tiago, Elci Pires de Aragao, Jose Henrique Matioli, Agostinho Alberto de Sena, Ivoneo Andrade Ferraz ("Vianinha"), Oto Correia de Melo, Orlandino Mantovani, Jaime Martins Pereira, Leonis Fonseca, Lincoln Monteiro da Silva, and Elias Carvalho.

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CSO: 3001

SMUGGLING, DRUG OPERATIONS ON PARAGUAYAN BORDER DESCRIBED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 77 p 41

[Article by Candido Cerqueira: "Paraguayan Border: Outlaws' Domain"]

[Text] Murder, drugs, contraband, gambling, holdups, robbery, extortion, and corruption--all of it revolving around gangs of men and women organized for crime: that is the common characteristic of the towns of Ponta Pora in Brazil and Pedro Juan Caballero in Paraguay. The two towns are separated only by a broad avenue--International Avenue--that is used by both vehicles and pedestrians to pass from one country to the other without any inspection at all. It is common to see trucks illegally unloading Brazilian products--especially cereals--into warehouses on the Paraguayan side, while others are leaving with heavy loads consisting generally of lumber--both rough timber and sawnwood--and equally illegal.

The practically unrestrained sale of marihuana and narcotics makes Pedro Juan Caballero a favorite town with fugitives from Brazilian justice.

Coffee, soybeans, corn, sugar, household electric appliances, beverages, perfume, medicines, and everything imaginable enters and leaves Paraguay illegally. The products brought from Brazil usually travel with false documents and are destined for import and export firms that operate on both sides of the border.

The criminal actions benefit almost invariably from the "closed-eyes" policy followed by the authorities in both Brazil and Paraguay. One example: it is estimated that 30 planes a day load and unload illegal merchandise on the landing fields set up in the forests surrounding the area of Pedro Juan Caballero. So far, according to reports, there has been no effort at all to repress that pirate traffic.

The methods and practices used to escape police action are so many that the gangs, which are familiar with all the opportunities for circumventing or standing up to inspection, are actually concerned mainly with fighting their competitors in a war in which everything goes, from attacks on carriers of contraband or narcotics to the extermination of rival groups.

When they are not killing each other, the gangs rely on "help" from police groups. On the Paraguayan side during the beanfeast marking the last crossing for the year, 11 persons died in a hail of gunfire on Mariscal Lopez Street, the town's main thoroughfare. On the Brazilian side during the first few days of the new year, the so-called death squad, made up of police officers, executed five men in one night, all of them with more than 20 gunshot wounds and stabs. None of the bodies was identified.

In Pedro Juan Caballero, anyone can buy whisky, American cigarettes, French perfumes, or silver in large quantities. The best way to buy whisky or cigarettes is to visit the stores run by Francisco Vierci and Julio Rojas or by a man known as Maldona.

All of them accept barter--coffee, for example--in any quantity. The interested customer has only to say that he has so many thousand bags of coffee, preferably from plantations in Sao Paulo or Parana, and that he is trying to sell the product in Paraguay. The coffee must be unencumbered and it must be located in places unknown to the Brazilian authorities. After the preliminary talk, the individual interested in selling the coffee is given a price list covering the goods that may enter into the transaction--more than 30 brands of whisky, cigarettes, champagnes, and so on.

In order to barter with coffee, it is necessary to use great caution. Vierci, Rojas, or Maldona will be very satisfied to learn that everything is already set up for getting the product as far as Porto XV de Novembro, on the Mato Grosso side of the bridge over the Parana River marking the boundary with Sao Paulo. The big problem is finding someone to arrange for getting it across the frontier and to take care of the details at the inspection points.

One detail is very important: one cannot talk to the smugglers about drugs. A well-advised agreement among them has as its purpose the elimination of any and all traffickers. They explain that the traffickers are terribly detrimental, since they always arouse the attention of the authorities in the most important Brazilian centers. And that attention may be turned toward the work of the smugglers, endangering large shipments of products being brought into Brazil illegally.

Informing on each other--one of the weapons used in the war between traffickers and smugglers--is a constant practice. Just recently in Porto XV de Novembro, thanks to tips from traffickers, the authorities seized three semi-trailers (each carrying 600 cases), four trucks, and one tank truck, all of them loaded with whisky.

Smuggling Is Routine Procedure

The smuggling of whisky, cigarettes, marihuana, and export goods, as well as the numbers game and bingo, are routine activities on both sides of the frontier. In Ponta Pora it has been several years since there was any talk about seizures of large shipments of contraband. The same is true on the Paraguayan

side, where it is easy to send out even LSD and cocaine and to bring in practically anything.

Some importers located in Pedro Juan Caballero manage to acquire an average of 10,000 cases of Scotch whisky monthly, in addition to large quantities of cigarettes, champagnes, French wines and perfumes, weapons of all kinds, electronic goods, and watches. A good share of that merchandise is unloaded at the Brazilian port of Paranagua, and according to informed sources in the Federal Police, it is at the port itself that the goods begin to be diverted as contraband. It is usual for less than half of the imports to reach Paraguay.

Contraband products leave Paraguay in trucks and semitrailers with capacities of up to 35,000 kilograms, generally under shipments of sawnwood or sacks of cereals.

Brazilian coffee is brought in in tank trucks. It is packed in 30-kilogram bags to facilitate its sale and also to make it easier to load and unload it through the small doors strategically located under the rear mudguards.

In addition to that trick, the smugglers also use the tactic of false documents drawn up in the name of fictitious firms--roasters or cereal wholesalers. It is estimated that more than 50,000 bags of contraband coffee enter Paraguay every month.

When prevented from going through Porto XV de Novembro because they have been warned of stepped-up inspections, the trucks with contraband are detoured through Porto Caiua to Navirai and easily reach the states of Sao Paulo or Parana.

The drivers avoid carrying bills of lading from the sawmills in Ponta Pora, preferring those in Dourados, Fatima do Sul, Gloria de Dourados, Itaum, Rio Brilhante, Amambai, Iguatemi, Itaporam, Caraapo, and dozens of other small settlements and towns. It is explained that the purpose of this ploy is to avoid calling the attention of the authorities to the transportation of illegal goods, since shipments from Ponta Pora are closely watched.

At the inspection points, everything is generally all arranged. There are stipulated prices for getting the trucks through: 4,000 cruzeiros for those bound from Ponta Pora with miscellaneous merchandise, 2,000 cruzeiros for export goods (examples being cigarettes and beverages from Brazil), 5,000 cruzeiros for trucks bound for Ponta Pora with up to 220 bags of coffee, and 10,000 for semitrailers loaded with coffee. For passenger cars entering Brazil with watches, silver, marihuana, cocaine, or electronic goods, the price is 30,000 cruzeiros.

There is a heavy traffic in contraband rough timber across the frontier at Pedro Juan Caballero. The hundreds of trucks that cross daily with loads of logs come almost exclusively from the Departments of Amabay and Alto Parana, thus violating Paraguayan legislation prohibiting exports of rough timber.

Biggest Gangs

Brazilians Nelson Rossati, Fuade Jamil, Joaquim da Mota ("Joaquinzinho"), Sebastiao Roncati, and an individual known as Emura are the leaders of the biggest gangs of smugglers in the region. Emura is pointed to as the man responsible for bringing the largest shipments of Brazilian coffee into Paraguay. His business, like Rossati's, requires the use of fleets of semitrailers. Rossati and Joaquinzinho are accused of being the masterminds behind more than 30 murders on a list that includes federal agents, a soldier, a customs guard, a customs inspector (Osir de Matos), and the head of the IBC [Brazilian Coffee Institute] agency in Ponta Pora, as well as several taxi drivers.

The killing of taxi drivers by the gang is a foregone conclusion as soon as the drivers learn the secrets of the organizations. Most of the drivers, both in Ponta Pora and in Pedro Juan Caballero, work for the traffickers or the smugglers. Their smuggling activity is concerned mainly with what is called the "ant traffic," but they also have important work to do when it is necessary to avoid the inspection points and take the product to areas more distant from the frontier.

They quickly lose their value, however, and then they are marked for death. It is usual for taxi drivers to be shot down in broad daylight in the center of one of the frontier towns.

Traffickers Build Roads

A land frontier 700 kilometers long separates the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso from Paraguay alone, and several crossing points facilitate the entry of merchandise. Bolivian territory can also be used for the activities of smugglers and traffickers, who pass through Brazilian towns such as Caceres, Amolar, Corumba, and Porto Esperanca. Farther down, there are Ladario, Porto Murtinho, Bela Vista, Antonio Joao, Ponta Pora, Sanga Puita, Vila Rica, Amambai, Colonia Dutra, and Maracaju, all of them located from 10 to 15 kilometers from the Paraguayan side.

It is estimated that most of the marihuana enters by way of Bela Vista and Ponta Pora across a section of frontier stretching some 140 kilometers. Crossing the frontier is simple, and depending on the quantity, the marihuana can be brought across in sacks, either on foot or in vehicles.

The so-called "ant traffic" (bringing the product in or taking it out in small quantities so as not to attract attention) has become customary. Well away from the main highway, the roads leading into Brazil are generally in the forest.

From Pedro Juan Caballero-Ponta Pora, inspection at the Brazilian Army's four checkpoints can be avoided by using highways or roads connecting nearby settlements. All of them were built by the big smugglers and traffickers and

are of better quality than the public highway linking Ponta Pora to Dourados. That highway is 110 kilometers in length and entirely of dirt. The clandestine highways are always passable, even in rainy weather, and it is boasted that vehicles can travel at up to 120 kilometers per hour in the dry season.

From Caracol (90 kilometers east of Bela Vista) to Morumbi by way of Ponta Pora to Antonio Joao and Paranhos to Santa Isabel (the northernmost point in Mato Grosso) is where the best entrances are found. The highway from Bela Vista to Paranhos, close to the boundary line, is a sort of belt road. No matter where one enters in the 430-kilometer-long strip, one has access to the townships of Dourados, Amambai, Caarapo, and then Navirai, through which one enters Sao Paulo.

The townships of Dourados, Amambai, Navirai, and Iguatemi are alternatives for reaching Campo Grande.

In addition to the automobile, one can leave Ponta Pora by train or bus. The Northwest Railway of Brazil takes one to Campo Grande and then to Sao Paulo. That route is seldom used, however.

Disregarding the train, marihuana or small shipments of contraband goods can be transported on the buses that serve the Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro routes. The inexperienced novice runs practically no risk, since all he has to do is accompany the baggage. If there is a police raid, one can always pretend ignorance as to who owns the baggage. In the case of marihuana, this operation is called "nobody's marihuana," and it is considered the safest transportation method, involving no danger at all.

Corruption Creates Legend

Airton Cardoso de Melo--murderer, drug trafficker, and head of a gang of car thieves--is currently one of the most talked-about people in the area. At just over 30 years of age, he is accused of being responsible for several deaths, of having stolen 277 vehicles, and of trafficking in drugs (especially marihuana) in large quantities for the markets in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Airton was being held in the Dourados jail and then was killed a few weeks ago as he was being transferred to the court in Navirai for trial.

Escorted by three police officers from Dourados, he was traveling in a Mato Grosso police car when a white Volkswagen crashed into it at the Dourados-Navirai-Caarapo junction. The three occupants of the car, all wearing masks, began firing their weapons at the police vehicle. There was a gunfight, and when it was over, only Airton was dead, manacled in the back of the car.

Airton Cardoso de Melo began to be famous and respected among bandits and police officers alike at the end of 1970, when he was arrested in Navirai with a Volkswagen in which he was carrying seven trunks full of marihuana. After booking him, Ezequias Freire--who was the town's police chief at the time--was bribed with 20,000 cruzeiros to get him acquitted in court. And

2 years later, in fact, Ezequias Freire presented the court with another version: the car carrying the marihuana belonged to Airton, but the driver, who owned the marihuana, had not been identified.

The gang headed by Airton operated exclusively in Dourados and nearby towns, stealing an average of five cars a day. On a single night in the parking lot at the Agriculture and Livestock Exhibit, he managed to steal eight vehicles, including four Volkswagen Brasiliias.

He was arrested last year while awaiting a shipment of 500 kilograms of marihuana from Pedro Juan Caballero which he was to send on to Rio de Janeiro. Once again Police Chief Ezequias Freire, by then stationed in Dourados, accepted a bribe. To facilitate Airton's escape 20 days later, he received 200,000 cruzeiros. This was stated by Airton himself in a letter written to the regional police chief of Dourados and the commanding officer of the 11th Frontier Cavalry Regiment on 30 September of last year. With no violence whatever, Airton passed through five doors and escaped from the Dourados jail in the early morning hours of 3 August. He was accompanied by four other prisoners: Raimundo Rodrigues de Freitas, known as Pedrinho, a former Mato Grosso military policeman; Jose Cicero do Nascimento, known as Nene, who in November was killed by the Dourados police in another escape attempt; Alvaro Azevedo Marques, a thief said to be involved in the disappearance of singer Leny Eversong's husband; and Miguel Alves Batista, known as Miguelao.

Nene fled with Airton to Rio de Janeiro and then returned to Dourados after robbing his companion of 120,000 cruzeiros, some jewels, and 4 kilograms of marihuana. Airton returned to Dourados to kill him, but Nene had already been arrested and soon after was killed by the police.

Airton was last arrested on 9 November. He was stopped by the army on the Rio Brilhante-Maracaju Highway while driving a Belina stolen in Campo Grande. It was election time, and the army was disarming the inhabitants in the interior. The bandit had already been released by the military when he was caught "hot-wiring" the stolen car.

The thieves operating on the frontier prefer C-10 pickups and Volkswagen Brasiliias and 1500's. The Brasiliias bring the best price--up to 10,000 or 12,000 cruzeiros (just over 90,000 guaranies at most)--while the pickups are sold for as much as 8,000 cruzeiros, and the Volkswagen 1500's go for 5,000 or 6,000, or they may be traded for up to 15 kilograms of marihuana. The marihuana is sold in Pedro Juan Caballero for as much as 100 cruzeiros per kilogram, but it will bring 5,000 cruzeiros per kilogram on the markets in Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro.

Preferred Routes

The preferred routes for taking stolen cars into Paraguayan territory vary. From Argentina, for example, they enter through Posadas and Encarnacion, continue through Caazapa and Villarrica, bypass the city of Coronel Oviedo, and arrive in Asuncion. From this part of Brazil, one of the favored routes

goes from Dourados through Amambai to Capitan Bado. Despite the extremely poor road conditions, it is worth it due to the lack of police patrols.

It is difficult to get a vehicle returned after it has been stolen in Brazil. For that to happen, agreements must be made between the authorities in the two countries, and without exception, a restitution fee must be paid.

Recently a C-10 pickup belonging to the Bordon Packinghouse was ransomed in Capitan Bado. It had been stolen in Dourados. Getting it back involved the police of Dourados and Capitan Bado as well as intervention by the Brazilian Army.

The C-10 had been stolen from in front of the residence of the packinghouse manager by Ailton Jose da Silva, Jose Fernandes da Silva ("Ze Pintor"), and Jose Cicero do Nascimento ("Nene"). Through contact with a Brazilian intermediary, the thieves got in touch with Prof Fernando Benitez, a fence in Capitan Bado, who decided to buy the truck for his brother Sebastian Benitez, a commander in the Paraguayan Navy. The pickup was sold for 6,000 cruzeiros, and the thieves returned to Dourados, where they were eventually arrested.

The negotiations for the Paraguayan side were directed by Police Commissioner Tomas Baez Lopez of Capitan Bado, and the price demanded was 12,000 cruzeiros, including the price paid (6,000) and other fees--motor oil changes and trips to Asuncion to get the vehicle. The C-10 was returned minus two spare tires and without the tape deck, the fire extinguisher, or the hydraulic jack.

After the 12,000 cruzeiros were paid, the vehicle's owners received the following receipt signed by Benitez: "I certify that the expenses incurred in connection with the transfer of the Chevrolet vehicle, of Brazilian origin, amount to a total of 150,000 guaranies."

Brazilians arrested in Paraguayan towns near the border are forced to pay a fee of between 2,000 and 15,000 cruzeiros to be released. Anyone who does not have the means to pay must work off the equivalent value in labor by joining the permanent slave labor force on the ranches or in the stone quarries.

The most recent allegation concerning slave labor was made by the Navirai police chief, Jaime Rafael da Silva, who last week succeeded in breaking up a gang of eight car thieves. Two of the thieves--Brazilians Zenil Pascoarini, 18, and Valdenir de Goes, 19--were found in Porto Guaira, where they had been sentenced to forced labor. For 27 days, from sunrise to sunset, they worked in a stone quarry.

Zenil and his companion were unable to say how much longer their sentences had to run or whether other Brazilians were being held there. They said only that they were guarded constantly and that Commissioner Ueri beat them every day. Their only food consisted of beef fat, rice, and water, provided once a day.

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CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED--Campo Grande, Mato Grosso--Members of the Federal Police Department discovered 1,850 grams of cocaine in Corumba on Wednesday. The cocaine had been purchased for \$7,000 in Bolivia. [Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Apr 77 p 7 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED--Two kg of pure cocaine were seized yesterday at Galeao airport by the Drug Repression Commissionership [DRE] and Federal Police agents. According to the DRE delegate, the seized cocaine was estimated to cost 1.5 million cruzeiros. It was taken from the baggage of a foreigner who arrived in a flight from abroad. The origin and sex of the trafficker was kept secret. [Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Apr 77 p 15 PY]

CSO: 5300

CHILE

BRIEFS

COCAINE LAB IN CONCEPCION--Personnel of the 5th Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade of Santiago have discovered a secret laboratory in Concepcion where cocaine was processed and have arrested three persons who were involved in the activity. Those arrested are: (Gerardo Fuentes Castro), mining industrialist, without any police record; (Victor Sanchez Fuicas), manufacturer, with an extensive police record; and (Hector Mario Ogaldo Gutierrez), Microbus owner in the southern region. It was learned that the drug was purchased in Bolivia by one of the arrested persons who then processed it secretly near Concepcion, where the laboratory was discovered. /Text/
/Santiago Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Apr 77 PY/

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE SEIZURE AT MEDELLIN, AMERICANS ARRESTED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Mar 77 p 2

[Article by Carlos A. Mejia Saldarriaga]

[Text] Medellin, 29 Mar. Customs personnel assigned to the Judicial Police here dealt a severe blow to narcotics traffickers with the arrest yesterday (Monday) at Olaya Herrera Airport of three drug traffickers who were attempting to transport a shipment of several kilos of cocaine to Curacao on an A.L.M. flight.

According to preliminary investigations, two Americans, identified only as David and Christopher, and a pretty woman named Christina were carrying the drugs in false-bottomed suitcases and hand luggage. The drugs were discovered when the young woman's suitcase and a piece of hand luggage belonging to one of the men were opened and their contents found, upon laboratory examination, to be a high grade of cocaine.

Preliminary reports placed the approximate value of the seizure at around 30 million pesos, although it is thought that because of the purity of the cocaine it could be much higher. The passports of those arrested indicated this was their first entry into the country, but upon further investigation, it appeared they had entered Colombia before by way of Ecuador and that they are members of a large narcotics ring which has established the illegal drug trade on this route.

The arrest took place at 0930 hours on board an A.L.M. plane bound for Curacao.

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CSO: 5300

'PERSONAL USE' MARIHUANA NO LONGER ALLOWED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 23 Mar 77 pp 1-A, 5-A

[Article by Carlos Salgar]

[Text] The Council of State yesterday annulled the "personal use" marihuana statute, which had been in effect since 12 April 1976.

The decision was handed down by the first division of the High Court of Administrative Disputes, under Judge Alfonso Arango Henao.

The decision of the Council of State declared null and void Article 4 of statutory Decree 701 of 12 April 1976 and changed Article 2 of the same law. At the same time, it was recommended that the government present to the legislative branch a program in which the maximum limits for the use of narcotics in the country are stipulated, since the executive branch is not in a position to determine such limits at this time, nor was it empowered to do so when the decree was promulgated.

The ruling, whose provisional suspension had been denied by Judge Arango Henao at the time it was pronounced, established a "personal use" limit of marihuana for persons addicted to the drug who did not have a history of delinquency, in a maximum quantity of 28 grams for unprocessed marihuana and 10 grams for hashish.

Personal Use

The national government, through its minister of justice, Samuel Hoyos Arango, promulgated statutory Decree No 701 of 1976 as an adjunct to extraordinary Decree 1188 of 26 June 1974, in which the government has established the narcotics standards which are presently in effect throughout the country.

According to the opposition attorneys, Abel Berdejo Viana and Antonio Spirko Cortes, that statutory decree was completely in disagreement with No 1188, in that the executive branch was overstepping its functions in creating standards outside of its sphere of competency.

The statutory decree specified those cases in which holders of marihuana were not subject to punishment, limiting them to those persons under medical treatment.

The first article was not annulled, since the Council of State judged that there were specified therein two areas of competency--one for the competent authority which has seized the heroin, and the other for the doctor-jurists of legal medicine--"which aides the dispensing of justice in the country."

The second article was reworded, inasmuch as it referred to "personal use," in addition to "therapeutic use," confusing the two. The Council approved the deletion from the text of the word "personal," in order to vary the scope of the ruling in medical treatment.

The ruling which caused most discussion was Article 4, on the "personal use" of marihuana. The chief attorney for the Council argued in his opinion that "the amount should have been imposed in extraordinary Decree No 1188, in which there were powers to do so, but not in the statutory decree of this law."

The court indicated that the clinical history of the possessor of marihuana must always be taken into account in reducing the punishment and not, as Article 4 of Decree 701 states, "...when it is impossible to determine the scientific dose...a personal dose may be used..." which was calculated at 28 grams for unprocessed marihuana and 10 grams for hashish.

The first section concluded by stating that for this reason, and because it violated Decree 1188 of 1974, Article 4 of statutory Decree 701 of 1976 was being annulled.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

CHILDREN HURT IN TRAFFICKERS' VENDETTA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 28 Mar 77 p 10-A

[Text] The narcotics mafia claimed two more victims yesterday when two brothers Conrado and Alvaro Espinosa Salazar, were fired upon from a small yellow automobile.

The incident happened at the intersection of 85th Street and Highway 15, when three persons fired the shots and then fled. The wounded were taken to the Country Clinic, where it was said their wounds were serious. Conrado Espinosa Salazar was wounded in the auxillary region and received cuts, caused by flying glass splinters, in the left side of his chin and neck.

Alvaro, 19, was cut on the left arm, also by glass splinters. The two youths are sons of Conrado Espinosa, who was shot on March 17 and is still hospitalized and in delicate condition. On that occasion Espinosa's wife, Marleni Grajales de Espinosa, was killed.

According to authorities, the shooting was a result of the vendetta between drug traffickers.

It is believed that the perpetrators of this new assassination attempt are the same ones who also were responsible for the death of the stepmother of Bercey Espinosa de Gil and who carried out the double assassination in the "Twelve Caesars" discotheque, where Julio Cesar Vargas Torres and Alvaro Garcia Carvajal were killed.

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CSO: 5300

TRAFFICKERS' VENDETTA IN CUNDINAMARCA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 19 Mar 77 p 13-A

[Text] Veronica Rivera de Vargas, owner of the "Casavieja" ranch in Cogua, Cundinamarca, where a huge cocaine processing laboratory was discovered on 15 January of this year, and whose husband, Julio Cesar Vargas Torres, was killed a few weeks ago along with other narcotics traffickers in the "Twelve Caesars" discotheque, was one of the persons being sought yesterday by the secret service as a suspect in the criminal events in which Marleni Grajales de Espinosa was killed and her husband, Juan Conrado Espinosa, and private bodyguard Daniel Leal Ruiz were wounded.

Fatal Shot

As this paper reported yesterday, the incident took place in front of the residence at 21-A-28 98th Street, where the Espinosa Grajales couple were waiting in their Dodge automobile, license plates LW-5585, for one of their younger sons to come out of the house, to take him to an odontologist with whom he had an appointment. At that moment, an unknown assailant, who appeared to be accompanied by two other persons, fired a shot through the window, killing Mrs Espinosa instantly and wounding her husband in one cheekbone and the private bodyguard in the stomach.

According to all indications, the weapon used by the assassin was a Magnum revolver loaded with "dum-dum" bullets, since it is certain that the projectile exploded, causing the fatal wounds to Mrs Espinosa's head, then striking her husband. One of the bullet fragments was imbedded in the abdomen of the bodyguard, Daniel Leal Ruiz, of the firm "Atempi, Ltda.," who had to be hospitalized at San Pedro Claver Clinic.

According to information received yesterday, the assailants disappeared from the scene in a Buick automobile, which apparently had been hanging around the place for several hours during the morning. It is not known whether anyone noted the license plate numbers.

Out of Danger

Juan Conrado Espinosa was transferred to the Country Clinic, where it was announced yesterday that he is out of danger and that his wound was not

serious, in spite of its location. Espinosa remains seculd in one of the rooms of the Clinic under police guard while interrogated and his involvement with the double assassination at the "Twelve Caesars" and other crimes is clarified.

Hired Special Guard

Espinosa feared he would be the victim of an assassination attempt, and for that reason he had contracted about 10 days ago with the Atempfi firm for the services of a bodyguard, a circumstance which leads authorities to believe he also knew the identities of those interested in attacking him.

Bercey Espinosa Kidnapped

As is known, Espinosa is the father of Bercey Espinosa de Gil, who was kidnapped several months ago in Bogota. Authorities attributed the kidnapping to vengeance on the part of the narcotics traffickers ring to which they are sure he belonged, and from whose members he had stolen, in Panama, a shipment of cocaine valued at 2 million pesos. In any case, Espinosa had to pay several million pesos for the return of his daughter, who on returning home made some fantastic statements to the press, among them that those who kidnapped her numbered nearly a hundred.

Series of Vengeful Acts

The secret service insists that the succession of violent deeds that have occurred since then are part of a vendetta between narcotics traffickers. First was the discovery of a large cocaine processing laboratory on a ranch at Cogua, Cundinamarca, and the arrest of its owner, Veronica Rivers de Vargas and various members of her organization. Then came the assassination in the "Twelve Caesars" discotheque of her husband, Julio Cesar Vargas Torres, and Alvaro Garcia Carvajal. It is believed that Mario Gil Ramirez, husband of Bercey Espinosa de Gil, and Miguel Alberto Lopez, who was recently arrested by F-2, are responsible for those deaths.

Finally came Thursday's attack on Juan Conrado Espinosa and his wife, who died instantly while Espinosa and the bodyguard he had hired to protect him from such an attack were wounded.

8735

CSO: 5300

FARMERS DESTROY COFFEE, PLANT MARIHUANA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Mar 77 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Jose Cervantes Angulo]

[Text] San Pedro (Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta). 28 Mar. Coffee growers in this region in the foothills of the Sierra have burned their coffee harvest and have switched to the cultivation of marihuana.

This was the statement of Luis A. Rengifo, one of the 400 coffee growers who have already begun to burn the grain and to sell their parcels of land.

In the areas of San Pedro and San Sebastian, more than 3,000 meters above sea-level, where the cold and strong, icy winds cause one's entire body to shiver, there are 10 ranches up for auction.

Juan Jose Balaquera, another of the coffee growers, says that if the government does not come up with an immediate solution to try to better the situation of the small coffee growers, "we will burn the coffee and sow marihuana, which will bring us more money."

The coffee growers of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta say that to transport the coffee by muleback down to the centers where representatives of the FNC [National Federation of Coffee Growers] buy the cargo at "ridiculous" prices, is not worth the trouble, and they are asking for better incentives and transportation facilities.

Recently the minister of finance, Abdon Espinosa Valderrama, announced that the Federation would buy the coffee on the ranches and parcels themselves, but this has not been done.

Luis Rengifo complained, almost in tears, that the Federation only pays him 7,300 pesos for a shipment of coffee which has an actual value of 25,000 pesos.

He termed the situation critical and was in agreement that, if better incentives are not forthcoming, they will change their crop to marihuana.

According to Rengifo, who was interviewed by EL TIEMPO at an altitude of more than 3,000 meters and in severe cold, the situation of the small coffee growers of the Sierra Nevada is precarious, and if the government does not pay some attention to them, it could cause them to turn to the "damned grass."

"The people are making decisions," he said, "and in this case it is not surprising that the grower turns to the sowing of marihuana."

"Look," he said, "think about a desperate coffee grower, without resources, who sees that his neighbors who grow marihuana have more economic resources and live better. What do you think that farmer will do in a moment of crisis, and with traffickers marauding throughout the region?"

Such is the pathetic drama lived by the coffee growers in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

According to Rengifo "it is no secret that those who are raising marihuana acquire money very quickly. The marihuana growers of Magdalena, El Cesar and La Guajira are rich; they get money without much effort and sometimes with due protection and financing of their fields."

The interviewee was of the opinion that "if they are given due attention and the opportunity for a better life, to develop the cultivation of coffee, the farmers perhaps will give up the cultivation of vice."

Marihuana vs. Coffee

Heriberto Rodriguez, another of the coffee growers of this inhospitable but rich region 3,000 meters above sea-level, says that if the grower receives the proper attention, and if he is paid a just remuneration for his work, he would never be diverted to the cultivation of marihuana, which is a crime.

"You cannot play with the stomach of the Sierra coffee grower," says Rodriguez. "The moment he feels hungry and his income is not sufficient to live on, necessity forces him to think about earning more money, and the easiest way is in the cultivation of marihuana."

Rengifo added that "this has been the gossip, and there are better possibilities in sowing marihuana than coffee. There are fewer problems, more profits, and besides, we will have protection."

The coffee growers did not wish to reveal what kind of protection is enjoyed by the marihuana growers, who are well respected in the area.

Ask Government Support

The coffee growers, through their spokesmen, are asking the government's help. They are demanding that their problems be taken seriously.

Juan Jose Balaquera, confirming that coffee-burning had begun and announcing that there are more than 10 ranches up for auction -- because, he says, there are people who do not want to sow [marihuana] in order not to have trouble with the police -- cited impressive figures.

For example, from 25 meters of marihuana, 200 pounds is produced every 6 months.

"Concha de Coco" marihuana is the "finest" and most valuable. Each bush yields a single harvest.

Marihuana matures in 6 months, while coffee requires 3 years for maturity.

According to Balaquera, the cultivation of marihuana requires neither risks nor bonds, while coffee requires costly chemical elements in order to avoid rust.

In the Sierra Nevada, marihuana brings 300 pesos per pound and 30,000 pesos per quintal [100 kilograms]; however, in Barranquilla and other distribution centers, 1 pound is worth 1,500 and 1 quintal, 150,000 pesos.

On the other hand, 125 kilos of coffee, which constitute a "load," brings 7,300 pesos in the Sierra, with thousands of difficulties involved in transporting it to the centers where the Federation of Coffee Growers is located, but its real value is 25,000 pesos.

In the face of this discrepancy, what can we do? Ask the coffee growers.

8735
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED--Santa Marta, 1 Apr--A large amount of marihuana stored ready for export was seized a few hours ago by several units of the Guajira Division of the National Police. The 491 bundles of marihuana were in an area 65 kilometers from Riohacha. The owner of the marihuana and another person were arrested and several weapons were confiscated. This also led to the discovery of other farms where only marihuana is grown. The official reports to EL ESPECTADOR reveal that the marihuana was seized on a farm between Rancheria and Carachito. A well organized ring of drug traffickers had stored more than 24 tons of pressed marihuana there. It would have left the country soon from a port near there. The units of the Guajira District 3 Police indicated that the operation was a total success and there was no struggle. Several weapons including long-range ones were seized. The 491 sacks of marihuana total some 24.5 tons and have a street value of 30 million pesos. It is all now at the Riohacha Police Station according to reports. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Apr 77 p 9-A] 7717

DRUGS HURT EXPORTS--Bogota, 4 Apr (AFP)--It was announced here today that one of the principal Colombian exports, bananas, is in danger of disappearing because of drug traffickers. That dramatic revelation was made by the manager of UNIBAN [Uraba Union of Banana Growers], Rodrigo Jimenez, who asked the national government to adopt urgent measures to prevent this catastrophe. Uraba on the Panamanian border is a region of approximately 17,000 square kilometers northwest of the department of Antioquia; it also is a good area for livestock. On other occasions UNIBAN had already pointed out the danger of drugs--primarily cocaine--being transported on banana freight. Now, according to the manager, the situation has become so critical that the production of the fruit for export and for domestic consumption might be paralyzed due to the growing drug traffic. Jimenez said that UNIBAN has paid high insurance to foreign ships in which cocaine was found. Thousands of crates of bananas

rot because crews refuse to transport them to the United States. According to Jimenez, recent exports only reached 1.82 billion pesos (\$22.7 million) because of the drug traffickers. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 5 Apr 77 p 3-B] 7717

COCAINE, WEAPONS SEIZED--Secret narcotics agents of the F-2 seized 4 kilos of cocaine in Bogota yesterday and arrested five people allegedly involved in drug traffic. According to police sources, the detectives found the cocaine in a residence at 27 Calle 11A South and arrested the following people: Luis Alfonso Tapias Carrillo, Maria Rincon Santander, Jose Ortiz, Maria de los Angeles Nunez Zu- luaga and Luz Amparo Ortiz. In a careful search of the residence the secret agents found a 22-caliber Ruge pistol and five bullets. Those arrested were placed under the jurisdiction of a criminal judge. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Apr 77 p 3] 7717

MARIHUANA SEIZURE AT LA GUAJIRA -- Police, in two separate actions, have confiscated marihuana valued at 20 million pesos. In Matitas, a village situated some 80 kilometers from Riohacha, 90 bales of the grass, weighing approximately 7,000 pounds, were seized. Uniformed units of the police watching the conduit lines of the Riohacha aqueduct which passes through this village and has been destroyed several times by farmers, found the packets of marihuana ready for transportation. Two persons, Manuel Re- dondo Toro and Lorenzo Majia, were arrested and a van impounded. In the neighborhood of Maicao, F-2 discovered 491 bales of marihuana in a thicket, processed and ready for export, weighing about 50,000 pounds. A white Nissan Patrol camper, license plates EK-4530, which had been stolen in Bogota, was also found on the ranch where the marihuana was discovered. Police arrested Rufino Iguaran Epiayu, an Indian, who was found near the scene. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Apr 77 p 2-A] 8735

COCAINE LAB EXPLODES, THREE DIE--Popayan, 25 Mar. Three children died, and four adults sustained grave burns in the explosion of a cocaine processing laboratory in the village of Almaguer in Cauca, according to an announcement tonight by the mayor, Argemiro Munoz Leon. The victims were members of the families who were processing the cocaine. Luz Dary Gomex Hoyos, 2 and 1/2 years of age, Jesus Emiro Gomez Hoyos, 12, and Marco Tulio Correa Ortiz, 14, died instantly. Hospitalized were Aureilo Gomez Meneses, 40, with severe third degree burns, and Tulia Hoyos de Gomes, 40, and Francisco Hoyos Paz, 28. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Mar p 8-A] 8735

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 16

Text Col Arturo Pazmino Fierro, National Director of Criminal Investigation, Drugs and Interpol, announced that agents of that office had arrested Victor Manuel Olalla in the city of Tulcan with 86 grams of cocaine. He also announced that 17 kilos of the drug had been seized in the Province of El Oro.

Later he indicated that intensive efforts are being made to combat the trafficking and use of drugs in the country, as the police want to eradicate this type of crime in order to guarantee peace and order in the country.

On the other hand, he stated that the personnel in his office has been thoroughly trained and has the necessary elements to work efficiently.

Later he said that dogs trained for complex activities are working successfully to detect places where drugs are hidden.

In a Cooperativa Expreso bus serving Tulcan, Victor Olalla was arrested with 86 grams of marihuana which had been obtained in Colombia and which he intended to smuggle into the country to be sold in the city of Latacunga.

In his statements he admitted that on several occasions he had succeeded in selling the drug in that city.

Police dogs specializing in the detection of drugs in the Province of El Oro enabled police to seize 14 kilos of cocaine. Also seized in that city were three kilos of cocaine paste, from Loja, intended for Ipiales and Guayaquil.

Due recognition should be given to the role of the police dogs in detecting drugs, which has permitted the confiscation of a considerable amount of drugs. This is evidence of the concern on the part of the Police Institution for the elimination of this type of crime.



Interpol agents arrested Victor Manuel Olalla, who admitted to having trafficked and consumed drugs.

8926
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

THREE COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED BY INTERPOL

Clandestine Laboratory in Ipiiales

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 24

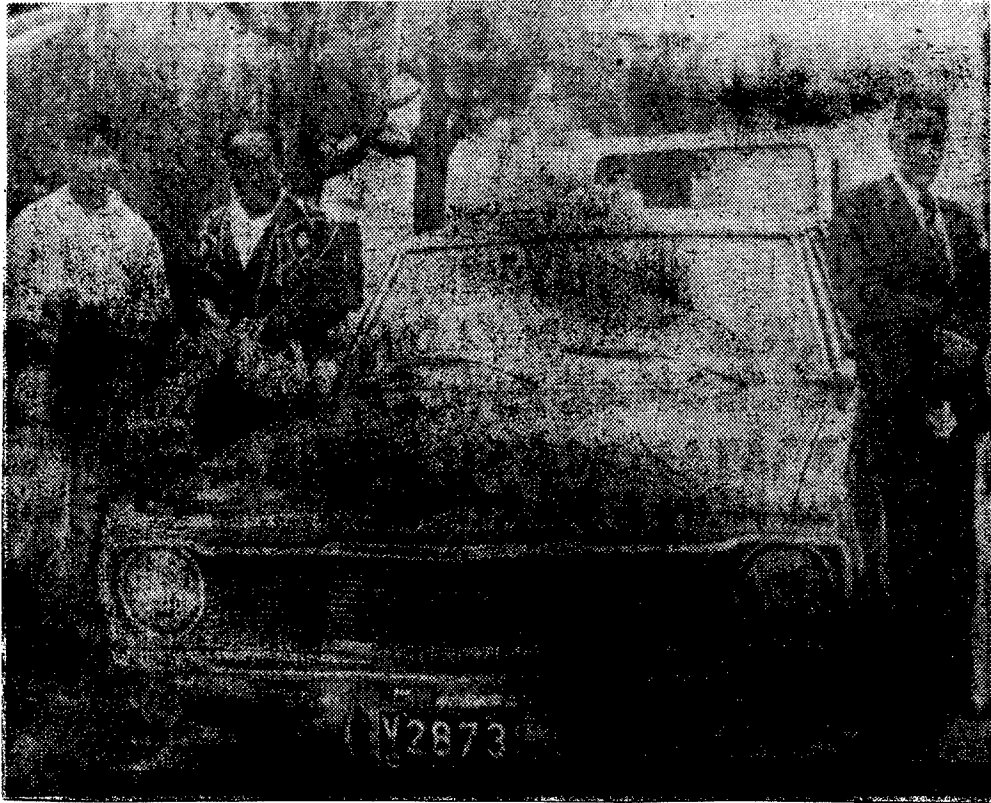
[Text] Interpol agents in Pichincha arrested three cocaine paste smugglers as the three tried to get the drug to Ipiiales to be refined in a clandestine laboratory in that city. Arrested were Segundo Gonzaga Granda, Ocamidoro Gonzaga Diaz and Epaminondas Ramirez Acosta.

The traffickers were arrested with the drug hidden in their underclothes, and one of them, Ramirez Acosta, a taxi driver from the country to the north, was using his taxi for these illegal activities. Dr Homero Lopez, chief of the national office of Interpol, said that very strong control is being exerted along the border and throughout the country in order to curb the use and trafficking of drugs. This will keep peace and order, and will prevent youths from being influenced by these criminals and joining them in their activities.

Once the legal investigations are finished, the arrested men will be put under the orders of the competent judges so that the indictment can be carried out.

Cocaine Paste Smugglers Arrested

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 77 p 20



8926
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

LUGGAGE SEARCH--In the Guayaquil Airport the National Civil Police are searching the luggage of travelers coming from other countries. The measure is being applied without exception, in spite of not having been announced previously, and is causing some alarm among the people who arrive from abroad. They can not imagine why their luggage is being searched more than it usually is by the Customs officials, and why they are being delayed. When our source asked one of the police officers assigned to this operation, he replied that the measure came from the Ministry of the Interior in Quito, and was the result of the discovery a few days ago of an arms shipment which was to be smuggled into Ecuador through an international airport. This fact was reported by the international news services, and printed exclusively in EL UNIVERSO. The search is not restricted just to travelers coming from other countries, but is also imposed on domestic flights. This control, which is being carried out by Interpol personnel, is apparently the result of drug traffic, and even trained police dogs are being used. These dogs are trained to smell out any drug shipment being smuggled into the country by air. The two operations are being carried out by uniformed policemen and plainclothes agents. They are authorized, according to informed sources, to operate in the Guayaquil Airport, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ecuadorean Air Force. [Text] [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 26 Mar 77 p 1] 8926

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS--Guayaquil, 25 Mar--Two Ecuadoreans and a Colombian were arrested by the police with a million-dollar shipment of cocaine paste which they were trying to smuggle into Quito in order to send it to the United States. Ecuadoreans Nestor Pastor Cuenca and Edgar Enrique Sanchez Romero, a recidivist who has just completed a jail term for drug trafficking, were arrested at the summit of "Pancho Negro" along with Colombian Jesus Guillermo Fajardo, with a camouflaged shipment of 14 kilos of paste in a car. The arrest was the culmination of meticulous investigations on the part of Interpol, which followed the movements of the recidivist Sanchez and found that as soon as he left jail he went to see Colombians Jairo Rios and Humberto Valencia. They had tried to contact him in order to obtain the drug. The transaction was carried out with Nestor Gueva by means of the payment of 720,000 sucres, but the operation was thwarted by the arrest. The police are undertaking investigations to find the other members of the band of smugglers. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Mar 77 p 22] 8926

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN SHIP SEIZED--Kingston, Jamaica, 1 Apr (AP)--Authorities today reported the capture of a ship about 23 meters long that carried 70 tons of marihuana apparently from Colombia. Four members of the Portuguese ship's crew including two North Americans are under arrest and face charges of drug smuggling. The Jamaican Coast Guard and narcotics agents made the arrests Tuesday night after the ship, Cariba, had been intercepted south of Jamaica. The authorities identified the members of the crew as 35-year-old Captain Roger Russell and 22-year-old Joanna Cornford, both from Gladstone Way, Queensbury, Wales, and North Americans Allan Basner from Vancouver and Seattle and Randy Arnold from Florida. According to the report of the Jamaican officials, the crew said that they left Colombia 6 days ago for Florida. After navigating north for a short time, they lost their way. On Tuesday night a coast guard patrol that made emergency rounds sighted the ship. According to authorities, the ship was suspicious looking because it followed an erratic path. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Apr 77 p 3] 7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

CORRUPTION OF POLICE OFFICERS REPORTED

Release of Pusher

Piedras Negras LA VOZ DEL NORTE in Spanish 19 Mar 77 p 4

[Text] Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, 18 Mar,--(from the Correspondent)--Between 23 January, when Macario Ramirez Guarneros, the Municipal Police commander, took office and 17 March--1 month and 22 days--60 persons were arrested and held in the Municipal Jail to be investigated for different crimes but only 14 of them who are confirmed robbers were turned over to the Investigation Agency. The others were mysteriously set free by order of the commander.

Appearances are that the commander is doing a fine job. Unfortunately, we know that the persons detained for investigation and then released, previously had been tried or have records of being drug addicts.

We present as evidence the case of Roberto Gonzalez, a brazen man from Laredo, Tamaulipas. He sells toxic drug tablets to drug addicts who seek the drug in the red-light district. Repeatedly after being arrested for investigation, he has been set free. We also have confirmed reports that this pusher's wife is his partner. She is a black. She supplies the drug to several prostitutes. We are sure that the municipal authorities do not [sic] know of this couple's activities since pusher Roberto Gonzalez has broadcast that policemen are on his payroll.

Also, we have proof that this pusher, Roberto Gonzalez, is supplied by the manager of Farmacia Munoz in the west on Boulevard Adolfo Lopez Mateos and that this person also provides drugs to other drug addicts. The business appears to have police protection. These men have never been brought to trial for these crimes. Both have been arrested for investigation and then mysteriously released.

There is an urgent need for state or federal authorities to investigate the distribution of drugs in Acuna and to put a stop to the activities of these poisoners since the municipal police seem to be under obligations to the pushers, distributors and smugglers of drugs.

Wetback Smugglers

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 1-A

Ciudad Acuna, Coah., 15 Mar 77 (from the Correspondent)--Wetback smugglers have a free hand in Acuna. There is proof that they have on their payrolls authorities at Police Headquarters. We learned that contractors of our countrymen to go to work in the United States engage them in the main plaza and then take them to their smugglers who wait for the contractors at the banks of the Rio Bravo.

Rogaciano Nava provided us with proof of this. He was arrested on the 11th of this month when he was captured while attempting to take across to the United States six of our countrymen. He was held 2 days in the Municipal Jail and then released after paying a bribe. We do not say the amount of the bribe because the wetback smuggler Rogaciano Nava reported only that he obtained his freedom for a trifle ["Una feria"].

Rogaciano Nava's guilt was proved since he was arrested along with persons who were going to cross over but we have not learned that these cases may be settled by the head of the Government Secretariat and we do not believe that the commander turned this case over to those authorities.

We assume that the investigators were bribed so they did not present sufficient evidence for the case to be presented.

We know of the case in which the chief of investigations captured two wetback smugglers, one of whom was driving a 1970 Ford station wagon without license plates and the other a car in which they were taking several of our countrymen to the United States. When they were crossing the river, they were intercepted by the chief of investigations. Evidently, they came to an agreement and the wetback smugglers were not arrested. However, the chief of investigations has the vehicles.

When the EL DIARIO reporter interviewed Hector Burciaga, the chief of investigations on why the wetback smugglers were not arrested, he said that sufficient evidence of the crime was not found. When asked why he had in his possession the vehicles, he said that he had bought them from friends in the town of Idaho but he was unable to say the price he paid for them or show the purchase documents of the vehicles.

Thus, we are sure that the wetback smugglers have a free hand and will never be checked since they have on their payroll the chiefs of police. This makes it urgent that Francisco Gonzalez Quintanilla, the chief of population, get to work.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TRANSFER OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] At noon yesterday, Salvador del Toro Rosales bid farewell to the Nuevo Laredo press corps.

By order of Oscar Flores, the attorney general, the "Iron Public Prosecutor" was transferred to Mexico City.

Salvador del Toro Rosales is attending a Conference on Narcotics to which he was invited which opened yesterday in the neighboring city. Availing himself of his visit to this frontier, he called a conference of the reporters who cover the Federal Prosecutor's Offices to announce his superiors' decision and at the same time to thank the press corps for the treatment they gave him during his assignment as coordinator and supervisor of the Public Prosecutor's Office for the Northeastern Zone of Mexico.

Salvador del Toro Rosales presented a calm bearing as well as his characteristic sincerity. He made many friends among the newspapermen. He will be fondly remembered because he always found a place for the reporters.

Del Toro Rosales informed the newspapermen present that he recently received a telegram from the chief officer of the Attorney General's Office ordering him to report to Mexico City to receive a new assignment.

This ended the assignment in Northern Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila of the "Iron Public Prosecutor".

In reply to questions by the representatives of the press, the former coordinator of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the Northeastern Zone said that up to now he does not know what assignment he will receive. He said he will make his decision based on what he will be told in Mexico City.

Del Toro Rosales said that he has 30 years of government service, 18 of them in the Attorney General's Office where he held several positions in which he served uninterruptedly.

MEXICO

CORRUPT OFFICIALS FIRED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 8-B

[Text] Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tam.--Commander Napoleon Garza Soto is the acting chief of the Customs Guard. He will stay here until a regular chief of the Customs Guard of the local frontier customs is appointed in the near future.

Roberto Morales Garza, the local customs administrator, officially reported last Tuesday that the corrupt customs officer Javier Diaz Escobar Figueroa had been removed from his post when his turbid maneuvers were proved. He had allowed to pass smuggled goods, described as a large quantity, for his personal gain of several thousand pesos.

From the beginning, Diaz Escobar Figueroa appeared to be corrupt since he was seen daily in company marked as large scale smugglers. When he allowed smuggled goods to go through, he lost his position as chief of the Customs Guard.

Commanders Lamarque and Bustamante, who were thought to be in collusion with Commander Diaz Escobar for the smuggling were also fired. The local customs administrator reported that they are being held in the capital.

An unofficial customs source reported that a member of the Customs Guard named Ramirez Stingel would very probably be appointed chief of the local Customs Guard. We were unable to obtain official confirmation of this report.

Morales Garza stressed that evidently next month a new chief of the Customs Guard will take office. The new chief is expected to equal or excel the work by Commander Victor Manuel Garcia Rodriguez who made the frontier smugglers tremble.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

OFFICIAL DENOUNCED IN CIUDAD ACUNA

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 77 p 8-A

[Text] Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, 11 Mar (by the Correspondent)--Blanca Salazar de Villarreal, president of IMPIF* in Acuna, said that many of the members and representatives of IMPIF are decent people. However, we and the public know that, within its administration, IMPIF has as coordinator Guadalupe de Villarreal, alias "La Ruth", the wife of Homero Villarreal Salinas, the brother of the present incompetent municipal president, Jose Telesforo Villarreal Salinas.

We know that Guadalupe de Villarreal, alias "La Ruth", and her notorious husband Homero Villarreal Salinas was convicted of smuggling drugs. Homero was arrested in 1952 at Eagle Pass where he served a 3-year prison sentence. In 1959, his wife Guadalupe de Villarreal, alias "La Ruth", was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, where she served a 5-year prison sentence.

Most people in Acuna know that before she was imprisoned for drug trafficking, Guadalupe de Villarreal, alias "La Ruth", was a prostitute for several years. Rodolfo Arreola, one of the major smugglers in Acuna, was her lover. Guadalupe de Villarreal separated from the latter and went to live with the brother of Jose Telesforo Villarreal Salinas, the municipal president.

It is unthinkable that the IMPIF should have as a coordinator a woman who claims to be a distinguished lady but who was a prostitute and a drug trafficker. However, this is now the case with the sister-in-law of the municipal president who appointed her to this position which she does not deserve. It is a shame and a disgrace that Guadalupe de Villarreal attempts to conceal her past and goes arm in arm with Isabelita Davila de Flores Tapia, the first lady of Coahuila under the cover up provided by Blanca Salazar de Villarreal, the wife of the municipal president, Telesforo Villarreal Salinas. The latter knows the past of both her brother-in-law Homero Villarreal and his wife Guadalupe de Villarreal, who was a prostitute and a drug trafficker along with her husband Homero Villarreal Salinas.

What a disgrace it is for our governor, Prof Oscar Flores Tapia, that his wife, Isabelita Davila de Flores Tapia, goes arm in arm with a woman with a black past! This is because she was betrayed by the first lady of Acuna, Blanca Salazar de Villarreal and Guadalupe de Villarreal, the IMPIF coordinator.

Also, carefully collected evidence proves that this couple, Guadalupe and her husband Homero Villarreal, continue to distribute drugs at a novelty shop on calle Hidalgo.

* IMPIF [expansion unknown]

SANTA MARTA PENITENTIARY DRUG RING BUSTED

Search by Federal Agents

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 1 Apr 77 p 12-A

[Text] Following up the rumor that a large quantity of drugs were being kept there, Federal Judicial Police agents armed with submachine guns and large-caliber pistols entered the Santa Marta penitentiary for the purpose of searching several dormitories.

The agents bore countersigns consisting of an adhesive tape on the right arm and used several dogs trained for smelling out drugs of any kind. The guards, in the meantime, stepped up their surveillance in the vicinity.

In one of the dormitories the prison authorities found, shortly before 2000 hours, a kilo of marihuana that was being prepared in the form of joints.

It was after this that the request was made for the assistance of judicial agents, who arrived in 10 patrol cars soon after 2300 hours.

Clean-up Operation

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 2 Apr 77 p 10-A

[Article by German Ramos Navas]

[Text] The ringleaders of the traffic in narcotics inside the Santa Marta penitentiary were identified during the "clean-up operation" there in which more than 50 judicial agents armed with submachine guns searched its four dormitories and over 1,400 convicts, finding in the process a great quantity of mind-affecting substances.

The Federal Judicial Police are now carrying out investigations throughout the metropolitan area in order to identify the contacts on the outside who introduced drugs into the penitentiary.

The director of the Santa Marta prison, Juan Alberto Antolin Lozana, announced that these operations will be carried out on a continuing basis in

order to put an end to the traffic in drugs and that surveillance will be strengthened for the purpose of preventing anything from being brought into the prison.

The discovery was made in the dormitories of a kilogram of marihuana, drugs in powder form, and more than 15 sharpened pieces of steel, used as weapons by some of the prisoners. All those implicated in dealing in narcotics -- approximately five convicts -- will be brought to trial.

The operation began on Thursday at 2300 hours when 50 judicial agents, with submachine guns, large-caliber weapons, two dogs trained to smell out drugs, and accompanied by penitentiary guards carrying M-1 rifles, began their search through all the dormitories. It ended at 0600 hours yesterday with the identification of the narcotics dealers and discovery of drugs.

Antonin Lozano emphasized that "clean-up operations" will be made a continuing effort, carried out with operational tactics surrounded by all possible security that will make it impossible, through their constant nature, for the penitentiary population to be subject to continued poisoning.

The "clean-up" will rid the prison of the focal points of infection, the forming of gangs, thefts among convicts, and the habit of taking drugs, he added.

He said that it is usual, however, for the conditions described to exist in any prison, as is true of the constant use of toxic inhalants, in regard to which the technical and administrative subdirector, Roberto Solis Quiroga, was also in agreement.

He admitted that the surveillance system, which reached the point of being almost paternalistic toward relatives of the convicts, gave opportunity for the constant introduction of drugs. "The people who came on visits were not inspected, and they brought their relatives mind-affecting substances, ranging from paint thinner to marihuana cigarettes," he explained.

The mild system of surveillance amounted to little more than reception duties, and many women brought in, hidden in their underclothing, pills, powders, marihuana, and even bottles of paint thinner, Antolin Lozano added.

He said that the use of toxic substances can be checked, since the index figure for persons in the habit of using stimulants is low, down to about 15 percent of the total number of prisoners.

He indicated that decision will be made for a higher degree of discipline in the prison, in which no one enjoys privileges and everyone has the same rights, in order to put a stop to the proliferation of mind-affecting substances. He noted that despite this he would not permit conditions to sink to the level of a rigid or military system in the administration of the prison.

As regards visits, he said he will be stricter concerning inspection, as clean-up operations in the penitentiary would serve no purpose if drugs continued to be brought in.

He emphasized that this prevention work will be carried out in cooperation with the Federal Judicial Police, Investigative Division for Crime Prevention (DIPD), and prison surveillance personnel.

For his part, the technical and administrative subdirector, Roberto Solis Quiroga, pointed out that planning is going on for systems to attack the serious conditions existing inside the prison, such as the formation of gangs of convicts, thefts among them, and, in the first place, the use of drugs, in order to be completely rid of all such irregularities.

11532
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

HEROIN CONSUMPTION AMONG YOUTHS INCREASES

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 26-A

[Text] The growing use of heroin in the triangle formed by the states of Jalisco, Coahuila and Baja California was scored yesterday at the Second National Meeting held by the Juvenile Treatment Centers..

It was affirmed that in Tijuana, as well as in Culiacan, 85 percent of the patients who seek aid at these centers are heroin addicts.

The session, presided over by Dr Guillermo Figueroa, director of mental health for Baja California Norte, was also attended by Enrique Suarez Toriello, of Tijuana; Fernando Perez, of Hermosillo; Renato Guerrero, of Culiacan and Mario Campuzano, assistant technical director of the Juvenile Treatment Center. It was explained that heroin is a very costly product, and drug addicts find it necessary to turn to crime in order to obtain money.

The various forms of detoxification were discussed, as well as the medications available to control withdrawal symptoms.

It was reported that there are more males among the addicts, that the habit starts between 14 and 18 years of age, and that the most frequent manner of its introduction is when someone offers a "free sample."

8735

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TWO JAILED TRAFFICKERS KILL ANOTHER

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 26 Mar 77 p 10-A

[Text] Arturo Salas Caldera, an inmate of North Prison, was killed when he was stabbed in the heart with a piece of sharpened wood last night at the prison. The stabbing took place in the course of an argument and struggle with two foreigners, Daniel Marquet (or Bequet) and Maurice Poncio, in dormitory 5. Witnesses said the three prisoners were arguing heatedly and then became involved in a scuffle, which resulted in the death of Salas Calderas, 22, who was sent to prison on 11 February 1976 for crimes against health and whose case was heard by the second penal district judge.

The two foreigners--Marquet, a Frenchman, and Poncio, from Holland--were immediately placed in custody of the Public Ministry agent at Villa Gustavo A Madero station, for questioning in connection with the homicide.

Both men entered the prison 12 Nov 1975 for crimes against health, and were processed in the first district court.

The authorities of North Prison, on being informed of the murder, asked officials of the [court of] common jurisdiction to enter the case. The result of the investigations will be announced today.

It should be noted that this is the first homicide recorded in the 7 months the two prisons have been in use.

8735

CSO: 3010

MEXICO

NUEVO LAREDO JAIL SCANDAL

Jail Investigation

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Mar 77 p 5-B

[Text] Rodolfo Lopez Herrera, commander of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police], and his men are making a thorough investigation of drug traffic involving several guards in collusion with drug traffickers who are serving prison terms for that crime.

The gang of bribers who manipulate the Loma Jail guards trembled when they learned that guard Santos Tomas Lozano Lopez was arrested last week when he attempted to smuggle into a cell block 1/2 kilo of poisonous loose marihuana.

It Was Distributed in the Jail

With the arrest of the guard, the PJF was able to lift a cloak of mystery and to catch one of the big fish who by his contact with the guard was able to obtain grass for distribution from his "couriers".

Although unable to probe into the case because the investigations are going on, we learned that detainee Lozano Lopez had conspired with the drug trafficker to smuggle in a kilo of marihuana concealed under his clothes.

However, instead of delivering all the drug, the guard divided it into two 1/2 kilos, one of which he gave to a colleague to sell on the outside.

Thus, when the latter was taking it out of the jail, he was searched and in his underclothes the 1/2 kilo of marihuana was found.

This was more than enough reason for the PJF to be notified. This may lead to the arrest of others linked with the case and for the name of the drug trafficker who was carrying on the operation to become known.



In the polyethylene bag, one can see 1/2 kilo of marihuana which a prison guard attempted to pass into the cell of a known drug trafficker as part of a business in which they were engaged. Another 1/2 kilo package to be sold to drug addicts had been given to another man who was arrested. La Loma Jail is again under PJF observation. Very important persons are believed to be linked with the gang.

A Prisoner Requests an Injunction

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] Convict Cesar Vicente Lopez Ortega petitioned the District Court of which Luis Garcia Romero is the judge for an injunction against actions of Alejo Sierra Gomez, the Third District Court judge, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agents and the prosecuting attorneys.

The plaintiff says that for some time he has been detained in the jail because proceedings are going on against him in the Thrid District Court.

However, now he fears that the PJF agents will take him out of the jail to

investigate him.

He alleges that the judge will issue the order for the PJF agents to take him out of the jail to interrogate him about a crime he did not commit.

We were informed at the Second District Court that the petition for the injunction was received and the judge will rule on its validity; that is, whether he will grant it.

The petition for an injunction by the prisoner is related to the PJF investigations of drug traffic in the Municipal Jail commanded by Rodolfo Lopez Herrera.

As has been reported, great agitation was caused in the city by the discovery that drugs and marihuana were smuggled into La Loma prison by one of its guards.

For some time, reports have been made of the boldfaced traffic of drugs, heroin and marihuana involving municipal authorities in the Municipal jail since it is a rich gold vein.

Also, from the Municipal [Jail] potential traffickers may direct drug traffic involving thousands of pesos.

The PJF is probing deeply in the investigations to clearly identify those involved in this drug traffic and to take action against them.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

INJUNCTION GRANTED TO TRAFFICKER

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] Proceedings No 224-976 against drug trafficker Lorenzo Torres Solis, alias "El Pajaro" were blocked yesterday by an injunction against the decree for his imprisonment issued by the Second State District Court judge granted to the defendant. He was accused of crimes against public health under the categories of possession and traffic of heroin.

The defendant's lawyers, Jose Angel Valdez Reyna and Alfredo Garza Guajardo, told EL MANANA that the Fourth Circuit Unitary Court of Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, yesterday ordered the release of "El Pajaro" after granting an injunction against the decree for his imprisonment.

They also said that the court confirmed the freedom of Elodia Alcorta de Torres, "El Pajaro's" wife, who was released on 11 January when evidence against her disappeared.

In the proceedings against "El Pajaro" and his wife, Maria de la Luz Quiroz de Castillo, Virginia Mora Alejos and Jose Luis Castillo Quintero are mentioned. The latter is the subject of other proceedings for drug trafficking in the same court.

We previously reported that the Federal Judicial Police had arrested Virginia Mora Alejos with several ounces of heroin in her possession. She had acquired the drug in Sinaloa presumably at Elodia Alcorta de Torres' instructions. A thorough investigation disclosed that they were also associated in the same business.

Two More Proceedings Against El Pajaro.

Although the injunction against the decree of imprisonment in proceedings No 224-976 against Lorenzo Torres Solis, alias "El Pajaro", was granted, he will remain imprisoned at "La Loma" Jail since he is the subject of proceedings Nos 211-976 and 229-976.

MEXICO

PART-TIME IMPRISONMENT PROGRAM

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Mar 77 p 4-A

[Text] Mario Arturo Rodriguez Arredondo and Hector Alessio Jimenez, who were tried for crimes against public health, were found guilty and sentenced. Since yesterday, they are participating in the part-time imprisonment program for prisoners sentenced for federal crimes.

Yesterday, Victoriano Rodriguez, the warden of the municipal jail, reported this to EL DIARIO. He pointed out that they are the first persons sentenced for federal crimes to participate in part-time imprisonment programs.

It was reported that independently of the above arrangements, Mario Arturo Rodriguez Arredondo would be permitted to leave the jail on weekends while Hector Alessio Jimenez Jimenez would be free all week during the day and imprisoned at night.

Hector Alessio Jimenez Jimenez was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and fined 4,700 pesos. He served 5 years in jail. On the basis of his good conduct, he was included in the program of part-time imprisonment for prisoners sentenced for federal crimes.

The spokesman said that perhaps this year prisoners charged with federal crimes will be granted greater privileges.

During an interview on this matter, Victoriano Rodriguez, warden of the Municipal Detention and Penal Jail, added that here in a program with prisoners sentenced under common law part-time imprisonment is producing positive results. Mario Arturo Rodriguez Arredondo and Hector Alessio Jimenez Jimenez are the first to participate in the part-time imprisonment program recently started here for prisoners sentenced for federal crimes.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

OPIUM, GUM SEIZED IN SONORA

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 1 Apr 77 p 10-A

[Text] Yesterday the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] seized 8 kilos of opium and 6 kilos of opium gum and destroyed a secret laboratory where the drug was processed in Sonora. In Oaxaca they destroyed a 200-hectare marihuana field and in Mexicali, Baja California Norte, they seized 258 kilos of marihuana.

They arrested seven drug traffickers in the above cases. The traffickers were placed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Public Ministry.

At 940 Calle Frontera in Tierra Blanca, Culiacan, a secret laboratory to produce gum and opium was discovered. Erasmo Perez Serrano and his son, Erasmo Perez Salomon, who processed the drug were arrested.

The PJF seized 1.5 kilograms of opium gum at that residence yesterday morning. Continuing the investigation at the Los Alamitos ranch near Culiacan, they found 4 more kilos of opium in an abandoned house.

Later they went to Calle de Brigida Viuda de Juarez in the Ignacio Allende district of Culiacan where they seized 4.5 kilos of opium gum produced at the Tierra Blanca laboratory.

Utensils to process opium might be at the Los Humaya ranch on the Culiacan-Agua Blanca Highway since another laboratory was going to be located there.

In their statements, Erasmo Perez and his son reported that they had more drugs in Saucito in Badiraguato, Sinaloa. The PJF went there and found 4 more kilos of opium.

Also in Camaron, Oaxaca, the PJF in cooperation with the Army found 200 hectares of communal land planted with marihuana.

The drug cultivators and traffickers--Juan Castellanos Confesor, Paul Martinez Garnica and Alfredo Quinteros Leon--were arrested there.

Approximately 5 tons of marihuana were destroyed.

The PJF also arrested drug traffickers Jesus Salazar Santillan and Jose Maria Vazquez in Mexicali. They had 10 kilos of marihuana which they were going to sell.

7717

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DRUGS-ARMS TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

REYNOSA
Reynosa EL MANANA in Spanish 14 Mar 77 p 7-B

[Text] Rio Bravo--The State Judicial Police are looking for Jose Angel and Lorenzo Rodriguez Martinez who recently were arrested by the State Judicial Police, commanded by Oscar Blanco Olivares. They were captured along with Maria Elena Jakes on the bank of the Rio Bravo when they were about to cross into the neighboring country.

When they were arrested, the Rural Police seized from them a package containing marihuana. They were brought to this city and placed at the disposal of the chief of the Federal Treasury Office.

Subsequently, Jose Angel and Lorenzo Rodriguez Martinez were freed but the latter's light brown Buick was confiscated.

The Lower Court judge released Maria Elena Jakes after she testified and expanded on her statement giving the details on how her friends were freed and that the two men had threatened to kill her if she implicated them.

Jesus Linan, the secretary of the penal branch, said that Maria Elena described how Jose Angel and Lorenzo operated. They bought the marihuana, took it to Matamoros where they exchanged it for arms which they then took to a place near Mexico City.

This was enough for the State Judicial Police to make a thorough investigation and to arrest Jose Angel and Lorenzo Rodriguez Martinez to probe the depths of their activities.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

EIGHT ARRAIGNED IN TRAFFICKER'S ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Apr 77 p 32-A

[Text] The security chief at the Oriente Prison, Captain Jorge Luis Romero Estrada, and seven others including one Cuban were arraigned before the first district criminal judge for allegedly helping a Colombian drug trafficker, Carlos Estrada Ortiz, and a Cuban terrorist, Eugenio Gaspar Jimenez Escobedo, escape.

Captain Romero Estrada is charged with escape of prisoners, violation of the first part of Article 83 of the Federal Weapons and Explosives Law, violation of Article 101 and 103 of the General Municipal Law and official responsibility. He is still under the jurisdiction of the district attorney for other crimes.

According to statements by the recaptured drug trafficker in the investigation by agents of the Attorney General's Office, Romero Estrada helped the Cuban and Colombian escape 2 weeks ago.

Manuel Marza, a Cuban, and Raul Balderas, Maria Eugenia Larios Lopez, Gilberto Villegas Villalobos, Nabor Herrera de la O. and Cirilo Herrera de la O., a guard--all Mexicans--have been arraigned for helping the prisoners escape.

They were all placed under the jurisdiction of Judge Raul Diaz Infante who reported that some can be released on bail but he did not give names.

The judge issued an arrest warrant for the assistant security chief at the prison, Jose Bazan Lanza, and a guard, Angel Miguel Reyes. On instructions from Captain Romero, they took the drug trafficker and the Cuban terrorist out of prison.

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CSO: 5300

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN CIUDAD MIER

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 2-A

[Text] The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] led by Commander Rodolfo Lopez Herrera yesterday dealt a crushing blow to drug traffickers. They confiscated 10 tons of marihuana just 7 days after their raid in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, in which they confiscated a similar amount of marihuana. This time, they arrested the main partner of the owner of the drug, Celerino Pena Garza, 53-years old.

This success was accomplished by the joint action of the PJF agents led by Rodolfo Lopez Herrera, the Ciudad Reynosa PJF commander, Jorge Castillo del Rey and the State Judicial Police at this frontier.

Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinoza and Luis Esteban Garcia Villalon led the Federal Prosecutor's Office agents who tirelessly continued into the hours of dawn waiting for the outcome of another blow to the drug traffickers on which other agents were working in the city.

Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinoza reported that today at 0630 hours a large contingency of federal agents went to Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, because they knew that in several ranches in this town several drug operations would be made.

At about 1230 hours, they arrived at "Las Moritas" ranch, about 30 kilometers south of Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, which belongs to Celerino Pena Garza who at the time was not there.

During a thorough search of the ranch, they found in one of the buildings 405 istle sacks containing 10 tons of marihuana.

They immediately set out to find and arrest the owner of the ranch, Celerino Pena. After his arrest, he was interrogated as to his accomplices.

Pena Garza gave the name of the main owner of the drug who is zealously being sought by the PJF.

Today, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent on duty will call a press conference to give more details on this sweeping success of the PJF against organized drug trafficking.



A fully loaded "Torton" truck and three pickup trucks were confiscated by the Federal Judicial Police in a ranch near Ciudad Mier. (Foto Gutierrez)

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MARIHUANA FROM CIUDAD MIER INCINERATED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] Yesterday, 8 tons of marihuana recently confiscated by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] during several raids in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, and at this frontier were burned to ashes. This was their contribution to the constant campaign against drug traffic throughout the nation.

Reliable sources said that these drugs had an American black market value of more than 50 million pesos.

Most of the marihuana destroyed yesterday was confiscated by the PJF commanded by Rodolfo Lopez Herrera when they dealt a devastating blow to organized drug trafficking in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas.

The federal agents went to "Las Moritas" ranch where they found a warehouse full of marihuana weighing a total of 7 tons. It was ready for exporting across the Rio Bravo.

The owner of the ranch and the main owner of the drugs were found to be long-time drug smugglers. Only the former was arrested; the latter had escaped opportunely.

At the Rio Bravo plain the PJF confiscated 1,000 kilos of the marihuana which was destroyed yesterday. It was ready to be exported to the United States. Its owner was Guadalupe Salinas Castro who up to now remains a fugitive from justice.

Military, state and federal officials were present when the marihuana was incinerated.



Two short trucks and two light trucks were required to transport the marihuana from the Palacio Federal to the "Macario Zamora" Military Barracks. The 8 tons of marihuana which were incinerated were placed on a "bed" of auto tires. (Foto Gutierrez)

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUG INCINERATION REPORTED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 17 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] Marihuana and heroin with an American black market value of more than 25 million pesos were burned to ashes after they were incinerated on the grounds of the "Macario Zamora" Military Barracks in the presence of consular, civilian, military and federal authorities.

Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe, Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent, reported the destruction of the 8,895 kilograms of marihuana recently confiscated by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] commanded by Rodolfo Lopez Herrera.

Beside the marihuana, there were destroyed 1,052 grams of heroin, a large amount of psychotropic drugs and 150 kilos of marihuana related to other proceedings at the Third State District Court.

At 1430 hours sharp, Dr Eduardo Takasita Elizondo, director of the Health Center, and Alejo Sierra Gomez, Third District Court judge, placed the torches on the great pile to start the destruction of the evil drugs.

Among those present were: Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinoza, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent; Hector Jara, the Mexican Consul in Laredo, Texas; Hector Canales Escamilla, chief of the Local Traffic Police; Rodolfo Lopez Herrera, PJF commander; and PJF agents, reporters and photographers of the several news media.

The destroyed drugs are the product of the good work of the PJF agents under Rodolfo Lopez Herrera in their permanent campaign against drugs.



About 9 tons of marihuana, a fair amount of heroin and psychotropic drugs were burned to ashes yesterday on the grounds of the "Macario Zamora" Military Barracks. (Foto Gutierrez)

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS, VEHICLES, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN OAXACA

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 26 Mar 77 p 10-A

[Text] A 300-hectare marihuana field was discovered in the village of El Gramal, Oaxaca, when units of the Federal Judicial Police [PJF] carried out a helicopter reconnaissance flight. With the assistance of army units, the field was destroyed, four trucks with 14 tons of the grass were seized, and 27 alleged narcotics dealers were arrested, while several firearms were taken from them.

Shortly before 0800 hours, agents of the Federal Prosecutor General's Office flew over the area in several helicopters and found the field. While army personnel were coordinating the action, the federal agents advised the representative of the Federal Public Ministry in Oaxaca of the discovery.

The alleged narcotics traffickers did not have time to use their weapons, because action by the lawmen was rapid and took them by surprise, resulting in the arrest of the 27 without a shot being fired, and with no resistance on the part of those arrested. When the operation was finished, the prisoners, marihuana, weapons and vehicles were placed in custody of the Public Ministry.

In the village in question, in which there are about 50 houses, most of the inhabitants sow, cultivate and harvest marihuana. Investigations are continuing.

Another Blow to Narcotics Traffic

Yesterday morning, after several days of investigation, federal agents arrested alleged narcotics trafficker Paul Haney with 1,232 kilograms of Colombian marihuana in his possession. The arrest took place in Playa Esperanza, Quintana Roo.

Haney, an American, had the marihuana loaded into two pick-up trucks, an automobile and a tank truck. The packets were wrapped with paper and plastic sacks manufactured in Colombia.

Preliminary statements made by the man, who is accused of crimes against public health, indicate that he has been importing Colombian marihuana for some time.

Units of the PJF have been instructed to find out how the grass was brought into Mexico.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA BUSTS IN OAXACA, CIUDAD JUAREZ

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Mar 77 p 26-A

[Article by Felipe Sanchez Jimenez]

[Text] Oaxaca, Oax., 26 Mar. About 15 tons of marihuana valued at more than 12 million pesos were seized yesterday by Federal Judicial Police [PJF] agents, in coordination with army units, in a surprise action in the districts of San Carlos Yautepec and Totolapam.

Thirty persons were arrested, including both growers and narcotics dealers, and according to reports from the coordinator of the campaign, Ricardo Zamora Apam, they were taken by surprise while they were cutting the marihuana in three fields measuring about 30 hectares.

The PJF agents and army troops arrived at the place in two helicopters and in trucks, destroying the plantings with herbicides. The growers and the traffickers were turned over to the first district judge and charged with crimes against health.

Among those arrested were: Manuel Lorenzo Diaz, Jose Lorenzo Martinez, Pablo Jimenez Garcia, Meliton Bautista Miguel, Porfirio Gonzalez, Adrian Miguel, Marcos Santos, Genaro Gonzalez, Ernesto Garcia, Francisco Lopez, Pedro Garcia, Nicolas Pablo and Rey Rojas Ruiz, along with others.

Another 80 Kilos Seized in Ciudad Juarez

Ciudad Juarez, 26 Mar. State Judicial Police agents today seized 80 kilos of marihuana hidden in a railway car which arrived here from Mexico City at 1915 hours.

Agents Jesus Avila and Mauricio Hernandez, who discovered the drug, noticed two persons who appeared to become nervous at the agents' approach, and who then jumped from the train and tried to make their getaway into the streets.

However, Oscar Maynes Esparza, 23, and Crescencio Avila, 28, were picked up moments later. They were apparently transporting the drug from Uruapan, Michoacan.

According to the report by PJ Capt Leandro Hernandez, there was a couple waiting for the shipment on the station platform, but they fled on seeing the police action.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

SCATTERED MARIHUANA BUSTS ANNOUNCED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish. 25 Mar 77 p 26-A

[Text] Fifteen narcotics traffickers were arrested, 8 vehicles impounded and 4 tons of marihuana recovered, in several raids by the Judicial Police in various parts of the country yesterday, the Prosecutor General's Office announced yesterday.

In Playa Esperanza, 133 kilometers from Cancun, an American, Paul Haney, was arrested in the act of transporting 1,232 kilos of marihuana in a tank truck. When he was arrested, he admitted using two pickups, an automobile and the tank truck to transport drugs.

The drug, according to preliminary investigations and statements made to the Federal Public Ministry [MPF] agent, was brought from Colombia.

In other action, at a village 7 kilometers from Tecate, Baja California, federal agents arrested the passengers in a 1968 Chevrolet van, license plates 521-BM, Saul Villarreal Renteria, Guillermo Zaragoza Bueno and Jovita Noriega Lafarga, who were carrying 529 kilos of marihuana in a false-bottomed compartment of the vehicle, bound for the United States.

Investigations are continuing in that city and more arrests are expected.

In addition, at Ciudad Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Jose Rodriguez Cuadra, Andres Sanchez Castillo and Alvaro Palomo Godinez were arrested with 400 kilos of marihuana in a 1972 Ford van without license plates.

The Public Ministry agent at Reynosa was notified.

At Agua Prieta, Sonora, Francisco Torres Lopez, Julia Serrano Cordova and Ezequiel Martinez Lopez were caught with a ton of marihuana in a 1968 Plymouth automobile, license plates TFN-008, Arizona, which was to be delivered at the U.S. border.

In the same state, at the inspection station at San Luis Rio Colorado, while PJF agents were inspecting bus 246 of the Tres Estrellas line, bound from Mexico City to Tijuana, they discovered 1.9 kilos of marihuana. No arrests were made.

Finally, in Guerrero, in the village of Tamarindo, municipality of Atenango del Rio, 3 tons of marihuana and 14 kilos of marihuana seed were confiscated from Austreberto Garcia Bello, Santa Castrejon Castro, Atanasia Gonzalez Guerrero, Pablo Gonzalez and Epifanio Cedillo Gutierrez, thought to be the principal suppliers of marihuana in the area.

8735

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA CONFISCATED AT KILOMETER FOURTEEN

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 77 p 5-B

[Text] The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] and the State Judicial Police were making yesterday a thorough investigation to locate and arrest fully identified persons who abandoned a load of marihuana on the Rio Bravo plain at kilometer 14.

The discovery of the load was by chance. Juan Miguel Perez Barquierena, the state prosecuting attorney, and members of the State Judicial Police went Thursday night to kilometer 14 because some fishermen reported that the corpse of a man was floating in the Rio Bravo.

When the representatives of the law arrived at the place, they saw on the Rio Bravo plain several persons who were engaged in a series of maneuvers. When the latter saw that they had been discovered, they escaped leaving behind a "Torton" truck and an auto. The truck was loaded with a ton of marihuana.

The state prosecuting attorney reported that the judicial police who accompanied him were forced to shoot at the men who were fleeing. All indications are that one of the suspected drug traffickers was wounded by shotgun fire and is thought to have fallen into the water.

A cloud of federal and judicial agents searched the entire area but did not find the wounded man. From the confiscated vehicles, they obtained valuable data which will soon lead to the fall of the owners of the drug.

Concerning the drowned man, Perez Barquierena reported that the corpse was completely decomposed and presumably had no connection with the load of marihuana which was found abandoned.

The fishermen explained that before they went to the city to report the discovery of the body, they had not noticed the presence of any vehicle. This means that when the state judicial authorities got there the drug traffickers had recently arrived to take the grass over to the United States on a rubber boat.

8923
CSO: 5330

DRUG ADDICTION IN NUEVO LAREDO

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 2-B

[Text] Yesterday, Dr Eduardo Takasita Elizondo told our reporter that the rate of drug addiction in this city and in the jurisdiction of the local Health Center is no cause for alarm to the authorities.

A few minutes after the incineration of a large amount of marihuana and other drugs, the director of the Health Center discussed the problem of drug addiction in this city. He said that the citizens may be absolutely certain that in Nuevo Laredo drug addiction in its various forms does not exist.

Takasita added that the victims of drugs and other stimulants are fully identified and number no more than 35.

During several years, the frontiers have been pointed out as centers of distribution and use of drugs. In the case of this city, Dr. Takasita said emphatically, this concept is being eradicated. By a suitable educational program, young people have been made to realize the harm that drug addiction causes and, above all, that it is a road without a goal or future for those who venture on it.

Based on the statistics of his office, the doctor said that marihuana addicts number no more than 25 persons and as for other types of stimulants, one can count them on the fingers of his hand.

8923
CSO: 5330

GROWING DRUG PRODUCING PLANTS

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 8-C

[Abriendo Brechas column by Juan Barrera Gomez]

[Text] Unfortunately, things have come to the point where those who cultivate the land raise marihuana. We see the panorama clearer day by day. It makes us think that those who plant that product believe it profitable even at the cost of endangering their lives because they know very well that those who tolerate those fields which produce many tons of the fateful grass are breaking the law.

Why is it possible that such enormous production of the fateful marihuana is not denounced in the fields? Why wait for the harvest to be packed to confiscate it?

Are not the field inspectors of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock or of the Secretariat of Hydraulic Resources who live on the ranches, the plots of ground or even the Rural Police if there are any aware of the cultivation of this evil grass?

Patrols of the several federal services such as the Frontier Guard, the Highway Police, the Rural Police, the Hunting and Fishing Inspectors, the River and Hydraulic Resources, the general field inspectors of the planting of fields have never found in those places the fields of that enormous production of marihuana which the Federal and State Judicial Police frequently confiscate but only after it is on trucks prepared in "bricks", hidden in country houses, warehouses or moving trucks.

How about the farmers who grow it on their lands? They are very well, thank you. Everybody knows that the lands are still worked but not to grow wheat, corn, sorghum, cotton, barley and other grains required to feed the people.

Perhaps the reason why nobody wants to work the land with products useful to humanity is that they make more from marihuana, peyote and all the other narcotics. If things go well once, the high price of the narcotics make them the new rich poisoners of the people.

The care of the land and caring for its best use instead of planting poison has been forgotten.

When persecution is carried out professionally with the vigor and continuity necessary to enforce the law in this case, when the plots and lands suitable for raising drug plants are watched by persons who know how to distinguish alfalfa from marihuana with the task in the hands of qualified personnel who know the land, then we will see the "fat cats" of drug traffic fall because we will know the places for growing drugs. Little by little, the habit which has reached a high degree of cultivation will be eradicated and we will do away with those who have changed from farmers to criminals endangering public health and delinquents violating the law.

Meanwhile...we will continue showing the way...

8923

CSO: 5330

HEROIN SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 77 p 8-A

[Text] The legal status of farmers Alvaro Saldana, age 45, and his son Enrique Saldana Salinas, age 21, is precarious. Yesterday at 1300 hours, Luis Garcia Romero, the Second District Court judge, decreed the imprisonment of the former for crimes against public health under several categories and of the latter under the additional category of illegal export of drugs(heroin).

The accused were arrested on 10 March of this year in Ciudad Miguel Aleman because they were involved in international drug trafficking. They were transferred to this city and detained at the Municipal jail at the disposal of the above federal judge who opened proceedings against them.

They Say They Thought the Heroin Was "Medicine".

All of this is the result of the fact that in November of last year, American federal agents arrested Francisco Sainz Barrera and Juan Antonio Contreras because the former was found to have in his possession 2 kilos of heroin. Since Juan Antonio was with him, the two were held in the Lovenworth, Texas, jail.

Francisco Sainz told the American authorities that the drug belonged to his brother-in-law Alvaro Saldana and that the latter's son had brought it across the river.

For this reason, Alvaro Saldana and his son Enrique Saldana were arrested in Miguel Aleman. The latter said that he had taken a small package across the river and delivered it to his uncle Francisco Sainz and that his father knew about this.

However, Enrique says that his aunt, Francisco Sainz' wife, gave him the package saying it was medicine. She asked him to take it across the river because at the bridge they were troublesome and to deliver it to his uncle Francisco.

In spite of everything, the judge rules that there was enough evidence on which to decree the imprisonment of the above mentioned accused.

MEXICO

BRIEFS

SEIZURE OF ARMS, MARIHUANA--Seven persons with 5 tons of marihuana in their possession ready for sale to drug traffickers were arrested. Today at 1900 hours at the village "El Milagro" in the municipality of San Juan Lalana Chapan, Abelardo Echeverria, the Public Prosecutor's Office agent, with the first captain of the cavalry and several military men arrested Jose Baena Castillo, Moises Valencia, Moises Ouran, Arturo Rodriguez, Abraham Vasquez Hernandez, Felix and Aurelio Trapaga who had 5 tons of marihuana completely packaged and ready for sale. The authorities are known to have seized high powered arms from the drug traffickers. It is expected that early this morning Abelardo Echeverria, accompanied by several military men, will search to find and destroy marihuana fields since it is assured that more of them exist in that area. It was also reported that the arrested persons and the marihuana will be turned over to the Federal Public Prosecutor's agent in Salina Cruz. [Text] [Oaxaca EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 6] 8923

CHIEF OF POLICE UNDER INVESTIGATION-- Dismissal is imminent for the chief of the Central Zone Judicial Police Group, Mario Guerra, who also is the commander of the Municipal Police and Traffic Department of Monclova, Coahuila. The aforementioned is deduced from the investigations made personally by Cap Raul Lemuel Burciaga, director of the State Police and Traffic Department. He interviewed Mario Vergara, the customs administrator, and Jose Luis Rodriguez, the deputy commander of RAM [Monclova Customs Guard]. All the preliminary investigations have been made. The situation is very difficult for the chief of the Monclova Judicial Police because he became the defendant due to the statements made by the deputy commander of RAM at the border customs office. Yesterday, Captain Raul Lemuel Burciaga said this situation will have to be properly clarified. The result of the investigations must bring out the truth. The slightest suspicion or obscure point which may be found will cause the dismissal of Mario Guerra as chief of the group. Members of the police cannot be allowed to [commit crimes]. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Mar 77 p 5-A] 8923

IMPRISONMENT OF TRAFFICKER--The Third District Court judge decreed the imprisonment of Pedro Garcia Aguilar as a suspect of committing crimes against public health under the category of possession of marihuana. He was arrested by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] of Reynosa, Tamaulipas. On 11 March, he was transferred to this frontier, imprisoned in the "La Loma" jail and placed

at the disposal of the judge who had ordered his arrest. On 15 March, he was taken under escort to that court to make a preparatory statement on the offenses with which he is charged. He categorically denied committing the offenses. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 3-B] 8923

SEIZURE OF MARIHUANA--The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] agents dealt another blow to organized drug traffic in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas when they seized a large quantity of marihuana and arrested 6 persons, among them a woman. The police are investigating them thoroughly. Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent, stated during an interview with EL MANANA that up to now he has no information on this case. Doubtlessly, news of this latest PJF success has leaked into official circles. During the surprise raid near Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, the federal agents are said to have arrived at a residence where they found marihuana stored. They confiscated it and detained its custodians, among them a woman. They brought all the suspects to this frontier to continue the investigations. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 3-B] 8923

POLICE UNDER INVESTIGATION--The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] in Ciudad Mier and Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, are zealously investigating a group of policemen who apparently appropriated a load of marihuana which was found by some shepherds in the fields of a ranch. This information is unofficial. Ricardo de Hoyos Arizpe, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent, professed ignorance of the alleged negative conduct of those policemen. He said that PJF agents are investigating the accusation by some shepherds who found a load of marihuana. Last Monday, a group of shepherds are said to have reported to the police authorities of Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, that they had found a load of marihuana in the woods. For this purpose, they went to the authorities to make this known to them. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 3-B] 8923

PUSHER ARRESTED--The energumen, Rodolfo Ramos, was arrested by the uniformed police after he mercilessly beat his wife. Once in the detention cells, he took some apparently toxic tablets out of a matchbox and offered them for sale at 5 pesos each to the other detainees. The uniformed police on duty in the basement of the Federal Building became aware of this, and recorded it. As a result, Rodolfo was turned over to the Security Commissions Department for investigation. [Excerpt] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 77 p 7-B] 8923

TRAFFICKER RELEASED--By posting 30,000 pesos bail, Rene Garcia Aranda was released yesterday. He is being processed in the Third District Court for crimes against public health. Alejo Sierra Gomez is the judge. The former convict had been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. With a year of his prison term remaining, his defense attorney, Jose Angel Valdez Reyna, appealed the sentence to the Unitary Tribunal where his release on bail was arranged. Yesterday, Garcia Aranda was released after he posted the bail guaranteed by a bonding company. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Mar 77 p 5-B] 8923

SEIZURE OF ARMS AND DRUGS--Yesterday, members of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] under Commander Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz broke into the place known as "La Tomatera" at the corner of Calzada de los Nogales and calle Arreola. They removed from there a large amount of drugs and arms of different calibers. The source of these is unknown. Unofficial reports state that the PJF learned that a large quantity of high caliber arms was stored in La Tomatera. Thus, they searched the place, found the cache and continued investigating until midnight. When interviewed on this matter, Pedro Mireles Malpica, the federal prosecuting attorney, said he had no information on it but that the PJF report would be forthcoming momentarily. Unconfirmed reports state that two persons related to the drugs and arms find were arrested and are being interrogated. As previously mentioned, their identity had not been confirmed when the newspaper went to press. Tomorrow, additional information on the case will be provided. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 4] 8923

A DRUG SMUGGLING PLANE CRASH--A twin engine Beach Craft plane which crashed and burned while transporting marihuana was found by a PJF [Federal Judicial Police] patrol north of Benjamin Hill on a clandestine landing strip. A PJF spokesman said that during a thorough inspection of the sight, several packets of what appeared to be marihuana were found among the remains of the plane as well as the absence of the pilot's seat. The investigators concluded that the plane transporting drugs crashed and the pilot died while attempting to land. Continuing their deductions, the "contacts" waiting for the cargo became aware of the accident, removed the pilot's body and disposed of it and set fire to the plane to erase traces or clues which might lead to the clarification of the case. Laboratory technicians of the PJF are studying the remains to identify the plane, to find the flight plan and to identify the pilot. Also, several agents are searching the vicinity for the pilot's body and other clues. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 4] 8923

MARIHUANA SMUGGLERS' ESCAPE--An unsuccessful raid was made yesterday afternoon by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] agents and members of the local police at "Paso de los Indios". They had been informed that four persons armed with submachine guns were moving a large load of marihuana to the American side. At 1550 hours yesterday the Secret Service duty officer was informed by the gatehouse guard at Petroleos Mexicanos located west of the city that a group in a yellow truck was acting suspiciously and that in the vehicle several packages which evidently contained narcotics was going toward the bank of the river at Paso de Los Indios. A large number of Secret Service agents and members of the PJF who were also notified of the aforementioned incident were mobilized there in vain since they did not apprehend any suspected drug traffickers. Agents of the State Judicial Police and of the Municipal Police also participated in the action. They only found tire tracks of the vehicle in which the drug traffickers transported the drug having the characteristics supplied by the Petroleos Mexicanos guard. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 17 Mar 77 p 2-A] 8923

ARREST OF DRUG USERS--The youths Juan Falcon Hernandez, alias "El Gordo", age 15, Geronimo Juarez Ramirez, alias "El Negrillo", age 12, and Arnulfo Rodriguez Tovar, alias "El Tomasillo", were surprised in the act of preparing several polyethylene bags with Resistol 5000. They were accused of a holdup. They were arrested at 1600 hours when they were inside an uninhabited house. The Secret Service agents were looking for them because they were accused of assaulting Armando Guerra Villarreal and of stealing a watch. They were discovered sniffing glue. During their interrogation, they confessed to stealing the watch and selling it to Gerardo Garza Cantu who was later arrested by the agents at the corner of 15 de Junio and Galeana. Gerardo Garza admitted that he had bought that watch for 100 pesos. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Mar 77 p 3-B] 8923

TRAFFICKER IMPRISONED--The Third District judge denied an injunction against the order of imprisonment decreed by the Second District judge against Jose Lauro Medina Gallegos because enough evidence exists to prove his guilt of a crime against public health. The imprisonment of Medina Gallegos was decreed for a crime against public health under the categories of illegal importation of heroin, and possession and traffic of this drug. The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] captured him recently when he attempted to sell heroin in one of the rooms at "Plomos". In that place, Rogelio Cabello Villarreal of Laredo and Roberto Flores Aguilar were also arrested. Jose Lauro Medina Gallegos confessed that he acquired in Laredo, Texas, over 1/2 kilo of heroin and then imported it to Nuevo Laredo. He found a buyer but did not make the sale because they were captured by the PJF. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Mar 77 p 3-B] 8923

RELEASE OF HEROIN ADDICTS--The director of the Health Center, Dr Eduardo Takasita Elizondo, arranged outpatient treatment for the drug addicts Francisco Javier Cruz Aguero and Luciano Martinez Martinez who at 1215 hours yesterday left the prison where they had been held since 11 March according to the jail directorate. Both of them were arrested by the authorities when a quantity of drugs was found in their possession. They were turned over to the Public Prosecutor's Office agent accused of crimes against public health. Later, the head of the Health Center ordered their release since he considered them drug addicts. They only remained under the control of the Health Center for rehabilitation. Dr Takasita Elizondo said he ordered outpatient treatment for both of them. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Mar 77 p 8-A] 8923

RELEASE OF HEROIN ADDICT--Although he was found with 23 doses of heroin in his possession and his imprisonment had been decreed for a crime against public health in the category of possession of that drug, Rene Villarreal Garcia departed absolutely free from the Municipal Jail where he had been held since February 1976. By the skillful defense of his lawyer, Jose Angel Valdez Reyna, the innocence of the accused was established. The Third District Court judge ruled in his favor for acquittal and thus immediate release. Rene Villarreal

Garcia was arrested in February 1976 by PJF [Federal Judicial Police] agents who found in his possession the aforementioned doses of heroin which the PJF said were to be placed on the drug market. Rene Villarreal told the federal authorities that he was going to use the heroin to give himself fixes because he has been an addict for a long time. Against him, proceedings No 36-976 were opened and his imprisonment was decreed. By the pleas of his lawyer, he was acquitted. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 3-B]

TRAFFICKERS, MARIHUANA SEIZED--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 3 Apr--Agents of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] seized 6 tons of marihuana yesterday in the railroad yards of Ferrocarril del Pacifico. The marihuana that was being transported in hoppers to the U.S. border came from Rosario Station 180 kilometers from here. In spite of police secrecy, it is known that 10 people were arrested for investigation to learn to whom the marihuana belongs. The marihuana was in 1-kilo packages under a load of ore. The marihuana was discovered by the PJF when the hoppers were disconnected from one locomotive to be pulled by another to the border. The PJF investigation on railway shipments of marihuana started at the beginning of March when a box-car carrying 3 tons of marihuana was stopped at the station in Guaymas, Son. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Apr 77 p 18-A] 7717

MARIHUANA RING DESTROYED--Nuevo Laredo, Tamps., 3 Apr--The PJF destroyed a drug traffickers ring which operated in Camargo, Tamaulipas. They arrested seven important traffickers and confiscated 2 tons and 137 kilograms of marihuana from them. Manuel Enrique Lino alias "La Gata" was the ringleader. His ranch, Los Milagros, was their warehouse and had a laboratory and presses for packaging. After working for weeks, the PJF surprised Manuel Enrique Lino as he took a load of marihuana to be shipped to the United States across the Rio Bravo between Camargo and Ciudad Miguel Aleman. The following men were arrested in addition to the ringleader: Ramiro Zurita Guzman, Russbel Vazquez Mendoza, Jorge Flores Hernandez, Juan Jose Enriquez Lino, Juan Hector Garza Adame and Hilario Cruz Garza. They were brought here and placed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Public Ministry. They will be interrogated tomorrow and arraigned before the district judge for crimes against health--drug possession and traffic. The 2,137 kilograms of marihuana were taken to the military barracks to be incinerated. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Apr 77 p 18-A] 7717

MARIHUANA RING BUSTED IN MONTERREY--A seven-member drug ring dealing in marihuana in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, was rounded up by agents of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, together with 2 tons of grass. The marihuana was confiscated at the Los Milagros farm in the municipality of Camargo, where Ramiro Zurita Guzman, Jorge Flores Hernandez, Juan Hector Garza Adame, Hilario Garza Cruz, Juan Jose Enriquez, Lino Rosvelt Vazquez, and Manuel Enriquez were arrested. It was reported, on the basis of preliminary investigations and interrogation, that the marihuana was peddled in Monterrey night spots and on the United States border. The drug, whose street value amounts to 2 million pesos, was placed in the custody of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Apr 77 p 26-A] 11532

TRAFFICKER ESTRADA ORTIZ RECAPTURED--International narcotics trafficker Carlos Estrada Ortiz, who escaped several days ago from the Federal District's East Prison, was recaptured yesterday by units of the Federal Judicial Police. The capture of Estrada took place in front of the Guadalajara pharmacy, located in the Plaza Patria shopping center in Zapopan, Jalisco. The director of that police agency, Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, said that he immediately went to the town and arrested the narcotics dealer. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 24 Mar 77 p 10] 8735

SICILIA FALCON TO EAST PRISON--As a security measure and in order to prevent any further escape attempts, narcotics trafficker Alberto Sicilia Falcon was transferred last night from North Prison to East Prison, while Carlos Estrada Ortiz, who fled East Prison and was recaptured 2 days later, will be sent to North Prison. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Mar 77 p 26-A] 8735

FIVE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN HERMOSILLO--Hermosillo, Sonora, 1 April--Five narcotics dealers who were selling marihuana and toxic pills to children in primary and secondary schools in Pueblo Yaqui, Sonora, were arrested by Federal Judicial Police officers. The pushers are Jeronimo Salazar Marquez ("El Jero"), Raimundo Elizalde Flores ("El Chapo"), Carlos Baez Soto, Jose Isabel Lugo, and Marco Antonio Luzanilla Borboa. The commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Margarito Mendez Rico, said that the narcotics dealers were arrested yesterday in front of the "Benito Juarez" school in Pueblo Yaqui. He added that the criminals said in their statements that they had been selling narcotics to minors at various primary and secondary schools in that town for more than a year. The federal officers confiscated 3 kilos of marihuana and several hundred toxic pills from them at the time of their arrest. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Apr 77 p 24-A] 11532

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ITALY

COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN TURIN

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Apr 77 p 13

Text Turin, Italy, 6 Apr (EFE). Two Colombian citizens, a man and a woman, are the alleged organizers of a large drug traffic discovered by the Italian police.

The persons involved are painter Fernando Torres Ortega, age 25, and his sister-in-law, Martha Rodriguez Gonzalez, age 45, who have been in prison since last Thursday when they were arrested.

The confiscation today at the Turin airport of 32.5 kilos of marihuana in a false-bottomed trunk in the name of the woman makes the treasury agents believe that the two Colombians are the axis of the drug traffic.

Both were arrested last Thursday at the Bologna airport when they appeared to claim a trunk, also with a false bottom, in which the police found 30 kilos of marihuana.

Earlier, at the beginning of March, a third person was arrested at the Rome airport, similarly as the result of the discovery of a trunk with marihuana in it.

According to the treasury agency, the traffickers, sent the trunks from Bogota several months ago, declaring to the customs office that they were "personal effects in transit." The discovery at the Rome airport permitted verification of their true contents.

With the confiscation carried out today at this city's airport, the total marihuana seized from the traffickers by the police is now 200 kilos.

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ITALY

BRIEFS

ROME HEROIN ARREST--Graziella Bonettini, age 27, resident of Modena, was arrested yesterday morning by frontier agents at Fiumicino Airport, coming from Bangkok, for possession of 700 grams of pure heroin, valued at about 100 million lira. [Excerpt] [Rome L'UNITA in Italian 23 Apr 77 p 12]

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