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McCoy, Alfred  
CIA 4.01

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Sec. 4.01.2 Politics of  
Heroin in SE Asia  
O'Connor, Peter  
McCoy

# Headquarters

# EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

#321

10 August 1972

## "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia"

1. Mr. Alfred W. McCoy, a graduate student at Yale, has written a book entitled "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia." Prior to its publication, Mr. McCoy has been involved in rather extensive publicity in the newspapers, on television, in an appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and an excerpt of the book was published in the July 1972 issue of Harper's. Many of these allege in effect that CIA is somehow implicated in the drug trade in Southeast Asia. His theme can be summarized in his words as "American diplomats and secret agents have been involved in the narcotics traffic at three levels: (1) coincidental complicity by allying with groups actively engaged in the drug traffic; (2) abetting the traffic by covering up for known heroin traffickers and condoning their involvement; (3) and active engagement in the transport of opium and heroin. It is ironic, to say the least, that America's heroin plague is of its own making."

2. CIA has altered its traditional practice of remaining silent with respect to allegations against it in view of the serious nature of the charge in this case. In several public statements, the Agency has taken issue with these allegations and extensions of them by editorial writers and journalists. CIA also approached the publishers of Mr. McCoy's book with the request that we be allowed to review the book before publication and advise the degree to which we felt it was erroneous, on the theory that a reputable publisher would want to know the facts before being associated with such serious charges. In our letter we pointed out clearly that the decision as to publication would remain with the publishers and that our sole purpose was to offer to point out factual inaccuracies. After reviewing the book, we advised the publishers that the large number of allegations, assertions, and interpretations contained in the book were limited to ones supporting Mr. McCoy's thesis and that he appears to have ignored available information which might contradict his thesis. We submitted a few specific comments illustrating our point. The publishers have reaffirmed their earlier confidence in Mr. McCoy's scholarship and plan to publish the book unchanged as soon as possible.