

NID 84-102JX

5/01/84

Southwest Asia

Southwest Asia's "Golden Crescent"—Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran—has long been the largest opium producing and consuming region in the world. [REDACTED] it currently accounts for about half the heroin reaching the US. [REDACTED]

Steady reductions until this year in opium production in the region were largely the result of the drop in Pakistan from about 700 tons in 1979 to 45 to 60 tons in 1983. The Pakistanis attribute their continued success in curbing production to crop substitution, although unfavorable weather and soft market prices apparently have played a more important role. Pakistan has an organized antinarcotics program, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]