Right to Ask Aid

We’re committed to risk our own cities in a nuclear war if any French city is attacked by the Communist," Peper said, "and we have the right not only to ask but to demand that the French take emergency action to help us."

Ingersoll, who recently returned from discussions with Southeast Asia leaders on the heroin problem, told the Senate Finance Committee that policy-making officials of the countries—Thailand, Laos, and South Vietnam—are involved in the illicit drug trade. Burma, Thailand, and Laos account for about 80 percent of the world’s opium production, he said.

But he told newsmen after the hearing that many lower-level officials, including members of the South Vietnamese Legislature, deal in heroin. He said some legislators have friends in President Nguyen Van Thieu’s cabinet.

Ingersoll told the committee that heroin refiners were under control of insurgents in Burma and Thailand but that those in Laos are protected by elements of the Royal Lao armed forces.

Ramparts Disclosures

He said that while management and ownership of the Laotian refiners appear to be primarily in the hands of ethnic Chinese citizens of that nation, "some reports suggest" that a senior Laotian air force officer may have an ownership interest in some of the plants.

When Rep. Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.) noted that the Ramparts article mentioned an official, Mr. Quane Bithuimong, Ingersoll replied that "general speculation" conceded the point.

Ingersoll denied one contention of the Ramparts article. It maintained that representatives of the United States, French, and Japanese military forces in Vietnam “had been involved in heroin production and are in the employ of the CIA for operations on the China mainland.”

But Ingersoll conceded that Air America planes had been used in the past for smuggling heroin—just as regular commercial airlines have been used to smuggle it into the United States.

He told newsmen later that 80 kilograms were seized in China last year, and that five Air America planes were used to transport heroin from Thailand to a huge Tan Son hut Air Base outside Saigon only three or four weeks ago.

During the hearing, Waldie also asked Ingersoll about a Ramparts report that the secret CIA base of Long Cheng, used to support the U.S. and South Vietnamese tribesmen, was used as a distribution point for heroin to be shipped into South Vietnam.

Ingersoll said he had not heard of that. However, he later said he had discussed the general illicit drug problem with CIA Director Richard Helms, who he believed he said that the CIA was involved in any way, and that he believed him.

"The Me tribesmen are something else," Ingersoll said. "But I don’t blame the CIA for what the tribesmen do.”

FOUR CIA SECURITY

Waldie said CIA security was apparently "abysmally poor, since those in the CIA em
ploy used the base and facilities for the illicit traffic.”

The narcotics chief sought to allay criticism by congressmen of U.S. efforts to get the cooperation of the Asian governments to combat drugs on the domestic front.

He said the United States had virtually no leverage over the Burma government, since the last existing aid program is being phased out. The opium-growing area in Thailand is in the hands of insurgents, Ingersoll said, but the Bangkok government is taking steps to try to control it.

He said Laotian officials were "most responsive" even though some high-ranking officials were involved.

A SYMBOLIC FLAG CEREMONY

HON. FRANK HORTON
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 15, 1971

Mr. HORTON, Mr. Speaker, during these times, when, on one hand, the patriots of some of the nation’s finest leaders is questioned; and when, on the other, it is often scorned to be patriotic, we must stop to consider what the flag and the military truly are.

Sunday, in Rochester, N.Y., in my congressional district, I attended a flag ceremony at the Rochester Polish People’s Home. It was the first flag raising at the home. I would like to share the ceremony with you because of its significance of the flag clear to all who attended.

Mr. Ray Gatz, president of the home, introduced the guests, who represented local, county, State, and Federal legislative bodies, as well as the Polish-American and American Legion Posts.

Officials included Rochester Mayor Stephen May, State Assemblyman Raymond Mill, City Commissioner Urban Kress, Monroe County Legislators Nicholas Santoro and Sam Poppick.

County Judge Arthur Curran also attended. Judge Curran was especially aware of the values involved. He received the flag from the coffin of his son, who was killed in Vietnam.

Also present were James O’Grady, commander of the Michalek Post; Joseph Zuchoski, commander of the Pulaski Post; Joseph DeMeo, commander of the Monroe County American Legion Post; and Edmund R. Przybylski, president of Hudson Avenue Area Association.

During the ceremony, I presented a flag which had flown over the Capitol to Mr. Gatz. It was blessed by Father Pietrzykowski and raised by Mr. Gatz. County Commander DeMeo led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. (Internal Use Only - JGO) Met with Mr. Michael Reed, Legislative Assistant to the Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, and reviewed with him the correspondence from [redacted], concerning a custody of children decree relating to [redacted], employed by Air America, Inc. in the Far East. [redacted] expressed his appreciation for my coming by and said he would contact Air America directly. He did not question the fact that neither the Agency nor the Department of State could be of any assistance in this matter. Neither the Department nor the Agency has any jurisdiction over the individual. [redacted] DDS/HB, has been advised. No further action is required with regard to the letter of 3 June from the Speaker.

4. (Secret - JGO) Met with Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who told me that he thought this morning's budget briefing of the Chairman had gone extremely well.


6. (Internal Use Only - JGO) Met with Miss Jean Gordon, Administrative Assistant to Representative Charles Gubser (R., Calif.), and thanked her for her assistance in putting the Ingersoll letter in the Record earlier this week.

7. (Confidential - JGO) Talked to Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who told me that the transcript of the Director's briefing on Brazil of 5 May would be ready for return to the Agency at close of business.

8. (Confidential - JGO) Met with Mr. John Brady, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, and delivered to him a blind memorandum entitled "Recent Trends in the Illicit Narcotics Market in Southeast Asia." Mr. Brady originally requested the paper from Mr. Harvey Wellman, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Narcotics Matters. Mr. Brady was complimentary both in his attitude and remarks about the Agency.