

DRUGS

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Paraguay Drug Traffickers Named

By Jack Anderson

In the impoverished little land of Paraguay, there is an old saying about dictator Alfredo Stroessner that "never a bird falls without his knowing about it."

This reputed omniscience has kept the burly El Presidente in full control of Paraguay for 18 years while his opponents have died mysteriously or fled into exile.

Thus, the American embassy in Asuncion was astonished when Stroessner, of all people, confessed to our Ambassador Raymond Ylitalo that he would like more information about the narcotics traffic in Paraguay. Stroessner claimed he wanted to stamp it out.

The efficient Ylitalo forwarded the request to the State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency obligingly included it in a detailed, secret summary of drug operations in Paraguay.

The memo declared that Stroessner was up to his jackboots in smuggling, though there was no proof he dealt in drugs. His tight little dictatorship, however, was described as "the Heroin Crossroads of South America," with much of the dope going to the U.S.

We published the secret details on April 22. The dictator promptly sent word to us through his Ambassador to Washington, Dr. Roque Avila, that he was surprised at the allegations and asked for the

names of those behind Paraguay's drug trade.

We have now supplied Avila with the names. The CIA memo, for instance, mentioned a "secret police" official who reportedly was "heavily involved in the (drug) traffic." The CIA didn't name him, but we told Avila the suspect is none other than Stroessner's trusted chief of investigative police, Pastor Coronel.

Generals Involved

The CIA also alleged—again without names—that "two... important generals" were deep in narcotics.

We identified one as Gen. Andres Rodriguez, the sternly handsome commander of 3,000 American-equipped troops based near Asuncion. His troops stand guard over contraband warehouses, and he controls aircraft for smuggling.

The other is Gen. Patricio Colman, a light infantry commander, whose troops put down an armed liberation movement in 1960, slicing off tongues, ears, heads and other parts of prisoners. Colman thereafter gained a smuggling franchise, considerable wealth and control of cross-country buslines.

We have also uncovered the identities of other high Paraguayan figures, who are directly controlled by Stroessner and are responsible for the drug trade. These men

whose names we have also given Avila, include:

- Sabino Augusto Montanaro, grey-haired interior secretary, and his right-hand man, National Police Chief Gen. Francisco Britez. No large-scale dope trade in landlocked Paraguay would be possible without their acquiescence.

- Gen. Leodegar Cabello, the spiffily-uniformed defense minister, who is aware of the narcotics dealings of Gens. Rodriguez and Colman and is suspected of sharing their loot.

- Gen. German Martinez, a pale, garrulous artillery commander who controls contraband in and around Paraguari. With his smuggling proceeds, he has purchased model farms and raises thoroughbred cattle.

- Vice Adm. Hugo Gonzalez, chief of Paraguay's river gunboat navy, who earned his exalted rank by babysitting Stroessner's children. His gunboats protect the dope trade along the Paraguay and Parana rivers separating Paraguay from Brazil and Argentina.

- Air Force chief Gen. Vicente Quinonez, who supervises Asuncion airport and dozens of smaller fields. These are also used for drug shipments.

- Raul Sapena Pastor, the secretary of state, who personally approves every official

and diplomatic passport. He has granted passports to known smugglers. Even diplomatic pouches are used for smuggled goods.

These are some of the names my associate, Les Whitten, provided Ambassador Avila during an hour-long meeting with him at the modest Paraguayan Embassy. The envoy insisted he knew nothing about their alleged dope activities.

Footnote: On March 20, President Nixon called narcotics America's "number one domestic problem." Three days later, the U.S. gave 12 helicopters to Paraguay. U.S. military aid to the "Heroin Crossroads of South America" runs around \$2 million a year.

Connally's Mission

Sources close to Treasury Secretary John Connally say his secret mission after leaving the cabinet will be to rally the Lyndon Johnson wing of the Democratic Party into the Nixon camp in November.

Richard Nixon and John Connally have developed a close personal bond. Both are backroom operators and political infighters. They practice the same pragmatic politics.

During their political bull sessions, Mr. Nixon and Connally foresaw the increasing possibility that George McGovern could win the Democratic presidential nomination.

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The Southeast Asian Connection

By HANS J. SPIELMANN

BANGKOK, Thailand—The world's attention in recent months has been turned toward the Mideast—Turkey, principally—as the source of illicit supplies of heroin. But the fact is that the fabled "Fertile Triangle" of Southeast Asia — Thailand, Burma and Laos—continues to produce two-thirds of the world's known supply of opium, from which heroin is derived.

The figures alone are eye-catching: in 1970 Thailand's hill tribes contributed 185 metric tons of raw opium to the world's supply, Burma 1,000 tons, Laos 100.

It is true that most of the opium, or about 800 tons, is consumed by Southeast Asians from Rangoon to Hong Kong. Nonetheless, about 400 tons continue to leave the area, bound for addicts around the world. The buyers, not all Americans by any means, range from soldiers in Vietnam to junkies along New York's Eighth Avenue.

So vast are these supplies (U.S. addicts, for example, consume annually the heroin derived from "only" 120 metric tons of opium), so limitless the profits, that governments, armies and revolutionary fronts have played parts in the production and trade through the years. They continue to do so, and even the United States Central Intelligence Agency has had its days in the poppy fields.

"They have been growing poppies for 150 years."

The Vietnam war and the complex and confusing movement of "foreigners" back and forth throughout Southeast Asia has created a boom in the illicit production of raw opium. Today, in Thailand alone, it is estimated that half of the 350,000 hill people in the elevated areas of the north participate in growing poppies.

Thirty per cent of these workers are addicts themselves, but they turn a tiny profit by the standards of the million-or-billions-dollar deals we are accustomed to associating with narcotics. The average worker earns about \$100 a year and has, incidentally, no real knowledge of what he is doing. That is to say, the hill people do not even know that they are producing an illicit product for a world market; they have been growing the poppies and using the opium in lieu of pain-killing medicines for about 150 years.

The production of opium only became illegal in Thailand in 1958, as did trafficking and smoking, and the hill people really could not understand that they were outlaws. Not to worry, as things developed, production went on unabated.

As it is now, there is a sort of Common Market in opium operative in Southeast Asia. National boundaries are crossed by an assortment of rogues who, while moving tons of the stuff, "lose" only 2 or 3 per cent as bribes and tributes and so forth.

The operation begins with the fields in the high country (over 3,000 feet above sea level for the high-quality poppy) of Thailand, Laos and Burma.

The hill people themselves have neither the courage, contacts nor funds to enter into the distribution, so they await the sharp lowlanders. These townsmen come around at harvest time, looking down their noses at the hill people whom they consider to be inferior, and buy the opium at very low prices.

The best buy is in Burma, where a kilo of raw opium sells for \$15; in Laos it's \$30, and in Thailand, \$40.

Opium is gathered in the villages and then in ever-larger towns by smugglers, who may be described in the first dealings as petty, but who become rather more than that as the opium changes hands and the supplies pile up. Then highly disciplined paramilitary types take over, with toughness and sure-handedness.

Among these is an outfit known as the Shan of Northern Burma—relatives of the Thai—whose dream, at least back in Burma, was the establishment of an autonomous Shan State. But its fighting wing, the Shan Liberation Army, has generally abandoned politics as it observed the fertile fields of Shan asylum in northern Thailand.

Units of the front transport, the opium grown in Burma (and this is the mother lode—700 metric tons for export) to bases in Thailand. Of course, as units cross the Burmese-Thai border, back and forth, back and forth, the talk is all politics and the dream of statehood, but it's camouflage for the real action, which is the opium.

The Shan has somewhat complex, but strict, working arrangements with the notorious Kuomintang (whose parent organization is Nationalist Chinese) troops of the Fertile Triangle. Sometimes the Shan and the Kuomintang trade arms and ammunition, and medicines—often purchased from U.S. stocks in Laos—for opium.

The Kuomintang troops also keep up political appearances, when the real idea is opium. They say that they carry out pro-U.S. espionage in Burma, and even claim forays into China for "anti-Communist" activities. But these units are no longer used and supplied by the United States or Taiwan, as they once were, although they maintain radio contact with each other.

The Kuomintang is said now to have 10,000 men under arms, chiefly in Thailand, but in Burma and Laos as well.

Frequently, Kuomintang caravans of between 300 and 500 men, plus horses and mules carrying contraband for trade, can be seen working toward the north of Thailand and Laos toward Burma. They are supplied along the way with food by villagers eager to



Opium traders in northern Thailand head for contact.

please such impressive forces, and eager to make extra money or to acquire some unusual luxuries.

Once they make their contacts—either with Shan troops or with smugglers—the Kuomintang caravan can pick up as much as fifteen tons of opium for the return trip southward. It is said that these troops and their "aided contractors" transport between 450 and 500 tons of raw opium southward each year. Their profit mark-up is 200 per cent.

One arrangement that the Kuomintang and the Shan have is that each Kuomintang convoy that goes into certain poppy-growing territory actually carried by Shan troops must pay tribute. This amounts to about \$150 a kilo, and entitles the caravan to a transit letter and Shan escorts back to territory controlled by the Kuomintang. In other areas Shan convoys must pay tribute to Kuomintang soldiers—the reverse situation.)

As noted, there are a great many addicts in Southeast Asia, and the Kuomintang troops sell off a good deal of the opium back in Thailand. They get four to six times what they paid. But most of it is headed for export—for quick dashes across more borders, to airports and train stations, to seaports, to Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Yientiane and Saigon. And on and on.

In the last five years, the Kuomintang, discovering among other things that some of the opium it was transporting was bringing in 2,500 times more profit to the ultimate dealer than to its troops, began processing the opium itself. Kuomintang thereby increased its own profits, never inconsiderable, at least threefold.

In Thailand at least, the Government once had a monopoly on opium. That is no longer true. Poppy-growing, trading and using are illegal. But Thai officials have a mixed set of attitudes toward the hill people and the production of opium today, the sum of which

is that it goes on unchecked. The growers are mostly ethnic minorities whose loyalty to Bangkok is tenuous.

So if the Government leaves the growers alone, the growers will not complain about the lowland majorities whom they dislike; they will instead accept the political status quo and the life in the poppy fields, to which they are accustomed. They will not fuss over prices at harvest time.

But the growers do accumulate some surplus cash, as Bangkok knows too well, and with it they tend to amass arms. The growers make it plain that if there is any attempt to suppress or hinder opium production they will become guerrillas.

That is what happened in Laos: the Meo rebellion began not as a planned "Communist revolt," but out of bitterness and misunderstanding that arose when Laotian officials tried to step into the opium trade.

Under pressure from the United States and other outsiders, the governments do of course pretend to be attempting to eliminate the trade. But because of internal difficulties with roaming armies and guerrillas, and with corruption of their own officials,

"Green Berets were ordered to buy supplies."

they have largely kept hands off. Until last year, no serious attempt of any kind was made by any of the three governments we have talked about here to curb the traffic, to stop it where it must be stopped—in the hills. At least \$85 million is at stake, and no single government has seemed willing to do other than to participate.

The governments in question knew in any case that United States objections were in the main window-dress-

ing. The truth was that the U.S. spreading involvement in the war meant that its chief concern was stability in Southeast Asia. And if this meant the continued production of opium in the sensitive areas—say in the fertile fields where Laos, Burma and Thailand come together—that was all right with the U.S.

United States Special Forces, or Green Berets and the CIA, were in one line up to here in the traffic—far to be sure, political reasons. Green Berets were ordered to buy certain supplies of opium in order to make and maintain staunch allies among the growers cum guerrillas.

Large-scale traffickers such as the Kuomintang were supported in some cases, only tolerated in others, so long as they displayed anti-Communist attitudes and rendered intelligence services. They were even given the use of C.I.A. planes. Even when the Kuomintang hit upon the scheme of processing its own opium to increase profits, U.S. officials did nothing, although the C.I.A. could not have failed to notice refineries in the area of the "fertile triangle," refineries which turned out 98 per cent pure heroin.

Last year, as mentioned, because of the pressures from President Nixon to crack down on heroin wherever in the world it would be possible, some action was taken in Southeast Asia. The C.I.A. and other agencies bought off certain dealers (including a general who was paid to retire), who had been their friends and who were deeply involved in opium. A few raids were conducted in Thailand.

A deal was made in which certain refineries in Laos were closed.

But the point is that the installations moved to Burma and there, together with an adjacent area of Thailand, the highest concentration of refineries in the world is now situated. Marseille cannot compare.

Thus the richest traffic and cultivation of opium in the world goes on. Not in the Mideast, formerly the biggest supplier, whose annual output has dropped to 120 tons and will decrease further. But in the Far East, and more specifically in Southeast Asia's Fertile Triangle, where U.S. encouragement, war and muddying of borders by rampaging troops make the business easy.

It could be stopped and should be, but only the most determined cooperation among nations would do the job, cooperation at economic, political, military and social levels. Such cooperation seems unlikely.

Dr. Hans J. Spielmann of the University of Heidelberg in Germany has traveled for many years throughout Southeast Asia and is an expert on the opium traffic there.



Jack Anderson

Smugglers Using Thai Connection

DESPITE furious denials by the Thai government, evidence is mounting that members of Thailand's 16-man ruling council have been corrupted by international dope smugglers.

As far away as this oriental intrigue is, it directly affects the alarming rise of crime on America's streets where addicts rob, house-break and shoplift to feed their gnawing heroin habits.

Reports from the Central Intelligence Agency, and the State, Justice and Defense departments, all agree that more and more heroin is pouring into the United States from Thailand, one of America's closest allies.

"Historically, this area has not been an important source of opium-based narcotics for the U.S. market. This is no longer the case," bluntly states a classified CIA report now in our hands.

Buttressing the CIA are other U.S. intelligence sources who allege that at least two of the 16-man Thai National Executive Council protect dope smugglers.

The official U.S. sources also describe in detail heroin trade involvement of a top Bangkok police commander, a former parliamentarian, a Thai border patrol major and a colonel in a northern Thai army division.

The police official, say the sources, is owner of a well-known Bangkok massage parlor-brothel where heroin is readily available from employees. Run by a woman friend of the police official—who himself maintains an office in the building—the bordello is called "The Smack Parlor" by its American patrons. "Smack" is slang for heroin.

While this and other dope hangouts have long operated openly under the noses of Thailand's rulers, the lucrative up-country opium trade has been changing dramatically since this January.

Crude morphine base from the Thai-Burma-Laos border is no longer processed almost exclusively in the laboratories of Bangkok.

Instead, Royal Laotian Air Force fliers and a few pilots of the CIA-run Air America now airlift much of the morphine to warehouses in the "Golden Triangle" along Thailand's northern border.

The warehouses are dutifully protected by corrupt senior officials of the Royal Thai Army and the Thai border patrol who take a cut of the profits.

When the warehouses are bulging with illicit morphine

base, chemists from Taiwan fly in, the sources say. They are ceremoniously welcomed by remnants of the old Nationalist Chinese divisions driven from Red China and now living off the land in Thailand.

No longer under Taiwan's control, the Nationalist veterans now support themselves in the dope trade. The Chinese chemists work night and day for 30 days, earning as high as \$10,000 for converting the morphine base to pure heroin.

Then the Royal Laotian Air Force and an occasional Air America pilot, who pretends he is unaware of his cargo, ferry out the newly processed white powder. This time it goes to distribution points in Bangkok, Vientiane and other Southeast Asian cities.

From there, it is transhipped to the United States. American intelligence officers are even fearful some may get aboard Air Force KC-135 tanker planes which fly directly to the United States from Thailand. The planes or crews are rarely checked properly by U.S. customs.

In Hong Kong, an important trans-shipment point, British officials are also seething over the corruption of the Thai government officials. Some proof of this dismay is contained in a cautious, classified cable from David Osborn, American consul in Hong Kong, to Secretary of State William Rogers.

Dated March 27, the cable urges secrecy, then confides: "Hong Kong narcotics officials have long-standing belief that Thai officials have been involved in drug traffic for some years."

Yet, despite all this evidence of official Thai corruption, the United States continues to supply Thailand with millions in American arms. And the Thai government smugly dismisses this column's documented reports of heroin in high Thai places as "slandorous accusations."

FOR A welcome change, the government is going to get some return from one of its administrative frills. White House photographer Ollie Atkins accompanied President Nixon to Red China and helped put together a book called "The President's Trip to China." Atkins' share, instead of going into his pocket, will go to the federal treasury along with a check from his publisher for the pictures. Another Atkins book, "Eye on Nixon," will provide royalties to the American Red Cross.

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Heroin Traffic Shifts South of Border

By Jack Anderson

For decades, international heroin gangs have sent their deadly wares from Marseilles, back-alley laboratories directly to Mafia distributors in New York City.

But crackdowns have now made this direct trade dangerous for the Corsican criminals in France and their Cosa Nostra counterparts in the New York City area.

Increasingly, they are shipping the addictive white powder through Latin America and the Caribbean, where bribery, bootlegging and buccaneering have been respected pursuits since the days of Blackbeard, Henry Morgan and Captain Kidd.

The Central Intelligence Agency, which only lately has gotten into dope counterspying, has summarized the problem in a 20-page secret report circulated to a few federal agencies.

Area by area, here is the CIA's picture of this new dope circuit:

Central America—Mexico produces "15 to 20 per cent (perhaps up to 25 per cent) of all heroin used in the United States . . . most notorious of the illicit drug centers in Mexico is Culiacan, capital of the state of Sinaloa.

"It has been called the 'Heroin Capital of Mexico.' Many of the well-to-do townspeople, including those now engaged

in legitimate businesses, are said to have gotten their start dealing in narcotics."

The home-grown Mexican heroin is sent to San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Houston, Fort Worth and Dallas.

Mexican Fixes

Our own investigation has turned up a government-protected dope "shooting parlor" in Juarez, Mexico. Young American addicts from El Paso, some on military drug withdrawal programs, simply cross into Mexico to get a "fix."

Panama, whose foreign minister Juan Tack was recently exposed by us as sanctioning dope traffic, is "one of the great contraband centers of the world," reports the CIA. Heroin pours in from Lima and Santiago, cocaine from Guayaquil and Quito, in Ecuador, and from Colombia. European and Asian dope exporters also use Panama as a transshipment point.

Costa Rica opium crops have been discovered recently "in gardens, in a cemetery, and on the slopes of Irazu Volcano." There are unconfirmed reports of clandestine labs.

The Caribbean — Nicaragua may be a "transit point for heroin shipped north from South America via Panama to the United States," says the CIA.

Puerto Rico and the Virgin

Islands have heroin operations run by "Cuban exiles and Puerto Ricans in the United States (who) act as middle men . . . while Argentinians, Chileans, Uruguayans, and nationals of other transshipment countries act as couriers."

Guadeloupe, Curacao, Aruba and Trinidad are also named by the CIA as "stepping-stones" for shipment of heroin, cocaine, hashish and marijuana to the U.S.

South America—"Big-time operators with international connections and innumerable small-scale smugglers called 'hormigas' (ants) cross the sievelike borders with impunity," alleges the CIA.

"The busy ports of Barranquilla, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Valparaiso, Antofagasta, Callao, Guayaquil, and Buenaventura act as funnels. . . . Smuggler planes, ranging from Piper Cubs to DC-3s, and even to four-engined Lockheed Constellations . . . are used," says the secret CIA report.

Official Corruption

"Most of the drug traffic in South America involves marijuana, which is grown extensively in Colombia, Brazil, and Paraguay and coca leaves and cocaine produced in Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Ecuador."

But there is also some opium production in Colombia and Ecuador.

"An Italian shipping line is

currently involved in smuggling heroin from Marseilles, France, to Valparaiso, Chile, via Panama," says the CIA without naming the shipping line.

Power Plans

The Interior Department, which is supposed to market low-cost power from federally owned dams on the Missouri River, connived with the big private monopolies to drown out small consumer-owned plants.

Assistant Interior Secretary James Smith, a former private utilities man himself, quietly committed the department to the controversial Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP). This is a scheme for pooling electricity cooked up by Northern States Power, one of the fattest of the fat cats in the private power field.

The Smith plan would put more than 10 per cent of the federal power plant capacity in the area into the big companies' power pool, even though the federal power is supposed to serve consumer-owned systems.

Under MAPP, the little consumer systems would be allowed to pay dues and sit in on meetings, but would be denied the vote on issues vital to the pool.

Smith was so enthusiastic about MAPP that he accepted the idea without detailed analyses by Interior's lawyers and engineers.

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Drugs

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Brezhnev Assures Kissinger on Ties

By Jack Anderson

Kremlin czar Leonid Brezhnev used tough language to impress upon Henry Kissinger in Moscow that Russia will continue to support North Vietnam.

But Brezhnev assured the President's peripatetic foreign policy adviser that the Vietnam war need not stand in the way of better Soviet-American relations.

The conversations continued, off and on, for four days. Sources privy to the secret details tell us Brezhnev was furious over U.S. suggestions that the Soviets had equipped Hanoi for an invasion of South Vietnam.

President Nixon himself served an oblique warning upon the Kremlin that "great powers cannot avoid the responsibility for the use of arms by those to whom they give them."

Brezhnev offered no apologies for furnishing Hanoi with the T-54 tanks, heavy artillery and other sophisticated weapons that have shown up on the fighting fronts. The North Vietnamese have used these heavy arms to spearhead their new offensive.

Brezhnev not only acknowledged that Soviet military shipments to Hanoi have been increased, but he made it

plain he would risk alienating the U.S. before abandoning North Vietnam.

He suggested that a Vietnam settlement can still be negotiated. However, there was no Soviet offer to soften Hanoi's terms. Brezhnev and Kissinger merely agreed that the two superpowers shouldn't let the Vietnam war disrupt their efforts to seek a Soviet-American detente.

Back at the White House, Kissinger apparently has persuaded the President not to let the Vietnam fighting jeopardize relations with the Russians. Nixon's first reaction after the new North Vietnamese offensive was to hit back. He said privately that he wasn't going to permit the U.S. to be pushed around.

But the original hard U.S. line, at least so far as Russia is concerned, has now been softened.

Answer to Thailand

The government of Thailand has accused us of "slandering accusations" for reporting how prominent Thais help to hustle heroin to U.S. markets.

Through its embassy in Washington, Thailand angrily charged that our recent column on the Thai drug trade was based "merely on hearsay."

In fact, our report was

based upon a thorough field investigation by American narcotics and intelligence agents. The Central Intelligence Agency has published five reports dealing wholly or in part with the Thai dope trade. These reports, classified "Confidential" and "Secret," substantiate our charges.

The Thais claim, for example, that they "began an intensive campaign against dangerous drugs more than ten years ago." They say the Bangkok government has taken "effective measures" against drugs. A program to get hill tribesmen to stop growing opium, they add, has "met with success."

These statements are flatly contradicted by the five CIA documents, dated from October, 1970 to October, 1971.

Far from showing progress in the last ten years, Thailand and its two neighbors, Burma and Laos, have "evolved in the past ten years from a major center for the growing and production of intermediate narcotics products to a major center for producing finished heroin."

As for the alleged success in preventing tribesmen from growing opium, the CIA states: "Government measures to curtail the growth of the opium poppy among the hill

tribes in . . . Thailand have been ineffective."

Thai law authorities, whom the government claims have cracked down on the drug traffic, are actually in cahoots with the smugglers.

Declares the CIA: "Officials of the RTA (Royal Thai Army), the BPP (Thai border police) and Customs at the several checkpoints on the route to Bangkok are usually bribed . . ."

There are, says the CIA, a multitude of civilian and military officials in Burma, Laos and Thailand "who take their cut to ensure safe passage of the opium . . ."

The CIA operatives, unlike the Thai authorities, have carefully pinpointed poppy fields, distribution points, processing centers and smuggling routes in Thailand.

Concludes the CIA: "Opium or morphine base is delivered to laboratories in Bangkok for further refinement into morphine or heroin . . . Most of the refined produce is then smuggled aboard Hong Kong-bound vessels—either Thai merchant ships at the Cho Phraya River docks in Bangkok or Thai deep sea trawlers.

"Such craft may then deposit the illicit cargo on one of the several hundred small islands ringing Hong Kong for later retrieval by a Hong Kong junk."

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Washington Merry-Go-Round

CIA Reports Paraguay Smuggling

By Jack Anderson

A secret CIA report charges that one of America's most trusted South American allies, Paraguay dictator Alfredo Stroessner, is up to his epaulettes in international smuggling.

The hard-eyed general, says a CIA "Intelligence Memorandum" parcels put smuggling franchises to his generals to keep them from overturning his 18-year-old regime. But as a moral caveat, Stroessner has tried to draw the line at narcotics trafficking.

Stroessner's generals and civilian aides are not so finicky. They have conspired with world dope gangsters to make Paraguay the "heroin crossroads of South America," alleges the CIA document.

Classified "Secret. No Foreign Dissemination," the CIA report says most heroin entering the United States originates in Turkey, is refined in France and is sent to the Western Hemisphere "inside dead bodies being returned to South America for burial, and other methods equally bizarre.

"The largest part of this traffic passes through Paraguay with bulk shipments of as much as 100 kilograms (220 pounds)," continues the CIA study.

Small shipments go through Paraguay's 200 private landing strips, but big consignments arrive at Presidente Stroes-

ner International Airport in the capital of Asuncion, says the CIA. The dope planes, called "Mau-Maus" by the Paraguayans, change their registration numbers to avoid identification.

At Asuncion, airport officials are bribed and the heroin is warehoused "while the 'owner' makes arrangements with U.S. gangsters for its eventual sale in the United States," the CIA records.

Paraguay was picked by international narcotics dealers because its borders are easily crossed, it has demonstrated a historic softness for smugglers and "protection from high political figures" is available.

"Two of Stroessner's most important generals (who command troops in or near the capital) and the head of the secret police are rumored to be heavily involved in the traffic," says the CIA.

As for the dictator himself, he "is willing to condone . . . smuggling of everything from watches to whiskey," but "there are strong indications that President Stroessner is opposed to the (narcotics) trade and is willing to take action."

To explain why a dedicated smuggler like Stroessner would draw the line against dope, the CIA points to Stroessner's admiration for the sternly moralistic image of other military rulers in Brazil, Argentina and Peru.

Whatever the reasons, says the CIA, Stroessner "has secretly requested the U.S. Embassy to supply him with hard evidence that (the generals) and others in his government are involved" in dope trafficking. Stroessner "promised to take action immediately."

The dictator confided to U.S. envoys in Asuncion that the evidence need not stand up in court but must "convince him personally." As for foreign dope smugglers, Stroessner said he is willing to bend his country's laws so they can be shanghaied in to the United States for trial.

Despite the CIA's optimism over Stroessner, it appears he is really more interested in avoiding a clash with his dope-smuggling generals than in keeping heroin off the streets of U.S. cities.

For more than a year, Stroessner, who is bulwarked by millions in U.S. aid, has had famed French narcotics kingpin Auguste Ricord in jail while U.S. authorities have slavered to bring him to justice in the United States.

Hussein Hassle

After watching the successful launch of the Apollo flight last week-end, King Hussein of Jordan, a pilot himself, got a little careless on an Air Force runway in Florida.

The king clipped the wing of a commercial airliner while trying to turn his own jet

plane around and prepare for takeoff. The incident was widely reported in the press. What was not reported, however, was the delay the king caused some 300 congressmen, relatives and staffers.

The plane the king put out of commission was one of two Pan Am jets chartered for a special space junket to Cape Kennedy.

After the accident, the congressmen sat on a concrete airstrip beneath the hot Florida sun awaiting word about when they would leave. Meanwhile, space officials huddled, trying to figure out who should go on the remaining plane.

After three hours, the congressmen were given first priority and flew off. Staffers, who had been partying anyway at nearby Patrick Air Force base, took off later in a third plane brought in to replace King Hussein's victim.

Texas Nepotism

Even the do-nothing House Ethics Committee is wringing its hands over the fact that convicted Rep. John Dowdy (D-Tex.) is running his wife for his House seat while she remains on his office payroll.

Mrs. Dowdy has already earned a small fortune from the congressional nepotism. Her salary payments during her 20 years on the House rolls total almost \$225,000.