

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/08: CIA-RDP82-00850R000100010019-9

10 JANUARY 1979

ON

(FOUO 2/79)

1 OF 2

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JPRS L/8212

10 January 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(FOUO 2/79)



WORLD

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|--|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET | | 1. Report No. JPRS L/8212 | 2. | 3. Recipient's Accession No. |
| 4. Title and Subtitle TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (FOUO 2/79) | | | 5. Report Date 10 January 1979 | |
| 7. Author(s) | | | 6. | |
| 9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Globe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201 | | | 8. Performing Organization Rept. No. | |
| 12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above | | | 10. Project/Task/Work Unit No. | |
| | | | 11. Contract/Grant No. | |
| | | | 13. Type of Report & Period Covered | |
| | | | 14. | |
| 15. Supplementary Notes | | | | |
| 16. Abstracts The serial report consists of translations from the world press and radio relating to law, law enforcement, illicit traffic and personalities concerned with narcotics and dangerous drugs. | | | | |
| 17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors Narcotics Drug Addiction Law (Jurisprudence) Law Enforcement | | | | |
| 17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms Dangerous Drugs Drug Control Drug Traffic | | | | |
| 17c. COSATI Field/Group 5K, 60, 6T | | | | |
| 18. Availability Statement For Official Use Only. Limited Number of Copies Available From JPRS. | | | 19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED | 21. No. of Pages 144 |
| | | | 20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED | 22. Price |

FORM NTIS-35 (REV. 3-72)

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED

USCOMW-DC 4952-P72

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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 2/79)

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BURMA

BRIEFS

DRUG ACTIVITY IN RANGOON--Mandalay, 4 December--Station Commander U Nyunt Shwe and Sub-inspectors U Tin Maung; Maung and U Soe Thein of the Heroin Suppression Unit of the Mandalay Division and ward people's councillors raided the house of U Aye Maung in Myinwin Ward, East Chan-aye-tha-zan quarter, in Mandalay at 0900 yesterday and seized two packages of heroin worth 300 kyats each. House owner U Aye Maung, son Maung Myint Way, daughter Ma Thedar and neighbors Ma Khin Htwe and Daw Pu Kyi, who were found in the house during the raid, while transacting, were arrested by the police of Station No. 8 under Sections 6 (E), 10 (B) and 11 (of the Narcotic Drugs Law). Lance Corporal Maung Maung and his team of the Bicycle Patrol Unit seized 26 packages of heroin worth 10 kyats each and a package of heroin worth 50 kyats from heroin traffickers and users Toe Toe, Sailone Aung Tun and Aung Kyi of Kyaukthabeik Ward inside the sawmill at No. 53 Irrawaddy Port Road at 2100 yesterday. The Patheingyi police have taken action against them under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B) and 11 [of the Narcotic Drugs Law.] [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 11 Dec 78 p 6 BK]

MYITKYINA ARREST--Seikkun, 28 November--Ward people's council Chairman U Koe Maung and secretary U Baung Naw and Police Station Commander U Myo Chit seized three packages of heroin from the home of Li Phu in the same ward on 26 November. The four packages of heroin were worth over 10,000 kyats. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 6 Dec 78 p 4 BK]

THREE ARRESTED WITH HEROIN--Rangoon, 7 December--Personnel of the Drug Suppression Unit of the Rangoon Division People's Police Force's Crimes Prevention Squad arrested at the corner of Strand Road and Maung Khaing Road 19-year old Nyo Nyo alias Zaw Min Lat alias Zaw Min of 2nd Htu-payon Road, 1st Thaketa Ward, and 20-year old Aung Soe of 5th Pyapon Street, along with over 4,000 kyats worth of heroin, at 1700 yesterday, under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B), 11 and 14 (D) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law.] On the same day, at 1040, the personnel of the Drug Suppression Unit arrested at the corner of Kyongyi and Maung Khaing roads 43-year old Ne Win alias Ne Win Tun of the 8th Weiluwn Road, Sanchaung township, along with 200 kyats worth of heroin, under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B) and 14 (D) (of the Narcotic Drugs Law). [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 8 Dec 78 p 7 BK]

SEARCHES IN TAMU TOWNSHIP--Tamu, 30 November--The personnel of the Tamu People's Police Force led by their commander are carrying out surprise searches and checks in Tamu township, Sagaing Division, on the India-Burma border, under the direction and supervision of the party and council in order to eliminate crimes and to suppress drugs. On 17 November, Corporal Khin Maung Way, Lance Corporal Maung Nge and Private Tin Yi searched a suspect--Shan Pur alias Nan Khan Shan of the 2nd Tarhan Ward, Kalemyo--and seized .22 viss [1 viss equals 3.60 lbs] of heroin from a double-lion branded can he was carrying in his satchel. Shan Pur was arrested under Sections 6 (B), 7 (B) and 8 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. Shan Pur was arrested near Kuthe ferry while he was on his way to send the heroin to India. He arrived in Tamu in "San Mying Than" bus operating between Kalemyo and Taum. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 12 Dec 78 p 5 BK]

RAILROAD PASSENGER ARRESTED--Letpadan, 10 December--Secretary U Tin Tun of the Myoma Ward People's Council and Unit Commander U Mying Thein of the Railway Police became suspicious and searched traveller Tun Lwin on platform No. 2 of Letpadan railway station on the night of 3 December, while he was waiting for a train leaving for Henzada and Kyonpyaw, and seized 14 packages of raw opium, weighing .60 viss [1 viss equals 3.60 lbs] each. Tun Lwin was arrested under Sections 6 (B) and 7 (B) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law.] [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 14 Dec 78 p 4 BK]

HEROIN, SYRINGE SEIZED FROM TWO MEN--Rangoon, 7 Dec.--Police seized nine packets of heroin, a hypodermic syringe and K46 believed to be proceeds from the sale of heroin from two young men in front of a People's drug shop on Shwebontha Street here this afternoon. A crime suppression team of Rangoon Division People's Police Force found two suspicious looking men--Tin Maung Bo (20) of Building No 164, East Yankin and Zaw Win Thein (24) of Building No 232, West Yankin. When the police searched them, they found two packets of heroin and a hypodermic syringe from the bag of Tin Maung Bo and, seven packets of heroin and K46 from Zaw Win Thein. The two were handed over to Pabedan Police who booked them under Sections 6 (b) (possession), 10 (b) (sale)/II (abetment in the offence) and 14 (d) failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.--(300) [Text] [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 11 Dec 78 p 1 BK]

DRUG SEIZURE AT TAUNGGYI--Taunggyi, 6 Dec.--A narcotic drugs suppression team led by Sub-Inspector of Police U Tun Myint together with Chanthargon Ward People's Councillors seized about K 50,000 worth of heroin from two men near Taunggyaunggyi lake in Taunggyi on 5 December. The two men are Gani of Kanthar Ward and Maung Lay alias Tarday of No 6 Ward, Lashio. Police are taking action against them under Sections 6 (b) (possession), 10 (b) (sale) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. The narcotic drug suppression teams have seized 5.34 kilogrammes of heroin worth more than K 250,000 and have taken action against 368 persons since January. (H) [Text] [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 12 Dec 78 p 4 BK]

YOUTH SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS--Pabedan Township Court chaired by U Tha Oo last Monday sentenced a youth to six years' imprisonment on one count and to a one-year term on another count under the Narcotic Drugs Law. The case was that at about 10.30 am on 8 September 1977, Pabedan police led by L/Cpl Myint Tun searched a youth at the corner of Anawrahta and 32nd Streets in the presence of witnesses and seized three packets of heroin from him. The youth, identified as Tin Nyunt alias Ye Thant of No 5, 5th Lane, AFPFL Quarter, Rangoon, was sent up for trial before the Pabedan Township Court which found him guilty under Sections 6(b) (possession) and 14(d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and sentenced him to six years' imprisonment under Section 6(b) and to a one-year term under Section 14(d), the sentences to be served concurrently. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 15 Dec 78 p 1]

OFFICIALS SEIZE OPIUM POWDER--Rangoon, 22 Dec--Law enforcement officials seized 71 kilos of brown opium powder valued at 1,065,000 kyats at Tachilek on 20 December. A jeep, Gangec 3776, driven by Sai Shei Yan, which came from Kengtung, was stopped by customs authorities at Tachilek at about 1800 hours on 19 December. The vehicle was then escorted to the customs compound and put under guard. When the authorities searched the goods on the vehicle on 20 December morning they found 71 packets of brown opium powder weighing 71 kilos inside two of the 20 garlic bags on the car. The seizure is valued at 1,065,000 kyats. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 23 Dec 78 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

NARCOTICS BUREAU WINNING THE BATTLE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 11 Dec 78 p 17

[Text]

The Narcotics Bureau looks set to complete a record year for drug seizures and arrests.

The bureau head, Mr Malcolm Farnham, said yesterday that for the first six months of the year 193 kg of heroin had been seized — more than the whole of last year.

Police also hope to beat the record number of raids made in 1974, when 260 kg of seaborne drugs were seized.

Mr Farnham, who took up his present post only this year, said his bureau has managed to smash the big syndicates, but their big headache today is the lone carrier.

"These people are loners and in it for a quick buck. They're the unknown quantity," he said.

Mr Farnham added that the most common drug being smuggled in today is heroin-base, of which one pound equals three pounds of heroin according to the current street level.

Most of the drugs are being imported from Thailand where they can be processed within six hours and without the help of qualified chemists, he said.

Mr Farnham also said that because prices for drugs are now up and supply down, traffickers have been forced to cut their supplies of heroin to addicts.

The going price for a user is about \$40 for a tiny packet which contains only 25 per cent heroin.

He added that the dilution of drugs by traffickers desperate to stay in the business has driven addicts to the hypodermic needle, injecting the weakened drug and its fake additives directly into their bloodstreams.

"Mainlining produces a quicker result with a smaller dose than inhaling the drug.

"The addict, the end destination of the drug's criminal journey from the so-called 'Golden Triangle' of Thailand, Laos and Burma, is always the lover," he said.

Mr Farnham regards the heroin price rise with satisfaction and yesterday commented:

"When prices go up, attendances at treatment centres also rises."

"And while it is difficult to evaluate the success of treatment to hardened, habitual drug users, the encouraging trend is that fewer young people in Hongkong are setting out on the self-destructive road to drug addiction."

He added that the rise in drug prices, smaller quantities of drugs reaching addicts, treatment availability, and fewer young people becoming involved are the most obvious signs that the drug rackets here have been contained.

"As recently as 1974 drugs were coming into Hongkong by the boatload.

"Average shipments amounted to about one ton of opium or 200 kg of morphine.

"Today drug runners usually arrive by air, carrying only three or four pounds.

"This is a direct result of the smashing of the big drug syndicates."

He said dealers buy the drug in half ounce packets and split it down to small "fixes" of about 0.3 of a gram.

The price for these "fixes" has risen quickly from \$25 to \$40 in the past few months.

Because of the crackdown many manufacturers left Hongkong, particularly the heroin chemists who were expert in refining pure heroin from the raw material which was being imported in bulk.

With the departure of the experts, it became necessary for traffickers to partly process the drug before smuggling it in.

"This meant that instead of buying 'white powder' heroin No 4 — which was 90 per cent heroin — drug users found themselves having to use the coarse grey pellets of heroin No 3, which is less pure and often prepared by amateurs," he said.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

MAGISTRATE CRITICIZES HANDLING OF CASES BY POLICE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 5 Dec 78 p 12

[Text]

A Fanling court magistrate yesterday criticised the police for bringing before him cases which should be tried in higher courts.

Mr H. S. Daniell made the comment when he sentenced a 45-year-old man, Man Wing-hing, to three years' imprisonment for possessing 3.9 grams of salts of ester of morphine for the purpose of unlawful trafficking in a hut in Shui Mun Tau, Yuen Long, on November 20.

Man had pleaded not guilty.

In passing sentence, Mr Daniell said: "This defendant has now been convicted for the third time for possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking, his last conviction being only last year.

"I have on numerous occasions commented that the police should bring such cases before the proper court.

"Only recently, my colleague criticised the police in respect of a similar case.

"I consider that this case should have been brought to the attention of the Attorney-General with a view to being tried in a higher court.

"The maximum penalty I can impose is one of three years and I sentenced him to that term."

Mr Daniell added that if the police were sincerely desirous of eradicating this type of offence, "I wonder why they should choose to bring a case of this nature to a magistracy."

Inspector M. Handley, prosecuting, told the court that police, acting on information, raided a hut at Shui Mun Tau on November 20.

While the police were searching the hut, Man returned.

In his left hand were two packets of suspected dangerous drugs.

Man had claimed the drugs were planted by the police.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONS REVEALS ALARMING STATISTICS

Prisons Seek Additional Powers

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Dec 78 p 16

[Text]

Mr Garner wants his service's powers extended so that it can keep "a watchful eye" on the Colony's drug addicts.

He is so alarmed by the increase in the number of drug addicts being admitted and the number of convicted people found to be drug addicts on admission to prison that his department has submitted proposals to the Government that would lead to more after care for addicts.

During 1976 and last year the percentage of known drug addicts admitted dropped from 47 per cent to 41 per cent.

But this year it has gone up to 53 per cent.

There has also been an increase in the percentage of convicted people found to be addicts on admission to prison.

In 1976 the percentage was 43, last year it was 49 and this year it has gone up to 54.

Mr Garner said: "These increases cause considerable concern as they indicate that addicts are becoming more involved in non-drug offences, presumably to provide money for drugs."

Outlining the proposals now being studied by Government, Mr Garner said he would like to see anyone convicted for a minor drug offence passed to the prison service for examination before sentencing.

He said this would enable the service to find out whether he would respond to treatment in a centre.

Mr Garner said he would like to see more drug addicts kept out of the prisons and put into the treatment centres.

In the case of someone being sentenced for a third or subsequent time the Prisons Department would like to see the period of after care extended from one year to three.

Mr Garner said that at present if someone is discharged under after care supervision but breaches that supervision and is recalled for treatment and then discharged there is no further supervision.

He added:

"As the law is, because of the recall the supervision order is no longer valid."

"I would like them to be in after care when they are discharged for the remainder of the supervision period."

Mr Garner pointed out that prisons were expensive and that after care was cheaper.

He said:

"Prisons are not the real place to treat the addict."

"We want to keep a watchful eye on addicts after they have been to a treatment centre."

"With hard core addicts this is what is needed."

Newspaper Backs Commissioner

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 11 Dec 78 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

At a time when it appeared that Hongkong was starting to win the fight against drug addiction the statistics revealed by the Commissioner for Prisons, Mr Tom Garner, last week are alarming.

Since last year the percentage of known drug addicts admitted to prisons has soared from 41 to 53 per cent. And the percentage of convicted people found to be addicts on admission has also jumped from 49 to 54 per cent. Two years ago the percentage of criminal addicts was only 43 per cent.

Admittedly this does not suggest that drug addiction throughout Hongkong is on the increase. In fact the reverse is the case. The addicted population of about 85,000 10 years ago has almost been halved. And with only three per cent of the estimated 50,000 addicts under 20 years of age it would not appear to be a growing problem.

But obviously, as far as the person who is hooked is concerned, it has become a vicious circle. Because with the price of heroin having trebled in the past three years to about \$45,000 a lb — nearly four times the price of gold — the addict has to turn to crime to get the funds to feed his habit. And when he is caught he ends up in prison. He is not only a sick man but a criminal.

In the case of the addict turned criminal, particularly where he may have used violence to get money, there is little alternative to a prison sentence.

However, Mr Garner is keen to get the addict "young." He would like to see anyone convicted for a minor drug offence passed to the Prisons Department for examination before sentencing. This would enable the department to find out whether the addict would respond to treatment in a centre.

Certainly his department's centres have a good record. Almost 60 per cent of more than 8,000 people released from the centres between 1969 and last year have not taken drugs since. And possibly more important, none of the "successes" has been reconvicted of any crime.

Prisons, despite the high standards maintained here as correctional institutions, obviously are not the ideal places for an addict. That closed in feeling is hardly conducive to weaning him off drugs. And mixing with hardened criminals can only give him ideas of how he can get quick funds to satisfy his habit when he gets out.

Mr Garner is confident that his department's treatment centres will give the addict a better chance to rehabilitate himself. And he wants to extend the period of after care from one to three years in the case of addicts with three or more convictions. He feels this is essential for the hard core addict.

Prevention and education methods offer the best hope of eventually eliminating our greatest social evil. But we must also do more for the unfortunates who have progressed beyond this stage.

While making a strong case for establishing his department as a watchdog over drug addicts, Mr Garner will hear no evil about his officers. "Brutality does not exist (in my prisons)," he said.

Top prison men the world over are exceptionally sensitive about allegations that their officers ill treat prisoners. And rightly so. More often than not these allegations are the result of vindictiveness on the part of the prisoner. It is their way of getting back at society. And it can make life very uncomfortable for the innocent prison officer. There must ~~always be the~~ danger that some of the mud will stick.

But as Mr Garner concedes, prison officers are human. In a moment of weakness "they may do something wrong." Like "a slap over the ear."

Mr Garner assures us that when this is the case "they will account to the department and to me, and do." He points out that justices visit prisons twice a month and are free to speak to any prisoner.

This is all very well. But even the most hardened prisoners have a code of "ethics." Possibly in the mistaken belief that they may get their own back in time, they keep silent about unnecessarily harsh treatment. And they know that they will have a difficult job proving their claim unless there are physical signs of brutality.

The fact is that no matter how careful the screening process, people with bullying or sadistic tendencies do get through. The abuses may be few, but it would be unwise for the Prisons Department to adopt the attitude "it can't happen here."

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

BAIL LAW MOVE LINKED DIRECTLY TO MA BROTHERS

Spokesman Finds Proposals Regrettable

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Dec 78 p 1

[Article by Renu Daryanani]

[Text] Proposals to tighten up existing bail laws--including a provision allowing the Attorney-General to apply for a review of bail granted in lower courts--were gazetted yesterday.

And they brought immediate protests from the local branch of Justice, the civil rights group.

A spokesman said the changes had grave implications for an accused's legal rights.

Far more work was needed on the proposals, he said, adding that it was regrettable the Government had not consulted interested groups such as Justice.

The proposals limit fresh application for bail once a High Court judge has refused it.

An accused person may also be held in custody for 48 hours to give the Attorney-General time to apply for a review of bail granted by district judges and magistrates.

The proposals were contained in the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (No 4) Bill 1978 and are aimed at remedying defects revealed in the bail system after the Ma pair absconded in September.

They had been freed pending their trial on drug conspiracy charges.

Under present laws, any magistrate, district judge or High Court judge may grant bail and there is no provision for the Crown to appeal.

An accused can also make any number of fresh applications for bail to the same magistrate, district judge or High Court judge. Under the proposals, the accused may have to satisfy the court of material changes in his circumstances before he can apply again.

The Justice spokesman said: "The proposals deal with a remedy to the Ma situation--and that alone.

"Detailed examination of the Ordinance is required and it is regretted that up to now, there has been no consultation by the Government with interested bodies as Justice."

The spokesman said areas needing clarifying include the reasons for granting bail, the nature of objections raised by prosecutions and a proper assessment of information relating to the offence and the accused.

The spokesman also said that the proposals allowing the Attorney-General to ask for a review should not be a stopgap measure because the prosecution has not presented adequate information to the court which granted bail in the first place.

Editorial Encourages New Proposals

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Dec 78 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] When a man reputed to be worth many millions of dollars is brought to court on serious charges which could result in him having to forfeit either a large part of his wealth or a long period of his life in jail it ought to be clear to the courts that to grant bail even under the most stringent sureties is virtually an invitation to flee their jurisdiction.

In saying this, we do not seek to cast aspersions on judges or magistrates who have an onerous and unenviable task in weighing the merits of the pleas that are put before them. And as one barrister pointed out recently, cases sometimes take so long to come to trial that it would be a denial of justice not to give bail.

But in weighing the arguments by the Crown and the accused, the court must bear in mind that it is not making decisions in a vacuum where the interests of justice constitute the only consideration. They are an essential part of the life of the community and their rulings are bound to influence the minds and affect the attitudes of many people.

To many people in Hongkong the distinction between the executive and judiciary is far from clear in spite of 140 years of British rule and there are still many who see no difference between the two. Obviously the courts cannot allow themselves to be unduly influenced by this misapprehension. But it is necessary for the Government to show that there are ways of challenging clearly unsatisfactory decisions and that it is not inevitably bound by them, with all the untoward consequences this could entail.

So yesterday the Government gazetted amendments to the Criminal Procedure Bill which does two things: it limits the scope for fresh applications by accused people once a High Court judge has refused bail; and it enables a High Court judge on the application of the Attorney-General to review the grant of bail by a district judge or magistrate.

Effectively this limits the chances of accused people "shopping around" for a favourably inclined judge or magistrate, and it allows the Attorney-General to call on the highest court to pronounce on the validity of a bail order by a lower court.

In short, while still leaving discretion with the courts, the Crown is seeking an essential safeguard to ensure that its orders are approved by the most experienced and most senior court available.

This move, forecast earlier this year by the Assistant to the Law Officers, Mr David Boy, following comments by the Chairman of the Bar Association, Mr Henry Litton, should go a long way to plugging the loopholes that have allowed accused people to "jump bail" when confronted with serious criminal charges.

They will be welcomed as much by the public as by the police who face the frustration of seeing weeks and sometimes months of dedicated effort, costing hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars, virtually poured down the drain by a court decision.

There is a strong argument for refusing bail in any case where serious charges arise regardless of the occupation of the accused for Hongkong has learnt that even hawkers can mysteriously command large sums of money at short notice. And in a city where money talks the one way of ensuring that people that people facing grave charges whether of bribery, drug smuggling, kidnapping, robbery with violence or murder, are brought to trial, is to deny them bail.

This would, however, limit the discretion of the court and should be considered only as a last resort. The preferable approach would be to ensure that the Crown has the right to challenge decisions by lower courts which may well be contrary to the best interests of the community--even if they do have some logic in law.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN YAUMATI FRUIT MARKET TRIAL

Second Trial Ends

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 5 Dec 78 p 13

[Text]

The second Yaumati fruit market trial closed yesterday after a two-day final address for the defence by Mr Warwick Haldane, and Judge Hopkinson adjourned until Friday for his verdict.

The judge made it plain that Friday was only a provisional date and he may have to extend the time allowed for him to write his judgment.

He told counsel they would be notified if there was any alteration.

An application for bail made by Mr Haldane for three of the defendants was again refused by the judge.

This was the third time the judge had refused an application for bail since the

three were ordered to be detained in-custody after a ruling by the judge that there was a prima facie case to answer on the evidence.

The remaining defendant, Wong Ting-fan (37), an ex-constable, had his bail extended until the verdict.

The trial began on November 4.

The other defendants are Tong Yuk-hing (38), ex-sergeant, Chow Kai-kai (41), constable, and Tam-Sik-hung (35), ex-constable.

Senior Crown counsel Warwick Reid leads for the Crown assisted by Crown counsel Stephen Tisdall.

Mr Haldane defends all four accused.

Constable Accuses Crown's Witness

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 5 Dec 78 p 13

[Text]

One of the defendants in the first Yaumati fruit market syndicate trial before Judge Liu, QC, told the court yesterday that prosecution witnesses had lied about him to shorten their sentences for drug trafficking.

Police Constable Sung Chan-nam denied he had ever received "tea money" from drug traffickers, and alleged that the self-confessed traffickers who had given evidence had said what the Crown wanted them to say "in their own interests."

Sung said he was a garment worker before joining the police on January 31, 1972.

He served in Yaumati Police Station in 1974 and was arrested by the Independent Commission Against Corruption in September last year.

According to the Crown, Sung had never been in the Vice Squad, had never at any time been in the Tai Loi Restaurant in Yaumati where

evidence had been given that a heroin syndicate was operated, and had never been in the Tai Fat Store where squeeze money was paid out to police.

At the beginning of 1976 Sung became aware that drugs were being sold in the Yaumati fruit market area, but had never seen Ma Ting-kit, one of the operators of the drug divan, until he saw him in court giving evidence.

Sung also denied that he had collected tea money for the sergeants on his shift or that he had been to Ma and asked for money.

He said he had not arrested drug dealers to persuade divan operators to pay him squeeze money. It was also untrue that after he had made a few arrests Ma sent for him and paid him a small amount of money.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael Maguire, QC, who leads for the Crown, Sung

agreed that what in fact he was saying was that Ma was giving evidence against him because he did not arrest the drug sellers, but added that Ma had the motive of hoping to reduce his jail sentence for trafficking.

The trial continues today. The defendants, who pleaded not guilty, are Wong Hu-yim (35), Lam Siu-kui (33), Ho King-hung (28), Leung Wing-lok (24), Sung Chan-nam (26), Ng Leung-fai (24), Cheung Sing-yin (52), Ho Ying-ching (29), Wu Ho-fung (44), Yip Kam-dock (37), Chung Fat-sang (42), On Man-ching (34), Chi Wai (48), Law King (50) and Kam Wing-tong (45).

They are charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by acting contrary to their duties as police officers in the Yaumati Police Division between September, 1975 and August 1976.

Sergeant Denies Accepting Squeeze

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 18

[Excerpt]

On Man-ching, one of the defendants in the first Yaumati fruit market trial, denied in Victoria District Court yesterday that as a police sergeant he took \$400 a week from drug traffickers as his share of squeeze money paid to Yaumati police.

He said he remembered that in July 1975 he arrested a man for selling heroin in the Yaumati fruit market.

He made regular reports to the senior divisional inspector regarding drug activities in Yaumati and his observations of drug sellers in the market.

He noticed that at the beginning of 1976 there was a conspicuous increase in drug activity in the Yaumati fruit market area.

Patrolling police constables were instructed to keep a watch on drug activity and to arrest anyone found in possession of drugs in that area.

Referring to the first and principal witness for the Crown, Ma Ting-kit, On said he knew him in Tsimshatsui in 1973.

At that time he was a constable stationed in the area and he came to know Ma who was a pedlar of pornography.

On said many arrests were made in connection with the "blue movie" business in which Ma was involved, but Ma himself was not arrested.

Those arrested were mainly the ones who sold tickets or who stood on the corners acting as "observatories."

However, not all those arrested were charged with the offence.

He denied he knew Ma was in Yaumati involved in the drug selling business in 1976.

On said that before the trial he had never heard the name of Chan Man-chiu, principal operator of the heroin divan, and had never seen his face before.

He had never been to the Tai Loi restaurant in Yaumati.

When he was serving in the Yaumati division he never ate in restaurants, he said, but only from cooked food stalls because it was much cheaper.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael Maguire, QC, who leads for the Crown, On agreed that he and Ma Ting-kit had identified each other and said they knew each other in Tsimshatsui.

On one occasion he had searched Ma, he said.

Asked by Mr Maguire if he knew he was known by the

nickname of On Chai (which means On Boy), he said he had never heard the name used and it had certainly not been used to his face.

He refused to answer when asked whether he was not small of stature and very youthful in appearance.

"In short, you look like a boy. There is nothing wrong with that.

"I wish I looked like a boy instead of an old boy," said Mr Maguire.

On still persisted that he had never been called by the nickname

He said that police in the Yaumati division never called

each other by nicknames and he knew the other sergeants only by numbers.

At the request of Mr Maguire he recited the numbers of five other sergeants in his sub-unit.

The trial before Judge Liu, QC, continues today.

Crown counsel Brett Dawson assists Mr Maguire.

Mr Joseph Lee represents the first defendant. Mr John Nicholas and Miss Tam appear for the other defendants, instructed by Mr Christopher d'Almada.

Two Convicted, Two Freed

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Dec 78 p 12

[Text]

Two defendants were acquitted and two convicted at the close of the second Yaumati conspiracy trial in Victoria District Court yesterday.

Acquitted were Tong Yuk-hing (34), former sergeant of the Kowloon District Special Duties Squad, and Wong Ting-fan (37), former police constable.

Convicted were Chow Kai-kia (41) and Tam Sik-hung (35), both former members of the KDSB. They were each sentenced to two years in prison.

This was the first of the three Yaumati fruit market trials to reach a conclusion.

Crowds had gathered in and outside the courtroom but they received the verdict in silence, waiting to congratulate the acquitted men until the sentencing of the other two was over.

Judge Hopkinson said he would deliver an abbreviated judgment and hand down a full written judgment at a later date.

Concerning Tong, the Judge said that principal witness, Chan Man-chiu, operator of a heroin divan, had said in evidence that when Tong was appointed sergeant of the squad, he was given a fee of \$1,000 by the drug dealer and was given further sums after that by his associates in the drug dealing business.

Chan Man-chiu had identified Tong in court, said the judge, but another prosecution witness, Ma Ting-kit, had said that Tong was not the man to whom the syndicate paid squeeze money, and other witnesses had failed to identify him.

"Although I have little doubt that Chan Man-chiu was speaking the truth, the prosecution has not satisfied me that the first accused was the Sergeant Tong who solicited money from the drug divan and accepted \$1,000," said the judge.

The case against Wong Ting-fan depended entirely on the evidence of the two drug dealers, Chan and Ma,

the judge went on, but again there was conflict of evidence of identification. Chan identified him and Ma did not.

The Crown had not applied to treat Ma as a hostile witness, therefore he must accept his evidence on equal terms with that of Chan and the two testimonies cancelled each other out.

The judge said he was satisfied that there was a conspiracy by members of the KDSB which was known as the Lo Kwok squad to accept money from operators of illegal establishments not to do their duty, and he would refer to it as the Lo Kwok Conspiracy.

The question he had to decide was whether the Crown had proved that the four defendants took part in the conspiracy.

The judge said he had constantly reminded himself that it was dangerous to convict on the uncorroborated evidence of accomplices and was well aware of the character and background and the various pressures and inducements to

which the prosecution witnesses were subjected.

Concerning the two convicted defendants the judge said that Chan Man-chiu gave evidence that Chow had been supplied by the syndicate with heroin to frame persons on drug trafficking charges and Tam on one occasion had supplied them with heroin for which he was paid \$5,000.

The judge said that he found these accusations had not been proved.

"These two accused were members of the KDSB with the particular function of taking action against illegal establishments in Kowloon, including dangerous drug traffickers," said the judge.

"They agreed to take

money from the syndicate to allow it to continue its operation and that of course was obstruction of public justice and must be properly punished. However, I do take account of the fact that the most heinous aspect of the case, that they accepted heroin from the syndicate and that the fourth defendant (Tam) supplied it to the syndicate has not been proved."

Mr Warwick Haldane, who defended the four accused, said in mitigation that both had a clear record. He pointed to the length of the investigations into the Yaumati fruit market trial and said it had been hanging over their heads for two years.

"They have suffered enormous mental anguish since the investigation started

which became much more pronounced when they were charged," said Mr Haldane.

He added that because of the amnesty many public servants had escaped investigation and the consequences thereof, and these defendants to an extent felt they were scapegoats because of the chance occurrence that the investigations were begun before the amnesty was granted.

All four accused were charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by acting contrary to their duties as police officers in the Yaumati Police Division between September 1975 and August 1976.

Senior Crown Counsel Warwick Reid prosecuted, assisted by Crown Counsel Stephen Tisdall.

When Witnesses Disagree

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Dec 78 p 12

[Excerpt]

The approach to criminal law in Hongkong is altogether too delicate, whereas criminal law itself is anything but delicate.

Mr Michael Maguire, QC, who leads for the Crown in the Yaumati fruit market trial, said this during his final address yesterday.

Mr Maguire said that on being faced with inconsistency such as that between two witnesses, or the fact that one disagreed with the other, that one was silent upon a matter and the other vocal, the trial judge must judge between them. That was his title and that was his role.

The task must be approached realistically and not

with too much delicacy as had so often been the case here in the past.

A trial judge, sitting alone in his capacity as a jury, should look not for inconsistency, but for consistency, counsel went on.

One would always find inconsistency in the testimony of witnesses recalling events months and years past. If there were not such inconsistencies, the judge might well consider that the evidence was just too good to be true.

Counsel for the defence — Miss Maria Tam, Mr John Nicholas and Mr Joseph Lee

— are expected to begin their final addresses today and to take at least a week.

The trial is before Judge Lui, QC.

It is not expected a verdict will be given before Christmas.

The trial began on September 19 with 19 defendants on a charge of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in the Yaumati Police Division in 1975 and 1976.

Four defendants were acquitted on a no-case to answer submission and 15 remain.

Counselor Gives Summation

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Dec 78 p 13

[Excerpt]

Corruption strikes at the very roots of the economy, debases morality and if tolerated becomes a way of life, said Mr Michael Maguire, British QC, when he began his final address in the first Yaumati fruit market trial yesterday.

"Corruption in the law enforcement agencies of the State sets at naught the State itself," he went on. "Corruption is clandestine, it lurks in dark corners and embraces both the high and the humble.

"Wherever corruption is found it must be taken by the throat and dragged out into the light of day to disabuse the doubters, those who close their eyes to its existence and hope that it will go away — to remind the public that there are three parties to any corrupt bargain, two who are satisfied, and the State. It is the State which has the ultimate responsibility and the final say, when upon conviction of the wrong-doers, the forfeit is claimed.

Mr Maguire said that the Crown, in prosecuting the 15 police officers who are the defendants in the trial, had established that between January 1975 and August 1976 a conspiracy had existed between a drug retailing business which carried on its "evil trade" in the various alleyways and staircases in the vicinity of the Yaumati fruit market and the members of the Yaumati Police Force stationed nearby.

The heroin stall appeared to have come into existence upon the demise of an earlier stall which operated in the same vicinity, Mr Maguire

went on. Its beginnings in May 1975 were small, but it increased fairly rapidly to sizeable proportions so that by August 10, 1976 its daily sales were in the region of \$70,000.

The heroin stall was mobile in so far as its distribution was concerned but fixed in the sense that the Tai Loi restaurant was a controlling centre and after March 1976 the Tai Fat Store was used as an adjunct meeting place.

By reason of its mobility and the fact that it was protected by lookouts, it was probably difficult to suppress by any but a determined and vigilant police force.

Unfortunately the police officers entrusted with the administration of the law in Yaumati had amongst their number those who were neither determined nor honest in the discharge of their duties.

It was quite clear from the evidence that the steps taken by the operators of the heroin stall to avoid detection, disturbance and apprehension were steps taken to protect the heroin stall from interference by honest police.

Those corrupt police officers, despite being entrusted with the administration of the law and being bound by an oath of service to uphold the law, offered the operators of the stall their protection for monetary reward and thereby ensured its continuing life with the minimum disturbance.

Their object and aims could be summed up in the words: "We will not prosecute or unduly disturb those who pay us not to do so."

It was of course inevitable there should be some disturbance of the operation of the heroin stall, went on Mr Maguire, since all the police officers were not corrupt and those who were had to make the pretence of carrying out their duty in the presence of their superiors and the honest police officers.

Had no action at all been taken against drug traffickers in the area questions would no doubt have been asked, since the extent and location of the heroin stall was known.

It was significant that such steps as were taken appear to have been directed principally against the unfortunate addicts and, if the evidence of those operators who gave evidence was accepted, were carried out after advance warnings had been given and suitable arrangements made for the reception of the raiding parties.

The staging of these "shows" and payment for them, the description of the actual heroin sellers so as to avoid accidental arrest of them were just some examples of this pretence at the performance of their duty by corrupt officers working at and out of Yaumati Police Station.

Yet the operators of the heroin stall remained inviolate and appear to have been on such familiar terms with some corrupt police officers that they were free to come and go even into the confines of the Yaumati Police Station itself, said Mr Maguire.

He will continue his final address when the trial continues on Monday before Judge Liu, QC.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

WITNESS ADMITS TO RUNNING A DRUG RING

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 18

[Text]

A Crown witness in the conspiracy trial of two Preventive Service officers admitted yesterday that apart from being a rent collector, he also operated an opium divan.

Chan Ting-yick, alias Chan Yick, made the admission before Judge Rhind at Kowloon District Court while being cross-examined by Mr. Ching Wong for the defence.

Senior Inspector Ng Tai-shing (50) and Inspector Cheung Kuen-yun are charged with having conspired with other people to obstruct the course of justice in relation to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance between January and August 11, 1976.

Both pleaded not guilty.

Chan said that in 1972-73 he operated an opium divan which was raided and closed down in the same year.

But he denied that he saw Ng who led the raiding party. Mr Wong then asked him if he was also an informer.

Chan at first denied it but later admitted that in May 1976 he had supplied information to Ng who led a raid on an opium divan in Shanghai Street, Yaumatei, resulting in the arrest of 18 people.

Chan denied that he rang Ng to meet him in a restaurant in Observatory Road, Tsimshatsui, after the raid.

He also denied that he feared his life was in danger and asked Ng not to reveal his identity.

Hearing continues today. Mr Ching Wong represents Ng and Mr Henry M. Yuen defends Cheung.

Crown counsel, Ronald Noble prosecutes.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

CANADIAN DRUG CONNECTION INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 10 Dec 78 p 13

[Text]

Narcotics Bureau detectives are working hand in hand with Canadian authorities in a bid to smash several syndicates using family connections here to smuggle drugs into Canada.

The partnership has already led to three major arrests and investigations are continuing.

Police believe that the syndicates, through old family contacts, are financing Hongkong residents wanting to visit their relatives in Canada.

The all-expenses paid holidays have only one condition — the recipients must carry a suitcase of heroin through Canadian customs.

Police here were alerted to the racket by the Canadian authorities who are concerned at the extent of the operations and the amounts that are being carried into the country.

According to a senior officer, the Canadian syndicates are comprised of Chinese who have extensive contacts in Hongkong who recruit the couriers.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

HEROIN CONVICTION QUASHED

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 13 Dec 78 p 15

[Text]

A labourer who claimed a police officer had planted dangerous drugs on him succeeded in the High Court yesterday in an appeal against conviction for possessing heroin for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

Mr Justice O'Connor quashed the conviction recorded against Lau Kwok-kei (36) after hearing further evidence called by Lau.

The sentence of 18 months' imprisonment imposed by a magistrate on October 3 was set aside.

Lau was arrested by a policeman on September 8 for possessing 8.8 gms of a mixture containing 2.5 gms of heroin.

The drugs were in 14 small packets inside a cigarette packet.

Lau told the judge that a policeman had planted the

drugs on him when arresting him in a toilet at a cafe in Shamshulpo.

But the policeman's story was that the arrest had been made in the street.

Lau called two witnesses yesterday to support his claim.

They were the cafe proprietor and a man who at the time was having tea in the cafe. They testified that they saw a policeman go into the back of the cafe and come out with a man.

Crown counsel Garry Alderdice also called the arresting officer to testify.

The policeman maintained that the arrest had been made in the street and that he had no idea about the cafe referred to.

Lau was not legally represented yesterday.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

SURVEILLANCE OPERATION NETS 30 POUNDS OF OPIUM

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 14 Dec 78 p 16

[Text]

Narcotics Bureau detectives on Tuesday night seized 30 lbs of raw opium during a surveillance operation on a drug importing and distributing syndicate.

The drugs, with a retail value of \$430,000 if refined into prepared opium, were picked up on a pavement in Wongneichong Road after the surveillance targets realised they were being followed.

The seizure then sparked off a car chase in Causeway Bay when detectives tried to intercept a car carrying the two suspects who had earlier dumped the drugs on the pavement.

The detectives lost track of the suspects' car in Causeway Bay following a brief chase.

But about an hour later detectives finally located the car in a Central car park and arrested a man and a woman in connection with the seizure.

Following the arrests, detectives conducted a series of raids on 10 locations on both sides of the harbour on Tuesday night and yesterday and seized a number of documents believed to be related to the syndicate.

No further arrests or seizures were made in the subse-

quent raids.

Detectives said investigations into the syndicate began about two months ago when the Narcotics Bureau received information about its activities.

Following inquiries, a surveillance team was posted to keep watch on two suspects.

About 9.30 pm on Tuesday the team followed the suspects driving from Aberdeen to Shek Pui Wan where they were seen picking up two bags from a man.

As the team followed the suspects along Wongneichong Road, they suddenly saw the two bags being thrown out of the window on to a pavement near the Hongkong Cricket Club.

Team members immediately picked up the bags containing the drugs and began to chase the pair.

The team then radioed for assistance after losing the suspects in heavy Causeway Bay traffic.

About 10.45 pm detectives located the car in an open-air car park near the Jordan Road Ferry Pier in Connaught Road Central.

The couple was arrested in the vicinity.

A man, aged 52, was last night assisting police with their inquiries, while his wife, aged 40, was released on \$3,000 bail pending further

inquiries. She has to report to the bureau today.

Following the arrests, detectives carried out a series of follow-up raids in Central, Aberdeen, North Point and Happy Valley.

Officers were last night looking for several other people in connection with the syndicate.

They believe that the syndicate has been operating for sometime by importing drugs and distributing them as a wholesaler.

The seized drugs, wrapped in six polythene packets of five pounds each, are believed to have come from the Golden Triangle.

In another action, officers from Kowloon Police Station early yesterday raided a suspected heroin packaging centre in the Walled City and seized two pounds of No 3 heroin, worth about \$90,000.

A 27-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the seizure.

Police said the raiding party went to a ninth floor flat of a building at 2 Kwong Ming Street at 12.45 am and found the drugs, a sealing machine and some measuring equipment.

The man who was in the flat was arrested. He was last night assisting police with their inquiries.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

THAI SEAMAN HAS HIS DAY IN COURT

Convicted Trafficker Testifies

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 18

[Text]

A Thai woman who is serving a term of eight years' imprisonment for smuggling dangerous drugs to Hongkong, gave evidence in the High Court yesterday for the defence of a Thai seaman charged with possessing dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

The woman, Sommai Sorsit, had travelled with the defendant, Yai Sangpradap (41), to Hongkong on June 21.

Sangpradap, who pleaded not guilty to possessing 960.1 gms of salt of esters of morphine for the purpose of unlawful trafficking, is being tried before Mr Justice Trainor and a jury.

Yai was arrested at Kai Tak airport.

According to the Crown, the drugs were soaked in two towels and placed among his clothing in a suitcase.

Sorsit, who was arrested at the same time with another suitcase which also contained two towels soaked with dangerous drugs, pleaded guilty when charged and was sentenced by a High Court judge in October.

Testifying for Sangpradap's defence yesterday, Sorsit said she had asked the defendant to come to Hong-

kong with her because she had just undergone an operation and wanted to come here for further treatment.

She said a Hongkong friend had given her \$10,000 as a reward for bringing two suitcases to Hongkong, but the defendant did not know about this.

She added she did not know if the defendant knew there were such towels in the suitcase because she had not opened it to see.

She said she gave her clothing as well as the defendant's to the friend to put in the suitcases which were handed over to them at the airport.

Earlier, Sangpradap had testified that Sorsit offered him a free trip to Hongkong because she wanted him to help her carry the luggage as she recently had an operation.

He said he had known Sorsit since childhood and she had helped her in times of need.

He did not know the suitcase contained drugs.

Hearing continues today.

Mr Y.C. Mok is defending Sangpradap on the instructions of Lau, Wong and Chan.

Crown counsel Jim Dick is prosecuting.

Defendant Gets Six Years

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 7 Dec 78 p 17

[Text]

- A Thai seaman who, according to a High Court judge, had gambled his freedom for a handful of dollars and lost, was yesterday sentenced to six years imprisonment for smuggling dangerous drugs.

- Passing sentence on Yai Sangpradap (41), Mr Justice Trainor also said that time and time again, people like him had come from Thailand trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the customs officers at the airport.

- Time and time again they had failed.

- Sangpradap had two towels soaked with dangerous drugs in his suitcase when he arrived from Bangkok on June 21.

He had pleaded not guilty to possessing 960.1 grams of salt of esters of morphine for the purpose of unlawful trafficking, but a jury convicted him after deliberating for 3½ hours.

Crown counsel Jim Dick, prosecuting, said the drugs

had a value of \$275,000 but if mixed with additives and sold on the streets, the value would be increased about four times.

Defence counsel Y.C. Mok submitted in mitigation that Sangpradap had no previous criminal record.

He had a wife and four children aged 14 to 19.

Counsel said the Thai woman who was arrested with Sangpradap and who was also found to have two such towels in her luggage, received a prison sentence of eight years.

She was of a higher rank in terms of the transport of the drugs and she was rewarded \$10,000 for the job.

But Sangpradap had only been paid \$500, his involvement being much less than that of the woman.

Mr Justice Trainor said if it were not for the little cog like the defendant, the horrible business of drug trafficking could not carry on.

It was important therefore little cogs must be punished for this offence.

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

PRISON DIRECTOR CHARGED IN ESCAPE OF DRUG OFFENDERS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Oct 78 p 8

[Excerpts] General Prosecutor Gusti Gede Alit read two special charges against "PB," the former director of Denpasar Prison at a session of the Denpasar State Court on Monday.

According to the prosecutor, the accused and others caused the escape of Donald Andrew Ahern and David Allan Riffe, putting Indonesia in a bad light, nationally and internationally, with regard to the government's intention to enforce its laws.

The prosecutor stated that the accused moved David Allan Riffe from Denpasar Prison to Karangsem Prison, and instructed I Nyoman Susanta, the acting director of Karangsem Prison, to treat David well.

According to the prosecutor, based on these instructions, David was able to come and go without supervision, and was allowed to have a Honda motorcycle for his own use. The accused PB also placed the prisoner, Donald, in a special room outside the walls of Denpasar Prison, where the accused and his family lived, and without supervision of Denpasar Prison authorities.

The accused also permitted Donald to come and go as he felt necessary, without supervision. Donald also visited David in Karangsem Prison; and left to go shopping; to go to the telephone office; and for Indonesian State Bank 46, where he had an account. The prisoner also went to the Bali Beach Hotel in Sanur, to the coast of Kuta, and traveled from Gianjar Kelungkung to Besakih in Karangsem.

Moreover, according to the prosecutor, the accused permitted Donald to use the telephone in the accused's home to call his friends outside the country.

Besides the primary charge of involvement in the escape of the two convicted criminals, the prosecutor leveled a second charge against PB, in his capacity as a state official.

As a state official, the accused deliberately committed or ordered the abuse of his authority or deliberately afforded others the opportunity to damage the investigation of criminal subversion involving narcotics by Donald and David.

9197
CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

ASEAN MEMBERS TO SET UP ANTINARCOTICS UNITS IN CONSULAR OFFICES

BK030432Y Bangkok POST in English 3 Dec 78 p 2 BK

[Text] In a major move to help each other in tackling narcotics problems, top narcotics fighters from five ASEAN countries recently agreed in principle to establish "liaison agencies" in their respective consular offices for the goal of better coordination in their joint tasks.

This consensus was reached during a conference of drugs enforcement officials from ASEAN countries held in Jakarta between November 4 and 20, authoritative sources said yesterday.

These "liaison agencies" will perform an important role of keeping a watchful eye and examining criminal records as well as behaviour of suspects, the sources said.

Such agencies will provide intelligence information about narcotics circles to each other for better cooperation.

The procedure will facilitate narcotics fighters in every member countries with flexibility to deal rapidly with international narcotics traffickers, said the sources.

Participants, in the meantime, also reported their respective official records of drug addicts in their countries to the meeting.

Thailand topped the list with more than 600,000 drug addicts while Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia have about 100,000 addicts each in each country, the sources said.

Singapore was last on the list with 30,000 addicts.

Among the five partners, the sources added that Malaysia seemed most vulnerable in facing a higher rate of addicts than the others.

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

SANATORIUM HEAD COMMENTS ON DRUG DEPENDENCE, TREATMENT

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Oct 78 p 3

[Excerpts] According to Prof Dr Kusuman Setyonegoro, head of the Darmawangsa Foundation, severe family problems are the primary cause of drug dependency among his patients. The majority of those suffering from drug dependency are adolescents.

Professor Kusumantoro, who is also director of mental health of the Health Department, told the press on Friday that at around 16-17 years of age, a person maturing into adulthood experiences considerable pressures in his life. Those who fall victim to drug dependence are unable to handle the great "stress" of life that results from defective family life.

Although the number of drug addicts is unknown, the problem is definitely a national threat. We must deal with it. According to Kusumantoro, drug addicts first began entering the clinic in the private sanatorium, Darmawangsa in Jakarta in 1969. In 1970, the government of Greater Jakarta showed its awareness of the importance of this problem by establishing an institution to handle drug dependency cases at Fatamawati Hospital, Jakarta. Branches of this clinic were later set up in several other large towns.

Patients enter the clinic, and particularly the sanatorium, primarily at the request of their families. Treatment is therapeutic, aimed at the patient's rehabilitating himself with the aid of his family. Every month, some 45 patients register for treatment at the sanatorium; these come from all over Indonesia. Each day, about 10-15 persons are treated as outpatients. The cost of a consultation is about 3,000 rupiahs. Hospitalized patients pay 5,000-11,000 rupiahs per day, which includes food, hospitalization, recreation, and medical consultation. The average patient is 16-17 years of age; the oldest are 35-40.

9197
CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

TOURISTS ARRESTED FOR MORPHINE POSSESSION

Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 9 Oct 78 p 6

[Text] Police Lieutenant Colonel Dr Soeprapto, chief [sic] of Information, Police Region IX, Central Java, told the press in Semarang last Monday that State Police of Region IX had arrested five morphine addicts and ganja smokers in Semarang and Jogjakarta.

Reportedly, the three arrested in the Jogjakarta area included D.A.L., an Australian national, age 24, who had entered Indonesia as a tourist on a number of occasions; Miss AF, 23, a New Zealand national; and an Indonesian citizen named DSW.

State Police confiscated five rolls of ganja and four packages of morphine from the three, as well as several cigarettes containing ganja. Both foreign nationals are currently being held for investigation at Police Region IX headquarters.

According to Police Lieutenant Colonel Soeprapto, Miss D.A.L. is known to have been acquainted with Miss AF in Jakarta. Miss AF was romantically involved with DSW; the two planned to marry in December.

Miss D.A.L. said she bought the ganja from a foreigner in Jakarta for 34,000 rupiahs. According to Lieutenant Colonel Soeprapto, the State Police launched a thorough investigation into the possibility that a narcotics syndicate is operating in Central Java.

Meanwhile, the two men arrested in Semarang, presumably for heavy smoking of ganja and other morphine possession, are named OGG and Hn. The two are in custody.

9197
CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

EUROPEAN SENTENCED--A French youth, Frederic Lauth, age 24, was sentenced on 11 October to 5 months in prison, and a fine of 35,000 rupiahs in lieu of an additional month, for violating the narcotics laws. He was also ordered to pay court costs. Ketut Galang Asti, judge of the Denpasar State Court, found Lauth guilty of Article 23, paragraph 2, Law No 9, 1976, because he was found guilty of possessing 1 gram of heroin when arrested at his hotel in Kuta. His friend, Nittaya Singuaimuang, age 30, a Thai national, was acquitted of all charges. [Excerpt] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Oct 78 p 13] 9197

OPIUM SEIZED IN RIAU ISLANDS--Police in Area Command 404, Riau Islands, seized 4 kg of opium from a foreign national in Meral, Tanjungbalai Karimun Subdistrict, Riau Islands last September. Lieutenant Colonel Soehardi, commander of Area Command 404, told the press in Pekanbaru that the narcotics were seized due to cooperation between the police and authorities in Tanjungbalai Karimun. Coincidentally, Operation Badai was in progress there, so that the case can be handled further by the Operation Badai task force. According to Soehardi, the narcotics seizure stemmed from information that someone wanted to sell 4 kg of narcotics for 14 million rupiahs. The police tracked this lead down, and eventually arrested the seller. The evidence was confiscated and stored by the police. However, the primary figure--the owner of the narcotics--has not yet been arrested. The person now in custody is only a pusher, who will be used as an informant, Soehardi revealed. The narcotics will soon be sent to Mabak Laboratory in Jakarta. [Text] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Oct 78 p 8] 9197

OPIUM DEALERS, USERS ARRESTED--Operation "Harum Manis," held recently in Police Region II/North Sumatra, resulted in the handling of several narcotics cases, notably opium smoking cases. Police Region II announced that through August, the operation had wrapped up five cases of opium distribution, smoking, and sales. Eleven persons were arrested for trafficking in opium. The operation, carried out by a team along the North Sumatra coast, resulted in the detention of five men. Two of these were known to have smoked opium for the last 5 years. Several hundred grams of opium were seized. In Blawan harbor, three men were arrested for opium dealing, while in Pematang Siantar, opium smoking implements were discovered, and one smoker was arrested. Police Region II transferred the five cases to the prosecutor for trial. [Text] [Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 10 Oct 78 p 6] 9197

CSO: 5300

JAPAN

AMPHETAMINE CONFISCATIONS HIT A POSTWAR RECORD

Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 26 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo Dec 26 KYODO--Amphetamines confiscated so far this year hit a postwar record, the National Police Agency reported Tuesday.

As of the end of November, 16,500 persons had been arrested for about 27,000 violations of the Stimulant Drugs Control Act, up 26.3 and 23.3 percent over last year, according to the NPA.

Police seized 93.99 kilograms of powdered stimulants worth about yen 28 billion at street value and 460,000 cubic centimeters of liquid drugs, up 60.6 percent and 1,000-fold, respectively, from the same period last year.

Most of the amphetamine was smuggled into the country by air and the rest by ship through both major and minor ports across the country, NPA said.

One third of the smuggled drugs came from South Korea and those arrested in connection with the South Korean route accounted for 70 percent of those caught.

Drugs also came from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Macao and Western Europe through complicated routes, the NPA said.

Through international cooperation, the NPA arrested five drug smugglers who fled abroad and is demanding extradition of three others.

The NPA also eliminated two drug smuggling hideouts in Taiwan and two in South Korea through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

Meanwhile, drug-linked traffic accidents and thefts increased sharply 7.7-fold and 89 percent to 108 and 542 cases, respectively, this year.

Most Japanese drug smugglers belong to underworld syndicates and nearly 1,000 members of the nation's largest criminal gang, the Yamaguchi-Gumi, were arrested on drug charges, the NPA said.

The drug cases also involved rightist organizations which dabbled in smuggling for funds, the agency added.

CSO: 5300

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

JAPAN

BRIEFS

DRUG SMUGGLING FIGURES--The national police agency has announced that 190 kg of stimulant drugs worth 57 yen billion on the street and 2 kg of raw materials for making stimulant drugs worth 50 yen million were smuggled into Japan in the first 10 months of this year. The agency said that police had succeeded in confiscating 58 kg of stimulant drugs, or only 30 percent of the total amount. In a report issued on Tuesday, the agency said that police had arrested 95 persons of 53 groups from January through October this year in connection with stimulant-drug trafficking. The report said that 37 groups had smuggled stimulant drugs from South Korea, seven groups from Hong Kong, five from Taiwan and two each from Thailand and Macao. Of the 190 kg of smuggled stimulant drug, 113 kg came from Hong Kong. The contraband from Hong Kong and South Korea combined accounted for about 90 percent of the total. [Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 78 p 2 OW]

ILLEGAL CHECKS FOR DRUGS--Tokyo Dec 27 KYODO--A record yen 2,100 million worth of illegal yen transactions were detected during the January-November period of this year, the National Police Agency reported Wednesday. Particularly noteworthy was the increasing number of yen-denominated checks used for settlement of illegal transactions. Smugglings also increased drastically. The use of yen-denominated checks for settlement of transactions overseas is prohibited under the foreign exchange and foreign trade control law. Checks used for illegal payments and receipts amounted to yen 6,882 million and yen 2,555 million respectively, topping a total of yen 6,400 million seized last year, the report said. It said illegal checks used for smuggling stimulant drugs accounted for 34 percent while those used for investment in joint ventures overseas amounted to 22.3 percent. [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 27 Dec 78 OW]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- KOREAN STIMULANT SMUGGLER--Yokohama 14 Dec (KYODO)--Police Thursday reported the arrest of a South Korean seaman on charges of smuggling Yen 44 million worth of stimulant drugs from South Korea to Japan. Lee Seong Gwan, 27, a deckhand of the 1,990-ton South Korean freighter Sea Galf, was charged with smuggling 1.48 kilograms of stimulants. Police seized the drugs that Lee had hidden in a locker at the National Railways' Sakuragicho station in Yokohama. Lee allegedly had carried out the drugs in three plastic bags from the ship at Yokohama Port and taken them to the station, unaware that customs agents were following him. Lee told police he had smuggled the drugs for a Korean who promised to pay him a yen 1.3 million reward. [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 14 Dec 78 OW]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSTIA

14 HELD IN \$15 MILLION HEROIN HAUL

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Dec 78 p 1 BK

[Text] **KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. —**
Police have arrested 14 people,
including four women, whom they
believe to be members of an in-
ternational drug syndicate and
seized 42 lb of Grade Three
heroin worth more than \$15
million on the European market.

The suspects include a Surinamese
with a Dutch passport and six
Singaporeans. The others are
Malaysians.

CID Director Commissioner Datuk
Abdul Rahman Ismail told a Press
conference today that two suspected
leaders of the syndicate were among
those detained.

"We have been keeping a close watch
on the activities of this syndicate for the
past two months. We believe we have
roped in all our suspects," he added.

The heroin seized can provide more
than 3.7 million "shots" and there is a
demand the world over for Grade Three
heroin.

Datuk Rahman said
the operation was the re-
sult of painstaking in-
vestigations by the Anti-
Narcotics Unit (ANU) of
the CID at the Federal
Police Headquarters in
co-operation with
Singapore's Central
Narcotics Bureau.

He said last Friday
ANU officers arrested
four Singaporeans, in-
cluding a married cou-
ple, at the Subang In-
ternational Airport just
as they were about to
board an aircraft for
Brussels at 11.35 p.m.

Their baggage was
checked and a Customs
narcotics dog sniffed out
the drug in four suit-
cases.

The four suspects
were then taken to the
Subang Police Station
for questioning.

The suitcases were
stripped and the heroin,
in 84 half-pound plastic
packets, were found con-
cealed in false bottoms.
There were 21 packets
in each suitcase.

While this was going
on, four other men and
two women were ar-
rested at a leading hotel
in the city.

Follow-up operations
resulted in the arrest of
four others early today.

Two were arrested in
the city, while a
Singaporean couple in a
car was stopped at a
police roadblock in
Rawang.

Police suspect that
the drug, believed to
have been smuggled in
from Thailand, was on
its way to Amsterdam
via Brussels.

"The foreigner with
the Dutch passport came
to Malaysia a few days
ago," Datuk Rahman
said.

He added that this
was the biggest heroin
seizure this year.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

POLICE MAKE MAJOR HAUL OF WEAPONS, HEROIN IN PERAK

BK061445Y Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 6 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Police have recovered five weapons, including a submachine gun, a hand grenade, 270 rounds of ammunition and a quantity of heroin during a drug raid on a squatter house off Jalan Bendahara in Ipoh today.

The Perak CID [Criminal Investigation Department] chief, (Toh Muda Hazizo Hasan), told newsmen the weapons, ammunition and heroin were kept in three jars among bushes at the back of the squatter house. It was the biggest haul of weapons, ammunition and heroin by the authorities in Perak this year.

(Toh Muda Hazizo) said that police, acting on information, conducted the raid this afternoon. He said the police were trying to establish the ownership of the weapons and ammunition recovered. No arrest has yet been made.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

OPIUM SEIZED FROM COURIER IN TOUR BUS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Dec 78 p 12 BK

[Text] TAIPING, Mon. — About 32 lb of raw opium in transit to Johore was intercepted and seized from a Penang tour bus at Changkat Jering last week.

The drug was found in a travelling bag belonging to a 65-year-old man, who was detained.

Police believe the man to be a courier who was paid \$200 to hand the bag to another man for despatch to Johore.

News of the incident was withheld to facilitate investigations.

Taiping OCPD, DSP Abdul Hamid bin Abu Bakar, said the 40 passengers, bus driver and conductor were released after questioning.

Encik Hamid said that after a tip-off, a police party led by the Deputy OCPD (Crime), ASP Abdul Shukor bin Abdul Karim, set up a roadblock about 4.30 p.m. last Thursday.

When the bus was sighted three hours later, it was stopped and searched.

The courier, who appeared nervous, had the bag between his legs. On opening it, police found five plastic bags filled with opium.

This is the fifth seizure by local police so far this year. It included the recovery of 6.6 lb of morphine from a bus at Padang Gajah in July.

An ambush was also laid in October at the bus station where nine lb of morphine were seized.

A similar amount was seized in front of a big hotel in February.

About 180 people have been arrested this year for offences connected with drugs.

The OCPD attributed the success to the formation of a special drug unit and the co-operation of the public.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

JAILED FOR HAVING DRUG--Ipoh, Sat.--Chee Keng Thiang, 32, of Pasir Pinji New Village, who had three previous convictions, was jailed for a year after he pleaded guilty here today to the possession of 0.9 gms. of heroin on Oct. 24 in Jalan Datoh. In another case, Lum Yew Foo, 22, was fined \$500 for possession of 0.10 gms. of heroin at Kampung Paloi on Oct. 20. He was unable to pay the fine and went to serve two months' jail in default. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Dec 78 p 19]

TWO CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING--Penang, Mon.--A man and a woman, both aged 29, were charged in the Magistrate's Court today with trafficking in 2,451.16 grammes of morphine. Lee Sam Thye and Ooi Siew Ling are alleged to have committed the offence at Raja Tun Uda Pier, Weld Quay, on Nov. 26 at 1.15 a.m. No plea was recorded. The case will be further mentioned on Jan 15 next year. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Dec 78 p 12 BK]

CSO: 5300

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SERIOUS NARCOTICS ADDICTION AMONG U.S. FORCES NOTED

Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese 1413 GMT 8 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Peking, 8 Dec--The problem of narcotics addiction among U.S. soldiers has recently again aroused concern and discussions among all circles in the United States. A report published recently in the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT pointed out that "the U.S. Armed Forces are launching a new fight against an old enemy" and that this enemy is none other than heroin, cocaine, marihuana and amphetamines. An investigation report published by the U.S. Defense Department indicated that there are 210,000 army soldiers who either occasionally or persistently smoke marihuana, which accounts for approximately one-third of the total number of army personnel. In the army, 8 percent of the soldiers admitted that they are strong narcotics addicts, while in the navy, 40 percent of the sailors under 25 smoke marihuana.

Members of the U.S. Congress have held that the figures published by the Defense Department following its investigation "were only a part of the facts."

A former White House official responsible for handling the problem of narcotics addiction pointed out that the number of addicts in the U.S. forces stationed overseas is increasing rapidly and that the number of U.S. Army soldiers stationed in Europe who died of overdoses in 1977 was 50 percent greater than in 1976. House Representative Glenn English, after heading a 12-day investigation visit to West Germany with four other House of Representatives members, pointed out in early December that between 20 and 30 percent of the troops in some U.S. forces units stationed in West Germany persistently use heroin and that between 80 and 90 percent of the troops in some other units persistently smoke marihuana.

The rapid increase in the number of narcotics addicts among U.S. soldiers has aroused anxiety among political circles. They are worried that narcotics addiction among military personnel will not only result in injuries and deaths but also seriously affect the preparedness of the armed forces.

CSO: 5300

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

DRUG KING, QUEEN ARRESTED--The constabulary anti-narcotics unit arrested 117 persons including the so-called untouchable king and queen of drug suppliers in metro Manila Saturday. In a report to Philippine Constabulary Chief Fidel Ramos, Colonel Bienvenido Felix identified the two suspected big time pushers as (Emelia Aprig) of Pasay City and (Armando Rigerera) of Tondo, Manila. (Aprig) was arrested at her residence in Pasay City while (Rigerera) was nabbed in Cavite City. The 115 persons were arrested during a rock musical concert at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, and of those arrested 22 were female. Found in their possession were marihuana cigarettes and assorted drugs. [Manila FEBC in English 2330 GMT 20 Dec 78 OW]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

FINED \$1,800 FOR DRUGS--Amir bin Ahmad, 25, was fined \$1,000 in default three months' jail by a district judge yesterday for having 0.04g of heroin at Woodlands check-point on Nov 26 at 10.30 p.m. He was fined another \$800 in default two months' jail for consuming morphine on the same day at an unspecified place. He pleaded guilty to both offences. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Dec 78 p 18 BK]

JAILED FOR BREACHING SUPERVISION--A 24-year-old man was yesterday jailed for three years by a district judge for breaching a drug supervision order and having prepared opium. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Samad, pleaded guilty to breaching the supervision order by taking morphine at the PSA container port on Nov 11, while under a two-year supervision for a similar offence. He was also concurrently jailed for three months for having prepared opium. [Text] [Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Dec 78 p 14 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S DRUG POLICIES

BK231315Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 21 Nov 78 BK

[21 November interview with Prime Minister Gen Kriangsak Chamanan on government's policy on narcotics, place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Kriangsak] We will burn or otherwise destroy all narcotics confiscated from narcotics offenders. We will not sell them because their prices are not high. Besides, the procedures involved in the sale of narcotics for medical use are very complicated. We would not get much money from selling the narcotics.

[Question] How will we destroy these narcotics?

[Answer] We will appoint a committee to examine those narcotics. We might invite UN officials or chemical specialists to check each package of drugs.

[Question] How much is the heroin we now have worth?

[Answer] I cannot remember how much we have now, but we have a lot. Many tons.

[Question] When will the narcotics be destroyed?

[Answer] Preparations are still underway. We will destroy them as soon as possible.

[Question] Where will the drugs be destroyed?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] the 11th company. We will invite press reporters to witness the event, as we did before.

[Question] The climate in Thailand is reportedly good for cultivation of marijuana.

[Answer] In Korea, this plant grows wild by itself. But here we have to cultivate it. We are not the only country where marijuana grows well. We have also confiscated a large amount of marijuana.

[Question] But marijuana plantations still exist in Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom provinces?

[Answer] The authorities will continue to hunt for them.

[Question] What is the result of the suppression in the past year?

[Answer] We have confiscated larger amounts of marijuana and morphine and heroin No. 3 and No. 4. No. 3 has a higher heroin content than No. 4.

[Question] Has the narcotics board considered increasing the penalty for drug offenses?

[Answer] We have already proposed such legislation.

[Question] How strong will it be?

[Answer] We will specify the amounts of narcotics for different degrees of punishment in that legislation. In foreign countries, if a person has 14 to 15 grams in possession, he is liable to the death penalty. However, since our country is close to the producing area, we might increase the amount to 40 to 50 grams --I mean for those who keep heroin for sale.

[Question] What about if the authorities themselves commit narcotics offenses? A police captain was arrested on this charge a few days ago.

[Answer] The penalty for officials who commit offenses must be increased.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NEW BILL PROVIDES TREATMENT FOR ADDICTS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 14 Dec 78 p 3

[Text]

UDON THANI - The new anti-narcotic bill which was recently passed in the first reading by the national legislative body empowers the public health minister to detain a drug addict who is arrested for the third time at a provided place for medical treatment.

This was explained yesterday by Dr Kamol Sinthavanond, Director of Thanyarak Hospital, in a seminar on narcotics problem in this Northern province.

He said the new legislation also stipulates medical treatment for all arrested drug addicts.

Deputy Crime Suppression Commander Pol Col Vitharn Varintarakom said the bill, in addition to stiff legal action against drug traffickers, also provides wide-ranging power to authorities in cracking down on drug trafficking.

The bill also authorizes the seizure of equipment, vehicles or any substances used by drug suspects during the arrest without regards as to whom the property belongs to, he said.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

CONTROL BOARD HEAD WARNS, SOME POLICE BECOMING ADDICTS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 15 Dec 78 pp 1, 8 BK

[Article by Vithoon Pungprasert in Udon Thani]

[Text] Narcotic addiction has infiltrated the ranks of policemen fighting in sensitive areas, according to Police Maj Gen Pow Sarasin, Secretary General of the Office of Narcotic Control Board.

He reported that in Amphoe Nakae of Nakhon Panom Province another sensitive area, 15 policemen were reported to have been addicted to drugs.

"In a special action task force comprising 23 members, 15 of them were said to be drug addicts. And in the Border Patrol Police force, 15 have turned addicts," he reported.

The problem of law-enforcement officials falling prey to drugs, he said, could not be left unattended to.

"Some of the addicted policemen get wild hallucinations. They shoot at others and hurl bombs at them because they think somebody was going to attack them," Police Maj Gen Pow said.

He also said drug traffickers had fled into insurgent-infested areas in a new trend indicating collusion between narcotic traffickers and insurgents.

"Nobody had thought about this before but the link-up between drug traffickers and insurgents has now emerged," Police Maj Gen Pow told a seminar on drug suppression for the Northeast here earlier this week.

"In Nakhon Panom province, for example, marijuana is being planted in insurgent-infested areas. They are seeking protection from the insurgents against policemen," Police Maj Gen Pow said.

He was addressing a five-day seminar attended by all top administrative and police officers in the Northeastern provinces.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NEW CROPS TO REPLACE PCPPY IN NORTH

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 22 Dec 78 p 8 BK

[Text]

THE OFFICE of the Narcotics Control Board is working out a crop replacement project along the Mae Jaem River basin in an attempt to solve the problems of opium growing and irrigation as well as forest encroachment.

According to Deputy Secretary General of the office, Pol Maj Gen Chavalit Yodmance, the project will cover a total area of 4,800 square kilometres and the budget needed for the purpose is around 400 million baht.

The budget, he said, will come from the United States and the United Nations which offered a special fund for a period of five years.

The main crop to be introduced under the project are coffee trees and beans, he said.

The basin will be divided into five zones -- Mae Ko, Mae Moh Luang, Bore Kaew, Mae Yod and Pang Hinfon, said the secretary general.

The project will be carried out with cooperation from the Agricultural Extension Department, Forestry Department, Public Health Ministry, and Public Works Department.

Chavalit said that the project is expected to be approved by the government and commenced in 1980.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

SPREADING MARIHUANA PLANTATTONS PRESENT PROBLEMS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 14 Dec 78 p 3 BK

[Article by Vitoon Pungprasert]

[Text] IN MORE ways than one, marijuana has become a much more disturbing problem for local suppression officials than heroin and opium because of the rapidly-spreading areas taken up by marijuana in several Northeastern provinces.

"The profit is tremendous and the legal punitive measures are low," said Police Lt Gen Sawaeng Hongnakorn, Commander of Zone Two Police Headquarters.

Gen Sawaeng himself favours the formation of a special task force to effect some continuity in a long-term suppression task.

"Those who financially support the cultivation of marijuana must be arrested and charged with being detrimental to society," the senior police officer said.

He said the Northeast had been affected by the distribution of heroin, opium, marijuana and amphetamin and "dry liquor." There are no known narcotic refineries in this region.

"Heroin and opium usually pass through the Northeast from the North on their way to Bangkok. The drugs also find their way to various refugee camps in Nong Khai and Nakhon Panom as well as Ubon Ratchathani," he reported.

He cited some Meo refugees who were addicted to opium before they fled into Thailand.

But the greatest concern is the wide areas in the heavily forested regions where marijuana is

doing brisk business.

Illegal marijuana plantations originated in Nakhon Panom province, mostly in Amphoe Thauthane, Srisarakham and Muang.

In Sakhon Nakhon, the plantations have been re-

ported in Amphoe Kuumam and Amphoe Kumbak.

Most of the planters are farmers in the remote areas who resort to marijuana cultivation after the rice harvest season is done.

"We have received reports that the marijuana plantations have rapidly expanded to Pakhongchai

and Pakchong in Nakhon Ratchasima bordering on Saraburi Province. The trend is the expansion will continue," Gen Sawaeng said.

The profit is more than attractive. According to informed sources here, re-

turns for investment could run as high as 300 to 400 times.

The prices have recently dipped due to "over-production," the sources said.

Local planters still remember the lucrative days when the American military set up their bases in Udon Thani, Nakhon Pa-

nom and Ubon Ratchathani.

"The local farmers went all out to plant marijuana because there was a ready and big market," said the sources.

According to Gen Sawaeng, a large amount of marijuana has been exported.

"Marijuana planted in Nakhon Panom is the most popular among foreign consumers in the black market," said Gen Sawaeng.

SMUGGLING ROUTE

Marijuana has a strong smell. Transportation has to be well covered up. Trucks are often hired to carry marijuana hidden in consignments of charcoal sacks or tapioca bags so that the "smell" would

not attract policemen posted at various checkpoints.

Some shrewd traffickers stuff the "goods" in bales, containing about eight big packs each, for direct export. Others have used huge wooden drums to perfect their packing techniques.

Most packaging is done in Nakhon Panom and Sakhon Nakon.

"We have many problems in tracking them down," admitted Gen Sawaeng who added that the shortage of police personnel and the difficult terrain where marijuana is grown pose the most challenging obstacles of all.

Each suppression campaign, using helicopters for aerial surveys, costs up to

300,000 baht. And we need to mobilize at least 250 policemen for each campaign which lasts at least two days," he explained.

Besides, there are physical dangers involved.

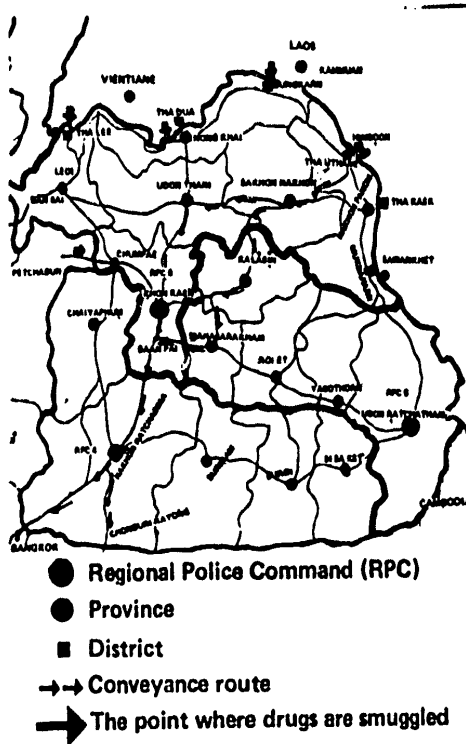
"Some local villagers involved in planting marijuana waylaid our policemen because they don't want their means of income to be affected," Gen Sawaeng said.

Even when a crackdown is launched in a certain area, the villagers are quick to start anew once

the policemen are out of sight. Gen Sawaeng also feels that the punitive measures under the current law are from being good deterrents.

"The legal punishment for traffickers of marijuana in the country is six months in jail and 200 baht in fine at the most. For those caught trying to export marijuana, the punishment is one year or a fine of 500 baht at most.

And if the culprits should confess, they get the sentences commuted too," he said.



CSO: 5300

THAILAND

ALLEGED MAFIA SUSPECT HELD IN RAID

Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 19 Dec 78 p 1 BK

[Text]

IN a series of raids in Bangkok Metropolis and Thon Buri last night and early this morning, narcotics suppression police arrested an alleged Mafia member and his alleged courier, both Italians, together with five Thais, and charged them all with possessing heroin for sale and conspiring to smuggle it abroad. Police seized four kilogrammes of No 4 first grade heroin.

The suspected Mafia boss was identified as Ferrari Marco. He was

described by police as a big spender and a frequent visitor to Bangkok. Police found in his possession US\$1,000 in cash upon his arrest at his suite in a Bang Rak area luxury hotel.

The "courier" was identified as Darco Aniello and the five Thais as Sing Prapalpong, Chamnan Petchathee, Somuek Trongboonterm, Prom Somsakda and his wife, Mrs Thongsai.

Narcotics police reportedly had kept close surveillance on the activities of the Italians for some time.

Last night the police team laid in wait at an orchard in Kathurana in Thon Buri and arrested Darco Aniello and three Thais — Sing, Chamnan and Somnuek — while allegedly handing over seven bags containing 2.5 kilogrammes of heroin.

Aniello was taken to his room in a first-class Silom hotel for a search and police said they found another kilogramme of heroin hidden in the false bottom of

his travelling trunk. He was scheduled to leave Bangkok today for Europe. An unlicensed .45 automatic revolver was also found in his room, police said.

Another police team went to the fruit orchard early this morning, suspicious that more people were involved in supplying heroin to the Italians.

In a small house, without a number, police said they found Prom and his wife, Mrs Thongsai, busy packing heroin into 540 small tubes for local retail sale. The heroin weighed about one kilogramme.

The couple allegedly admitted to police that they had been supplying the drug to both 'foreign clients' and local customers for quite some time.

Ferrari Marco, who was

alleged to be the financier for Aniello was later picked up from his suite in a Bang Rak area hotel after a statement given by Aniello to police implicated him as the boss, police said.

Marco was scheduled to leave for Paris this morning after staying in Bangkok over a month. Police had records of his frequent visits to Bangkok in the past, allegedly to obtain heroin for a Bangkok-Europe drugs syndicate.



Ferrari Marco, in white shirt, and Darco Aniello, with bags of heroin police said was in Aniello's possession.



Prom and Mrs Thongsai Sonsakda with tubes of heroin police said they saw them packaging.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

SPANISH SEAMEN ARRESTED WITH DRUGS CONCEALED IN STATUE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Dec 78 p 5 BK

[Text]



TWO Spanish seamen were arrested in a Sukhumvit area hotel yesterday on a charge of possessing 200 grammes of No. 4 heroin and attempting to smuggle them out of the country, police reported yesterday.

Narcotics Suppression Police identified the Spanish seamen as Jose Menco Reguart and Ricos Mallach. Both of them were heroin addicts, police said.

Police found a

porcelain statue stuffed with heroin, 15 syringes, three bottles of alcohol, a small scale and several plastic bags with heroin traces in their room.

Acting on a tip-off, Narcotics Suppression Police

have kept close surveillance on the two Spaniards since their arrival in Bangkok with a tour group earlier on Sunday. They searched their hotel rooms shortly before noon yesterday. Jose Menco Reguart admitted to the police

that he bought the heroin from a Thai man, who delivered the drugs to him at the hotel earlier for 50,000 baht. He then packed the heroin into a porcelain statue ready to be smuggled out of the country upon their scheduled departure later this week.

Ricox Mallach, however, denied all the charges claiming that he only knew Reguart during the trip. However, a small amount of heroin, a scale, plastic bags with heroin traces and several syringes were found in his room with several documents in his handwriting referring to the buying of heroin.

They were initially charged with possessing heroin for sale and were detained for further questioning. They were visited yesterday afternoon by Spanish Embassy officials.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

OPIUM TRAFFICKING FROM LAOS FEARED

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 22 Dec 78 p 8 BK

[Text]

THERE IS a tendency that Thailand will face a situation of being an outlet for narcotics, especially opium, smuggled in from Laos, according to Udon Thani Governor, Pisam Moonsartsathorn.

He said that he believed the trafficking network was in existence dealing with the smuggling of the narcotics.

He supported his suspicion with 40 kilogrammes of opium he obtained from Laos through a broker recently.

"Judging from the present circumstances, there is a possibility that the problem of narcotics trafficking in the area will be even more acute," he said.

Apart from opium, marijuana which is being grown in large-scale in Udon Thani is also another big problem the province is facing.

He said that marijuana is largely grown in communist-infested area to which the government authorities find it difficult to penetrate.

The insurgents are using marijuana to encourage the people to go against government authorities, he said.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

EXAIRLINE WORKER GETS LIFE FOR DRUGS

Bangkok POST in English 14 Dec 78 p 3 BK

[Text] A FORMER employee of Thai International was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment by the Criminal Court after being convicted of attempting to smuggle 15.9 kgs of No 3 heroin for sale abroad.

The court also sentenced a woman, Miss Wanpen Sirikul to 17 years imprisonment after she pleaded guilty to a drug possession charge.

The court was told that Udom Thaseth, a sanitation employee in the national airline was arrested on January 4 last year after he delivered an overnight suitcase and a lady's shoulder bag containing the heroin to

Miss Wanpen while she was about to board a flight to Hong Kong.

Miss Wanpen checked through Customs without the bags and eyewitnesses said Udom drove up to the boarding ramp in a Thal International van and gave the woman the bags. Udom was arrested later after

witnesses identified him as the delivery man. But he denied all charges against him, claiming he had never seen Miss Wanpen before.

However, the Criminal Court ruled that the evidence against him was too strong and jailed him for life.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

HEROIN COURIERS HELD IN NORTH

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 15 Dec 78 p 3 BK

[Text] CHIANG MAI - Three persons, a man and two women, were arrested before dawn yesterday with two kilogrammes of No 4 heroin while they were heading for this northern provincial seat, police said yesterday. Police stopped a truck from Mae-rim District and searched the vehicle which was fully loaded with cement bags.

The narcotic neatly packed in two plastic bags was discovered inside a brown-paper box under the pile of cement bags, police said.

Driver of the mini-truck, identified as Mol Intana, 44, confessed during initial investigation that he was hired by a Chinese drugtrafficker to deliver the narcotic from Mae-rim to a drug agent from Bangkok in Mae-tha District of Lampang.

The two women on the truck, identified as Chan Pirabutr, 21, and Inta Muangma 19, denied any knowledge about the heroin on board.

The three were detained at the police station of Muang District here and a team of policemen was rushed to Lampang to cooperate with local police there to arrest the drug agent from Bangkok.

Meanwhile, another report from the northernmost province of Chiang Rai said police arrested a 19-year-old man identified as Sawang Chongtrong Wednesday night on charges of heroin possession.

Sawang was arrested on a bus leaving Chiang Rai for Bangkok by police which were on their routine check. A total 300 grammes of No 4 heroin was discovered inside a camera in the travel luggage of the suspect.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BID TO FREE MAE SAI OF DRUG CHEMICALS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 12 Dec 78 pp 1, 12 BK

[Text] UDON THANI - An official announcement will be issued soon to declare Amphoe Mae Sai of Chiang Rai Province a zone free of heroin-producing chemicals.

The Third Regional Police Command and the Office of Narcotic Control Board will jointly launch the move to deprive Mae Sai, bordering on the so-called "Golden Triangle," of chemicals used in the manufacturing of heroin and related drugs.

This was disclosed yesterday by Assistant Commander of the Third Regional Police Headquarters, Police Maj Gen Prakob Chutaesa to a seminar which began here yesterday.

He cited several ingredients used in the production of heroin.

"But the main target would be acetic anhydride which is the most important chemical in the manufacture of heroin," he said.

Strict control measures will be imposed on the transport and selling of such chemicals in Mae Sai, he said, so that

various heroin refineries locat-

MAE SAI

ed near the border would be deprived of their vital ingredients.

He said the number of heroin refineries had been reduced from 21 to only one after the Burmese Government troops raided the area.

"The only refinery left belongs to Khun Sa alias Chang Si Fu, a rebel leader, who is now holed up in the Burmese territory north of Baan Hin Taek in Amphoe Maechan, Chiang Rai Province," he said.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED WITH HEROIN--A 20-year-old man was arrested yesterday afternoon by a team of police from the Crime Suppression Division after about one kilogramme of No 4 heroin was found in his house, police said yesterday. The team of police led by Pol Maj Ruengchai Wannavichit raided a house located on Rama IV Road in Rong Muang area after having a tip-off that this family has engaged in narcotics trafficking for some time. A son of the house's owner identified as Somchai Lertvoraphong who was in the house during the police's raid was arrested on charge of narcotics possession. Police said that the suspect's mother identified as Kuiheng managed to escape from the police dragnet but another team of police had been assigned to hunt for her. Police said that an elder sister of this suspect was currently imprisoned on charge of narcotics as well. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 17 Dec 78 p 12 BK]

2 KGS OF HEROIN FOUND--Hat Yai--A man and a woman were arrested yesterday following the discovery of 2.2 kilogrammes of No 4 heroin in a house located in the heart of this southern town, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a team of policemen from the narcotics suppression centre here and the local police station raided the house on Pradon Road at dawn and discovered the Double Uoglobe Brand heroin neatly packed in six plastic bags. The house owner, Mrs Kieu Sae Wong, 43, and another man identified as Suthep alias Meng Vilailak, 38, were present during the raid and were arrested on charges of possession of narcotics. Police said that Suthep was a clerk in fishery company here and he is suspected to have purchased the heroin from Mrs Kieu for export to Malaysia. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 18 Dec 78 p 3 BK] Two persons, including a 50-year-old woman, were arrested yesterday morning with 2,200 grammes of heroin in what police described as one of the major drug hauls in Hat Yai District. Police said they arrested Mrs Jiao sae Wong, 50, and Suthep Nualvilairak, 45, during a raid on Jiao's house culminating one month of investigation by anti-narcotic agents and local police. The raid took place at 6:40 a.m. when 15 plainclothes men swooped on Mrs Jiao's house at Pradon Road and found the pair sleeping. Since the two refused to cooperate with police, it took the officers about three hours to find the drug which was contained in six plastic bags with the lion trademark and hidden in the Chinese bread boiler. Police said the heroin was worth several

million baht. The suspects are now under police detention for further questioning on the source of the drugs and the number of persons involved in the racket. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Dec 78 p 3 BK] [JPRS NOTE: The previous two items are indicative of variations in transliteration and detail which can be found in the Bangkok English language press]

LIFE FOR HEROIN--Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan last night exercised his absolute power under Article 27 and sentenced a man to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of possessing 17.6 kilogrammes of heroin for sale. Pichai Chaichamroonpan was arrested on August 30 this year but police said he had been under surveillance since April after a police raid of a hotel room on South Sathorn Road netted 17.6 kilogrammes of heroin worth about 529,800 baht which reportedly belonged to him. No one was in the room at the time of the raid but Ord Inthachark, who returned later told police he was hired by Pichai to look after the drug. A separate charge was filed against him. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Dec 78 p 1 BK]

DRUG PUSHER HELD IN SOUTH--Trang--Police raided a house in this southern province yesterday and arrested a man together with 60 grammes of heroin No 4, 30 packages of marijuana sticks and a two-inch syringe. The drug suspect, identified as Yoon Num-orn, confessed that he had been in drug trafficking business for quite some time. He admitted to purchasing drugs from an agent in the southern town of Hat Yai, Songkhla. He said the drugs were sold to addicts in Trang and several other neighbouring provinces. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 11 Dec 78 p 3 BK]

IMPRISONMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS--Empowered by Article 27 of the interim constitution the prime minister ordered life imprisonment for Kawiniamphinit, Police Corporal Watthana Iamphinit and Laosang, alias Yaothu Sae Yang, and 25 years imprisonment for Prasoet Bunkham, Prasoet Kengkat, Hoi Iamphinit and Buppha Iamphinit for heroin trafficking and possession of heroin and firearms. The seven persons were arrested in Chiang Mai on 26 May and found to have a total of 23 kg of heroin in their possession. [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 22 Nov 78 BK]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

POLICE STAGE DRUG SWOOP; 24 CHARGED

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 5 Dec 78 p 8

[Text]

MISSISSAUGA (Staff) — A series of police drug raids that started before dawn yesterday in Metro Toronto and Peel Region have resulted in the arrest of 24 young men, almost all on charges of trafficking in hashish or hashish oil. Five other men are still being sought.

Those arrested, including a 15-year-old juvenile charged with trafficking in hashish oil, are to appear today in provincial courts in Brampton and at old City Hall. Police say those arrested are not part of any organized narcotics ring.

The drug swoop, following seven months of work by a youthful undercover officer, was the second major narcotics operation undertaken jointly by the RCMP, provincial, Metro and Peel Region police forces.

In May of 1977, 63 people were charged after a joint police drug unit swooped down on traffic in methamphetamine, known as speed.

Sgt. Lee McKergow, of the RCMP detachment here, told reporters yesterday the

lone undercover officer responsible for yesterday's roundup had made drug buys worth more than \$15,000. Seventeen of the 39 purchases were made in Metro Toronto.

As well as hashish and hashish oil, he also bought marijuana and psychedelic drugs.

Sgt. McKergow, however, would not say how the undercover man operated — except that he worked alone — for fear of prejudicing future operations.

"He just posed as a drug trafficker and a user to gain the confidence of the pushers," said the sergeant, who noted that narcotics traffickers themselves frequented shopping plazas, discotheques, taverns — anywhere where people met.

"They have a product to sell, so they've got to go where the people are," he added.

About 50 policemen were involved in making the arrests, mostly at private homes, although one man was arrested at work.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

SIX CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH MAJOR COCAINE IMPORTING RING

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL, WEEKEND EDITION in English 16 Dec 78 p 3

[Text]

Police have arrested six men in Southern Ontario in connection with what they say was a major cocaine importing ring.

During the four-month investigation, three kilograms of pure cocaine, which would have been worth \$7-million by the time it hit the streets of Ontario, was seized by authorities in Brazil.

The investigation involved the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and Peel Regional Police.

Two OPP officers posed as high-level drug traffickers in the investigation, which started in Mississauga and branched into Burlington, Acton, Belwood and Toronto.

During the course of the investigation, police also uncovered plans to sell methamphetamine (speed) with a street value of about \$100,000.

The six accused, who face 16 charges of drug trafficking and conspiring to traffic, are from Cheltenham, Belwood, Acton and Toronto.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

BRIEFS

METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED--Police have arrested five Keswick people in what they say is a plot to make 200 pounds of methamphetamine worth about \$15-million on the street. The arrests follow a four-month investigation by Metro police and the RCMP. Seized at a house in Keswick, near the shore of Lake Simcoe, was about \$500 worth of speed and a supply of chemicals and formulas to make the drug. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 5 Dec 78 p 8]

CSO: 5320

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER KILLED--Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)--Bernardo Salaberry, sought by the police for assault, drug trafficking and dealing in contraband, was killed today in a shootout with federal police agents. Twenty envelopes containing 100 grams of cocaine hydrochloride each, hidden in cigarette packages, were found on his person, as well as 4,200,000 pesos in cash. Both items were seized by the police. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY]

NOVEMBER DRUG ARRESTS--Thirty-six persons were arrested and about 600 kilograms of cocaine and marihuana were seized by the border police in Misiones, Corrientes, Formosa, Salta and Jujuy during November. The arrests and seizures were made as the drugs were being brought into Argentina. [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Dec 78 p 32 PY]

COCA LEAVES SEIZED--Salta, 20 Dec (TELAM)--The 20th Squadron of border police headquartered in Oran has reported the seizure of almost 138 kgs of cocoa leaves and the arrest of smugglers Enrique Para and Hilario Villalba who operated on the border with Bolivia. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1635 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY]

CSO: 5300

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COCAINE BUST--Rio de Janeiro, 29 Dec (AFP)--Police here last night seized 4 kilograms of pure cocaine from drug trafficker Berthier Bacelar, who has been sought by the Brazilian police for years. According to police, Bacelar was the link in a band of traffickers which operate in Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, the United States and France. The drug seized was of Peruvian origin and required processing before being sent to the United States and France. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1445 GMT 29 Dec 78 PY]

CSO: 5300

CHILE

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL DRUG GANG DISRUPTED--Carabineros Drug Department has disrupted an international LSD traffickers gang. Carabineros arrested three of its members and confiscated 1,500 doses of LSD. Carabineros arrested: (Juan Carlos Buschman); (Augusto Cortes Maturana); and (Pedro Arteaga Correa). [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY]

DRUG TRAFFIC GANG--Personnel from the Drug Prevention Department in (Chillaua) has broken up a drug traffic gang which had a network in several Latin American countries and in the United States. Carabineros detained a citizen from Trinidad-Tobago when he was carrying 1.5 kg of cocaine hydrochloride paste and 0.5 kg of marihuana. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

AGREEMENT ON DRUG TRAFFIC SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

Joint Committee Created

PA131452Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela and Colombia have signed a joint agreement to fight drug trafficking along the border. The announcement was made by Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas. He said that the treaty creates a joint committee with specific mechanisms to exchange information to prevent drug traffic rings from establishing themselves in Colombia or Venezuela. Foreign Minister Uribe Vargas said that the greatest danger is that some people might consider Colombia or Venezuela as potential areas of operation.

Foreign Minister's Comments

PA131453Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has praised the current cooperation with the Venezuelan Government. He was referring to the signing of a treaty to fight drug trafficking between the two countries. He noted that it is a joint effort to curb this type of crime. Uribe Vargas, who is hosting his Venezuelan counterpart Simon Alberto Consalvi, said that with this cooperation agreement we are providing good service to the Venezuelan and Colombian peoples. We place the highest importance on it because we think that if there is joint international action the efforts of the Colombian Government and many other governments will be imitated and will permit [words indistinct] to the restraints on drug traffic, Uribe said.

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS, DC-3 SEIZED AT BARRANQUILLA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 78 Sec C p 2

[Text] Barranquilla, 12 November--Combined units of the Colombian Army and Air Force captured a DC-3 with North American registration, and three traffickers.

The DC-3, with registration number 407-X, landed at the "Ernesto Cortissoz" International Airport at 2130 hours on Saturday night, when a torrential rain was falling on the area.

The three crewmen, who did not notify the control tower, were immediately overtaken by units of the Second Brigade, the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] and the FAC [Colombian Armed Forces], which had observed their clandestine flight.

Upon being discovered, the three traffickers attempted to rid themselves of the corpus delicti, tossing their weapons, ammunition and polyethylene bags all along the runway.

When arrested, the three individuals claimed to have left Florida bound for Curacao, and to have lost their way, and said that they were forced to make an emergency landing at the "Ernesto Cortissoz" Airport.

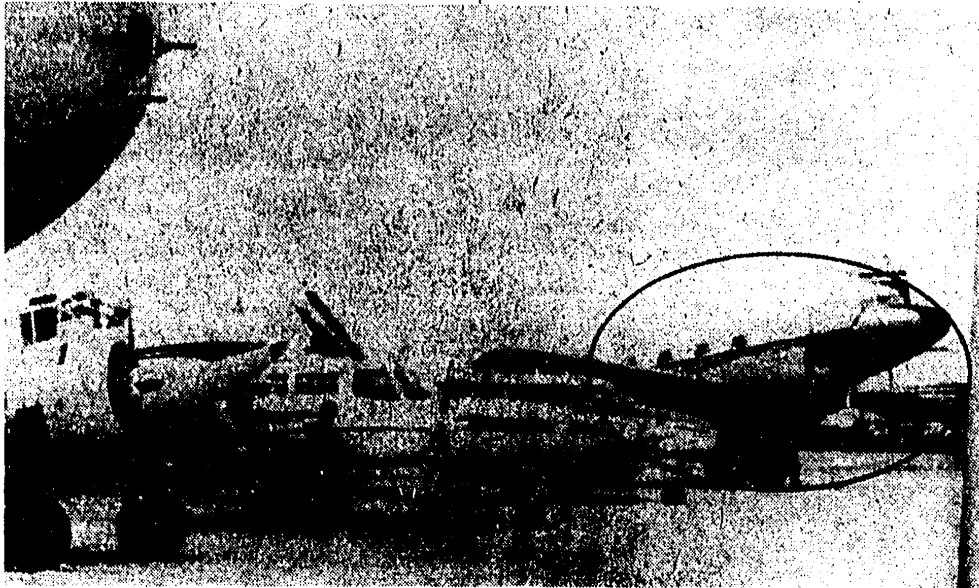
Official sources said that they consisted of a gringo, a Cuban and a Colombian, the latter two naturalized in the United States; but that it was impossible to establish their identities accurately, because none of them had identification papers. They also lacked a flight plan, and did not ask the control tower of the local airport for permission to land.

Troops from the Second Brigade retrieved a large amount of ammunition from the airport runway, but the weapons were not located.

At the northern air base, it was said that this may possibly have been a plane used by international traffickers for shipping marijuana. This aircraft brings the number of planes captured by the Colombian authorities in the course of the war to the death unleashed against the trafficking Mafias to seven.

Insofar as ships are concerned, the official spokesman said that a total of 35 vessels have been detained at sea, within Colombian territorial waters.

It was also announced that, with the three individuals who were arrested last night, who have been placed at the disposal of the Second Brigade, the number of traffickers captured has reached 40.



Barranquilla--DC-3 plane captured by the Colombian Air Force Saturday night. It had on board ammunition for a magnum, the death-dealing dum-dum bullets, and a considerable number of plastic bags used for shipping cocaine.

2909
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'FRENCH CONNECTION' TRAFFICKERS EXTRADITED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Nov 78 Sec A pp 1, 6

[Text] The Colombian Government will turn over to the French courts two notorious Marseilles "Apaches" who are closely linked with the "French Connection" in which the criminal Laurent Fiocconi, who escaped from the La Picota prison when he was about to be extradited, was also a key figure.

They are Rachib Charbi, alias Michel Goiffon, and Roger Bocognani, alias Max Albert Sibon, concerning whom the Supreme Court of Justice decided yesterday to issue a favorable opinion with regard to carrying out the extradition requested by the French courts.

The former of the aforementioned individuals is incarcerated in the central prison, and his health has been ruined by acute pulmonary tuberculosis.

The latter was apprehended by officials from the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] in July of last year, but obtained his release, a favor conferred upon him by Maria Eugenia Rivera de Caicedo, while she was serving as fourth judge of the Bogota penal circuit court.

Charbi and Bocognani were members of the fabulous Mafia organization which, some years ago, brought thousands of kilograms of heroin to the United States from France, using the most daring and sophisticated devices for deception and bribery. The American and French authorities, in a skillfully combined operation, managed to disband the criminal organization which is traditionally known as the "French Connection."

Likewise a member of the complex ring was Laurent Fiocconi, who like the other two "Apaches" sought refuge in Colombia, but was discovered here, and has been in custody until the government of our country ordered his extradition, when the drug trafficker escaped from jail with several sinister kidnapers.

France had also requested that Colombia grant the extradition of Bocognani and Charbi to comply with the international warrant for their arrest issued by the Marseilles courts. In accordance with court procedure, the Ministry of Justice addressed the court to request its decision on the viability of the extradition. The body, through studies made by Magistrates Alvaro Luna Gomez and Jesus Bernal Pinzon, found in favor of the surrender of the two criminals.

2909

CSO: 5330

COLOMBIA

PLANES, SHIPS SEIZED IN LA GUAJIRA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Nov 78 Sec A pp 1, 12

[Text] Barranquilla, 9 November--During the past 8 days, 28 ships, three small planes and six individuals have been apprehended in this capital by forces of the Second Brigade for violation of territorial seas and airways.

The foregoing measure was enacted in compliance with Decree 2144 of 4 October 1978, which authorized the initiation of the security measures called for in the statute of the same title, the purpose of which is to curb the drug traffic between Colombia and the United States.

The ships are located in the yards located at the mouth of the Magdalena River, one at Siape, which is part of Bocas de Ceniza, and another adjacent to the Esso station close to the maritime terminal.

The small aircraft are at the "Ernesto Cortissoz" International Airport and, like the ships, they are under constant guard by members of the Second Brigade.

Of the six persons arrested, it was established that some had already undergone questioning by the secretary of the departmental government, Roberto Velez Estrada, as stipulated in the Security Statute. This decree states that aircraft or sea-going craft which is seized by the military forces is to be placed at the disposal of the governor of the respective department who, in collaboration with the sectional government secretary, will decide upon the status of the latter and of its owners, representatives or individuals who are aboard at the time of the seizure.

However, it was announced that the 31 ships are under precautionary seizure, inasmuch as, to date it has proven impossible to prove any connection with drug trafficking, and they are at the disposal of the law because they lack a flight plan or specific route, as the case may be.

The Ships

The names of the ocean-going vessels being held are as follows: "Rex 23," flying the Mexican flag; "Fortuna," with the Panamanian flag; "Rio Chico,"

with the Panamanian flag; "Glimford," British; "Santa Fe," Venezuelan; "Irma Puerto Cortez," Honduran; "Ricely," Honduran; "Eliana," flag unknown; "Eimaru," Colombian flag; "Patricia," Colombian flag; "Chicharra" or "Moncarca" (this ship has two names, with one appearing over another that has been deleted); "Don Luis," unknown flag; "Fialvega IV," unknown flag; "Luis Enrique III," Colombian; "Uri Mary," Panamanian; "Read Wich," Panamanian; "Santa Barbosa," unknown flag; "Sonia Luz," unknown; "Balbra," Colombian; "Jorge Luise," Colombian; "San Nicolas," Colombian; "Patricia," Colombian; and "Gran Alce," Haitian.

There are five other vessels not included on this list, because they do not appear in the records of the government secretariat, or they are ships without names.

Some of these ships were captured by Colombian Navy gunboats downstream of territorial waters, empty and apparently serving no purpose. Their occupants claimed that they were bound for other countries and went off the established course. Others were captured in the Magdalena River, between Bocas de Ceniza and the maritime terminal; while a few were discovered on clandestine docks found on that same route, carrying personnel who could not explain their presence.

All the vessels are freighter of large and small draft, ranging between 20 and 200 tons, and one of them has a capacity of up to 360 tons. Eighty percent of the ships were seized last Friday, and the Second Brigade placed them at the disposal of Governor Pedro Martin Leyes on Tuesday of this week.

The Small Planes

The small aircraft were seized under similar conditions, several days before the ships were, as they arrived at the "Ernesto Cortissoz" without a definite flight plan or claiming to have gone off course.

These planes are all of North American registration, and the crew members under arrest did not show a flight chart nor justifiable reasons for their presence on Colombian territory.

Those in Custody

Among the various crews of the aircraft and ships, only four have been arrested, two from the planes and the others from the ships. These individuals have been identified as Wilson Rivadeneira Maestre and Godys Alfredo Munoz, occupants of the "Eliana," of unknown flag. They are in the men's municipal jail and are being questioned by Government Secretary Roberto Estrada Velez; and their legal status may possibly be determined within the next 5 days.

As for the airplanes, at first six arrests were made for each plane, but now two of them, whose identifications were not given, are in the municipal jail. The other four, including a woman, have been released conditionally, and

they must leave the country in 20 days, having first paid 1 million pesos for each airplane. The money paid for this purpose will be sent to the departmental treasury, while the aircraft will be expropriated by the FAC [Colombian Air Force].



In this exclusive photo, one can observe several of the 28 ships which have been seized by Colombian authorities in only 8 days' time, for violating territorial waters on the Atlantic coast.

2909
CSO: 5300

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE--San Salvador, 19 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran police announced today, Tuesday, that they arrested a group of drug traffickers on Monday at the Alameda Hotel in this capital and seized 3,601 grams of cocaine valued at \$3 million. The drug traffickers have been identified as Colombians Fernando Modero--the traffickers' leader--Alvaro Gomez Mojica, Aleida Franco, Mrs Maria Elena Castro Franco, Mrs Marta Dix and Mrs Consuelo Barrientos as well as David Dix, a U.S. citizen. The Salvadoran police took action after being alerted by the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0425 GMT 20 Dec 78 PA]

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS--The police narcotics department captured seven drug traffickers on Sunday night in a hotel in this city. They had 6 pounds of cocaine valued at 7.5 million colones hidden inside a pair of women's shoes. The traffickers were: Alonso Gomez Mojica, Fernando Madero Jaime, Aleida Franco Castro, Alga Consuelo de Pinilla, Marta Mercedes Madro de Dix and Maria Elvira Castro de Franco, all of them Colombians, and David Dix, a U.S. citizen. [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Dec 78 pp 2, 11 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

REPORTS ON THIRD INTERNATIONAL BORDER MEETING ON DRUG ABUSE

Goals of Meeting Described

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 25 Oct 78 p 1

[Text] Last night, the Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse opened, with great interest on the part of both the Mexican and American participants.

As on the two previous occasions, the meeting was organized by the Piedras Negras Youth Rehabilitation Center, in collaboration with the Maverick County Hospital District Counseling Center of Eagle Pass, and the Southwest Border Substance Abuse Programs.

The goals sought through this meeting are: to share general information, techniques and new procedures used in treating drug addiction, to increase the understanding and comprehension of the factors which affect the development of drug dependence in the border region and to prove the need for a special strategy with which to conduct joint activities in both countries.

The meeting is being attended by representatives of the government of the state of Coahuila, from the Mexican Social Security Institute, from the Youth Rehabilitation Centers and from various public and private institutions in the United States concerned with combating drug abuse.

The enthusiastic reception given the invitation tendered by the Piedras Negras Youth Rehabilitation Center reveals once again the recognition on the part of the American institutions for what the Youth Integration Centers are really accomplishing, a pioneer endeavor in the world to attack drug addiction on all levels, involving prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, etc.

The Youth Rehabilitation Centers are really non-profit organizations established by private enterprise to cope with the increasing problem of drug addiction among the youth.

Owing to the importance of this work, the institution has received strong official backing from the federal and state governments, including the government of Coahuila itself, which has been lending strong support to the Piedras Negras Youth Rehabilitation Center for better accomplishment of its work.

The efforts of the Youth Rehabilitation Centers consist of rehabilitating drug addicts, but much of them are expended on the prevention of the problem and on scientific research in the various areas thereof.

Hence the importance of this meeting with the American institutions in the neighboring country which are coping with the same problem.

The Third International Border Meeting began last night with the registration of the representatives from both countries who will be participating in it. During the meeting, reports will be presented by both the Mexican and American participants.

Participants Reported

Piedras Negras LA VOZ DEL NORTE in Spanish 24 Oct 78 Sec C p 3

[Text] The convening of the Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse is unquestionably of great importance in the battle which may be under way along the entire Mexican-United States border against drug addiction. The meeting about to begin is also the first held in this city and the third of its kind; and it is felt that an awareness has been created of the need for an exchange between the two countries to cope with this problem in a scientific manner.

The foregoing was extracted from statements made to the newspaper EL DIARIO yesterday by Enrique Vallarta, deputy coordinator of rehabilitation for the Rehabilitation Centers on the national level.

He added that the meeting is a dialog and an exchange of information and types of action which the two countries will hold for 3 consecutive days, for the purpose of countering drug addiction which is increasing daily by alarming percentages.

He also said that the number of persons attending the Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse is expected to exceed 300.

He noted that the function which will open tonight at the Piedras Negras Doctors' Club with a welcome and registration of attendees also has the important feature of gathering for the third time representatives from organizations whose specific purpose is to combat drug addiction and alcoholism both in Mexico and the United States.

Enrique Vallarta remarked that the following personages would be present, among others: Mrs Maria Eugenia Moreno, chairman of the Executive Committee

of the Youth Rehabilitation Centers, and head of the social service office of the Mexican Social Security Institute; Dr Armando Marte Cantu, director of the Youth Rehabilitation Centers; Silvia Fernandez, head of the CREA [expansion unknown]; and the heads of the various Youth Rehabilitation Centers, as well as professionals working in this field in the capital of the Mexican Republic.

Attending the function as representatives from the United States will be the following, among others: Mr Ramon Adams, of the Southwest Training Institute of El Paso, Texas; Mr Juan Aguilera, of the Texas Department of Community Affairs Drug Abuse Prevention Division, of Austin; and other prominent heads of associations in the neighboring country whose activity is aimed at combating drug addiction.

The Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse has been organized by the Youth Rehabilitation Centers and the Maverick County Hospital District Counseling Center of Eagle Pass, Texas, in the United States.

Attending the welcoming ceremony for the attendees with which the activities will start today, based on the program that has been established, will be a representative of the state's first lady, Dona Isabel Amalia Davila de Flores Tapia, who was invited for this purpose; and Prof Oscar Flores Iturbe, director of purchasing for the government of Coahuila, with his distinguished wife, Gloria T. Cuevas de Flores.

The sessions will begin tomorrow morning at the Social Security Center for Family Welfare in this town.

The meeting, held for the third time in this town, was coordinated by Doctor of Law Ramiro Ramirez Perez, director of the Piedras Negras Youth Rehabilitation Center, and Mr Francisco Benavides, director of the Maverick County Hospital District Counseling Center.

Effort in Guerrero Cited

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 1 Nov 78 Sec B p 3

[Text] "Despite the fact that Guerrero is one of the poorest states in the country, where the rural areas have become propitious for the spread of drug addiction, both the federal and state governments have expended great effort to eliminate both problems; and they have been, and are doing a great deal to combat drug addiction, an effort in which we are participating." This statement was made by the head of the Acapulco Youth Rehabilitation Center, Dr Mario Maldonado Zuniga, to EL DIARIO.

Dr Maldonado Zuniga, who attended the Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, extended his stay in this town somewhat, which afforded this newspaper an opportunity to interview him, and learn about the activity that has been under way in that state, especially in Acapulco, where the Youth Rehabilitation Center's offices are located.

He added that, at the Acapulco Youth Rehabilitation Center, they are treating about 500 persons per month, including patients and people who come to receive instruction aimed at preventing them from becoming drug addicts.

He said that, "In the area of prevention of drug addiction, the personnel of the Youth Rehabilitation Center in Acapulco, Guerrero, have been using the popular theater, which has brought constructive results; and this has made it possible not only to inform the people of the reasons which foster drug addiction, but also to make us more familiar with their lives; which to us is a very interesting area for study and experimentation for combating drug addiction on a scientific basis."

In response to a question, Dr Maldonado said that, "Although Guerrero is one of the poorest states in the country, where the rural areas have become propitious for the spread of drug addiction, both the federal and state governments have expended great effort to eliminate both problems; and they have been and are doing a great deal to combat drug addiction, an effort in which we are participating."

The subject of the interview later described the just concluded Third International Border Meeting on Drug and Alcohol Abuse as an event which afforded another opportunity for exchanges of views and information on the prevention of and battle against drug addiction.

He said: "It was an event which made it possible in particular for the youth who for one reason or another have succumbed to the use of drugs to observe that there are people who can help them out of the predicament into which they have mistakenly fallen. The meeting will undoubtedly be of great value, owing to the topics which were discussed, and especially the activities which may be carried out in the future."

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MEXICO

MAZATLAN OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF TRAFFICKING, INMATE ESCAPES

Ex-Municipal President Arrested

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 25 Oct 78 pp 1, 9

[Text] Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 24 October--Rafael Tirado Canizalez, a former municipal president of this town, was arrested by the Federal Judicial Police as he was lunching at the Azteca Inn celebrating his saint's day.

The warrant for his arrest was issued by the second district judge located in Mazatlan, in connection with proceedings 12/978, wherein he is identified as being presumed guilty of drug trafficking and the escape of prisoners.

Arrested together with Rafael Tirado Canizales were Luis Fuentevilla Pelaez, Luis Gustavo Kelly, Jesus Barrios Lopez, Jesus Ibarra Lizarraga, Enrique Jaime Levin and Felipe Alfonso Salman Morales.

The arrest warrant was complied with at about 1000 hours with a detachment of Federal Judicial Police forces armed with submachine guns.

At about 1230 hours, all the former municipal president's companions were released, and he was incarcerated in the public jail, where he was admitted at 1330 hours, at the order of the district judge.

According to information from the Federal Public Ministry agent, Juan Jose Flores Medellin, the warrant was issued on 25 August of this year.

It relates to the proceedings opened with a preliminary investigation on 25 January 1978, wherein the guard Felix Ochoa Barron was arrested with 25 doses of heroin, 26 grams of the same drug and 9 kilograms of marihuana in his possession.

He was selling the drugs inside the jail, in collusion with the former warden, Juan Jose Rochin Sanchez, an operation in which other former wardens for whose arrest warrants have also been issued were implicated.

Antonio Paredes, Carlos Arturo Gonzalez Guzman and Luis Raul Ramirez Osuna are also involved in these proceedings.

The social representative said that the Judicial Police had information to the effect that the former municipal president was in the city, but they had not yet received the warrant for his arrest.

Refuses to Answer Charges

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 26 Oct 78 Sec B p 3

[Text] Mazatlan, 25 October--The former municipal president, Rafael Tirado Canizales, refused to make a statement during the public hearing held yesterday morning before the district judge, despite the fact that he had originally agreed to answer questions.

In the district court, and in the presence of Judge Raymundo Veloz Segura, the former mayor, defended by seven attorneys, requested that the charges brought against him be reported to him first.

The court secretary proceeded to read the charges made by the guard from the municipal public jail, Felix Ochoa Barron, and former warden Juan Jose Rochin Sanchez, as well as the accusation made by the Federal Public Ministry against him, naming him as an individual presumed guilty of crimes of drug trafficking and escape of prisoners.

During the hearing, Rafael Tirado Canizales refused to answer any questions asked of him, after having received advice from his lawyers.

No direct charge against the former municipal president appears in the statements made by prisoners Felix Ochoa Barron and Juan Jose Rochin Sanchez on 25 January 1978.

The hearing ended at about 1300 hours and the prisoner was immediately moved back to the jail where he was confined.

The defenders of the former municipal president, Carlos Boutier, Francisco Damken, Guillermo Osuna Guerrero and Jesus Arnoldo Millan, stated at the end of the proceedings that this is a case wherein the charges brought against him are only indirect.

They also pointed out that the questions asked by the agent of the Federal Public Ministry of the former municipal president, which he refused to answer, were all improper.

During this period of hearings, which ends on Friday morning at about 1300 hours, all the evidence necessary to prove that the municipal president is in no way associated with drug trafficking nor with the escape of inmates from the municipal jail will be provided.

The defense attorneys are confident that they will secure the release of the former municipal president, and that they will not be appealing for protection.

Moreover, in an interview yesterday following the public hearing, District Judge Raymundo Veloz said that there is no political aspect to this case, nor would there be in any other.

The judge explained that this case is being handled like any other, based on the direct or indirect evidence which assigns liability, if and when there is no other evidence which would prove the contrary.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

VENEGAS 'MULE' CAPTURED WITH EVIDENCE

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 12 Nov 78 Sec E p 2

[Text] The Federal Judicial Police captured one of the "mules" used by Oscar Venegas Tarin to carry shipments of drugs to the United States.

Yesterday, Comdr Florentino Radilla Gallardo announced the arrest of Arturo Armando Ferrer Coronado, aged 39, residing at 671 East Ignacio de la Pena Street, as well as the seizure of four automobiles which he used indiscriminately to transport the shipments, since all of them contained traces of marihuana in the trunk.

Ferrer Coronado, a native of Hidalgo del Parral, Chihuahua, admitted his participation in the activities of the Mafia headed by Venegas Tarin, according to the same Federal Judicial Police who shot the latter to death about 2 months ago.

In his statements, he seriously implicated Eugenio Venegas, father of the late Oscar Venegas.

According to the police, Ferrer Coronado was intercepted in this city while driving a 1972 black Dodge car with New Mexico license plants SPT-700.

When they searched the car, the Federal Judicial Police discovered marihuana seed.

During the interrogation, the prisoner confessed that he had previously engaged in carrying shipments of drugs to the now deceased Oscar Venegas in United States territory.

With regard to three additional cars the location of which he disclosed, Ferrer Coronado stated that he had been given them without papers by Eugenio Venegas, Oscar's father, so that the latter could "rectify" their status.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

PSYCHOTROPIC PILLS CONFISCATED FROM TWO TRAFFICKERS

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 6 Nov 78 Sec B p 6

[Text] A large number of toxic pills were found in the possession of the addict Hector Gonzalez Arredondo, who was under investigation by the State Judicial Police yesterday.

Gonzalez Arredondo was arrested after the Judicial Police had been asked for assistance, since he was beating his wife and had "barricaded" himself in his residence.

Judicial Police forces raided Hector Gonzalez Arredondo's residence, and arrested him. They made a superficial search of the inside of the house, and found a plastic bag containing about 100 toxic pills known as "optalidon" and "neopercodan."

Gonzalez Arredondo said that he was addicted to psychotropic drugs, and that he wanted the pills for his personal use, but upon being questioned closely he changed his story, and explained that someone had turned them over to him.

Gonzalez Arredondo named an individual who was arrested by the Federal Judicial Police at the end of the week, from whom heroin and peyote had been confiscated.

The Judicial Police concluded that Gonzalez Arredondo was placing the blame on the other person in order to avoid the action of justice. He is presumed to have engaged in selling psychotropic drugs and, yesterday afternoon they intended to search his residence again in the event that there might be more toxic pills or other kinds of drugs there.

At the time of his arrest, Hector Gonzalez Arredondo was completely under the influence of drugs.

"La Carioca" Was Carrying 90 Pills

Agents from the Police Investigation Section confiscated 90 apparently toxic pills known as "neopercodan" from the notorious addict, Mario Alvarado Serano, alias "La Mariola," or "La Carioca.."

The arrest of Alvarado Serrano took place at the intersection of 15 de Junio and Guerrero Streets, where the agents from the Police Investigation Section (SIPOL) discovered him acting suspiciously.

The investigators who arrested "La Carioca" reported that, when they searched the individual in question, they found in his possession nine small boxes each of which contained 10 "neopercodan" pills.

This morning, SIPOL will turn the addict over to the federal prosecutor, so that the Federal Judicial Police may continue investigating him.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

ARREST OF TWO HEROIN TRAFFICKERS IN TIJUANA REPORTED

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 12 Nov 78 Sec B p 11

[Text] Tijuana, Baja California, 11 November--The Federal Judicial Police dealt a blow to organized crime when they arrested two persons who had in their possession 7 kilograms and 200 grams of top quality heroin, and 15 kilograms of cut heroin, ready for sale to presumably American purchasers.

The foregoing announcement was made by the regional coordinator of the anti-drug campaign in the northwest, Carlos Aguilar Garza, who explained that the individuals in custody gave their names as Ramon Donato Beltran, alias "Nato," aged 43 and a native of Sinaloa residing in this city, and his accomplice, Pablo Olguin, aged 33, a resident of Plazas de Rosarito, Baja California.

According to the information that was obtained, during the investigation to detect the smugglers, the Federal Judicial Police learned that Ramon Donato Beltran intended to make a sale of drugs in the northern zone; and therefore they kept surveillance over him for several days until he was finally arrested. When he realized that he had been caught, he informed on his accomplice and led the Federal Police, headed by Comdr Clemente Moreno, to Rancho Alamilla, located 30 kilometers from Tijuana, where they had set up a clandestine laboratory and mixed the drugs.

On that location, the suspects had their own equipment for cutting the drugs, such as acetone, trays, flasks, acids and a precision scale. After the Federal Police had confiscated the drugs, it was estimated that, if they had reached the black market, the drug traffickers would have earned a minimum of 22 million pesos.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUGS, TRAFFICKERS SEIZED IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 7 Nov 78 Sec A p 4

[Text] Mexico City, 6 November--During the past 24 hours, the Federal Judicial Police succeeded in capturing 19 drug traffickers who were operating in various states of the republic, from whom 10 million pesos' worth of drugs were confiscated.

Ernesto Barbosa Escamilla, Enrique Morales Garcia and Alfonso Barza de la Fuente, who were engaged in selling toxic pills among the student population of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, were caught by the police when they were about to distribute 255 boxes containing 5,600 pills of various brands.

In San Luis-Rio Colorado, Sonora, after a careful investigation, Miguel Jaime Arizona was arrested, and found to have in his possession 72 packages and two plastic bags containing 96 kilograms of marihuana.

An additional 50 kilograms of that grass, packed and ready for sale, were seized by the Federal Police when Mario Alberto Martinez Guardarrama and Aristeo Martinez Ramirez were about to take it from the village of Matias Romero, Oaxaca, aboard a late model Ford pickup truck.

During the past 24 hours, in collaboration with forces of the Mexican Army, the Federal Judicial Police destroyed 1,153 poppy plantations which were covered with 12,087,251 flowering plants of that product.

Also, 22 marihuana plantations containing 3,275,100 sprigs of that plant a meter in height, located in Yacatas hill in the municipality of Apatzingan, were sprayed.

The campaign against the drug traffic is continuing ntiringly in Mochis, Sinaloa, in the northern section of the port of Mazatlan and also in Michoacan, where the rest of the traffickers were arrested.

In those locations, a large shipment of heroin, cocaine and marihuana was seized, with a black market value that could exceed the 10 million pesos originally estimated.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUG ACTIVITIES OF GONZALEZ FAMILIES DISCLOSED

'Naty' Gonzalez Jasso Arrested

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 25 Oct 78 pp 1, 4

[Text] Last night, Natividad Jasso, alias "El Naty," was arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents, apparently on the basis of a warrant for his arrest issued by the second district court over 3 months ago.

The report, which was learned unofficially, was confirmed by police officials of local forces, since the entire personnel of the Federal Judicial Police and Federal Public Ministry, though not denying it, refused to confirm it.

It was also confirmed that his residence was searched by Federal Judicial Police agents, apparently in an attempt to find drugs; but the results of the search are not known.

Gonzalez Jasso, who is legally a fugitive, was in one of his business establishments yesterday afternoon, as he is every day, regardless of the warrant for his arrest issued by representatives of the Federal Judicial Authority.

He was arrested upon leaving that place of business on Mejia Street. It is not known in which official department he is being held.

The Federal Judicial Police guard, who refused to identify himself, said that he "did not know anything, and had not heard about anything."

When located during the night, Norberto Salinas Navarrete, the Federal Public Ministry agent, said that, owing to the work schedule, it was up to the assistant agent, Sanchez Gaytan, to be informed of whether or not Gonzalez Jasso was arrested, and that he of course had no information.

The warrant for the arrest of Gonzalez Jasso resulted from the arrest of one of his sons of the same name, who had a shipment of marihuana in his possession at the Futurama parking lot.

Cocaine, Marihuana Seized

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 26 Oct 78 Sec A p 11

[Text] Federal Judicial Police agents under orders from Comdr Florentino Radilla Gallardo captured J. Natividad Gonzalez Jasso and his son, Pablo Gonzalez Perea, father and son, respectively, with half an ounce of cocaine and 3 kilograms of marihuana.

The foregoing was learned from the report provided by the present Federal Judicial Police commander, to the effect that it is true that Gonzalez Jasso and Gonzalez Perea are in custody, while Natividad Gonzalez Jr, in whose residence at 2560 La Raza Avenue, the shipment seized the night before last was discovered, is still at large.

The police chief confirmed the rumors, which were an open secret years ago, that all the Gonzalezes, from grandfathers to sons to grandsons, have been involved in drug trafficking in one way or another.

Yesterday afternoon, the two prisoners were making statements in writing for the Federal Judicial Police. As of 1430 hours, they were not yet placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry.

Commander Radilla Gallardo reported that both father and son denied owning the confiscated drugs; but said that they belonged to "little Naty."

The police chief said that Gonzalez Jasso and Gonzalez Perea were certainly arrested upon arriving at Naty Jr's house just when it was being searched by the police and when the drugs were discovered.

He said: "But we had information beforehand that they were all engaged in trafficking, including Natividad Jr, who was arrested a short time ago in the state capital for the possession of a shipment of drugs."

Yesterday afternoon, prominent Juarez attorneys tried to talk with the Gonzalezes, but the Federal Judicial Police apparently did not allow them to do so.

Yesterday, an old warrant for arrest for the crime of fraud issued against J. Natividad Gonzalez Jasso by the third judge of the penal court in the city of Chihuahua was unearthed.

Inexplicably, that order, which was issued on 30 June 1975 precisely, had not been carried out by the police, and nothing was known about it until yesterday, when "Naty" Gonzalez was arrested for crimes against health.

The State Judicial Police commander, Manuel Humberto Blanco Erives, said that the arrest warrant in question had not been sent here until the day before yesterday for implementation by the State Public Ministry agent

attached to the penal court which wants the well-known Juarez business man and sports promoter.

He showed the respective document, which states that the fraud of which "Naty" Gonzalez Jasso is accused was committed against the hotel known as "Suites [sic] Suzy," in the state capital. It involves penal case number 117-975.

The police chief said that, since the presumably guilty individual has been arrested for another offense of a federal nature, the penal judge in Chihuahua would be notified, in compliance with the aforementioned arrest warrant, but without moving the accused from the place where he is incarcerated, for the time being.

The Special Services are investigating a claim of robbery of 10,000 pesos in cash, firearms, jewelry and other items, which was allegedly committed at the residence of J. Natividad Gonzalez Perea, at 2560 La Raza Avenue.

The offices of that entity said that, at 2230 hours on the night before last, that is, 2 and a half hours after the Federal Judicial Police agents searched the residence in question, finding strong drugs, a report was received by the radio-patrol headquarters that the house of the Gonzalez family had been robbed.

Special Services officers Moya and Ozuna were dispatched to take charge of the investigation. On the scene of the incident, the police found that the metal screen on the door had been destroyed and the lock forced open.

An unidentified member of the Gonzalez family reported to the investigators that 10,000 pesos in cash had disappeared, as well as two "Beretta" brand 22 caliber pistols, two ladies' rings, a telephone set and six pairs of new sheets.

Fingerprint experts were seeking clues on the scene of the incident, and it was not reported whether prints other than those left by the Federal Judicial Police were discovered.

Shipment Seized in El Paso

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 27 Oct 78 Sec E p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the authorities responsible for the anti-drug battle on the international level were trying to establish some connection between the drug shipment with an approximate value of 8 million pesos intercepted the day before yesterday in El Paso, Texas, and the similar shipment, though of a smaller size, confiscated here in the house of Natividad Gonzalez Perea, alias "little Naty."

And this is due to the fact that, in the neighboring city, persons well known here were captured, such as Roberto "Beto" Flores, who manages a night-club on Hermanos Escobar Highway; sports figure Carlos Garcia; and the driver

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/08: CIA-RDP82-00850R000100010019-9

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from the Fiesta Real taxi stand, Pablo Hernandez, all of whom could presumably be connected with the Gonzalezes in the drug traffic.

Spokesman from the administration of the battle against drugs in El Paso, Texas, confirmed yesterday to the local police the seizure of that valuable shipment of heroin and cocaine, and the capture of seven individuals, including residents of Juarez and El Paso.

The heroin weighed 4.5 pounds, and the cocaine weighed the same. The neighboring city considers it one of the largest drug shipments intercepted there for the past 10 years.

Those arrested were identified as Pablo Rivera and his wife, Margarita Rivera, Raul Carrillo, Roberto "Beto" Flores, Carlos Garcia Flores and Pablo Hernandez.

The Rivera couple, who reside at 2312 Wyoming Street, were in collusion with the others in shipping those alkaloids derived from opium from Ciudad Juarez to El Paso, their final destination being such American cities as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Pennsylvania [sic] and others.

In order to apprehend them, special agents affiliated with the anti-drug battle pretended to be purchasers of drugs, made deals with the sellers and, to lend sincerity to the transaction, took the respective sample. When the deal was supposedly about to be concluded, the El Paso police went into action and captured the members of the Mexican-American Mafia.

Larger Heroin Shipment Claimed

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 28 Oct 78 Sec E p 2

[text] J. Natividad Gonzalez Perea, alias "little Naty," reportedly escaped from the Federal Judicial Police with 2 kilograms of heroin.

This alleged incident which was said to have occurred last Tuesday night, when J. Natividad Gonzalez Jasso and his son, Pablo Gonzalez Perea, were arrested, was disclosed confidentially by police circles yesterday but, owing to the secrecy with which the investigating authorities have been surrounding such claims, it was impossible to conform or refute the story officially.

It was said that the half ounce of drugs which the Federal Judicial Police confiscated from the site was only a sample of the main shipment, which "little Naty" managed to remove.

The circumstances under which "the presumed drug trafficker eluded the Federal Judicial Police agents" were not specified.

At 1430 hours yesterday afternoon, the second district judge, Ismael Ruiz Martinez, took the statement of the pair, and it was arranged with the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, J. Norberto Salinas Navarrete, that on Saturday morning Gonzalez Jasso and his son would be remanded and transferred to the federal court to make their preliminary deposition.

The judge added that the court would work exclusively on this case today, despite the fact that it is not a business day.

Father, Son in Court

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 29 Oct 78 Sec E p 2

[Text] Monday morning, J. Natividad Gonzalez Jasso, alias "Naty" Gonzalez, and his son, Pablo Gonzalez Perea, will appear before the second district judge, J. Norberto Salinas Navarrete, to make their preliminary deposition.

It was not until 1100 hours yesterday that the Federal Public Ministry agent, J. Norberto Salinas Navarrete, remanded the father and son for the presumed guilt that they might bear for the possession and trafficking of half an ounce of cocaine and 3 kilograms of marihuana.

The judge and prosecutor agreed to set the hearing at which the accused will make statements for 0900 hours on Monday morning.

Yesterday morning, they were moved from the lockup of the Federal Judicial Police who captured them to the inside of the prison.

Comments were heard yesterday in police, prejudicial and judicial circles about the legal status of the Gonzalezes.

Some attorneys wondered what legal position would be assumed as a basis for issuing an order for their official imprisonment on any charge.

In the specific instance of Naty Gonzalez Jasso, it was said that, although he has a record for crimes against health, and was definitely known to have continued his involvement in the drug traffic, at the time when the Federal Judicial Police searched the residence of his son, "little Naty," finding the very small shipment that has been cited, that individual and his son, Pablo, arrived on the scene and were arrested; in other words, they were not there beforehand, much less with the drugs in their possession.

Police circles also considered it likely that there would be a flood of warrants for the arrest of the Gonzalezes for drug trafficking, since, the day before yesterday, two warrants arrived from Acapulco, Guerrero, issued by district judges of that area who want them for crimes against health.

Judge Issues Release Order

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 1 Nov 78 Sec A p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the second district judge, Ismael Ruiz Martinez, issued an order for the release, with legal reservations, of J. Natividad Gonzalez Jasso and his son, Pablo Gonzalez Perea, for lack of evidence with which to try them for crimes against health.

Only Gonzalez Jasso left the prison yesterday, at 1500 hours. His son, Pablo, remained incarcerated in the jail because there is a warrant for his arrest issued by the district judge of Acapulco, Guerrero, who wants him for crimes against health and to whom he will be turned over shortly.

There was also a warrant for the arrest of "Naty" Gonzalez, issued by the third penal judge of the town of Chihuahua, for the alleged crime of fraud on the hotel in that town known as 'Suites Susi.' This warrant was issued in June 1975, and sent in the form of letters requisitoria to the State Judicial Police on this border. Inasmuch as they did not know that the judge in the case had submitted a certified copy of the acquittal in question to the heads of the prison, he was therefore released.

In deciding upon the legal status of the Gonzalezes at 1130 hours yesterday, Judge Ruiz Martinez was of the opinion that it had not been duly proven that the accused had in their possession half an ounce of cocaine and 3 kilograms of marihuana which were attributed to them by the Federal Judicial Police.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MEMBERS OF HEROIN, PILL TRAFFICKING RING ARRESTED

Federal Police Capture Five

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO. in Spanish 4 Nov 78 Sec B p 3

[Text] In another spectacular blow dealt to the drug traffic on the border, the Federal Judicial Police, commanded by Margarito Sanchez Rico, succeeded in capturing Rodolfo Garza Cortez and Hortensia Gloria Martinez, who had 100 grams of powder presumed to be heroin and nine toxic pills in their possession.

The dual arrest took place on 2 November and, on the same day, the Federal Agents captured Armando Garcia Montoya, Maria Angeles Osorio and Rosa Osorio Sanchez, who were engaged in selling toxic pills. At the time of their arrest, they were found to have 250 of those pills, known as "octalidon," in their possession.

All those in custody are being closely interrogated, regarding the origin of the drugs and pills, as well as the names of the suppliers and consumers.

Further Details

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 4 Nov 78 Sec B p 2

[Text] The ties among the local drug traffickers are becoming loosened, and ringleaders, men and women engaged in the criminal drug traffic are beginning to topple.

Now, arrests have been made of Rodolfo Garza Cortez and Hortencia Gloria Martinez, who also answers to the name of Veronica Gonzalez Martinez, and 100 grams of heroin were confiscated from them and placed at the disposal of the public health authorities for the pertinent analysis.

In addition to the 100 grams of powder, a moderate number of toxic pills, known as "cyclopals," were confiscated from them.

Garza Cortez, a resident of 1941 Montevideo Avenue, and Hortencia Gloria, or Veronica, who lives at 2419 Montevideo Avenue, had been engaged in this criminal business despite their appearance.

The Federal Judicial Police also managed to arrest Armando Garcia Montoya, Maria Angeles Osorio and Rosa Osorio Sanchez, with 250 toxic pills, apparently "octalidon," in their possession.

They made a full confession of having engaged in selling pills and marihuana as well.

A strange aspect noted in the arrests of individuals engaged in drug selling during the past few days was that they all reside on Montevideo Avenue.

Mario Enrique Moreno Ruiz, alias "El Mongol," Valentin Mejia Martinez and Micaela Urbina Ruelas gave those who seized half a kilogram of marihuana from them 609 Montevideo Avenue as their address.

They were followed by Rodolfo Garza Cortez and Hortencia Gloria Martinez, as well as Garcia Montoya and the Osorios; and it is actually quite a coincidence that they all reside on that street.

The group chief of the Federal Judicial Police, Mario Aragon Zambrano, announced the arrest of these individuals, and said that the investigation would continue, giving assurance that more of the drug traffickers engaged in this criminal business who reside in the town will be arrested.

Two Receive Jail Sentences

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 14 Nov 78 Sec B p 3

[Text] The third district judge issued an order for the official imprisonment of Rodolfo Garza Cortes, alias "El Opi," as an individual presumed guilty of a crime against health in the degree of marihuana trafficking; while his codefendant, Hortencia Glora Martinez, or Veronica Gonzalez Martinez, was declared officially imprisoned for the possession of marihuana and heroin.

Authorized personnel from the aforementioned court announced that the evidence provided by the Federal Public Ministry was sufficient to warrant declaring the accused officially imprisoned.

Both were captured by forces of the Federal Judicial Police on 2 November. The first to be arrested was Rodolfo Garza Cortes, who had a marihuana cigarette and a moderate amount of psychotropic drugs in his possession.

He said that, a few days earlier, he had purchased a moderate amount of marihuana in Laredo, Texas, which he sold to Hortencia Gloria Martinez for \$50.

The latter woman was later arrested, and turned over the marihuana, and a small envelope containing approximately 11 grams of heroin.



RODOLFO GARZA CORTES



ARMANDO GARCIA Montoya

1. Rodolfo Garza Cortes, alias "El Opi," was arrested by the Federal Judicial Police for the crime of possessing hard drugs.
2. Armando Garcia Montoya was arrested together with two women, for selling toxic pills.



HORTENSIA GLORIA Martínez



MARIA ANGELES Osorio



ROSA OSORIO Sánchez

3. Hortensia Gloria Martínez is implicated in the possession of 100 grams of what is presumed to be heroin.
4. Maria Angeles Osorio had 250 toxic pills in her possession.
5. Rosa Osorio Sanchez was also engaged in selling toxic pills.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUG CZAR JAIME HERRERA ARRESTED, DENIES CHARGES

Preliminary Statement

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 19 Oct 78 p 4

[Text] Durango, Dgo., 18 October--District Judge Enrique Padilla Correa took the preliminary deposition of Jaime Herrera, who was arrested by the Federal Judicial Police on drug trafficking charges.

Present at the hearing held in that district's court were the federal prosecutor for the campaign against drug traffic in Durango, Pablo F. Morales Santelices, and Federal Judicial Police Comdr Ricardo Rodea Reyes, as well as the court secretary, Alfredo Rodriguez Zavala.

Shipments to U.S. Claimed

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 18 Oct 78 p 4

[Text] Jaime Herrera Nevarez, the "drug czar" in the northwest, who has been accused of shipping over 300 million pesos' worth of heroin consignments to the United States, was finally captured by the Federal Judicial Police in Guadalajara. This is the strong, powerful drug trafficker who is said to have important accomplices in the Nogales area, shipping over 100 million in heroin to the neighboring country.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA IN EXMAYOR'S PLANE--The Federal Judicial Police discovered traces of marihuana in a small airplane owned by the former mayor of Madera, Chihuahua, aviation pilot Capt Francisco Leal Estrada, which compounds a great deal more evidence proving him to be a marihuana trafficker. All this evidence was the basis on which the first district judge of Hermosillo, Sonora, issued an order for the official imprisonment of the former Madera authority for crimes against health in the degrees of planting, cultivating, harvesting, possession and transportation of marihuana. The judge did not find sufficient proof to convict Leal Estrada for trafficking. The discovery made in the small plane served to confirm the degree of transportation. At first, the Federal Judicial Police found vast marihuana plantations on the border of the states of Chihuahua which, based on the investigation that was made, turned out to be owned by the erstwhile municipal president of Madera. The federal judge likewise failed to find sufficient evidence to convict Jose Leal, Francisco's brother, and issued an order for his release without bail or protest. Francisco Leal was captured by the Federal Judicial Police last week, in compliance with an order circulated by the district judge of Hermosillo. Within 72 hours, he was taken to that town and placed at the disposal of the authorities by whom he was wanted. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 26 Oct 78 Sec A p 11] 2909

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN MATAMOROS--Yesterday, in connection with a marihuana shipment seized by Federal Judicial Police agents in Oaxaca, agents from the same entity detailed to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, captured the presumed drug traffickers Joaquin Vazquez Gonzalez, alias "El Electronico," and Antonio Vazquez Mancilla, since they had been mentioned as the persons who had purchased those drugs, which they were waiting to receive any moment. The agency of the Federal Public Ministry announced that, on Tuesday, federal agents in Matias Romero, Oaxaca, arrested Leonel Marison Valle and Felipe Molina Milon, who were guarding a marihuana shipment the total weight of which was 1,500 kilograms. Upon being questioned, those two individuals said that the drugs had been purchased by two residents of Matamoros, and that they were only planning a way of transporting the drugs to that border town. With the information provided by the prisoners, federal agents detailed to Matamoros arrested Antonio Vazquez and Joaquin Vazquez, alias "El Electronico," with 8 kilograms of marihuana in their possession. One of the was carrying a 38-caliber automatic pistol with which he attempted to confront the agents,

but he was promptly disarmed. Joaquin Vazquez and Antonio Vazquez confessed that they had on previous occasions received large shipments of marihuana from the two Oaxacans, and that they were responsible for selling the drugs in the United States. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 17 Nov 78 Sec B p 3] 2909

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN TIJUANA--Tijuana, Baja California, 4 November--The Federal Judicial Police in this city dealt the drug traffic a real blow yesterday by seizing thousands of toxic pills and other drugs, according to reports released by that police agency and by the general coordinator of the campaign against drug trafficking in Zones 08 and 09, Carlos Aguilar Garza. The first announcements on the subject were to the effect that Federal Judicial Police agents confiscated a total of 31,000 mini-benzedrine pills in that border city. The investigations and captures of the criminals were led by Comdr Clemente Moreno Hernandez and agents under his orders. The reports concerning these criminal activities state that Juan Hernandez Ramirez, aged 58, was captured in his car on Agua Caliente Boulevard, as he was attempting to make a drug sale. The drugs were found in the glove compartment of that vehicle, a late model, in which 11,000 toxic pills were discovered. Another case closed by the same officials related to the house at 18 Progreso Lane, in the Union development, where Mauricio Santos Torres, aged 49, a native of Agua Verde, Sinaloa, was captured, and a total of 20,000 toxic pills were found in his possession. In the Las Palmas business district, Maria del Socorro Diaz Gonzalez, aged 20 and a native of Mazatlan, was relieved of 175 grams of cocaine, while 25 grams of the same drug were confiscated from her companion, Amada Osuna Diaz, aged 38. At the house marked No 12 in the Pradera development, in a section of La Mesa, the Federal Judicial Police captured Mr Jose Hernandez Ramirez, who was found to have 200 grams of heroin in his possession. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 5 Nov 78 p 4] 2909

HEROIN SEIZED IN NOGALES--Yesterday, the Federal Judicial Police seized a large shipment of heroin here in our town, and captured two presumed drug traffickers, including a butcher from Campillo Street. Last night, it was learned that those arrested were in the lockup of the Federal Public Ministry Agency, guarded by several judicial agents, and were being subjected to close questioning. The source did not disclose the names of the arrested drug traffickers, so as not to interfere with the investigation; because the arrest of the owners of the drug shipment is expected this morning. There will be further information tomorrow. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 18 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Yesterday, the second district judge, Cayetano Valencia Hernandez, sentenced drug trafficker Francisco Perez Abreu Meza, son of the drug trafficker nicknamed "El Nene Abreu," who is also in jail and was captured with a large quantity of drugs. The offices of the district court announced that Francisco Perez Abreu Mez was sentenced to 5 years and 6 months in jail, and given a fine of 5,000 pesos. As may be recalled, this drug trafficker was arrested on Ruiz Cortines Street, with a large amount of heroin. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 18 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

TRAFFICKERS RECEIVE HEAVY SENTENCES--Four presumed drug traffickers were sentenced by the second district judge, Cayetano Hernandez Valencia, accumulating a total of 2 1/2 years' imprisonment and fines of 20,000 pesos. Another individual was acquitted of crimes against health. The court's offices announced that the sentenced drug traffickers are: Jose Luis Dorame, Jesus Manuel Quintero Lomeli, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Ramon Vazquez Jimenez, each of whom received a 7-year jail term and a 5,000 peso fine. All of them are incarcerated in the Nogales Rehabilitation Center, where they reportedly will serve their sentences. The individual who was acquitted of crimes against health is Manuel Humberto Beltran Rodriguez, who was immediately granted his release. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 25 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

PROBE OF MARIHUANA SEIZURE--The Federal Judicial Police are apparently investigating the connection that prominent residents of Juarez may have with a shipment of 100,000 pounds of marihuana which appears to have been confiscated in El Paso, Texas, by the narcotics police. Yesterday, spokesmen for the Judicial Police in his district said that both Comdr Florentino Radilla Gallardo, of this town, and Comdr Juan Ramon Estudillo Cerezo, of the Federal Judicial Police in the state, are investigating the "affair." Commander Estudillo Cerezo arrived at this border the night before last, but neither he nor Commander Radilla could be reached to obtain further information, which apparently originated with the United States federal police. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 5 Nov 78 Sec A p 8] 2909

VARIOUS DRUG SEIZURES REPORTED--Mexico City, 7 November--Today, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic announced the capture of 15 drug traffickers and the seizure of several kilograms of marihuana, hundreds of toxic pills and other drugs. The Judicial Police action took place in Ciudad Obregon, Michoacan, Nuevo Laredo, Torreon and Progreso, Yucatan. The official spokesman claimed that there were no confrontations or casualties among the two rings. Most of those arrested were caught by the Federal Police as they were selling the drugs, some of which were being sold to students, while attempts were made to sell others along the northern border of our country. In Ciudad Obregon, Juan Enrique Velez Verdugo was captured with over half a kilogram of heroin in his possession, in the form of doses which, he claimed, he "intended to take to the United States." In Nuevo Laredo, the police conducted five operations in which they arrested Hector Gonzalez Arredondo, Mario Alfaro Tenorio, Nazario Mendoza, Juan Manuel Medina, Jose Ulises Gonzalez, Oscar Ramirez Morales and Adolfo Falton Torres. Psychotropic pills, marihuana and other drugs in varying amounts were seized from these individuals and were placed at the disposal of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 8 Nov 78 Sec A p 5] 2909

FLEEING TRAFFICKER CAUGHT--Yesterday, the offices of the Federal Judicial Police confirmed the arrest of the notorious drug trafficker, Ramon Angel Hernandez Alvarez, alias "El Negro Llantero," who, it was reported yesterday, was apprehended in the downtown area of the town by agents from that entity for investigation in connection with a drug shipment. Federal Judicial

Police Comdr Arturo Monreal Tinajero announced that, when the prisoner was subjected to close questioning, he confessed that he was here as a fugitive from justice from Culiacan, Sinaloa, where the district judge had issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of being implicated in a large quantity of confiscated drugs. The Federal Police immediately notified the Public Ministry Agency in that town, and it was confirmed that Hernandez Alvarez was to be arrested because of his connection with Trial 49-76. Yesterday morning, "El Negro Llantero" was taken to the town of Hermosillo, heavily guarded by federal agents, to be sent subsequently to Culiacan, Sinaloa, where he is wanted. Hernandez Alvarez served a sentence here several months ago, and was released on bail. Five years ago, he was one of the "big" traffickers, because he was "operating" on a large scale, and amassed millions of pesos, much of which was squandered. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 20 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

MARIHUANA BROUGHT FROM TEXAS--The second district judge has just issued an order for the official imprisonment of Ricardo Garcia Chapa and Juan Pena Gutierrez, as individuals presumed guilty of a crime against health. Strangely enough, they purchased marihuana in the United States, coming to Nuevo Laredo to sell it to addicts. Pena Gutierrez said that he bought the marihuana in the neighboring town of Laredo, Texas, and delivered it to Ricardo, who made "joints," which he sold for the sum of 100 pesos. Yesterday morning, upon their preliminary release, the defendants were taken to the second district court, where they were notified of the order for official imprisonment as persons presumed guilty of a crime against health in the degree of marihuana importing and trafficking. They gave a complete account in their statements of the manner in which they purchased the grass in the neighboring town and details on its distribution. This led to the arrest of other persons who are being closely investigated both here and in Laredo, Texas. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 7 Nov 78 Sec B p 3] 2909

TRAFFICKER YIELDS PILLS, DRUGS--The Federal Judicial Police confiscated heroin, marihuana and toxic pills from the presumed drug trafficker Jose Rodriguez Perez, whom they arrested on Sunday in a heavily populated area. The individual in question made a full confession of his activity involving the purchase and sale of drugs. The Federal Public Ministry Agency announced that, early on Sunday, federal agents arrested Jose Rodriguez Perez, from whom they at first seized 70 toxic pills of different brands, such as captagon, neo-percodan, pasitran, optalidon and darvon. He was subjected to close questioning, and stated that he had a small amount of heroin and marihuana at his residence. He took the agents to the place where he had concealed those drugs, which turned out to be a gram of brown heroin and approximately 2 grams of marihuana. Rodriguez Perez is being carefully investigated, and it is claimed that his suppliers will quite likely be arrested at any moment, since he fully identified them. On a site known as "El Ojo de Agua," in the municipality of Vallecillos, Nuevo Leon, federal agents detailed to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, arrested Hector Mario Garcia Vazquez and Juvenal Flores Vazquez, from whom they confiscated about 8 kilograms of marihuana. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 14 Nov 78 Sec B p 3] 2909

MARIHUANA, PEYOTE, HEROIN SEIZED--The Federal Judicial Police arrested Erasmo Simon Salinas Escamilla, Juan Penaloza Hernandez and Maribel Hernandez Mendiola, who had in their possession 3 tons of marihuana and were supplied with laboratory materials and three automobiles, located in Chihuahua. Victor Joaquin Ortega Gonzalez was arrested with 1 kilogram of peyote and 5 grams of marihuana in his possession. In the city of Tijuana, Manuel Chavez Lobo and Lazaro Jordan Patron were apprehended, and 1 kilogram and 50 grams of heroin were confiscated from them. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 18 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN RESULTS--Culiacan, Sinaloa, 11 November--According to the assistant attorney general of the republic, Samuel Alva Leyva, a kilogram of cocaine sells for \$1.73 million (39.5 million pesos) on the black market in the United States because of the 80 percent reduction in the production and exporting of drugs from Mexico. He said that, as a result of the campaign against the drug traffic, the poppy and marihuana crops in the country have declined 80 percent. Alva Leyva announced that, this year, 2 billion pesos' worth of drugs have been seized. There has been such a drop in the exporting of drugs produced in Mexico that 1 kilogram of cocaine costs \$1.73 million in the neighboring country, he noted, stressing that the campaign against the planting, cultivation and trafficking of poppies and marihuana will continue in an intensive manner. Forces from the Office of the Attorney General and the Army are participating in the action which, at first, involves spraying the drug plantations with herbicides. Among the drugs confiscated this year, Alva Leyva cited 546 tons of marihuana, 43 kilograms of cocaine and 23 kilograms of heroin. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Nov 78 Sec A p 12] 2909

OPIUM GUM TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--EL DIARIO was told yesterday by the penal board that Ricardo Gonzalez Zamora was sentenced by the federal judge of the second district court of Coahuila to 6 years in jail and a fine of 10,000 pesos. It was added that Ricardo Gonzalez Zamora was arrested last March when 45 grams of opium gum, located on top of a refrigerator, was found in his residence in the Buena Vista development. Those making this arrest were forces under the command of Noel Munoz Pineda, who was then serving as police and traffic agent in Piedras Negras. The opium gum which was kept on top of a refrigerator was claimed to be a sample of the "product," which he intended to sell for 30,000 pesos per kilogram. Ricardo Gonzalez Zamora was tried for the pertinent crime against health in the degree of opium possession and is currently in the municipal jail. It was expected that he would be notified of the sentence this afternoon. Gonzalez Zamora never revealed who supplied him with the opium gum sample, much less the person to whom he intended to show it as a potential customer. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 24 Oct 78 p 1] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKER JAILED--Adolfo Torres Calderon, an individual who was tried for a crime against health in the degree of heroin possession, was sentenced to 6 years in jail and fined 10,000 pesos, and it was noted that, in the event of financial insolvency, he would be subject to another 2

years in jail. Adolfo Torres was arrested by forces of the Federal Judicial Police when discovered with 4 grams and 200 milligrams of heroin in his possession which he had ready for sale, and which he also wanted for his personal use, since he claimed and was proven to be a drug addict. The foregoing was reported to EL DIARIO by the second district court located in this town by the head of the penal board department, Luevano. In his statement, Adolfo Torres had claimed that he purchased the heroin from an individual named Julio Espino, residing in Guadalajara, Jalisco; and said that he sold the heroin in small packages for \$10 dollars apiece. At the time of his arrest, about a year ago, \$1,500 was found in his possession, as well as 800 pesos in national currency. He was apprehended in Ciudad Acuna, having in his possession three envelopes of heroin ready for sale, as well as a plastic container in which he kept the rest of the accursed powder. [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 1 Nov 78 p 1] 2909

HEROIN LABORATORY SEIZED--Yesterday, the Federal Public Ministry Agency remanded to the state district judge the prisoners Roberto Ochoa Teran and Carlos Carrasco Osuna, who were captured by the Federal Judicial Police as persons presumed guilty of crimes against health. The former was investigated on charges of processing heroin, and confessed that he actually committed that crime, using for the purpose a clandestine primitive laboratory which he had set up in his residence, located on the edge of the main canal, about 500 meters from the Culiacan-Navolato highway. There, a bottle of hydrochloric acid and three bags containing a powder which was apparently heroin cutting substance were confiscated from him. He told his captors that the last time he processed heroin it was for Carlos Carrasco Osuna, a resident of the Las Huertas district, a job for which he received the sum of 7,000 pesos in cash. Following the questioning and confession, Roberto Ochoa Teran led the Federal Judicial Police agents to the home of Carrasco Osuna, who, upon being captured, turned over 81 grams of the drug, admitting that it was prepared for him by the first-mentioned individual. It was also announced that, on the same date, the prisoners Alberto Ruiz Saucedo and Jesus Araujo Diaz, wanted for the district judges on charges of being presumably guilty of crimes against health, were taken to the towns of Nogales, Sonora, and Guadalajara, Jalisco, respectively. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 27 Oct 78 Sec B p 2] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER IDENTIFIES ACCOMPLICES--Another shipment of marihuana has been seized by the Federal Judicial Police, who captured a drug trafficker nicknamed "El Merequetengue." The latter is in the lockup of that entity, at the disposal of Federal Public Ministry Agent Humberto Garcia de Alba. It was announced that the prisoner is being subjected to close questioning by federal agents, and that it gave the names of powerful drug traffickers as the owners of the seized drugs. They are being sought in the state of Sinaloa and here on this border. The source did not disclose any names, so as not to interfere with the investigation. There will be further information tomorrow. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 20 Oct 78 p 4] 2909

NOTORIOUS TRAFFICKER FINALLY CAUGHT--Tijuana, Baja California, 6 November--Gil Caro Rodriguez, alias "El Chapo Caro," a native of Santiago de los Caballeros, in the municipality of Badiraguato, Sinaloa, was captured in this city by federal Judicial Police agents under orders from Comdr Clemente Moreno Hernandez, at the instruction of Carlos Aguilar Garza, coordinator of the campaign against the drug traffic in this zone. Gil Caro's arrest took place this morning. He was considered the heir of Pedro Aviles, who was recently shot to death in a gun battle with the Federal Judicial Police in Culiacan, Sinaloa. He is also said to be one of the henchmen of Beltran Felix, who was captured about 2 months ago in San Luis-Rio Colorado. Beltran Felix and Caro Rodriguez are regarded as the leading controllers of drugs in the country. Caro Rodriguez was hunted by the police of Mexico and the United States for over 10 years. There are warrants for his arrest for the crimes of possession and transportation of drugs, criminal association and the amassment of firearms. The prisoner is claimed to have circulated in both Mexico and the United States hundreds of kilograms of heroin and cocaine, and dozens of tons of marihuana, during his career in the illegal trade; and his power was so great that, on occasion, he mobilized over 50 drug traffickers in a single operation. The Federal Judicial Police were scoffed by Caro Rodriguez, who left but few clues to follow; but one of the heaviest blows dealt to Gil Caro by the Federal Judicial Police occurred over a year ago, when they seized 50 tons of marihuana from several of his accomplices. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 7 Nov 78 p 7] 2909

1978 CAMPAIGN TALLY--Mexico City, 11 November--During this profitable year, the Federal Judicial Police have seized various types of drugs with an approximate black market value of 1.89 billion pesos. This announcement was made by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, through its official spokesman, who stated that the permanent campaign against drug trafficking in the country has reduced the planting, cultivation and harvesting of poppies and marihuana by 85 percent in comparison with previous years. This year, the Federal Judicial Police seized 149 kilograms of heroin, 63 kilograms of cocaine and 546 tons of marihuana in various towns of the republic; and confiscated over 22 million toxic pills, including benzedrine, red, green and blue "devils," and mini-benzedrine pills. The spokesman said that, during this same period, 21,519 poppy plantations and 9,612 marihuana plantations were discovered, and destroyed by the air services team of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. Finally, the spokesman for that office reported that, thus far this year, 4,876 native traffickers and 203 foreign traffickers were arrested, and 349 drug trafficking rings were disbanded. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 12 Nov 78 p 8] 2909

MARIHUANA, BURNED PLANES SEIZED--The Federal Judicial Police in this town and in Saltillo, Coahuila, dealt the drug traffic a heavy blow when they captured two notorious drug traffickers, who were being closely investigated yesterday in connection with drug smuggling; and it was claimed that important "fat fish" will most likely be caught at any moment. Marihuana and two burned small planes were seized from them. In connection with this probe, federal agents under orders from Comdr Margarito Mendez Rico seized

150 kilograms of marihuana of the so-called "lamb's tail" variety, with red fibers, which commands an extremely high price on the black market for drugs. Those in custody are Rafael Flores Ortega and Fernando or Bernardo Garcia Castro; the former having been arrested in Saltillo, Coahuila, and the latter in this town. The Federal Public Ministry Agency reported that, on Friday morning, federal agents raided the "La Curva" farm in the municipality of Ocampo, Coahuila, where they had spotted a clandestine landing strip from the air. There they discovered two modern small planes which had been burned. In a building constructed on the grounds of this farm, the agents arrested Rafael Flores Ortega, who was guarding several bags containing the expensive "lamb's tail" marihuana. Upon being questioned, he said that one of the owners of these drugs was Fernando or Bernardo Garcia Castro, of Nuevo Laredo. This prompted the federal agents' mobilization in that locality, and, at exactly noon on Friday, they captured Garcia Castro, approximately 60 years of age, whom they immediately transferred to Saltillo, Coahuila, so that the investigation could be continued there. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 12 Nov 78 Sec B p 6] 2909

DRUG BURNING IN TIJUANA--Tijuana--At 1400 hours yesterday, the health authorities burned 11 kilograms of heroin, 9 kilograms of cocaine and 30 kilograms of marihuana, valued in excess of \$1.5 million. This is the third occasion on which drugs have been burned with special chemical substances on the grounds of the No 2 Health Center in this city, in the presence of health and military authorities, as well as Federal Judicial Police officials. Dr Emilio Rodriguez Ibarra, the administrator of that entity, explained that the drugs which were destroyed had been at the disposal of the Federal Judicial Police after having been seized a few days ago by personnel under orders from Carlos Aguilar Garza, the head of the anti-drug campaign in the northwestern part of the republic. He added that, after having been at the disposal of the district court, the drugs were sent to the Health Center for their respective destruction. [Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 28 Oct 78 Sec B p 16] 2909

MAJOR MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED--Mexico City, 16 November--Two of the leading organizations in the world of drug trafficking which were operating throughout the entire country were broken up by the Federal Judicial Police who, during the past 24 hours, have captured 43 of their members, from whom 2 tons of marihuana, with a black market value of up to several million pesos, were confiscated. The arrests took place in simultaneous operations carried out in the localities of Durango, Durango; Hermosillo, Sonora; Ojo de Agua, Nuevo Leon; Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas; Reynosa, Tamaulipas; Morelia, Sinaloa; La Paz, Baja California; Ciudad Obregon, Sonora; Poza Rica, Veracruz; and other sites. In the aforementioned states, 36 drug traffickers were arrested with half a ton of marihuana, already processed and ready for sale, in their possession. The captured drug traffickers were members of one of the most powerful organizations in the drug world. They were found to have branches all over the country, which enabled them to earn income amounting to several million pesos from every transaction. The other ring was captured in the northern section of the city, and it was said to have branches extending

to the southeast. These investigations resulted in the arrest of 12 planters, harvesters and distributors of grass. They were likewise found to have dealt in toxic pills, cocaine, heroin and other drugs, of which the police confiscated a considerable shipment from them. [Text [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 17 Nov 78 p 1] 2909

MARIHUANA ENTERING FROM TEXAS--"There is actually marihuana in this port, but, unlike previous years, and based on the studies and probes that have been conducted recently, it has been found that the marihuana in Piedras Negras is coming from Eagle Pass, Texas, which is where the local addicts have been buying it." The foregoing statement was made yesterday by the Federal Judicial Police group commander in this port, Mr Francisco Marin, who arrived here a week ago, but who has extensive experience with the drug movement that is going on along nearly the entire northern border of the country. He said that, on several trips that he has made, he observed young people from Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass buying "cartons" of marihuana in the neighboring Texas port where we cannot operate. He added: "I can tell you that the addicts who wander about the streets are not our affair, because they are the so-called 'sick ones.' What interests us is the distributor, the peddler, the one who is a high or low level trafficker, but not the addicts." He maintained that security does, indeed, exist, and that there are no "shooting galleries" or "marihuana smoking dens" here in Piedras Negras. What has been completely proven and ascertained is that the addicts from this area go to the neighboring port to purchase their drugs. He also noted that it should be borne in mind that the marihuana crops in Oaxaca and other states have been completely destroyed, amounting to about 1,000 hectares, and that only the reputation remains in Culiacan, and that state. He said that many other plantations had been destroyed by hurricanes and other storms which miraculously intervened; observing: "The Army and forces from the Office of the Attorney General of Justice, working in coordination, have made an almost complete cleanup. There is little, really little intervention left to be done; and that little is what is being carried out in the battle." [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 24 Oct 78 p 1] 2909

TRAFFICKERS CLAIM TORTURE--Sergio Gerardo Ramon Valdez and Hector Osuna Galan, who made their preliminary statement regarding drug trafficking on Wednesday afternoon, turned out to be two genuine "big shots": the former, son of a prominent Coahuila politician, and the latter, regarded as a czar of the drug traffic and, at the same time, a fugitive from justice, because 9 years ago he shot to death in the red-light district of Acuna, Coahuila, Jesus Romo, who was then serving as chief of local traffic in that locality. Both are associated with the seizure of about 10 kilograms of marihuana and 3 kilograms of peyote, confiscated by the Federal Judicial Police on 31 October at the farm known as "El Retiro," in Saltillo, Coahuila. When they appeared before the third district judge, the two accused cynically claimed to have been tortured by the Federal Judicial Police so that they would admit their guilt in having ties with the drug traffic. But, according to the Federal Judicial Police, the pair stated that they were engaged in the purchase and sale of marihuana, and that, a few moments before their

arrest at an inspection post near Saltillo, they had concealed marihuana and peyote at the "El Retiro" farm, while seeking a customer for these drugs. Sergio Gerardo Ramon Valdez is the son of a prominent Coahuila politician, Jesus Maria Ramon, who during his career has served three terms as municipal president of Acuna, and is now head of the Institutional Revolutionary Party in that area, while in the midst of a campaign as candidate for governor of that state. As for Hector Osuna Galan, he was tried for the fatal shooting of Jesus Romo, who served as local traffic chief. This individual was arrested but, a few months later, escaped from jail and, up until now, has been a fugitive from justice. Sometime today, the third district judge, Andres Cruz Martinez, will decide upon the legal status of the two defendants. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 10 Nov 78 Sec B p 3] 2909

CSO: 5330

PANAMA

JOURNALIST ASKS GREATER U.S. AID FOR ANTIDRUG EFFORTS

PA140242Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Dec 78 p 6A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "The United States, Panama and Drugs"]

[Excerpts] The United States, whose people are primarily affected by the flow of various types of drugs, stimulants and narcotics into the country, --particularly the country's youth and, frequently, members of its armed forces--has acknowledged the obvious success in control and prosecution activities that the Panamanian authorities have achieved against the illegal trade of this poisonous and criminal merchandise the enemies of U.S. society put into circulation.

Considering the Panamanian authorities' attitude and the way in which their antidrug efforts benefit the U.S. Government and people, I believe that the best way the U.S. Government can reward the Panamanian authorities is by granting a larger number of scholarships, so that more Panamanians can study the most modern systems used in the war against crime in the United States, and so that they may become familiar with all of the sophisticated equipment that the Americans have managed to develop for the detection of drugs, wherever cunning criminals may conceal them. We recently learned that several dogs trained to detect drugs were in our country, but we have not heard anything about our investigative and prosecution departments having these animals, which have been highly successful in this type of activity, at their disposal.

Furthermore, a donation by the United States of the necessary drug detection equipment to establish a detection and prosecution office in Panama would not represent a significant amount of the budget of the U.S. criminal investigation and prosecution offices. This, in turn, would strengthen the barrier to drug trafficking in our country. At the same time, the U.S. Government would be protecting its own people, since it is a well-known fact, and we repeat it, that the U.S. people are the principal victims and consumers of the international drug rings. Not even school children or teenagers escape from this market.

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE--Agents of the Narcotics Department of the Finance and Treasury Ministry arrested two Colombians, Abelardo de Jesus Davila Ramirez and Marlene Gamez Valbuena, at Tocumen International Airport on 24 December for carrying approximately 1 kg of cocaine with an estimated black market value of \$500,000. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Dec 78 pp 24, 16 PA]

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING--Caracas, 27 Nov (AFP)--Brazil and Venezuela today put into effect the friendship and cooperation agreement and the mutual assistance agreement to suppress illegal drug trafficking which were signed by their respective governments on 17 November 1977. The exchange of notes took place at the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry between Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and Brazilian Ambassador to Venezuela David Mota Silveira. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0205 GMT 28 Nov 78 PA]

DRUG TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--The alleged leader of a powerful narcotics gang was captured by the Judicial Technical Police. He was identified as (?Erle) Carlotti, a 39-year-old Ecuadorean who was about to leave for Miami when he was captured by the police. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 7 Dec 78 PA]

COCAINE SEIZURE--The metropolitan police have arrested three drug traffickers and placed them at the disposal of the Judicial Technical Police. The police also seized several flasks containing cocaine and a quantity of marihuana. The operation was carried out near the entrance to the old Caracas-La Guaira highway. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA]

CSO: 5300

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS RAID--Jeddah, Dec 10--The Narcotics Squad of the Ministry of the Interior impounded quantities of hashish and opium in Mecca and Medina during the pilgrimage, "Al-Riyadh" reported Sunday. After a tip-off and the discovery of a cache of narcotics in Medina, the squad traced the traffic to Mecca and finally to Jeddah, where large quantities were found packed in steel cases in a raid on a garage on the night of Nov 17. A person, described as a trafficker, was arrested at Jeddah Airport attempting to leave the country, the paper said. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 11 Dec 78 p 2]

CSO: 5300

MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

CONFERENCE ON KHAT--The International Conference on Khat ended in Antananarivo on 1 December. A press conference about the 5-day conference was given on 2 December at the Madagascar-Hilton Hotel [no further details given]. [Excerpts] [Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 4 Dec 78 p 3]

CSO: 5300

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

DAGGA FIELDS DESTROYED--In a huge cleaning-up operation in the Pongola area, Eastern Transvaal police have destroyed more than 40 metric tons of dagga. The operation, which took place last week, was confirmed by the head of police in the Eastern Transvaal, Colonel Stan Schutte, who said 48000 dagga plants were destroyed by the police using helicopters. The total value of the dagga on the black market could not be determined. Dagga destroying operations are conducted by the police during the growing season in the area. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Dec 78 p 25]

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

STATUS OF 'FRENCH CONNECTION' REVIEWED

Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 78 p 12

[Article by Michel Bole-Richard]

[Text] Thanks to the combined efforts of French police and DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) members, the "French Connection" has been dismantled. A victory gained through a tough campaign against experienced traffickers, whose last episode unfolded in August 1974 when the last big seizure of heroin took place. Since then the drug channels have been reconstituted. The days of laboratories in Marseilles and well-known chemists like Jo Cesari are over. The era of little traffickers who go to Amsterdam to stock up, then to Bangkok is on the rise. A prosperous enterprise that the police find it hard to nip in the bud. Vultures of the cocaine trade who have found a lucrative market.

Does this really mean a rise in the number of addicts and the spreading of this evil of modern society? While the statistics should be carefully examined, this does nothing to keep drug addiction from slowly but surely increasing. It has certainly gained ground on the Riviera, for example, but also throughout all of France. And the threat Middle East production poses for all of Western Europe is not to be ignored.

Doubtless because he found that selling rolls did not bring in enough money, a baker from Mouans-Sartoux (Alpes Maritimes), 26-year-old Bernard Ferrer, one fine day in March 1976 decided to go to Amsterdam. He bought an ounce (a little less than 30 grams) of "brown sugar" or heroin No 3, for which he paid Fr 9,000, and drove back to the Riviera with his car. There, he extended the dope with dietetic yeast in order to produce 10 times the original volume and resold it in small doses between March and May for a total of Fr 130,000, or for a profit of Fr 121,000. This was apparently the first time the baker, who was not an addict, had engaged in this sort of business.

This is only one example among others of this "ant" traffic that makes it possible to supply the French market with heroin.

It began at the end of 1974 after the last big narcotics seizure in August of that year: 76 kg of pure heroin shipped from Bordeaux in pieces of

furniture with false compartments which were intercepted and led to the arrest of several narcotics ringleaders, namely Joseph Patrizzi, Urbain Giaume and the brothers Maurice and Claude Schoch. The last episode of the "French Connection."

After that, heroin production in France came to an end. Shipments of "brown sugar" from Southeast Asia began to increase. The market created by American GI's in Vietnam and Thailand dried up with the end of the war and the Chinese in Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand organized rings run from Amsterdam where there is a large colony of resident Chinese. This city rapidly became a veritable turntable. Faced with the size of the operation, the Dutch police and international airport customs officials reacted.

But, if this ring still exists, its sources of supply are considerably diversified. Small-time traffickers still go to Amsterdam. At the same time, others go to Bangkok in Thailand because since 1976 cheap charter flights make the cost of such a trip accessible to any pocketbook. At first, this traffic arose to meet the needs of personal consumption. Since Asians had managed to manufacture white heroin, called No 4, users brought back this product in small quantities concealed in envelopes. But given the prospect of big profits,² the number of fixes has increased and dealers are being emulated.

However, a more organized traffic has established itself. Thus French police last November arrested in Paris the manager of a Bangkok bar, Le Madrid, a man called Gerard Foulquiere, a French citizen, suspected of having set up a network of courriers. One of them was apprehended in Brussels with a half a kilogram of heroin and another in London with 1.5 kg. Meanwhile, Foulquiere, who had come to France to receive the merchandise, was arrested in a hotel on the rue de Richelieu with 300 grams of heroin.

A Veritable Bucket-Chain

Faced with this proliferation of two-bit traffickers, the police are somewhat at a loss. "We catch one here and two come out of the woodwork over there," explains Pierre Giral, head of the Criminal Investigations Division in Nice. It is a veritable bucket-chain. It is true that in Nice the authorities have suddenly become concerned over the deaths due to overdose of 13 addicts between June and October of this year. Mr Noel Vouret, in charge of the narcotics squad composed of seven policemen (three of whom are responsible for international traffic), says that the users trade right in front of people passing by.

So, they have cracked down on them. Twenty-seven dealers were arrested between 1 October and 20 November in Nice, Cannes and Grasse. Four bars were closed for a month, while 14 others received warnings and were put off limits to minors. At the regional Pasteur Medical Center, where a team of five is responsible for treating addicts, it is estimated that there are 200 new cases a year. "Among youths between the ages of 17 and 21, it has become common to use heroin, because it is good, because they have lost any feeling for the illegality of the thing or the danger," a psychiatrist noted.

The police estimate the number of users in Alpes Maritimes at 3,000. But they insist that there is no cause for alarm. This is neither better nor worse than elsewhere. Of course, there is a constant increase in use and the fact that Nice has an international airport and is located close to Italy has something to do with the situation. "There is no reason for crying out to heaven," adds Examining Magistrate Michel Zavaro, who for a long time has concerned himself with drug addiction problems and who even set up a post-cure center at Bendejun, the CLCD (Antinarcotics Campaign Committee), now out of existence. "We do not know whether there has really been an increase in use. The figures, like those on deaths through overdose, do not mean anything."

On the other hand, for Francois Le Mouel, who heads the Central Office for the Repression of Narcotics Traffic in Paris, "drug use is on the rise. There has been no leveling off," even if the figures cited should be taken — according to him — with a grain of salt. Nevertheless, the number of drug abuse victims is steadily increasing and this year there have already been 95 deaths versus 72 last year.³ The number of people interrogated also rose by 50 percent this year.⁴

Moreover, Mr Le Mouel says that the number of pharmacy robberies, which until now had been inversely proportional to the amount of heroin on the market, is steadily growing. Then the traffic in cocaine, a drug for a long time associated with a certain snobbishness, is on the rise. Ninety-five kilograms were seized this year, 40 of which at Roissy Airport last 4 July.⁵ There too, the small traffickers realized the profits they could make from this trade.

However, while this steady increase and the establishment of this "ant" traffic are troublesome, the spread of drug abuse throughout the country disturbs the authorities. This sort of banalization of drug addiction, which affects villages as well as medium-sized cities, the well-to-do as well as the suburban poor, is not very reassuring. It is a sign that people are being proselytized. And while we are no longer living in the time of the "French Connection," when, as a Marseilles policeman says, "all we had to do to arrest junkies and round off the figures used in the statistics was to bend down," this nation-wide diffusion of an activity until now concentrated in certain big cities deserves our investigation into the underlying causes of the evil. The individuals who deal with the addicts themselves say that these are no longer the same as before. Before, they were "marginal types," rejecting society, very familiar with drugs. Today, it can be anybody, which could explain the fatal accidents.

How can we avoid this slow diffusion and steady increase in use? The 200-odd French policemen specialized in the fight against drug abuse with whom the five Americans from the DEA from time to time collaborate⁶ have their hands full. In Marseilles Commissioner Bernard Gravet, who leads the 50 policemen of the narcotics squad, says: "We keep up the pressure, but if we let up for a single moment, all hell breaks loose." To confuse the traffickers, the police turn themselves into buyers, with small-time dealers most often winding up caught in the trap. The junkies too, since they are often forced to commit petty crimes in order to get the money they need to buy drugs.

But to effectively combat drug abuse, we must be in a position to attack it at its source, that is, where it is produced, the poppy fields in the "Golden Triangle" (Laos, Thailand, Burma), in Turkey and the Middle East (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran). The "Golden Triangle" produces nearly 800 tons of poppies a year. The United Nations finances replacement occupation programs but their effect is very limited.

In Turkey, whose morphine base supplied Marseilles laboratories in the 1970's, after having banned this crop in 1972, the authorities 2 years later again permitted its cultivation under certain conditions. Farmers no longer have the right to cut open the capsules. The plant (papaver orientale) is now processed in factories. For the time being, there is no evidence of any sidetracking. But the danger is real, especially when we add to Turkey the other Middle East countries which, according to Mr Le Mouel, constitute "an enormous raw material potential." In Pakistan illegal production is estimated at 200 tons.⁷

Along with Afghanistan and, to a lesser extent, Iran, these countries constitute a serious danger. West Germany and the Scandinavian countries alone are at the moment seriously affected by this drug coming in from the Middle East, which in these countries tends to replace shipments from Southeast Asia. Especially in the FRG, the percentage of heroin addicts between the ages of 12 and 16, which are included among the country's 50,000 addicts, has gone from zero to 20 percent in 3 years, according to Mr Berndt-Georg Thamm, a Berlin expert. Overdose victims, which amounted to 390 in 1977, should come to close to 500 this year.

According to Mr Thomas Cash, a representative of the German narcotics bureau, this state of affairs is reminiscent of the one the United States went through between 1966 and 1976. Turkish workers, living in the FRG — 1.2 million of them — are the chief purveyors of drugs. They bring in heroin in small quantities.

For the moment, France is still but little affected by this white tide. But the threat from the Middle East is not an empty one. Last 5 February Marseilles police discovered a laboratory for the conversion of morphine base into heroin in a villa near La Ciotat on the road to Ceyreste. The equipment was ready for operation. This resulted in the seizure of 35 kg of morphine base that incontestably came from the Middle East. Five people were arrested, including Louis Giralt, suspected of being the promoter and financial backer. Last Friday 8 December, a restaurant owner, Francis Alixianos, who is alleged to have passed money obtained from trafficking in drugs, was also apprehended in Marseilles.

So we can see that the "French Connection" is still on the verge of being reinstated. Obviously, this is a far cry from the seizure of the ship, "Caprice des Temps" (425 kg of heroin seized) and the big operations of the laboratories that were dismantled in the 1970's. All we need do to show this to be the case is to compare the equipment found last February at La Ciotat with that found in Henri Malvezzi's villa at Bouc-Bel-Air in Bouches-du-Rhone in 1976.

On the one hand, we have a cottage industry, coffee mills to pulverize the product and, on the other, a real industry with powerful mixers worthy of a small enterprise.

The heroin that was to be produced in the Ceyreste villa was doubtless once again destined for the United States where French "horse" had in the interim been replaced by Mexican heroin. Since then, the Mexican poppy fields, like, moreover, the marihuana fields, have been defoliated (with a herbicide called paraquat⁸ that produces burning of the throat in marihuana smokers).

Despite this intensive campaign, Mexican heroin, although judged to be of mediocre quality, still crosses the border. But in the United States as elsewhere, sources of supply are diversified. Drug rings are organized and smashed depending on the success of police operations. This campaign must constantly be renewed, especially when one has to deal with craftsmen of the drug traffic.

FOOTNOTES

1. "Brown sugar" or heroin No 3 or grey heroin is a mixture of incompletely refined heroin (25 to 30 percent) and opium alkaloids (morphine, codeine) to which deine [as published] and strychnine have been added.
2. Purchased at from Fr 30 to Fr 50 a gram in Bangkok, white heroin is resold at from Fr 600 to Fr 700. In addition, by maximally diluting the product with lactose, traffickers can obtain up to 5 kg of heroin, or fixes with a content of 2 percent pure heroin. If one knows that one can get up to 10 fixes out of 1 gram and that a fix sells for Fr 100, 1 kg can produce 10,000 fixes, thus bringing in a return of as much as Fr 1 million.
3. Sixty in 1977, 59 in 1976, 37 in 1975 and 29 in 1974. The first death due to overdose was, according to the police, officially recorded in 1969 in Bandol.
4. Seven thousand interrogations for the first 11 months of the year, a third of which were users of more than one kind of drug, including, of course, heroin addicts. In 1977, 4,318 people were terrogated, 3,839 in 1976 and 3,083 in 1975.
5. In 1977 only 6 kg were seized.
6. Two in Paris, two in Marseilles and one in Nice, not to mention the regional administration for Europe whose headquarters is in Paris.
7. One hectare produces about 10 kg of unrefined opium; 100 kg of this product yield 10 kg of morphine base and that yields almost 10 kg of pure heroin if the chemist, like Jo Cesari, is adept. This famous chemist actually produced 99-percent pure heroin.
8. See the latest ACTUEL almanach.

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CSO: 5300

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FRANCE

BRIEFS

PHARMACY ROBBERIES INCREASE—The number of pharmacy robberies is on the rise in Paris and in the surrounding departments (Yvelines, Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-St-Denis). According to the Prefecture of Police, up to 1 December 1978 214 pharmacy "breakins" were recorded as against 79 for the first 11 months of 1977. It is a known fact that the number of "B-list" medicine-cabinet burglaries is an index of drug-market fluctuations. In early 1975, the shortage of heroin in France had brought on a fresh outbreak of pharmacy thefts. "This time, we do not clearly understand what is going on," Commissioner Andre Soleres, Prefecture of Police narcotics squad head, admits, "because there is no shortage of heroin. Not a week goes by that we do not arrest small-time dealers who make the trip from Thailand with a few hundred grams. What is surprising is that there is no shortage and prices are not going down." Heroin now sells for about Fr 800 a gram. The pharmacy robberies point to a growth in the demand this year, despite a well-supplied market. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 78 p 12] 11466

CSO: 5300

NORWAY

PARLIAMENT APPROVES CONTINUED USE OF DRUGS WIRE-TAPPING

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 7 Dec 78 p 5

[Text] It will still be possible to use telephone wire-tapping in the work of investigating narcotics violations. The Odelsting yesterday approved unanimously an extension of the temporary law on telephone monitoring in narcotics investigations until the end of 1980. Experience with telephone wire-tapping in these cases is so good that access to telephone wire taps should continue to be open, Minister of Justice Inger Louise Valle said in the Odelsting yesterday, and pointed out that it has been possible to make arrests and confiscate narcotics as a direct result of telephone monitoring.

The law was originally passed in 1976 and is thus being extended for 2 more years. As passed this time, in addition to the original text the law contains a provision requiring confidentiality that is of special importance for personal protection, and sharpens the requirement of caution.

Experience with telephone monitoring is considered to have been good. In spite of a number of difficulties in the initial phase, telephone monitoring has led to the solution of cases that could hardly have been solved otherwise, the department claims. In 1977 the Oslo police resorted to wire-tapping in 11 registered cases with a total of 42 telephone numbers or subscribers. In no case was wire-tapping done until court permission was obtained. "There is nothing to indicate that the telephone monitoring was not done in a responsible manner," said Mrs Valle.

The question of a permanent law will probably be taken up when more experience has been gained with the temporary law, according to the justice committee, which considered the matter before yesterday's discussion in the Odelsting. Minister Valle expressed the same point of view.

The temporary law and the proposal to extend it have been up for discussion on a number of occasions. Only KROM [expansion unknown] is definitely against the law, but the Defense Counsel Group of 1977 takes a sceptical attitude, too. It is especially strongly against certain parts of the

provisions, and takes particular exception to the fact that telephones that belong to doctors, clergymen, and others who are known to receive professional confidences can be monitored.

The chairman, Petter Furberg (a) [Anders Lange's Party?], said with regard to this and to the discussion on the same subject in the newspapers that the objections appear to be based on a misunderstanding. "I find reason to emphasize the law's basis for a possible telephone check," said Furberg, who pointed out that sufficient grounds must exist for suspicion of gross violation of the narcotics legislation, such as sale, manufacture, importation, or the like, and that court permission must be obtained.

He emphasized that the court can give permission only if it is presumed that such monitoring will be of essential significance in clarifying the case. When it comes to the special position that certain occupational groups, such as doctors, clergymen, and lawyers, occupy in this connection, their telephones can be monitored only if special reasons exist, unless they themselves are suspected in the case.

According to the law permission cannot be given for monitoring telephones that suspected persons can be expected to make calls to. But the telephone at a law office, for example, can be tapped if it is assumed that a suspect would use such a telephone.

"It is not a matter of extensive monitoring of random telephones, but of a telephone check on the basis of specific suspicion and with the court's permission," said Furberg.

Minister of Justice Valle also went into what she called the serious theoretical objections that can be raised against allowing the authorities to monitor the telephones of private individuals. This involves such a serious encroachment on the rights of the individual that there is reason to carry on a continuing appraisal of whether telephone monitoring should be approved in these cases, the minister of justice said, and she also said that "against the background of the experience that we have had up to now with telephone monitoring in these cases, the government has decided that decisive weight must be attached to the consideration of effectively combatting the very serious crimes with which we are faced."

Minister Valle said that as far as she knew there had been no monitoring of telephones that belong to doctors, clergymen, or lawyers. "As far as possible, monitoring telephones that belong to such persons should be avoided," said Mrs Valle, who pointed out the more rigorous conditions that must be met before such telephones can be monitored.

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CSO: 5300

NORWAY

DELAY IN SETTING UP NARCOTICS POLICE CENTER

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 6 Dec 78 pp 1, 6

[Text] The new central narcotics section of the Oslo police has been formally established, but only in name. It may be a long time before the section can give the other police forces of Norway the help in the fight against drug traffickers that the authorities intended. Police Chief Rolf Solem tells NTB [Norwegian News Agency] that the plan is to reinforce the section with 30 detectives and investigators, bringing the strength up to about 70, but that the manpower shortage makes it difficult.

"We have 60 vacant positions," the police chief says, "and just in November we were drawn upon for 9 policemen that were assigned outside of the city. Expansion of the narcotics section would therefore have to be at the expense of the regular patrol section, which many think should also be reinforced."

The disputed position of head of the section has not yet been filled. For the time being the section has only a unit chief and one other officer, just as the situation was at Victoria Terrace before the move to the police house last week. The intention is to get three unit chiefs and eight officers.

Lars Stemschaug, head of the finance office, says that the new positions as unit chiefs and police officers will be established as of 1 July 1979, but that the finance department probably can effect a redistribution so that it may be possible at an earlier time.

"Anyway," says Stemschaug, "it will not be until summer that the police school will graduate a new class of about 360 policemen and policewomen to fill the vacant positions in Oslo. The next 2 years the classes will be smaller, but we are aiming at increasing the admission of candidates."

Continued Understaffing

Anton Gammelgård, personnel chief of the Oslo police, tells NTB that he is afraid the police force will be under strength for several years because of

the draft and because many are reaching the age limit.

"According to an overall plan for the period 1976-1981 it is stated that the police force will get a total of 300 new billets, while about 60 new billets have been authorized thus far. Next summer we get 55 new billets, but that does not help much if the admission of police candidates is not increased," the personnel chief says. He points out that the number admitted this year and next year is 100 fewer than was expected earlier, and that next year 120 officers can retire on reaching the age limit of 57.

"They must leave when they reach 60 according to the regulations, and the problem of these retirements will increase during the 1980's," says Gammeigård.

Olaf Ohnstad, the head of the police union, thinks that the manpower shortage may become almost catastrophic unless something is done soon about recruiting.

Cutback Also Hits Police Department

"The reduction by 100 police candidates in the 1979 budget makes the difficulties still greater, and that decision therefore needs to be altered," says Ohnstad.

He thinks that two important causes are the poor housing situation in Oslo and the fact that few Oslo youths choose police work.

"The police force has had an offer of 200 apartments near Tøyen Park if it will administer the management of them itself, but that is a question that has been waiting for decision in the justice department for a long time. That project can solve the housing problems to a certain extent if it is approved," Ohnstad says.

In his opinion the system of assignments within the police force frightens many away from a police career.

"In my opinion the system of assignment is not very democratic. In the first year of service after police school they run the risk of assignment to any police force anywhere in the country against their wishes," says Ohnstad.

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NORWAY

BUDGET CUTS HURT WAR ON YOUTH DRUG PROBLEM

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 8 Dec 78 p 16

[Article by Tone B. Jamholt]

[Text] Problems among Oslo youth have shown a steady increase all fall. ARBEIDERBLADET got confirmation of this from the vagrancy section. Every day a gang of young people gather at the subway station on Jernbanetorget [= Railway Square] and sniff drugs openly. There also seem to be increasing problems with young prostitutes on Stenersgata.

From the district police precincts, too, increasing drug abuse and other problems are reported. This is happening at a time when the vagrancy section runs the risk of having to cut back on its activity because of the 1979 budget situation.

People who take the subway have begun to react to the gathering of youths that takes place at the stations. The sniffing that goes on there has not been equalled for a long time, and the smell of heroin hangs heavy in the air of the stations.

Håkon Formo Berntsen and Jo Kittelsen of the Oslo vagrancy section tell ARBEIDERBLADET that they fear an intensified conflict between the homeless "street youth" and the rest of the population. Agitation may develop on both sides that can lead to a big conflict. They point out that the drug abuse may be greater than has been assumed. They have also noticed greater unrest among young people, and believe there is a lot of frustration there.

The budget proposal for the vagrancy section that was prepared by the commissioner of finances struck the employees like a cold shower. They have had a great increase in the number of calls, and they themselves think they need 10 more billets. They proposed a budget of 5.8 million kroner for 1979. The commissioner for social services reduced the budget another million. There went the extra billets. Unless the state gives a subsidy of 2.5 million kroner, the scope of the activity will have to be cut back.

In a number of communications the employees have called attention to the work situation they are in, and the budget proposal has brought sharp reactions. To stress this, they have dropped the investigative activity. Berntsen and Kittelsen think the budget proposal will still be examined more carefully in the light of the increasing problems that have been reported among youths. There has been talk from the rostrum in parliament about the necessity of increasing the work among youths who use drugs, but as the employees see it that is going about the matter entirely the wrong way round.

The employees of the vagrancy section think that nobody will take up the social problems that are current in the youth groups unless their work is continued and strengthened. Youths, especially the youngest, feel safe when they know that people from that section are nearby. Who will have the responsibility for them if the vagrancy section cannot follow up, the employees ask.

"If this budget proposal goes through, the situation will get worse," say Berntsen and Kittelsen. "The authorities must see the handwriting on the wall. We have to deal with homeless kids 15 and 16 years old."

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NORWAY

MAN SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING HASHISH, LSD

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 8 Dec 78 p 4

[Report by Jan Andersen]

[Text] Bergen, 7 December - A 20-year-old man from Stavanger who has lived in Bergen for the last year was sentenced in Gulating circuit court Thursday to 5 years' unconditional imprisonment after he was found guilty of professional smuggling and sale of narcotics. This is the heaviest sentence yet in a narcotics case in West Norway. The man has appealed to the Supreme Court on the fixing of the sentence.

The court found the 20-year-old guilty of bringing into the country 2.3 kilograms of hashish, 2.5 kilograms of cannabis oil, and about 200 LSD tablets. Also, purchase of 3 kilograms of hashish from two Danish citizens. One of these will have his case heard in Eidsivating circuit court this coming Monday. Denmark has asked that the other be returned, since there is a stronger penalty for sale of narcotics in Norway than in Denmark.

Most of the selling of the narcotics took place on a farm at Lindås, just outside of Bergen. The total sales value was about 400,000 kroner. The authorities seized 102,000 kroner in the case, which they think is the yield from the sale of narcotics.

In justifying the heavy penalty, the court laid weight on the professional character of the case. The defendant was believed to be the second in command in the gang; the top man was also from Stavanger, but died in prison earlier this year.

The hashish and the cannabis oil were smuggled into Norway in sherry bottles. The defendant had been abroad and smuggled in drugs three times. The court also pointed out that the operation involved secret places in and outside of Bergen where the narcotics were stored. Hidden secret rooms, cover apartments, and false driver's licenses also figured in the case.

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TURKEY

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZED--Units from the narcotics department of the Bursa Security Directorate General have seized 6.5 kg of powdered hashish with an estimated market value of 500,000 Turkish liras. According to information received by TRT's Bursa correspondent, 6.5 kg of powdered hashish, packed in 1-kg bags, was discovered in the basement floor of a house in the Hurriyet quarter of Bursa after a raid by police units. Officials have stated that the market value of the captured hashish is around 500,000 Turkish liras. Security officials said that three persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 17 Dec 78 NC]

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UNITED KINGDOM

CANNABIS HAUL HIDDEN IN SIX MARBLE COLUMNS

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 8 Dec 78 p 19

[Article by T. A. Sandrock]

[Text] Sounds of hammering from the back of a van travelling through Wembley led to the discovery of half a ton of herbal cannabis worth 1 million pounds, hidden in six hollow marble columns.

A police patrol which stopped the van after a 999 call from a passer-by found a man in the back smashing the columns with a sledgehammer.

The columns, which had been imported from the West Indies via Tilbury, were exquisitely carved as religious artefacts and decorated with crosses.

They were packed two to a crate and addressed to a nonexistent religious organisation in West London. The cannabis was contained in galvanised tins and the complete load weighed two tons.

Drugs squad officers and customs investigators are trying to trace the source of the haul. The van which collected it at Tilbury had been hired.

Robert Leslie Howe, 33, unemployed, of Nelson Road, Hornsey, and Francis Eugene O'Douherthy, 22, unemployed, of Highbury Park, Highbury, will appear in court at Harrow today, charged with offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

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WEST GERMANY

NUMBER OF DRUG VICTIMS DROPS FROM 1977

West Berlin DER TAGESSPIEGEL in German 19 Oct 78 p 16

[Text] The police announcement yesterday was brief. A 26-year-old man had turned on the gas in his apartment near the zoo and had killed himself. Then the statistic: This was the 50th drug victim in Berlin. At the same time a 22-year-old driver caused a serious traffic accident on Sachendamm in which four persons were injured. The driver was under the influence of drugs. Two announcements and a sad landmark in a city which leads all large cities in the Federal Republic in the number of drug victims. However a glimmer of hope can be seen: The number of drug victims has dropped. It is now almost 20 fewer than during a similar time period last year. In 1977 Berlin held the record: 84 drug users ended their contact with narcotics with death.

Despair over his drug dependency drove the 50th narcotics victim to suicide. His activities during the past few years are noted in a thick report at the Criminal Police Station. Born in Berlin, he came into contact with drugs as an adolescent. He has been known to the narcotics division since 1971, when the classic irresistible course began. It started with hash smoking, which soon became habitual. Next followed LSD. Further on the way to hard drugs, he injected himself with diluted raw opium and then advanced to the Berlin tinke, a mixture of morphine base, acetic acid and "more or less" (according to the criminal police) distilled water, a mixture "almost as hard as heroin," as drug experts know.

Increased use and harder drugs forced him to look for money; in the meantime he had given up teaching. Then began his career as a narcotics dealer. In September 1974, he came to trial for the first time. Because of continuous illegal trafficking of Berlin tinke he was sentenced to a year's probation. However, the measures of all of society's courts failed in his case. Scarcely 2 years later because of his own use and trafficking in drugs a court sentenced him to a prison term of 1 year and 4 months to be spent in the judicial executive installation at Tegel.

Heroin Also in Prison

However, even imprisonment did not help. During an outside visit in December 1977 he brought heroin back with him to the prison and injected himself in the prison's own carpenter shop where he was being trained as a carpenter. After his release in May of this year, the end was marked out. In July he attracted the police's attention as a participant in a robbery. The day before yesterday he took his own life.

It is unusual that a drug addict would commit suicide. This was also confirmed by the Berlin Senate's drug agent Heckmann. Even the "golden shot," the voluntary overdose causes only a third of the deaths. The overwhelming majority of drug victims die unintentionally. "An accident," says Heckmann, "which can happen to any narcotics user, be it after 1 or after 5 years."

For actually, uncertainty about the concentration of the drug leads to the last shot. Drug agent Heckmann in this way partially explains the high number of deaths last year. In the first month of 1977 a changeover took place on the Berlin drug market. Durgs were no longer coming from the Far East by way of Amsterdam but from Turkey over the Balkans. Drug related deaths rose substantially, because no fixer knew what concentration he was injecting. In addition, no one knew to what extent the long chain of dealers had diluted the drugs.

Thirty Drug Emergencies a Month

The criminal police also attribute the reduced number of drug victims to increased instruction in schools, enterprises and in the media. The further education of doctors has also borne fruit. The number of drug accidents indicates this. On the average, 30 drug addicts are brought to the Berlin clinic each month because of acute danger. Since the beginning of the year that amounts to 300: Opposed to this is the number of 50 dead. Drug experts also recommend that anyone who discovers a possible acute drug emergency, which can be indicated by difficulty in breathing or unconsciousness, should immediately call the fire department or an ambulance. In no case should one try rescue measures himself.

Most Dangerous After Withdrawal

The risk of death is greatest for addicts who have withdrawn for a short time. Heckmann, in connection with this, made an appeal to all parents faced with the problem not to undertake withdrawal attempts with their children by themselves. When someone has withdrawn from drugs for a few days and then has the opportunity again for a fix, his chances for a final shot are extremely high.

This year Berlin is spending an additional DM 8.6 million to try to come to grips with the problems. The number of deaths has indeed dropped,

however, the percentage of female drug addicts is growing steadily. Transition installations are to lessen the risk of death in acute cases. One thing both drug agents and narcotics dealers know: The 51st drug victim will not live much longer.

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WEST GERMANY

NARCOTICS SMUGGLING INTO COUNTRY DISCUSSED

West Berlin DER TAGESSPIEGEL in German 19 Oct 78 p 30

[Text] Approximately 3,000 narcotics smugglers have been caught by border and customs agents in the first 6 months of this year. That is approximately 10 percent fewer than last year, however, as was also announced on Wednesday by the government news agency in Bonn, agents have taken more heroin and LSD than ever before. Border agents were able to confiscate 83 kilos of heroin alone, while in the first half of 1977 it was only 10 kilos and in the second half 14 kilos.

The amount of LSD confiscated has also greatly increased. The agents found 6,235 so-called trips on smugglers, as opposed to 561 in the first half and 1,008 in the second half of 1977. On the other hand, the amount of hash and marijuana decreased to 736 kilos, from 1,288 kilos in the first half of last year and 3,815 kilos in the second half.

According to government reports there were no special developments in the other common drugs such as opium (1.1 kilos), cocaine (1.6 kilos) and amphetamines (1.7 kilos).

As in the past, the major point of narcotics smuggling was the German-Netherlands border with a share of 79.1 percent. A growing number of arrests occurred on the border with the GDR in through traffic, with 9.1 percent as opposed to 7.5 percent in the first half of 1977. The border with France is third with 3.7 percent, followed by the border with Switzerland with 3.1 percent. About 50 percent of the smuggling is done by highway, about 17.4 percent by train. About 3.2 percent of the smuggling cases occurred in the customs area and in the barracks area of troops stationed there, the rest occurred on the green border, the harbors, the airports and interior waterways.

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WEST GERMANY

LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING DESCRIBED

From Lebanon to Europe by Sea

Hamburg STERN in German 23 Nov 78 pp 244-246

[Article by Ludwig M. Traenkner: "Red Lebanese For Bullets"]

[Text] Emden trial reveals how hashish is introduced in Europe by the ton: in order to obtain ammunitions and weapons for the civil war in Lebanon, the Christian Phalanx Party organized a gigantic narcotic deal.

Customs officers Udo Schuermann and Friedrich Ellermann were disappointed. Their hashish dogs "Quanto" and "Puck" had been sniffing around the ship "Sea Horse" in Emden free port for already one hour. They had not found a thing. Wrong tip--thought the officers. Then cocker spaniel "Puck" barked: he was standing in front of a pile of rigging in the forecastle cablelocker. Under it, the customs officers discovered the entrance to the ballast water reservoir, neatly locked by 23 bolts.

The customs officers got tools, unbolted and did not believe what they saw-- 89 jute bags piled up. Content: 6,155 hashish plates, compressed in linen and welded into automobile tires; a total of 2.88 tons of "red Lebanese," hashish of the best quality. Nearby were plastic cans containing 84.5 kilograms of hashish oil. On top of the "stuff" were also a "Kalashnikov" type submachine gun and 37 rounds of 7.62-caliber bullets.

This happened on 2 November 1977. It was the largest hashish discovery in the Federal Republic. Customs, the Federal Criminal Police Bureau and even agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, investigated the case for a full year to find out what syndicate was behind the drug cache. Last week, the contraband carriers appeared in the province court: the English captain of the ship, Peter Lascelles, and his second officer, Abdo Semaan Rizk, a Lebanese.

The gigantic deal begun in May 1977. At that time, Captain Lascelles who also appears in the Federal Criminal Police Bureau's records under the pseudonyms Peter Barker, R. C. Brooker and P. Worthington, flew to Cyprus, as he says, "to earn by trading in ship's stores." However, at a table in "Bill's Bar" in

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Larnaca, he became acquainted with Lebanese Antoine Fares Kassab. Under the name of "Abou Anta," the latter is engaged in the purchase of weapons for the Christian civil war army in Lebanon. In order to buy more weapons, Kassab was looking for a captain for a contraband ship which was to take to Europe a cargo of hashish having a market value of DM 20 million.

Kassab, a colonel in the Phalanx militia, offered to introduce the inebriated Englishman to his business partners. This is how the red-haired Briton came to meet the wire-pullers of wholesale hashish trade. He was interviewed in Beirut by Rafoul Khoury, of whom Lascelles said after his arrest: "He is the boss. They all obey him."

It was, therefore, not a problem for Khoury to provide Lascelles with a permanent Lebanese visa. At the headquarters of the Phalanx, the captain was given not only a visa, but also (to make things simpler) Lebanese identity papers.

The hashish traders also impressed their contraband captain with their relations. At any rate, he states that he was present at a meeting during which Khoury discussed "the business" with Lebanese State President Elias Sarkis.

The newly hired captain was not only allowed to live in the company-owned apartment of the hashish dealers in the elegant Lebanese vacation resort Faraya-Montleban, he was also invited by his new principals for some relaxation at their feudal yacht club at Jounieh.

The English sailor was even allowed to visit the plantation which was to yield the hashish: a huge field full of Indian hemp, the raw material for marijuana, cannabis resin (hashish) and its oil. On this plantation, in the vicinity of Baalbek, a wild party finally took place.

Having thus been given a taste of the more pleasant sides of a dealer's life, Lascelles went to Athens to take command of his contraband steamship. It was a real cockle shell, the MS "Aloe," purchased for \$100,000. It was to bring 10 tons of the narcotic to Holland. This at least is what Lascelles was told by his Lebanese business friends.

To cover himself--at least according to German investigators--the English Lascelles went to the British Embassy in Athens and warned the ambassador that he was to carry hashish to Europe on board of the ship "Alte"--instead of the correct "Aloe." He asked the diplomat to alert the English authorities: they should capture the ship in the Channel.

According to Lascelles lawyer, Dr Juergen Reese of Wilhelmshaven, this is proof that Lascelles, who in the past had already worked as police informer, wanted to blow up the deal. He had given a false ship's name to the ambassador only because he could not decipher properly the Greek letters on the ship's bow.

This would not have helped much anyhow: the "Aloe" was hardly out of the Piraeus port when it was given a new name, "Sonia," which was then painted on

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the rusty old boat. The name of the shipping company was given as "Red J," a company hastily founded in Cyprus. "Shipowner" Kassab also took care of entering the name change into the navigation register.

Captain Lascelles had already met the narcotic buyers: Englishman David Mears and his American business partner, John Cornelius DeGram, neither of the two unknown to international narcotic investigators. In fact, Mears had already been arrested once by the Canadian police as he was attempting to "import" 1.9 ton of hashish into Ottawa on board the yacht "Rebel." Mears and DeGram were financing the gigantic deal, and the \$100,000 for the ship's purchase had been transferred through their account with the "Swiss Bank Co" of Zurich in August 1977.

To what extent the whole enterprise had the support of official Lebanese authorities also became evident as the hot cargo was heaved aboard the "Sonia" on the open sea 4 miles off the Lebanese town of Tripoli: Captain Lascelles, following instructions from his employer Kassab, was able to keep all navigation and deck lights burning: "Kassab said that the authorities were cooperating."

After the stuff was on board, the "Sonia" made its way to Holland. During the first few miles at sea, the name of the cargo ship was changed again: it now became the MS "Sea Horse."

The trip on the hashish cargo ship became a horror trip. Not only because of the sudden appearance on board of a second officer, the Lebanese Rizk, who did not know a blessed thing about navigation but, in his capacity as officer of the Phalanx, was only watching the cargo. Also because there was a Greek engineer who was toying with a Kalashnikov submachine gun. And above all, because Skipper Lascelles could not find Buoy "T.E.5" off the Dutch island of Texel. This is where the fishing cutter "WR 93" was supposed to pick up the hashish cargo to carry it to Holland. And then, the "Sea Horse" intended--so say the investigators--to load weapons for the Christian militia in the Belgian port of Antwerp.

Seaman Lascelles, in any case, cruised off the Dutch coast. Until the crew, brought close to mutiny by a lack of provisions, forced him to call at a port. Because of his cargo, Lascelles was afraid of Dutch customs officials--so it occurred to him to call at a German free port. And Emden was the closest. But the seaman forgot: even in free ports narcotics are not allowed.

However, the story would not have been discovered if the captain had not lost his nerve and tried to get away with approximately DM 10,000 from the ship's cash. His accomplice Mears, who had gone to check on the state of things, managed to catch him at the last minute at the Emden railroad station. Lascelles could only think of the excuse that he wanted to secure papers for the "Sea Horse" in Rotterdam. Then, Mears put him in his car and drove with him to Holland. However, an attentive border policeman found Mears' name on a wanted list, thought his travel with the ship's captain suspicious and tipped the German customs. As Lascelles reentered Germany, he was arrested.

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Mears, who also claims to be a Phalanx officer, was arrested only 2 months later in Zurich. In his bank safe deposit box, the police found two packets of cocaine. In the meanwhile, he is in custody in Osnabruck pending investigation.

Until now, however, the large backers of the hashish trade remain scot free. All Interpol inquiries in Lebanon have remained unanswered or have received only very insufficient answers. And narcotic investigators are certain of one thing: at the same time as the "Sea Horse," at least one other ship was carrying hashish to Europe. The initial offer of 10 tons of "stuff" makes this conjecture plausible. That narcotic cargo has, however, never been discovered.

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From Turkey to FRG by Land

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 24 Nov 78 pp 9-10

[Article: "The Story of Two Tons of Hashish. How a Concrete Container Traveled on Tortuous Paths Carrying a Load of Narcotics. Five Defendants Come to Trial]

[Text] F.A.Z. Frankfurt, 23 Nov--The show which is going to unfold in front of the Fourth Criminal Court of the Provincial Court in Mainz, starting this Friday, is a criminal scenario with an international cast on both sides. The accused come from Iran, Turkey and Germany. The investigation officers who have followed the case and brought indictments, are American, Dutch and German again. The Public Prosecutor intends to introduce evidence in Court to the effect that businessmen Bolbolian and Telli, innkeeper Oez, and dealer Yalaz, as well as skilled engraver Erich Thum from Ingolstadt, took part in a deal through which 2,311 kilograms of hashish, with a black market value of \$1.7 million, were introduced illegally into the FRG in the fall of last year, and were transported from Munich through Koblenz to Mainz where they were to be delivered to the purchaser, but in fact were received by officials of the Federal Criminal Police Bureau.

It is certainly no simple job to deliver 2 tons of hashish. The job is not made simpler by the fact that one has 5 tons to sell. According to the accusation, this was the problem facing 35-year-old Bahivash Bolbolian from Bandangaz in Iran in September 1977. To solve his problem, he went to Nassau in the Bahamas; there he looked for buyers in cash.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] in Miami got wind of the matter. One of their agents, Harold Gene Lierly, took up the name of Ted Lancaster and tried to get together with Bolbolian, who is said to have taken the name of Bachmann. He succeeded. Bolbolian, it is reported, told the prospective customer that the hashish was of Lebanese origin and would be shipped to Europe by sea. Lierly says he also got a hashish sample from the Iranian. Later on, the idea came up of shipping the merchandise by land, and to a German destination.

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Bolbolian, however, remembers an entirely different story. According to his version, he was trying to make business connections for the purchase of cigarettes, beverages and refrigerators when he became acquainted with an American who was inquiring about Telli, a man supposed to deal in antique statues. In exchange for cigarette supplies he, Bolbolian, had acted as go-between between the American and Telli in a deal in which 2,000 statues at 1,300 Dutch guilders each were to change hands. The American did not want Telli to know who the purchaser was. In view of this, he, Bolbolian, had negotiated with Telli; the other defendants were unknown to him.

According to the investigation findings, negotiations took place not only in Nassau, but also in Miami. There was an exchange of telephone numbers, and Bolbolian went back to Amsterdam where he had his domicile. All further preparations for the deal were to be made by telephone. Lierly, alias Lancaster, is reported to have been asked to come to Amsterdam where a meeting took place in the "Okura" Hotel. The American, in the meanwhile, had asked for and received additional help: he introduced agent Gregory Alber Passic as his assistant. Passic was to take care of the shipping and especially of the delivery. Unfortunately, the amount of merchandise had shrunk in the meantime: Bolbolian had been able to procure only 2 tons. A price of \$850 per kilogram is said to have been agreed on.

In Lierly's hotel room the next day, an agreement on payment conditions was reached. The money would be left in a bank safe after being counted by Bolbolian. Then the hashish would be transferred to Mainz. Passic would be there, and after everything was completed to the satisfaction of the buyer, Bolbolian would receive the key to the safe in Amsterdam. The money was then reportedly deposited in a safe at the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank in Amsterdam. Then Bolbolian is said to have given the DEA agent a description of the shipping container in which the hashish had been brought from Turkey into Germany by land.

This container was a concrete silo, about 4 meters in length and 2 meters in diameter. It was placed in a wooden crate, the cover of which could be unscrewed. In that manner, one had access to the inside of the silo where the merchandise had been placed.

The 5-ton concrete silo is reported to have been bought late in the summer of last year by a Turk named Dobrasyan and by 35-year-old Nevzat Telli from Bakir in Turkey, from a Munich automobile dealer for the price of DM 1,000. An additional DM 400 was paid by the buyers for some alterations. They are reported to have then obtained the appropriate wooden crate with a removable lid from a Munich carpentry shop.

Then, a company was entrusted with the packaging. The whole thing was loaded on a car of the German Federal Railroads and left Munich on 15 October 1977 accompanied by a bill of lading for Konya, Turkey. Reportedly at Dobrasyan's suggestion, the content of the crate was declared to be a steam machine.

The railroad car arrived in Konya. From there, however, it came back accompanied by a new Turkish bill of lading, supposedly because of an embargo on

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imports. On 18 October it was in Munich again, in the yard of the company which had taken care of the packaging. Meanwhile, however, 2.3 tons of hashish were inside the silo, in small cloth bags bearing the indication Konya. The covers were hermetically sealed, the removable lid was screwed on, controls took place through the front wall which for this purpose had been designed to be removable. A weight control had either not taken place or it had been fraudulent.

The rest is the story of the shipping through Germany after the crate had been released from the Munich company for DM 3,000. Several companies were inter-
polated who reportedly said that this was a shipment of cement earth for England. Then, the steam machine became a concrete mixer which had to be picked up in Munich. Then, the trucks happened to be too small, or their construction inappropriate to carry the monster.

Anyhow, on 25 October, the crate was in Koblenz. In Amsterdam, the mood improved considerably. But difficulties did not end there. Search began in Koblenz for a vehicle for the shipping to Mainz. Finally, on 27 October, the crate left Koblenz Rhine port and arrived in Mainz at about 2100 hours when Passic and officials of the Federal Criminal Police Bureau received the freight in the yard of the shipping company.

All this time, Dutch police officials had watched the telephone line of Bolbolian's then fiancée, now his wife, in Amsterdam; as a result, it is reported that evidence has been obtained that Telli and Bolbolian were in constant contact with each other during the preparation and the development of the deal. Addresses and telephone numbers found on them at the time of their arrest are reported to have supplied further information on the individuals involved. One German said to have been involved in organizing the shipment to Germany has fled.

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WEST GERMANY

HEROIN DEALER SENTENCED TO 10-YEAR TERM.

Munich SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 15 Nov 78 p 13

[Text] The Turkish salesman Mehmet Sarac (49) hoped to make a profit of DM 100,000 from the sale of 2 kilos of heroin which he says he brought back with him from Bulgaria to Munich in June on behalf of an unknown Persian. Unfortunately the receiver turned out to be the commissioner of the Bavarian Criminal Division (LKA). Because this was the largest amount of heroin to have surfaced in Bavaria up until now, the 17th Criminal Court of the Munich County Court I sentenced Sarac to the maximum sentence of 10 years for illegal drug trafficking.

The elegantly tailored suit which the accused from Stadelheim wore in court gave him the flair of a well-situated businessman of international style. He did not deny the charges--possibly because this would be useless, considering the evidence.

According to him, he had transported the drug from Sofia for a Persian. That did not appear very credible to the court, but it could not be refuted--since it could not be proven. When he arrived in Munich with the "stuff," the LKA had already received a tip. A commissioner came forward as an apparent buyer and met with Sarac at noon on 19 June at Kaiser Ludwig Place. Sarac was to hand over to him exactly 2 kilos of stuff with 85 percent purity for DM 160,000. The accused could of course no longer pocket the hoped for profit since he was arrested during the close of the transaction.

Stuff For 120,000 Shots

The court calculated that the amount of the drug confiscated in the take could easily be diluted to double because of its excellent quality and would be sufficient for 120,000 "shots." The maximum sentence was therefore imposed, with Chief Justice Josef Peter Stoschek indicating that in view of the quantity and the dangerousness of heroin, 10 years was actually too few. The accused could count himself lucky that he did not have to answer for the crime in his native country, where he would have been threatened with a life sentence if not with the death penalty. The court would have been able to pronounce a lesser sentence, if the accused had named his accomplices, but he did not do so.

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WEST GERMANY

BRIEFS

COCAINE DEALER ARRESTED--This weekend investigators from the Bavarian criminal division confiscated around 200 grams of cocaine with a street value of approximately DM 100,000 and arrested the seller, Hans Dieter B. (26) and the potential buyer Harald St. (24). The 26-year-old has been known to the police for years as a narcotics dealer. He had worked as a retailer, offering what was in demand at the moment, from hash to LSD. During the past few weeks he had been looking in a discotheque in the train station area for a buyer for cocaine, which supposedly had just been flown in from Bolivia. He was followed for several days and finally arrested in front of a department store in Swabing as he was trying to pass the package with the drug to the prospective buyer, Harald St. Cocaine was last confiscated in Munich 2 years ago. At that time it was a question of 1.5 kilos, worth about a million marks. As Konrad Beer, chief of the criminal counsel of the Land criminal division, explained, it is currently difficult to sell cocaine in Munich. There is little interest in the South American drug. [Text] [Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 14 Nov 78 p 11] 8537

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