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**6 JULY 1979**

**(FOUO 28/79)**

**1 OF 2**

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JPRS L/8557

6 July 1979

(FOUO 28/79)

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS  
(FOUO 28/79)

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AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA, NEW SOUTH WALES FORM ANTIDRUG TASK FORCE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 7 May 79 p 6

[Text]

An anti-drug task force is being formed by the Federal and New South Wales governments.

The main aim will be to stop the flow of drugs into Australia.

The new force is a result of the joint recommendations of the Federal and New South Wales royal commissions on drugs.

It will include members of the Commonwealth Police Force, the New South Wales Police and the Federal Narcotics Bureau.

It will be based in Sydney and controlled by a joint Federal-State committee. The name of the task force leader will be announced soon.

### Offenders

The force will have access to intelligence information gathered by all Federal agencies but will operate independently of all other law enforcement bodies.

Announcing the formation of the new squad at the weekend, the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, and the NSW Premier, Mr. Wran, said the force would follow the leads developed by both royal commissions last year.

They said the commissions had provided many possible leads to people involved in the drug trade.

"It is now the hope of both our Governments that

the task force will follow these leads and bring offenders before the courts and that convictions will follow," they said.

If the task force is successful, the Federal Government will set up similar forces in cooperation with other States. Next on the list of priorities is Victoria.

The Federal Government will pay for accommodation and equipment for the new force. Salaries will be shared by both Governments.

Mr. Fraser and Mr. Wran said the co-operation between the two Governments indicated their determination to expand investigation of drug-ring leaders.

"It adds a new dimension to the fight against the despicable trafficking that endangers the lives of so many Australians, particularly the young," they said.

"The existence of this new force, and the heavy penalties now available to the courts for those convicted of drug offences, should act as a clear disincentive to those thinking of engaging in this most insidious and destructive of crimes."

Both men praised the co-operative attitudes of the two commission judges, Mr. Justice Williams and Mr. Justice Woodward.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

AIRPORT CUSTOMS OFFICERS PLAN CRACKDOWN ON NARCOTICS IMPORTS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 May 79 p 19

[Text]

CANBERRA: Customs officers at airports are to crack down on narcotics imports.

The move was announced in the Federal Parliament today by the Business and Consumer Affairs Minister, Mr Fife, who described the resilience of the international drug trade as "grimly impressive."

The Government was disturbed at the increasing tendency for airports to be used for illegal drug importation and the increasing involvement of young Australians in the drug scenes overseas, he said.

Plans had been developed to intensify customs activities at Australia's international airports.

The heroin seized in 1978 was up 53 per cent on seizures in the previous year, and for cannabis the increase was 968 per cent.

Mr Fife was speaking in the second-reading stages of debate on legislation imposing tough new penalties on drug traffickers and providing for body searches and telephone tapping to combat the trade.

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AUSTRALIA

POLICE PLAN 24-HOUR-A-DAY 'BLITZ' ON DRUGS IN ST. KILDA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 May 79 p 5

[Article by Lindsay Murdoch]

[Text] Police are planning a night-and-day blitz on drug dealers and addicts in St. Kilda's Fitzroy Street.

Senior police are believed to have discussed the drug problem in detail late last month after estimating themselves that heroin worth up to \$500,000 is sold in the street each week.

The Age reported on April 21 that heroin could be bought there as easily as a cup of coffee.

Three murders, an attempted murder and several shootings have been attributed to drug dealing this year.

Deputy Police Commissioner Mr. A. W. Conn said last night police were very concerned about the St. Kilda drug problem.

"There has been a lot of policing in St. Kilda and special operations will continue to be mounted," he said.

Undercover police are believed to be involved. As well, more police will patrol the street on foot.

Police had already smashed one heroin ring in the area after concern about increasing violence connected with the drug scene.

Criminals trying to muscle in on drug dealers caused the violence, according to detectives.

Police sources said yesterday the increased surveillance had scared away some dealers already, and the ones still operating are becoming more cautious.

But a detective added: "There are still plenty of big deals being made down there."

The latest special operation in Fitzroy Street was last Saturday night.

Senior police declined yesterday to release details, but the officer in charge, Superintendent M. Fisher, said it was one of several ongoing operations.

"There has not just been a sudden increase in police activity. We have been active in the area since the beginning of last year."

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BURMA

BRIEFS

RANGOON MEN ARRESTED--Twenty packets of heroin valued at K25 each were seized from three men at the corner of 104th and 106th streets in Rangoon yesterday by members of the Rangoon Police narcotic drug suppression team. The three men were Maung Maung (29), Eipha alias Muttar (21) and Ali alias Soe Myint (21). The heroin packets were found in Maung Maung's trouser pockets. Police are taking action against them under Sections 10(b) (sale), 6 (b) (possession), 11 (abetment of offence) and 14 (d) (failure to register for treatment of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 17 Jun 79 p 1]

HEROIN USER ARRESTED--Rangoon, 5 Jun--The Pabedan township court No 2 chaired by U Tha U today sentenced 18-year-old Ah Bo, alias Maung Hla Win, to 6 years imprisonment with hard labor under Section 6(B) [for possession] and one and a half years under Section 14 (D) [failure to register for treatment] of the Narcotic Drugs Law. The sentences are to be served concurrently. The case was that at 2000 on 18 July 1978 Sub-Inspector of Police U Aung Soe and a team of policemen, while carrying out their drug suppression activities under the direction of Inspector U Tha U of the Crime Prevention Bureau, met Ah Bo on the 32d Street and searched him as they became suspicious. They then seized a package of heroin worth 20 kyats hidden in his bamboo hat. Ah Bo was accordingly sent up to trial. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 6 Jun 79 p 7 BK]

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JAPAN

LARGEST HOODLUM ORGANIZATION REVIVES ANTINARCOTICS DRIVE

Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 11 Jun 79 p 12

[Text]

KOBE — The Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest hoodlum organization, recently decided at an executives meeting here to resume its campaign against narcotics for the first time in several years, it has been learned.

The planned campaign, according to the police, is part of the Yamaguchi-gumi's attempts to deceive the public with a plausible "eliminate narcotics" slogan under the intensified pressure of the police authorities designed to demolish the powerful crime syndicate.

The police are determined to keep a sharp lookout on the

development of the movement.

Following the "pet theory" of Kazuo Taoka, the kingpin of the Yamaguchi-gumi, that narcotics would ruin the nation, the organization in 1963 launched a narcotics-elimination campaign.

It has been suspended during the past several years due to the prolonged conflicts and clashes between the Yamaguchi-gumi and its rival organizations in and around Osaka.

The Yamaguchi-gumi is reported to have been planning to distribute some 300,000 "antinarcotics" handbills to the general public in Kobe.

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NEW ZEALAND

NEW SCANNERS TO FIND NARCOTICS IN MAIL

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 May 79 p 3

[Text]

THE Customs Department has bought two new mail scanning machines in a bid to stem the rising amount of narcotics being imported to New Zealand through the post.

The machines, one of which will be in Wellington and the other in Auckland, have cost the department just over \$20,000 each and should be in operation by the end of the month, according to the director of enforcement for the department (Mr D E A Copps).

First class mail will pass along a conveyor belt under the machine and the image of the letter's or parcel's contents will be transmitted to a screen.

Previously the department inspected mail by feeling it and if any was seized, had to open it in the presence of the addressee.

Mr Copps said the machines had the effect of enabling the department to examine more mail than previously. It would mean the processing of mail would speed up.

In the last three years im-

ports of narcotics through the post had increased, he said.

Customs figures show that in the year ending March 1977, 65 such seizures were made by the department; in the 1978 March year 70 were made and in the year ending March this year the figure jumped to 158.

Mr Copps said the machines were another tool the department could use to detect importation through the post.

"They are definitely intended to stem the importation of narcotics though of course they will pick up other things," he said.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND DRUG DEALERS GROW WEALTHY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 18 May 79 Section 1 p 12

[Text]

Press Assn

Christchurch

A number of New Zealanders living in South-east Asia are becoming fat and wealthy on the drugs they push into their home country.

Detective Chief Inspector Brian Duncan, officially known for the last nine months as New Zealand police drugs liaison officer attached to the New Zealand Embassy in Thailand, said yesterday that 90 per cent of heroin coming into New Zealand was from South-east Asia. Much of it came directly from New Zealand nationals.

"It is coming into the country in all ways, including by people who go over there to buy it," he said. "Some who live there get legitimate people to bring it back for them, or they smuggle it in cargo."

Mr Duncan is back in New Zealand to give evidence in an Auckland drug case.

Clean Passport

He said some dealers rendezvous in other countries such as the Pacific Islands.

The Asian connection may meet in Fiji somebody who

has a "clean" passport without any Asian visas stamped in it — and who will not attract any customs or immigration attention.

Mr Duncan suggested that many New Zealanders were in the drug business because "there is some degree of adventure and they feel they are latter-day pirates. But they are criminals — nothing else.

"If anyone is contemplating drug trafficking through South-east Asia they face the very real danger of severe sentences — even the death penalty — if they are caught.

"Thai jails are very severe and people who are in them have no desire to go back," he added.

Fewer Caught

Mr Duncan feels that the trial period so far (he is there on a year's evaluation of the necessity for a New Zealand officer being stationed in Asia) has been successful, although it was difficult to gauge how successful.

There had been a significant increase in seizures of drugs coming into New Zealand since the post had been established, but fewer New Zealanders in South-east Asia had been caught.

"With the announcement of the post many may have gone to ground and are lying low until they see how dangerous the new situation is," he said.

His work entails liaison with South-east Asian drug enforcement agencies and passing information to New Zealand police on drug movements or to Asian police, on the movements of New Zealand drug smugglers.

He said that although the amount of heroin and cannabis coming from South-east Asia was big by our standards, smuggling into America and Europe was huge.

Heroin: Easy

It was organised by "fearful, very powerful, very rich" Chinese syndicates and although there was no evidence to suggest they had turned their eyes to this part of the world there might easily become a day when they extended their operations.

Mr Duncan said anybody going to Bangkok could find heroin fairly easily.

He said the "hal authorities had cracked down on heroin pushing and were also carrying out rehabilitation schemes in an attempt to get villagers in the "Golden Triangle" area to grow other crops.

But with more than 400,000 addicts—some as young as eight—in Thailand alone, it was a very difficult situation.

CSO: 5320



NEW ZEALAND

CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT HEROIN, CANNABIS ALLEGED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 May 79 Section 1 p 4

[Text]

Two men charged with conspiring to import heroin and cannabis into New Zealand were yesterday committed to the Supreme Court for trial after a depositions hearing in the Auckland Magistrate's Court.

They are Brian James Curtis, aged 45, a self-employed property developer, of Glen Eden, and David Fisher, aged 32, a panelbeater, of Orakei.

They pleaded not guilty to two joint charges of conspiring with each other to import heroin and cannabis into this country and conspiring with a third person, Susan Florence Rennie, to import the drugs.

Curtis denied a further charge of conspiring to import the drugs with Susan Rennie.

The accused were committed in custody by Mr A. R. Gorbey and Mrs A. V. Fitzpatrick, justices of the peace.

'Not Main One'

Earlier, Detective Inspector Patrick John O'Donovan said he spoke to Curtis following the discovery of a large amount of cannabis and heroin by customs officials at Nandi airport.

Curtis, he said, told him that he knew Susan Rennie and that he had seen her in Singapore. He alleged the defendant said, "You know I am not the main one; I only played a small part in all of

this. You guys want the big ones. I don't condone heroin at all."

The witness said he later spoke to Fisher, who said his solicitor had told him not to answer any questions.

Mr J. Haigh, for Fisher, submitted at the end of the hearing that no prima facie case had been established against his client.

Months Before

There was evidence of a relationship between Fisher and Curtis, but that in itself was of little assistance to the prosecution.

Curtis and Fisher had travelled to the Far East in November, 1977, but that was about nine months before the alleged attempt to import heroin and cannabis from Fiji and it did not establish that there was an agreement.

The defendants had gone to Fiji in May of last year, but that again was some months before the incidents alleged by the Crown to be incriminating.

It was, said Mr Haigh, mere speculation to suggest that the trip in May involved Fisher in some sort of agreement to import narcotics.

Peculiar History

He submitted that evidence given during the hearing about an air-conditioning unit was "A red herring." There was no evidence to establish that narcotics had been brought into New Zealand in the unit.

Submitting that there was a case for Fisher to answer, Mr E. R. Winkel, for the Crown, said the air-conditioning unit had had a peculiar history. It had been sent from Tonga to New Zealand, then to Fiji and back again, with different stories told about it en route. The cost of freighting it must have been greater than its value.

He said a suitcase containing traces of cannabis, and documents relating to the unit, had been found in Fisher's car.

Mr Winkel said a note written by Curtis, which the Crown said related to the attempted importation of narcotics via Fiji, was found in Fisher's possession.

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NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

**GUILTY PLEA**--A 28-year-old Avondale man was yesterday committed to the Supreme Court for sentence after pleading guilty to three indictable charges involving heroin. Keith Alan Brush, an unemployed panelbeater, appeared before Mr J. R. Callander, SM, in the Auckland Magistrate's Court. He admitted two charges of selling heroin and one of offering to supply the drug. He was committed for sentence in custody. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 2 May 79 p 4]

**HEROIN SEIZED**--Dunedin, 6 May (PA)--A quantity of almost pure heroin with a street value of \$25,000 was seized from an Oamaru address by Dunedin detectives on Friday. The heroin is the second largest haul made by the Dunedin drug squad and is thought to be between 80 and 100 percent pure. The drug is worth about \$500 in its present form, but, according to the head of the Dunedin drug squad, Detective Sergeant Jim Doyle, once broken down with sugar, glucose, and other substances it will have a street value of up to \$25,000. Detective Doyle said a team of detectives had made exhaustive inquiries during the last few months. No arrests have been made but police inquiries are continuing. He would not reveal where the drug was found. Although heroin was still reasonably easy to obtain in Dunedin, Detective Doyle said that he was sure that Friday's seizure would have a marked effect on the local drug market. "There is still a lot of heroin about. There must be a reasonable amount, because we do not seem to be having the same trouble with chemists' shops." [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 7 May 79 p 17]

**HEROIN SENTENCE**--Barry Paul O'Sullivan, 23, mechanic, was sentenced to four years' jail by Mr Justice Beattie in the Supreme Court on Friday afternoon on a charge of being in possession of heroin for the purpose of supply. The jury had found O'Sullivan guilty of possessing the equivalent of 2.27 grams of heroin, his Honour said. The heroin had been found inside his underwear when his flat was searched. He had previous convictions for burglary related to the obtaining of narcotics. The accused was a drug addict, and before the present offence had been getting medical help to break the habit. But Parliament had recently increased the maximum sentence from 14 years to life and he had to take heed of the Legislature, his Honour added. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 7 May 79 p 2]

CANNABIS MAILED IN AFRICA--A man seconded to work in Africa for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted a package containing 65.63 grams of cannabis back to New Zealand. In the Magistrate's Court yesterday, Neil Donald Fraser, 33, unemployed, pleaded guilty before Mr W. M. Willis, SM, to a charge of importing cannabis. He was remanded on bail to May 17 for a pre-sentence report and sentence. Appearing for the Customs Department, Mr Rick Grayson said that on August 2 last year customs officials were screening overseas mail when a drug dog indicated an airmail package. "It contained two flaxlike tubes containing compressed cannabis," he said. It was discovered that Fraser was the sender. He was approached when he arrived back in New Zealand. Fraser was represented by Mr Mike Bungay. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 11 May 79 p 4]

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

TWO CENTERS FOR ADDICTS--Two centres for the treatment of drug addicts have been established by the Government of N.W.F.P. The centres which will provide indoor treatment besides out-door cases, have started the work in Chamla and Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar. With the establishment of these two centres, the campaign started by the Provincial Government to curb the evils of drug abuses has achieved momentum. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 14 Jun 79 p 6]

BIG NARCOTIC HAUL--Cantt. Police has had a big haul of spare parts and narcotics in a one day swoop on Thursday. Spare parts, with one refrigerator and air-conditioner were recovered from a Peshawar-bound truck AD-1165 after a hot chase on Jamrud Road and firing. The police party headed by ASI Sher Afzal deflated the tyres of the truck by firing and arrested its driver Alam Khan of Khyber Agency. Cantt. Police also recovered 720 grams of charas and opium on Bara Road and arrested two culprits Mohd Hussain s/o Rehmatullah of Batkhela and Faiz Mohd s/o Noor Mohd of Hazar Khwani. The spare parts worth over Rs 10 lakh and narcotics were seized during Nakabandis in the Cantt. Tehkal and Pishta Khara areas on the directive of DSP Arbab Taleh Mohammad Khar. Cantt. police also arrested anti-social elements, one of them red-handed when he was firing in the air. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 15 Jun 79 p 1]

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PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

DRUG ARRESTS--Manila, 21 Jun--Military operatives have arrested 70 Filipinos and seized large quantities of drugs in what the military considered as one of its biggest hauls this year in its anti-narcotics campaign. Among the arrested were two men and a woman tagged as the major suppliers of prohibited drugs to students and other users in metro Manila, three pushers and 64 buyers in simultaneous raids Tuesday in Manila's Santa Cruz downtown section. Besides thousands of bottled drugs, capsules and tablets, and marijuana cigarettes, the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) raiders also confiscated two unlicensed .22 cal. magnum revolvers and a Beretta pistol, according to authorities. The value of the seized drugs was not made available. The raids were conducted on five adjacent houses allegedly owned by the three suppliers, described by the authorities as a "virtual row of drugstorer." [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 21 Jun 79 OW]

PLANTATION OWNER ARRESTED--A marihuana plantation owner was arrested and marihuana worth P.3-million were seized during a raid conducted by PC anti-narcotics operatives on a two-hectare marihuana plantation in barangay Quimalabasa Norte, San Agustin, Isabela recently. In a report to Maj Gen Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief and director general of the Integrated National Police, Col Bienvendio L. Felix, commanding officer of the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) and concurrently Task Force Bagong Buhay commander, identified the owner of the marihuana plantation as Simplicio L. dela Cruz, 38, married, farmer, of barangay Quimalabasa Norte, San Agustin, Isabela. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 79 p 2]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

POLICE RAID NETS LARGE HAUL OF MARIHUANA

Ship Seized

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 23 May 79 p 8

[Text]

VICTORIA (CP) — RCMP were combing dense bush on northwestern Vancouver Island for five or six people Tuesday after arresting 17 others and seizing 20 tons of marijuana in a dawn raid on two large vessels.

The marijuana had a street value of \$32 million.

The raid involved 50 RCMP members, about 300 Canadian Forces ground personnel, an Argus tracking aircraft from CFB Comox, and the destroyer-escort HMCS *Qu'Appelle*.

It occurred at 6:30 a.m. PDT at Sydney Inlet, about 250 kilometres northwest of here, and about 10 kilometres north of where 13½ tons of marijuana, worth \$20 million, was nabbed in July, 1978.

Police seized the 50-metre *Samarkanda*, originally built during the Second World War to lay submarine nets. It was not immediately known where the vessel is registered.

Superintendent T. M. Gardiner of the RCMP said the *Qu'Appelle* blocked the entrance to Sydney Inlet during the night, after police discovered that the *Samarkanda* had gone aground in the inlet during low tide.

Two police boats and a Zodiac assault craft were used to swoop down on the *Samarkanda* as the marijuana was being unloaded. All but two of the estimated two dozen people handling the marijuana fled into the bush. Police immediately captured 15 of them.

Gardiner said the arrests were made without incident.

He said charges had not been laid, and it was not clear if those arrested would be taken to Tofino, about 50 kilometres south of the scene, for the night, or would be brought directly to Victoria.

When police struck, about 500 bales of marijuana had been stashed in the bush, while scores of bales remained in the *Samarkanda's* hold.

Gardiner said the marijuana would be brought to Victoria, a sample retained for court action, and the rest would be destroyed.

He said the raid culminated several months of detailed investigation that involved the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

#### Twenty Arrested

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 24 May 79 p 20

[Text]

VICTORIA (CP) — RCMP said Wednesday they underestimated their marijuana haul off Vancouver Island Tuesday and now have seized about 30 tons worth more than \$50 million on the wholesale market.

Twenty people including three from the United States and the remainder from Puerto Rico or Costa Rica, were arrested in the dawn raid by 50 heavily-armed RCMP and 300 Canadian Forces ground personnel about 250 kilometres northwest of here.

The operation on the rugged west coast of the island was backed up by the destroyer-escort *HMCS Qu'Appelle*, which brought the marijuana here Wednesday, and tracker aircraft from CFB Comox.

United States Drug Enforcement Agency officers arrested another suspect on Orcas Island in the American San Juan group southeast of here.

The man was being held in Seattle.

"We don't know the exact amount (of marijuana seized), but it appears our earlier estimates were too low," RCMP Supt. Scotty Gardiner said Wednesday.

"There definitely is more than 30 tons and it could be as high as 35 tons."

Gardiner said the drug would have a wholesale value of between \$50 million and \$70 million and would generate more than \$100 million from illicit sales.

RCMP originally estimated the bales of marijuana taken from two vessels weighed about 20 tons and were worth about \$32 million.

Meanwhile, an air and ground search was continuing for four men who fled into dense bush when police raided a group of 24 people off-loading bales of marijuana from two boats in Sydney Inlet—only 18 kilometres north of where 13 1-2 tons of

marijuana, worth \$20 million on the street, was nabbed in July, 1978.

Customs officers seized the 51-metre freighter *Samarkanda*, believed to be of Colombian registry, and the 16.5-metre pleasure craft *Whitecap*, registered in Seattle.

Gardiner said he fears for the safety of the four missing suspects because they fled wearing light clothing and without food or weapons.

"There is nothing there but solid bush. There is an outside possibility we may never see them again."

He said searchers used megaphones to try and reach the men and tell them a way to get out, and overnight the lights on a police boat moored at the head of the inlet were left on to serve as a beacon.

Another Arrest

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 25 May 79 p 15

[Text]

VICTORIA (CP) — RCMP have arrested another person—bringing the total to 21—following Tuesday's drug bust which netted nearly 35 tons of marijuana with a wholesale value of \$70 million.

Police said the unidentified man was apprehended Wednesday night and transported to Victoria Thursday. He was to appear in Victoria provincial court today.

The other 20, from Colombia, Costa Rica and the United States, were charged Wednesday with importing marijuana into Canada, possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking and conspiracy to import marijuana into Canada. They were remanded in custody until Monday.

A police spokesman said the latest suspect, one of four believed to have escaped during the dawn raid by 50 heavily-armed RCMP officers backed by Canadian Forces personnel, came out of the dense bush just before dark and flagged down a passing logging boat.

"We had alerted everyone in the area to watch for strangers," Insp. Marv Young said. "So the loggers picked him up and took him to their camp then called police."

Marihuana To Be Burned

Ottawa THE WEEKEND CITIZEN in English 26 May 79 p 12

[Text]

VICTORIA (CP) — Thirty-five tons of marijuana worth about \$72 million on the wholesale market will go up in smoke Tuesday.

RCMP Supt. T. M. Gardiner said Friday police have obtained permission to destroy all but representative samples of the marijuana, confiscated in what they describe as the biggest drug bust in Canadian history.

Twenty-one people have been arrested and charged in connection with the bust, which took place May 22 at Sydney Inlet, about 250 kilometres northwest of here. Police continue to search the dense bush for three men.

The high-grade Colombian marijuana will be incinerated at the North Cowichan garbage dump about 60 kilometres north of Victoria.

The last suspect to be caught, Albenegipson Frasser, 39, who says he is from Los Angeles, was charged in provincial court Friday with importing marijuana, possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking and conspiracy to import marijuana into Canada, the same charges filed against the others.

CSO: 5320



YUGOSLAVIA

FIRST DRUG CASE PROSECUTED IN OHRID, MACEDONIA REPORTED

Facts of Case Reported

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 1 Jun 79 p 6

[Article by D.P.-]

[Text] Ohrid--Deputy public prosecutor Goce Martinovski is preparing a bill of indictment against five young people who, in one way or another, committed criminal acts in connection with drugs.

The first defendant is a farmer, Zivko Stoilov (25), from Nivicino village, Strumica Opstina. At the beginning of this year he sold to the second defendant, Ali Kaba (26) of Ohrid, 100 grams of narcotics in the form of raw opium of private production for 1,000 dinars. Ali Kaba temporarily worked in Austria and when he returned to Ohrid he brought back a significant quantity of hashish and marihuana cigarettes, which he smoked with the other defendants who were his associates. He met Zivko Stoilov from Nivicino during a return. There were also other people from Strumica in the compartment who learned that drugs could be obtained from this person. Thus the contact was established. At the house of the defendant Klime Trajanoski (32) in Ohrid, Ali Kaba gave cigarettes from those he was carrying to the host, to the defendant Trajce Saveski (20), a student, and to a girl. He had been carrying out such activities during the past 2 years.

In this drug game Klime Trajanoski is accused of inducing a person to smoke hashish and of making his house available for smoking hashish. The accused student, Trajce Saveski allowed two people to smoke drugs in his disco club. The accused Ljupco Jonoski, 23-year-old student, distributed commercial cigarettes coated with hashish oil, giving them to his friends and providing a place to smoke in his home. He brought the drugs from Afghanistan, where his father had worked.

From what has been discovered, the five were planning to continue the seances at a stepped up tempo, since Ali Kaba had arranged with Zivko Stoilov for the next quantity of opium to be about 3 kilograms at a price of 21,000 dinars.

Details of Drug Operation

Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 2 Jun 79 p 4

[Article by D. Pejcinovski]

[Text] Ohrid, 1 June--The discovery and preparation of an indictment of criminal involvement in activities connected with drugs is the first case ever noted in the annals of Ohrid justice. According to the legal provisions of the criminal code, if the court accepts the allegations in the indictment of the deputy public prosecutor, Goce Martinovski, the five defendants, Zivko Stoilov, a farmer from Nivicino village in Strumica Opstina, and the Ohrid youths Ali Kaba, Ljupco Jonovski, Klime Trajanovski and Tracje Savevski, can receive prison sentences of 3 to 6 months to 5 years. Excluded from the indictment is a girl, M.T., a music teacher, to whom the legal provisions relating exclusively to use of drugs did not apply.

Drug Activities Date From 1974

The Ohrid doping story begins with the defendant Ali Kaba. He began to use drugs as early as 1974 in Turkey during a meeting with German tourists and continued in Austria where he had gone for temporary work. Drugs surrounded him more and more and they became a regular habit. He even used them during a visit to Italy with the teacher M.T.. He bought the grass from some people in Milan. He and the teacher smoked the drug in the room of the student Ljupco Jonovski. From smoking they moved on to injecting. Dissolved tablets which had first been heated in a spoon were put in a syringe and injected into the veins.

The defendant Ljupco Jonovski had brought back drugs from Afghanistan where his father had worked. He had been supplied with hashish through the children of employees of some foreign embassies. He brought back a little hashish to Ohrid when he returned. His friendship with Ali Kaba began through the teacher, who brought him to the house. In the Ohrid group of drug takers, Klime Trajanovski also established a connection with the teacher, giving her drugs to smoke which he had brought back from Austria where he had been on temporary work.

Without the Teacher, M.T., Nothing Could Have Been Undertaken...

Smoking drugs would probably not have been thought of without the musical education teacher, who euphorically used the drug with Ljupco Jonovski in the disco club of the student Trajce Savevski. This actually was a fitting place for such a purpose since the drug was "sweetly garnished with music". Other young visitors to the disco club also used the drugs.

The indictment of Zivko Stoilov, the farmer from Nivicino in Strumica, charges him with illegal production and trafficking in narcotics. He became involved in this doping story on 11 January this year when Ali Kaba brought back information from someone in Strumica. The teacher, M.T., and Klime

Trajanovski went on the car trips to see him in Nivicino. Kaba entered the house first and then, with Stoilov's permission, the others from the car entered. The host welcomed them with brandy and coffee and as soon as they had finished drinking, Zivko Stoilov took some opium wrapped in paper out of a small suitcase.

The sensitive nose of Ali Kaba smelled then opium and he immediately put it in his pocket and took out 1,000 dinars and threw it on the bed. Stoilov told him that he did not have to pay, but later he took the money.

#### How the Participants Were Discovered

When the business was finished, the farmer Stoilov asked Kaba to take him in the car to the village of Vladevci. During the course of the ride Ali Kaba again returned to the subject of the procurement of drugs, asking whether he [Stoilov] would be able to find greater quantities since what he had gotten (100 grams) was quite small. Stoilov then mentioned a Jordan from Jargulica village. They went to the village and found Jordan who told him that the merchandise they were seeking could be found through Atanas, who worked in Bitola. Through this contact it was agreed that the drug would be delivered to Jordan and that they would meet him at the bus station in Ohrid so that the group would not have to return to the village. Jordan said that Atanas had 2-3 kilograms and according to Stoilov's statements, the teacher, M.T., offered a sum of 21,000 dinars, with delivery date of the drug to be 30 January 1979.

The pursuit organs, picking up the trail of the drug users, took quick action and Ali Kaba and the teacher, M.T., were caught on 17 January at the Dove Bair border crossing on the way to Turkey. The same day Klime Trajanovski and Ljupco Jonovski were arrested in Ohrid and Trajce Savevski was given an additional charge. While he was in custody, Ali Kaba attempted to commit suicide by cutting his veins with pieces of a lightbulb.

CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

HUNDRED POUNDS OF IMPOUNDED COCAINE DEPOSITED IN CENTRAL BANK

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Jun 79 p 9

[Text] Santa Cruz, 9 June—One of the largest loads of cocaine so far was deposited in the vaults of the Bolivian Central Bank, in the wake of a string of police operations to halt the increasing drug traffic.

The Departmental Directorate for the Control of Dangerous Substances handed over 45 kilograms, 529 grams of cocaine. Narcotics chief Dr Luis Moreno Balcazar said that it resulted from seizures made during various operations from January to May of this year.

The load was delivered in accordance with legal formalities, and assurances were given that it would be subsequently burned. According to the official report, 15 kilograms, 450 grams of the shipment are hydrochloride (purified drug), and 30 kilos are sulfate, in addition to which there are 546 "joints."

Moreno said that he was quite taken aback by the amount of the drug that had been confiscated, "which shows how extensive illicit drug trafficking operations are in our country, despite control and crackdown efforts."

The narcotics chief acknowledged that there are organized gangs both for domestic and international distribution, and he was openly in favor of enforcing the law as strictly as possible against guilty parties, "fall who may" and "regardless of what anybody says."

In addition, he indicated that the problem is much more serious than the public and authorities seem to think... "Our drug problem," Moreno said, "must be tackled openly and resolutely, in order to control this activity and come to the defense of the health and morals of the people, because these are essential factors in the betterment of Bolivians."

He gave assurances that his office would intensify its crackdown, with special emphasis on trafficking and on rehabilitating addicts. Surveillance will be intensified in Santa Cruz. "We are only trying to protect our young people from the drug scourge," he said.

Despite these statements, it is obvious that adjustments still have to be made in the agencies in charge of the drug crackdown in this city. There are avenues, such as Sucre, Alameda Potosi, and lately the area around the soccer stadium, where cocaine and "joints" are still sold openly. Drug traffickers have managed to develop a communications system using car headlights and, according to a policeman, even employ portable short-range radio communication equipment.

Moreover, statistics show that there is still a great deal of cocaine entering the department, much more than the peasant farmers consume. According to unofficial accounts, people have seen what look to be barrels of diesel being shipped from Chapare to Icaño but which contained "a green liquid that smelled unmistakably like cocaine."

A few days ago, a driver reported that he had been kidnaped and taken by a number of drug traffickers towards the Caranda region to make use of the private car that he was driving.

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CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE PROCESSING PLANTS--Santa Cruz--Personnel of the Drug Control Department have recently discovered two large cocaine processing plants. One policeman and one drug trafficker were killed in this operation since the traffickers resisted arrest with modern automatic machineguns which they are now using more frequently when discovered. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 4 PY]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'SEA' OF MARIHUANA FOUND IN LA GUAJIRA

Announcement of the Discovery

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 May 79 p 1-A, 6-A

[Initial news item plus six-part feature article by Jose Cervantes Angulo]

[Text] Military authorities in La Guajira have dealt the harshest blow yet to drug smuggling gangs throughout the world in their struggle to eradicate marihuana when they uncovered and took into official custody a veritable "ocean" of grass being grown over an area of 10,000 hectares.

Much more extensive than the former top find of 1,500 hectares in May 1977, also in La Guajira, the discovery was made in a vast area along the Tapias River between Cuchilla del Mico, near the municipality of Cascajalito in the Riohacha jurisdiction, and the town of Tomarrazon.

According to official estimates, the new "sea of marihuana" could yield up to 31 tons of the weed, valued at 30 billion pesos on the U.S. black market.

"It's as if the entire Bogota Savanna had been seeded with marihuana," a ranking army officer told EL TIEMPO in mentioning the magnitude of the crop.

Military sources said that the troops quartered on the northern coast of Colombia and assigned to the crackdown on marihuana growing, began destroying the fields and would soon set fire to the plants in a major blaze that would last several days.

Other Blows

In the department of Cesar military patrols confiscated 1½ tons of marihuana and arrested Jose Eduardo Vilorio, Orlando Joaquin Perez, Luis Antonio Aponte and Jairo Ibarra. The confiscated marihuana was already in compacted, fastened packages ready to be shipped to the U.S. market.

For their part, Narino authorities seized close to a kilogram of cocaine in an operation that led to the capture of four individuals involved in the illegal trafficking. The names of those arrested were not released.

In Cucuta

Narcotics agents with the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) stationed in Cucuta dealt another harsh blow to drug smugglers in an operation carried out yesterday at the Lusitania Hotel opposite the transportation terminal in the capital of Northern Santander.

In one of the hotel rooms DAS agents seized 111 kilos of compacted marihuana and a shipment of amphetamines.

Arrested during the operation were Gonzalo Garcia Ioanez, a Colombian living in Venezuela, and Jose Ramon Mendoza Rodriguez, a Venezuelan.

Up to 30-40,000 Hectares

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 May 79 p 1-A, 6-A

[Text] Buena Vista--Command of the Task Force of the "Rondon" Mechanized Cavalry (Guajira)

There is marihuana of all colors, flavors and odors in La Guajira, and there is enough of it to feed the gringos' vice for the next 50 years.

That is how much planted marihuana we saw from the air and on land over 2 days in an area of about 30,000 or perhaps 40,000 hectares right in the middle of this peninsula, which could well be the paradise of grass smugglers.

In a dale or hollow that can be reached only along narrow trails after a week's walk, the Colombian Army discovered the world's largest marihuana plantation, camouflaged with yucca and banana crops.

The crops are at all stages of development, but most of them are between 10 days and 2 months along. This is the second harvest of the year. Estimates are that some 120,000 tons of marihuana could be produced within 5 months, the value of which would be equal to the United States budget, according to official calculations.

From the air it looks like a "sea of marihuana." The crops are not continuous but occupy specific areas spread throughout the 30,000 or 40,000 hectares, due to the irregular terrain.



Each crop covers a certain number of hectares. We visited fields of 2, 3, 5, 10 and up to 20 hectares, but the entire expanse is enormous. There is marihuana as far as the eye can see. We found plants 1 week old and other mature ones. Each hectare yields about 3 tons of marihuana.

The marihuana growers employ an army of laborers to take care of the crops, and there are more of them than the Military Forces units sent there to destroy the plantations.

The ranking military commanders directing the operation over the first 30 hectares discovered at La Cueva estimate that it will take at least 6 months to destroy the crops over the initial 5,000 hectares, which will require the efforts of some 50,000 soldiers. It is a costly operation, one of them noted.

The gigantic plantation is scattered amid mountains, hills and plains, dotted with hideouts, the rustic cabins and settlements where the dried marihuana is stored. They are watched from the mountains by Indians native to the region.

The "sea of marihuana" encompasses vast tracts of land between places called Cuchilla de Mico, La Palma, El Naranjal, El Totumal, La Cuchilla del Comejon, La Cuchilla de Carrizal and La Loma de la Playa. A river, the Tapias, winds through the zone between the towns of Tomarrazon, Cascajalito and Caracoli, which are the closest population centers but are at least 1 week distant along the trails. This is the heart of La Guajira.

#### The Manger

From the air the hideouts look like harmless, bucolic manglers. On board the small Colombian Air Force helicopter we were able to see close to 100 of these settlements, scattered all over the marihuana-filled hills and mountains.

The first zone, now under army control, covers 4,000 hectares. The second and third are 3,000 hectares each, for a total of 10,000 hectares carefully planted with marihuana.

It is difficult to identify the marihuana from the air because it is camouflaged with other, traditional crops such as bananas and yucca.

The helicopter was able to land on a clearing at La Cueva, which is 3,000 feet above sea level. The zone is rugged, uneven. Heavy downpours are common there, and because of this the land is fertile and marihuana grows wild.

The most knowledgeable opinion concerning the gigantic plantation discovered in the heart of La Guajira is that the seeds were sown from the air, from a light plane, because it is inconceivable that an army of laborers trekked into the mountains to plant seeds throughout that area.

It takes 12 hours on foot along the trails from Buenavista, the base of the "Rondon" Mechanized Cavalry Task Force, to La Cueva.

The footing is muddy, slippery, which hampers the movement of both man and beast. Nevertheless, there is marihuana on all sides.

#### Laborers

The laborers who take care of the crops are natives of the interior, "cachacos" as they are called. Indians or highlanders from the region guard the hideouts. Fifteen of them have been detained. The rest vanished amid the tangled jungle, right before the troops' eyes.

When the soldiers in the patrol that discovered the first section of the immense field were confronted with so much marihuana, they refused to believe their eyes. The plantation is so vast that it causes astonishment.

The 15 captured laborers do not fear the troops. They are humble people who have always lived in the foothills of those mountains.

When questioned as to what they were doing there, one of them replied: "They pay us to take care of this."

"But do you know what this is?" asked an officer.

"Yes, we know that it's marihuana," they answered.

"Do you know that it's a crime punishable by law?" the officer went on.

"No, we don't know whether it's a crime," another highlander replied.

"The only thing that I know is that they sell this to the gringos, who pay a very good price. Also, it's our only way to make a living," he concluded almost innocently.

#### Idle Lands

The lands on which the 10,000 hectare plantation was uncovered are idle.

The military say that early in the year, during the time of the first harvest, the hills in the region are invaded by swarms of laborers and

workers who, machete in hand, go about clearing the vast tracts of fertile land that are fine for growing any kind of crop.

Sizable extensions of land are ready for the planting of marihuana in some 15 days. Then come the Indians and "cachacos" with large bags of seeds, which are scattered throughout the zone. The first few shoots appear 15 days later. What's coming up is the best business in the world.

#### Plants Destroyed

It is a 20-minute helicopter ride to La Cueva, located in the midst of mountains in a zone buffeted by contrary winds from the Caribbean.

Fifteen minutes into the flight, the helicopter enters a gulch or hollow where it is tossed about by the winds. Finally, after hundreds of jolts, it lands at a heliport that the soldiers hacked out of the undergrowth. You arrive half-dead from fright and with your stomach in your throat.

From there on the trip is by foot through the thick "sea of marihuana." The hills are so steep that you think you're going to faint. The soldiers have to help the reporters so that they don't fall into the chasms.

There are several deep streams in the jungle that can be crossed only by swimming or by erecting makeshift bridges. The soldiers have felled thick trees, which then span the banks. The terrain is so rugged that a 30-minute hike has taken us only a few meters.

The zone is infested with mosquitoes, which make the arduous trek even more difficult. As they move forward, the soldiers hack at the plants, pull them out by the roots and destroy them. The marihuana grows so well in this zone, however, that a day after they began cutting, the soldiers had to retrace their tracks because new plants were coming up in places where they thought they had eradicated the weed. This is unquestionably fertile land.

We finally get to the top of a hill. Your legs can no longer support the weight of your body, and you feel that the air has thinned out. It's the altitude. Nonetheless, you continue to come upon more and more marihuana plants. Wherever you look, there are mountains of the weed. From the top of the hill you can see the awesome growth of marihuana, the weed of evil. The soldiers destroy it, but it grows up again almost immediately. It is all simply incredible.

#### The Hideouts

Nestled amid the hills or spurs of the Sierra Nevada, the hideouts look like a string of rustic huts. They are rural hovels or shacks covered with branches.

They generally consist of four vertically placed logs crossed at their ends with tree branches. Sometimes dark-colored awnings are placed on top as roofs to prevent them from being detected from the air by Colombian Armed Forces (FAC) planes or helicopters.

The traffickers conceal the harvested and sun-dried marihuana in these hideouts. They are guarded by Indians or peasants from the zone, who receive between 50,000 and 100,000 pesos for hiding the fruit of the harvest. Payment is made per harvest or planting.

These are the individuals who usually fall into the hands of the authorities. They innocently confess that they were hired to take care of the weed. The traffickers provide them with arms that the gringos themselves have smuggled in from the United States. They also give them provisions for 3 or 4 months so that they do not have to go into town.

Palomino: Traffickers' 'Mecca'

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 May 79 p 16-A

[Text] San Pedro de la Sierra, Guajira—Marihuana trafficking and smuggling are the most lucrative activities in this region. The people involved are peasants and "cachacos."

The "cachacos" are hired in the interior of the country and are usually driven by compulsion. They are peasants seeking a better future in Atlantic Coast regions, the land of marihuana.

The "marihuana bonanza" has been the bait for these people, who are accustomed to hard labor in the fields of the country's interior. In past years they worked on lands in Cesar and Magdalena, in the cotton fields. Now they are working on marihuana plantations. The difference is, today they earn more money than when they picked cotton. In fact, some of their former masters who owned cotton fields are now prosperous marihuana growers.

Each laborer is hired at 100,000 pesos for the entire harvest, which lasts about 5 months.

For example, many have already come down from the sierra because the first harvest of the year has just been gathered in. Much of the marihuana has left for the United States. Much of it has also been seized by the military forces.

#### The Cutters

The first to be hired are the cutters, in other words the laborers who clear the undergrowth and prepare the land for the planting. These day laborers earn between 5,000 and 10,000 pesos for 3 or 4 days of work.

Then come the growers, who are in charge of planting the seeds. They are accompanied at times by gringo agronomists whose job is to apply fertilizers to the crops.

When the first plants emerge, a third group of laborers enters the scene; they are in charge of caring for the crop for the 4 or 5 months that the harvest lasts.

The plants that are earmarked for top quality marihuana are irrigated with brown sugar water. The chemicals used during germination will subsequently determine the various levels of quality.

#### Prisoners

The men hired to work on the marihuana plantations in the sierra are prisoners. The fields are like a Nazi concentration camp.

They are not allowed to go down to population centers, and the sights of rifles and carbines are fixed on them at all times. They have everything there, food, drink, clothing, and every 15 or 30 days they are even allowed to live with prostitutes who are brought in blindfolded on mules to a specific spot in the mountains from Palomino and Mingueo.

The rough roads or trails, the only access to the crops, are under permanent surveillance by hired assassins, who have orders to fire on soldiers who stick their noses into territories off limits for the army.

Everyone there is an accomplice of the marihuana growers, because they run the risk of being murdered.

#### All Drug Trafficking Roads Lead to Palomino

Palomino is the mecca of the drug traffic. It is the obligatory meeting place for sellers and buyers. It is the town where the "marihuana exchange" operates. Bids and counterbids are made there; purchasing and marketing prices are set, and even worldwide pricing schedules are decided on. Nonetheless, it is an insignificant town, located beside the Main Caribbean Highway.

Many roads into the mountains, into the areas of cultivation start there. It is off limits, a restricted area, especially for soldiers.

No one dares take a step up the mountains unless he has something to do with the traffic or the growing.

Palomino is a small town, almost a humble, rustic hamlet. It has four large and important houses. One of them is the Police Station; another is the customs house, and the remaining two are brothels. The rest of the huts and shacks in the town are saloons.

#### Mingueo, A Ghost Town

Mingueo is another town along the Main Caribbean Highway; it lies near Palomino. It looks like a ghost town. The few establishments operating there close at 1500 hours, which is when the "cachacos" who control the region begin arriving. All of the houses have their doors closed, but inside it is a different world. Everyone plays cards, drinks whisky or amuses himself with women. Everyone carries firearms. It is the meeting place for the laborers who go into the mountains. It is an apparently peaceful town, but five or six persons are shot to death there every day.

Mingueo has a very pretty history. It was a settlement of tenant farmers deported from Venezuela years ago. In the wake of the marihuana bonanza and because it was a meeting place along the route towards the sierra, it became an important town. The "cachacos" wound up displacing all of the local peasants, and today both Mingueo and Palomino look like inland towns, populated entirely by "cachacos." There is no one from the coast there, even by accident. Six-figure marihuana deals are made in both Mingueo and Palomino. The big boys of the drug trafficking gang are not to be found there, just messengers and hired assassins. It is unquestionably a violent town...

Palomino, Mingueo, San Pedro de la Sierra, San Juan del Cesar are violent towns where the air smells of blood and dust. Crimes are the order of the day. They are towns that look a lot like the ones in American westerns, their atmosphere charged with violence and death.

#### From Mules to Jeeps

In the mountains and crop-growing areas mules are so important to traffickers that they have come to cost 100,000 pesos or more.

It seems ridiculous, but it is a result of the marihuana bonanza.

Mules are the only means of communication between the sierra and the population centers. Because of the steep, inaccessible terrain, which prevents the use of motor vehicles, mules have become essential animals for the marihuana growers.

The marihuana is taken down on muleback from growing areas in the sierra. The animals deposit the weed at sites that trucks and jeeps have access to.

There have been cases of marihuana growers exchanging jeeps for mules, because the latter are more important in growing areas than the motor-driven vehicles. They provide better service.

When the helicopter that took us all around the growing areas flew very low, the mules became frightened and betrayed the presence of marihuana growers.

#### Tragic Route

The trails into the sierra are a veritable cemetery of people in the marihuana business. Many of them went to seek their fortune and wound up with bullets. Might makes right is the law that prevails in this region, the law of the jungle and the revolver.

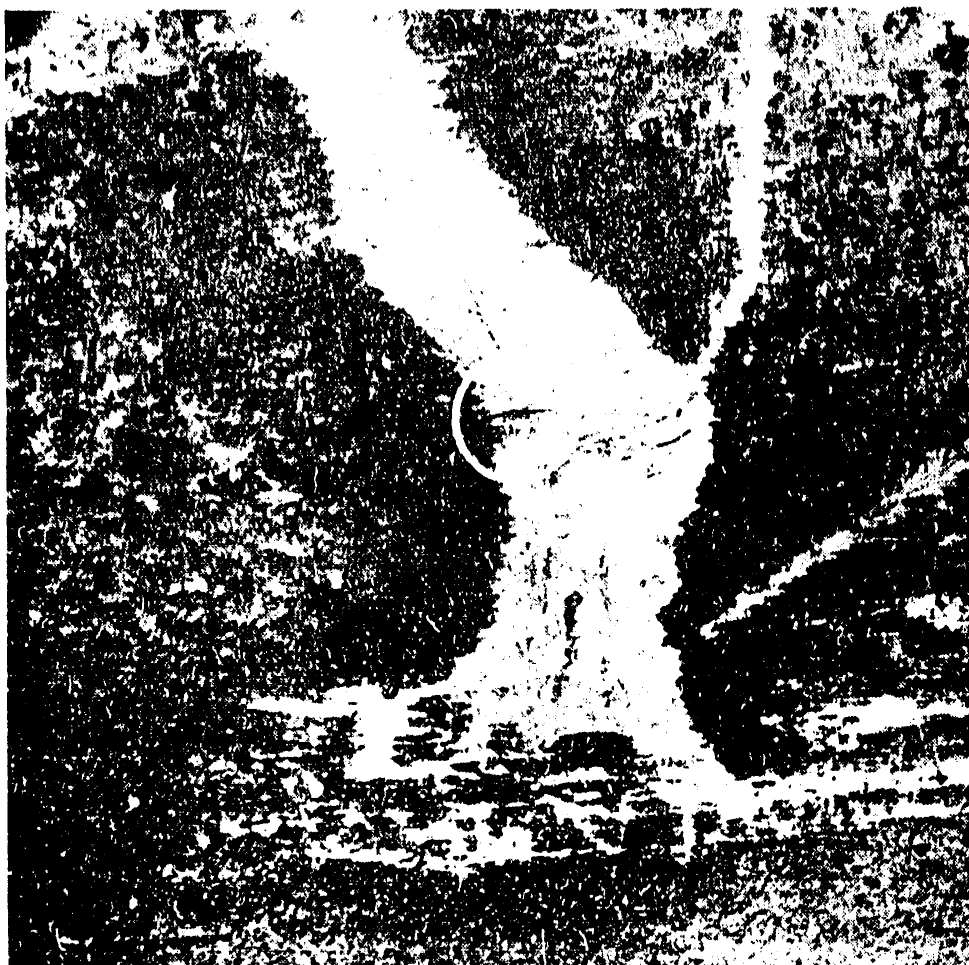
There have been persons who wanted to leave the growing areas after a 6-month stay and have wound up murdered along the trails.

At times they are attacked by criminals who wait for them in Palomino and Mingueo; others are victims of vendettas among marihuana gangs or have simply been condemned to die by the person in charge of the crops so that they do not have to be paid or in order to rob them or to prevent potential betrayals.

Life is tough in the sierra, and the people who get involved in the business in the growing areas are condemned persons, the "condemned people of the sierra," as the Arhuaco Indians call them.



Modern equipment to package the weed



A clandestine airport on the coast



'Night of the Fireflies'

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 May 79 p 8-A

[Text] Loma de San Pedro, Guajira--During the period of the marihuana harvests in the sierra there is a date called the "night of the fireflies."

This is when the "Red Point" or "Santa Marta Gold" varieties of marihuana reach their zenith of excellence as a crop after lengthy periods of sprinkling with brown sugar water.

On that night, which for the laborers is unforgettable, the leaves of the marihuana plants give off a bright red or reddish sparkle that makes them look like fireflies in the tropical night.

The laborers enjoy that moment, which could be described as "sublime" high up in the sierra. It is the "night of the fireflies."

Revenge at the Hideouts

Most of the confrontations between people in the marihuana business take place at the hideouts or at marketing sites, and they generally take a heavy toll of casualties.

After the weed is harvested, dried and compacted, it is packed in pita fiber sacks or polyethylene bags and cardboard boxes. Weighed and reweighed, it is loaded onto mules, which take it down from the sierra to the spots where buyers can bring their trucks. Prior to this, it is stored in the famous hideouts, where it is selected and graded.

The marihuana is dried in barns, which are rudimentary "altars," like those used to dry coffee.

In growing areas in the sierra the marihuana farmers often plant coffee on one side and marihuana on the other. Yucca and bananas are generally planted in between them for camouflage.

The hideouts are generally visited by people who are experts in grading marihuana. There are three categories: A, B and C. "A" is Red Point or Santa Marta Gold.

The hideouts are attended to by natives of Guajira, whereas the dealers or middlemen are "cachacos." Indians are generally used to transport the loads of marihuana along the trails and paths.

"The Law of the Jungle"

At the places where deals are made the buyers at times betray the sellers. They bring along more men and take the marihuana from them.

Sometimes the opposite happens. The sellers bring in more hired assassins, who go about liquidating the buyers to take their money. After killing them, they offer the grass to other buyers.

There is a third type of vendetta, which is when the sellers, in an agreement with law patrols, arrive at the site of the deal and pretend to be caught by surprise by them.

Then comes the put-on of the buyer making friends with the members of the patrol, after which they agree to set the sellers free, but with the marihuana remaining "seized." In this way the buyer comes out ahead because he puts out less money for the grass.

The hideouts or transaction sites are usually the scenes of fierce battles between buyers and sellers, as they try to get the best of each other.

It takes about 7 or 8 hours on muleback along the rails to get to the crops from Palomino and Mingueo.

After the deal is made, both the buyers and sellers clear out. If the law appears and captures groups from either band, no one can make an effort to help the other. It is every man for himself from the time that the money is delivered and the weed handed over. This is the "law of the jungle," the Arhuaco Indians say.

"Cachacos" Versus Guajira Natives

People say that La Guajira is becoming "cachaca." This is because most of the activities, especially marihuana smuggling and trafficking, are in the hands of people from the interior of the country.

The displacement of Guajira natives by "cachacos" has triggered a battle between the two, and the confrontations have already taken a high death toll among the two groups.

The most recent incident took place near Palomino, when a group of Guajira natives tried to storm a hideout controlled by "cachacos." They beat back the fierce onslaught and felled several locals.

Family members of the natives notified the police and launched another attack. In all, there were more than 13 deaths.

Later, in Riohacha, during the burial of one of the non-locals, the Guajira natives went on the attack again and killed several of the enemy, but there were also casualties among their ranks. The skirmishes continue around this peninsula, and no one can tell what will happen when natives of Guajira and "cachacos" come face to face again...

It is generally accepted that the cachacos are the ones that control the growing areas and dominate the transactions. The natives have been relegated to guarding the hideouts and serving as guides or cutters. The day laborers are hired in the interior; in other words, the work force in the growing areas is "cachaca."

This indicates, in general, that the Indians of La Guajira are still being exploited and are regarded as inferior to the people from the interior, but in the end everybody is a winner in the marihuana business.

Mingueo and Palomino continue to be the cachaco strongholds. The natives are strong in the Upper Guajira.

In order to neutralize these vendettas between cachacos and natives of Guajira, the army has set up military posts in Palomino and Mingueo, but the shots continue to ring out.

#### Another Sort of Transaction

The following is another sort of transaction between buyers and sellers: you can often find people in Palomino and Mingueo who are willing to do anything. Hired thugs, cutters, day laborers, workers, middlemen, messengers, a whole menagerie of persons attracted by the sparkling "night of the fireflies."

It is common there for buyers to deliver the seeds to a group of cutters and growers, who search for idle land that is 6, 7 and more hours distant by road from Palomino and Mingueo. They take the lands by force, plant and harvest.

The buyer pays the growers in advance half of what they will earn when they deliver the yield of the harvest. Delivery is usually made at the end of 6 months. During this time the buyers promise to provide all needed supplies to the men holed up in the sierra.

After 4 or 5 months the middlemen appear; they are the ones who pick up the weed at a predetermined point between the growing area and the shipment sites.

For example, by this time of year the first harvest is already completely in. At the nerve centers of the traffic they are saying that it was a good harvest and yielded excellent results despite pressure from the authorities, who managed to seize sizable amounts of the weed.

The second harvest of the year began in late April. The gigantic crop found in the very heart of La Guajira is evidence of the industriousness of the growers, who were able to sow no less than 30,000 hectares. The second crop is being helped by the rainy season, which facilitates the growth of the plants. There are generally three harvests a year, which yield the growers astronomical net profits.

As we have already indicated in previous articles, the planting is done by hectares, separated by hideouts, clandestine runways and natural obstacles to hamper the access of the authorities.

#### Plant Nurseries

In the growing zones gringo buyers pay for the construction of nurseries where experiments are conducted with marihuana plants.

For example, at the site called La Cueva, near Cuchilla del Mico, soldiers found a nursery with 400 neat little marihuana plants that were being carefully attended to and whose stems showed signs that agronomists had used them in experiments. Perhaps experts are looking for a new or better variety of Colombian "cannabis sativa," which is regarded as the world's finest. Nurseries are frequent at the hideouts. Soldiers have found several of them in such perfect condition that at times they must be attended to by women...

#### Risks Are Great

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 May 79 p 12-A

[Text] Puerto Estrella, Upper Guajira—Approximately every 30 minutes marihuana ships and planes attack Guajira by land and sea. The planes come from the United States. The ships generally belong to Colombian gang leaders, who live in luxury in Cartagena, Barranquilla and Santa Marta.

At his command post with the Cartagena Battalion, Colonel "X" thinks that he sees planes involved in marihuana smuggling wherever he looks.

At the Rondon Task Force radio station, Colonel "Z" is always receiving reports on planes violating Colombian air space. As calmly as can be, he tells the pilot of the T33 or the T41: "If he doesn't take notice, fire on him."

Since January, one or two planes connected with the marihuana business have been captured almost every day. The gringos who pilot them escape into the underbrush or are captured.

They always have the same story to tell Colombian courts: "We lost our way...an engine blew out on us...we had to make an emergency landing here."

But as an ASSOCIATED PRESS newsman who was with us for a while in La Guajira noted almost waggishly, "the funny thing about these guys is that they almost always make emergency landings on clandestine runways."

This was what happened with pilot William Spradley, an excellent fireman in Houston, Texas but a common smuggler in Colombia's Upper Guajira. Today no one believes his story that he was flying to Venezuela to pick up some oil drilling equipment in poor condition that was going to be repaired in Miami and that he was forced to make an emergency landing on one of the beaches in the region because one of his light plane's engines was experiencing problems.

Almost simultaneously, at his office in the port of Cartagena, Ship Captain "A" and Vice Admiral "B" receive radio reports from a coastguard cutter that a boat is being loaded with marihuana at a given point along the coast, which is more than 1,600 kilometers long. Who would believe it? How do they monitor so many kilometers of beach with so little equipment, especially light and combat vessels?

The situation in this regard is critical if we keep in mind that the traffickers have a veritable fleet of ships, planes and land vehicles to transport the marihuana.

According to an investigation conducted by EL TIEMPO in the files of the Second Brigade, since November of last year the gangs of traffickers have risked losing a total of 147 planes of different models, including a DC7, which was captured in Plato, Magdalena last week, and more than 60 ships. With regard to land vehicles, the authorities have captured more than 500 motor vehicles of various types, brands, models and carrying capacity. It's almost as if we were in a state of war.

#### How the Indians Take Revenge on the Gringos

To the people of La Guajira, the gringos have been the cause of their misfortune, of that terrible nightmare called "marihuana fever" that prevents them from living in peace and that has made them the center of attraction of the whole world.

The Indians have thought up a way to take revenge on the gringos, almost without realizing that they are thus making the mercenaries who come to Colombia pay the price for their thirst for marihuana.

It so happens that in this region of the Upper Guajira the Indians hunt down marihuana planes at night.

Every time they hear the noise of airplane engines, the Indians in this area set their trap, lighting torches and signaling the pilots to land.

Some pilots do not go for the bait, but others have already fallen into the trap and become victims of this sort of "revenge of the Indians."

Attracted by the signaling from land in the dark Guajira night, the marihuana pilot thinks that they are his buddies and rushes to the spot where they have indicated to him to land.

When the plane touches down, it and its occupants are hit by a rain of bullets. Generally no one is hurt. The Indians then sack the plane, rob the dollars that the gringos have brought in to buy the grass and afterwards notify the soldiers at the nearest post of an accident. This is the revenge of the Indians, a rustic version of the famous "Chinese revenge."

On various occasions the Indians kidnap rather than kill the pilots after sacking the planes and robbing the money.

They force them to confess for whom they are working and who was going to buy the marihuana from them. They then contact the buyers and demand "ransom" for the captives. There are generally no deals because the traffickers do not negotiate with the Indians, and thus the gringos are found dead on some clandestine runway or path or simply disappear. This is another form of the "revenge of the Indians."

#### Runways and Loading Platforms

On board the Colombian Air Force helicopter we were able to fly over the entire Guajira Peninsula, both its mountainous region and its coastline. We wanted to see for ourselves whether everything that people were saying about La Guajira and the traffic was just exaggeration or not. In light of the magnitude of the problem, we were forced to accept the evidence. As that highlander from the Cuchilla del Mico region told us: "Look friend...We don't know how to do anything! This is the only way we can make a living." That was how he justified the growing of marihuana.

How many clandestine runways and loading platforms are there in La Guajira? Thousands. Colombian Air Force pilots say that in 1 month they could not count all of the runways and loading platforms in clandestine operation around the peninsula. "We find something new every day," one of them said.

In the Upper Guajira all of the scenes with the military are right out of the movies! They are always getting radio reports about planes that have violated Colombian air space or ships that are preparing to take on marihuana. It's enough to make your heart stop. It's startling to hear high-ranking military commanders give orders to "shoot to kill."

### Pirates Everywhere

As you draw away from the highest peaks in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and enter Guajira territory, from the helicopter you begin to pick out the clandestine runways; they are scattered over an unimaginably immense area.

From the air they look like long clearings or bare land, with branches or access roads where the planes carrying the marihuana circulate. There are runways that are in better condition than the ones that the National Government authorizes for some towns. Some are close to the ocean; others are nestled in forested or uninhabited zones. There are some in areas of underbrush and others in desert regions.

The traffickers are brazen. They have built runways almost by the sea-shore near Palomino, Mingueo, Camarones, Cari Cari, Riohacha, El Pajaro, Cabo de la Vela and Puerto Estrella. At the other end of the peninsula by the Caribbean and the Gulf of Maracaibo, the most famous and the finest runway is the one in Puerto Lopez. They are also to be found in Nazareth, Uribia and almost all of the towns in the Upper Guajira.

It was thought previously that marihuana was not grown in La Guajira, that it was just the drug's launching pad towards the Antilles and the United States. But it so happens that the largest field in the world is right in the heart of the peninsula!

The runways are visible from the sea and the coast. The pilots coming from the United States usually have their coordinates and rarely land at the wrong runway, except in the case of accidents such as common engine problems, or unless the wind blows them off course.

### Suicide Pilots

Marihuana fever makes the gringo pilots do crazy things. The clandestine runways are usually clear enough to be seen from the air. Technically, however, they are inadequate because the terrain is very irregular and steep. Nevertheless, these crazy, suicidal pilots rush after the marihuana and do not think twice about accidents or injuries. Their weapons are the dollars that they bring in suitcases. They are generally mad pilots who were involved in the war in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. They are unquestionably suicidal and cynical.

These men are so bold that they have gone so far as to land on main or rural highways. Some have tried to land at the Santa Marta and Riohacha airports when they lost their way to the clandestine landing strips.

One of the major strips is the one in El Pajaro, which is above Riohacha. It is very long and masterfully designed and constructed, seemingly by experts. It can be easily seen from the ocean.

The Puerto Lopez landing strip is a masterwork of the traffickers' ingenuity.

The traffickers arrive by sea and right by the coast they begin to taxi and slide down the runway, which is long, ending in a large taxiing area. Then, as if it were a highway, it has another return or takeoff strip, which makes for an easier getaway.

Colombian Air Force planes have detected at least 200 clandestine airfields from Puerto Lopez to Puerto Estrella.

Near El Pajaro there is a landing strip as good and as large as the one at the Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport in Barranquilla.

From there you can see three more runways, which indicates that this is a major area for clandestine air traffic.

#### The Loading Platforms

Any small bay or lonely spot along a shore can be a clandestine loading point in La Guajira. That is why people say that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of ship loading platforms 'here.

The major ones are in Palomino and Camarones, where close to 30 hideouts have been detected almost by the seashore.

The loading is almost done in bulk there. All that the traffickers do is put a wooden bridge between the truck and the boat and pass along bundles of marihuana. The depth of the waters in the Palomino area is of great help because the marihuana ships can almost get to the shore itself.

Why don't they monitor the places where frequent cargo loadings are known to be made? It is a difficult situation for the National Navy because there are very few official vessels and a good many kilometers of shoreline to watch over. The fact is, the Colombian Navy does not have enough naval units to combat the ocean-going marihuana traffic. The fleet of the marihuana dealers is much larger than the navy's, and it cannot ignore other fronts to monitor a single loading point. It is another critical situation, like the one on land and in the air. There are not enough ships, planes and land vehicles to do battle with the large fleet of the traffickers. That is the truth.

#### War to the Death

The struggle is to the death, especially here in the Upper Guajira, along these shores of white sand like the ones that Sinbad discovered in the land of the one-eyed monsters.



The struggle is unquestionably to the death, because there are orders to kill on both sides, both the army and the gangs. The traffickers seem to be better outfitted, and one of the points in their favor is the dollar, which can buy everything, even people's consciences.

#### Profits Are Greater

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 79 p 2-A

[Text] Riohacha, 17 May--At present in Colombia more marihuana is being produced than coffee. The people in the marihuana business are taking in juicy profits from the trafficking of the weed, the legalization of which has met with a categorical "no" from all sectors of the citizenry.

At the moment Colombia is faced with a tremendous economic dilemma, because its two major crops are currently marihuana and coffee, and whereas world coffee prices have been hit by sizable drops on the U.S. markets, marihuana prices have risen enormously as a result of the fierce battle by Colombian authorities to crack down on trafficking.

Incredibly enough, pressure from the army, navy and air force has helped to boost the international prices of the weed, inasmuch as traffickers feel that today the risks are greater and therefore the "cannabis sativa" should cost more.

Moreover, the country has lost its look as a coffee-grower, as the "marihuana boom" has emerged and taken over all regions to a greater or lesser extent.

Marihuana is no longer grown just in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Magdalena, Cesar and La Guajira but in Cordoba, Sucre, the Cauca Valley, Cauca and especially in the Darien region and the eastern plains as well. In other words, the entire country is currently infested with marihuana fields, and estimates are that the plantations of the weed cover more hectares today than those earmarked for coffee.

This is a critical situation that the authorities are trying to rectify via the army, navy and air force. Their efforts are enormous, and the traffic has dropped in the wake of the enactment of the Security Statute late last year.

The traffickers have lost many ships, planes, motor vehicles and large amounts of grass, but there are those who say that incalculable tons of marihuana are still being shipped to the United States because the crops are more extensive today and the yield is simply fabulous!

Nevertheless, the actions of the military forces can be described as positive, even though it is impossible to eliminate the plague for good.

Marihuana has been grown in the past in the foothills of the sierra. It is not a new business, dating from several years back. It is just that now the crackdown on the traffic is more intense, especially with the so-called Security Statute.

Despite all the restrictive measures, the marihuana business is still fabulously profitable. World prices have jumped because of the restrictions and controls on its transportation by land, sea and air.

The business is so good that as planting is curtailed in Guajira, Cesar and Magdalena, fields abound in Sucre, Cordoba, the plains, the valley and Choco in the Darien region, where traffic is more intense than in La Guajira but hard to control because of the steep terrain.

#### \$600 A Pound

The gringos pay \$600 a pound for top quality marihuana in this region. The middlemen get it from the growers at rock bottom prices, generally 1,000 or at the most 2,000 pesos. In other words, they are making more than 20,000 pesos per pound of grass.

In round numbers, if a pound of marihuana costs \$600, a ton costs \$1.2 million, which comes out to the pretty sum of 48 million Colombian pesos.

Machines compress the marihuana at hideouts and in growing areas into 40 kilo blocks, about 100 pounds. Thus, each block carries a price tag of \$60,000, or 2.4 million Colombian pesos. Thousands and thousands of these blocks are compacted every day in La Guajira, which gives us an idea of the astronomical sums that the cannabis sativa traffic involves.

The middlemen buy the blocks of marihuana from the growers for 20-25,000 pesos. They, in turn, sell to distributors and wholesalers at 30-40,000 pesos. Then the major buyers come on the scene, who purchase most of the grass to be sold to the gringos who come by air and sea to pick it up.

#### Laboratories in the Middle of the Jungle

The traffickers have laboratories at the hideouts in the middle of the jungle. They are equipped with scales, compacters, 40, 60 or 100 kilo molds, dryers, roasters or filters to separate the grass from the seeds, as well as special packaging machines. There are also nurseries to do experiments with varieties of cannabis.

#### Each Flight Brings in 24 Million Pesos

The marihuana merchants make \$600,000, or 24 million pesos, on each flight in a Piper Cub. These light planes can hold 1,000 pounds of marihuana, one-half ton, which at \$600 a pound adds up to this juicy, tempting sum.

Pilots are usually paid \$10,000, or 400,000 pesos, each. There are always two aviators per flight. Fuel and contingencies do not come to more than \$2,000, and thus each flight yields sizable net profits in the case of the Piper Cubs.

So then, you could not even put a round number on how much these individuals make when they get DC-3's DC-4's and even DC-7's, filled with marihuana, out of the country, as well as ships with grass stored in all their holds.

The most critical problem is finding out how much of this money remains in the hands of the growers, workers, cutters and laborers, who in the long run are the foundation of the business. We should note that the traffickers, especially the foreign gang leaders, have made sizable investments, because the army of laborers and growers spends money lavishly.

The people involved in this business are generally ignorant because they do not know what to do with all the money that they earn and they thus become easy to pick out because of their ostentation, excesses and exaggerations.

The leaders provide their people with modern weapons, sufficient ammunition, powerful radio-communication equipment and facilities to live well and squander money. Nonetheless, there is a social problem among the peasant farmers in the growing areas, who are the ones who really "live off the crop," in other words, work there to earn their daily sustenance. They have no livelihood other than planting marihuana or helping the growers because there are no other crops that they can work on with the same productivity as marihuana.

#### A Huge Marihuana Potential!

The amount of marihuana that could come out of the second harvest at present is so enormous that the numbers are hard to believe. For example, the 10,000 hectare field discovered by the army could yield some 30,000 tons in 5 months. If we recall that each ton is worth \$1.2 million, then 30,000 tons would carry a price tag of \$36 billion.

Since the crops are intermittent rather than continuous, the Armed Forces estimate that the surface area under cultivation is much greater. Some assert that it is more than 30,000 hectares, which would yield 90,000 tons, the value of which would be astronomical.

The Guajira Peninsula is continually assaulted by legions of traffickers who, in their hunger for marihuana, take out after the weed along the dangerous rustic runways, the unsafe loading platforms and the ominous trails. The assault is ceaseless, disgraceful.

The Guajira Peninsula is living a terrible nightmare today because of the marihuana traffic. The question that everyone is asking himself here is: "When will this sacrifice end?"



Boxes, polyethylene bags, paper and various other wrappings are used to package the "export variety" marihuana that authorities in several places around the country, but especially along the coast, confiscate almost every day.

### The Governor's Views

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 May 79 p 12-A

[Text] Riohacha, Guajira--American pilots continue to land on the clandestine runways. Ship captains point their compasses at pirate loading points. People keep cultivating marihuana, and marihuana keeps growing!

At the command of the "Rondon" Task Force Col Silva Rosero continues directing the operations to destroy the fields discovered over more than 10,000 hectares.

At the command of the "Cartagena" Infantry Battalion Colonel Patino has waking dreams of clandestine landing strips and sees planes carrying marihuana along every inch of the skies over La Guajira.

At the command of the Northern Air Group Major Cueto repeats to his pilots almost unconsciously: If those planes do not identify themselves, or follow our instructions, fire on them!

And at the Northern Naval Command the admiral acknowledges that he does not have enough coastguard cutters to watch over so many kilometers of shoreline, which the marihuana dealers use for their clandestine shipments.

While this is going on at several points on the coast, Governor Rafael Iguaran Mendoza receives us at his office with these words: "I'll grant you an interview, but please let's not talk about marihuana trafficking... It's made me bleary-eyed!"

Nevertheless, the subject of marihuana and marihuana trafficking is unavoidable in all of the country's quarters, inasmuch as American traffickers have intensified their activities in these parts to the point that they are now landing their planes on highways and on airport runways duly authorized by Civil Aeronautics. As far as the crops are concerned, they are a high priority throughout the region.

In an exclusive interview with EL TIEMPO, Iguaran Mendoza pointed out: "This entire situation has me very worried, even your presence here. Look, the problem is so big that we cannot assess its extent at the moment. Nevertheless, I feel that the Americans are to blame. They do not respect us."

### Guajira Peasant Farmers Live Off The Crop

According to Governor Rafael Iguaran Mendoza, criminal elements from the United States have corrupted the Guajira peasant farmers.

"Look, all of this indicates that our peasant farmers, who used to devote themselves to legal farming and livestock raising, have lost that calling today, and soon there will be nothing left of that great tradition, because they come from where the 'cannabis sativa' is being grown, and they have told us that they have gotten involved with the marihuana business because they have had to."

He added: "Yes, they grow the marihuana to subsist and they have been surrounded by the enticing opportunities offered by the gringos, who deserve all the blame because they have given them the wherewithal to grow the crop."

The governor went on to indicate: "We know that these foreigners are the ones who give the peasants the money to take care of the crop and who also subsidize them during the harvest until they crop is in."

#### No Friction With the Army

Iguaran Mendoza denied rumors concerned an alleged confrontation with the army or friction with the military authorities as a result of the activities pursued here to crack down on and control the traffic.

"I have only had immense concern for the fate of La Guajira," he said. "What I have done, guided by my sense of duty, what I have tried to do is preserve the National Government's good image in this region and defend our institutions."

The governor spoke at length and in generous terms about the military forces, about which he said: "I have always regarded them as our country's most significant bastion and I believe that the difficult and dangerous mission that they are charged with at the moment deserves all our support." He clarified, however, that "the action that they are undertaking at the moment is not what our constitution wished to entrust to that institution."

#### The Marihuana Has Not Benefited Guajira Peninsula

According to Governor Iguaran Mendoza, the "marihuana bonanza" has not benefited La Guajira at all.

"Look, because of its geography Guajira is a natural site for sea, land and air trafficking. The traffickers have chosen it because its terrain facilitates their activities. But the people of Guajira have received very few benefits from the 'marihuana bonanza.' I haven't seen any social project in Guajira that has come from this bonanza."

He went on to say that "the people have been hurt because the cost of living has gone up, and moreover they have lost the security and

tranquility that they used to enjoy here in the past. People have forgotten the solidarity and generosity that used to be the hallmarks of Guajira natives. Today there is a lot of shooting and a lot of murders here."

#### There Is Marihuana in Other Departments Too

Governor Iguaran Mendoza was annoyed that all of the activities to crack down on and control the marihuana traffic were being undertaken in Guajira.

"A new scandal has emerged," he said, "that has alarmed the country and the world, because the mere announcement that 10,000 hectares of marihuana have been uncovered is enough for people to realize that something very serious is involved, because people, and especially foreigners, are going to think that if there are 10,000 hectares here and that it is being grown in other departments such as Cesar, Magdalena, Sucre, on the eastern plains and in Darien as well, the country is just one big marihuana plantation and that we are headed down the road to ruination. I think that we have to remedy this situation, and energetically."

He added: "We cannot allow Colombia, which has written glorious pages in the history of the Americas, to be labeled today as solely the country where marihuana is grown. Today we are seeing that image change, an image that is the result of an illicit business that we have to confront at all costs."

#### Solutions

To Governor Iguaran Mendoza, the solution could be "to do away with the crop once and for all, destroy it during the initial months of planting to prevent it from thriving. Of course we have to look for ways that will not sterilize the soil, because I think that sooner or later we have to return to the traditional crops."

With regard to the traffickers, he said: "Most are foreigners, and it would be a good thing for the country if the consumer nations also took responsibility for the problem. If we did not have so many good offers, our peasants would lose incentive and voluntarily or perhaps unavoidably give it up and go back to the usual crops. But there are more gringos here than ever before, and even honest U.S. citizens come here now for the marihuana traffic."

#### Against Legalization

"I do not agree with Dr Ernesto Samper's proposal to try and legalize marihuana in Colombia. It would be an absurd move with fatal consequences

because the country could not aim at having a legal existence while living off of vice, crimes and the grave impact on young people, who are the hope of our country."

**The Security Statute Has Been Beneficial**

The governor of Guajira admitted that the Security Statute has been beneficial for the country. "It was very timely in La Guajira and in the rest of the country, because without it we would be buried in the gloomy abyss that we saw coming, inasmuch as many people were ready and willing to subvert the public order and do away with our democratic institutions, and once these are gone, that's the end of all our freedoms, which are the most significant bastion that democracy has given us."

He pointed out that the enforcement of the Security Statute has made possible the preservation of the life, honor and property of Colombians, who saw themselves with fewer safeguards every day because violent people had been preparing to disrupt our legal system.

**I Don't Want to Talk About Marihuana Anymore...It's Made Me Bleary-Eyed**

The governor receives a telephone call. It's someone asking him about the Houston fireman, William Spradley. Spradley is being held on charges of violating Colombian air space. Under the Security Statute he will have to pay a sizable fine or serve a number of months in jail.

"Please," he says, "I don't want to talk about marihuana anymore. It's made me bleary-eyed!"

Please, Mr Governor, one last question, we insisted. Do you think that traffickers from the United States are being dealt with very leniently under the Security Statute?

"I'm not criticizing the Security Statute," he replies. "I can only say that a heavier hand is needed against these outsiders...The real traffickers have been coddled quite a bit, and I don't think that the solution is to come down hard on our peasants and Indians, who are the ones who really live off growing the weed or taking care of the plantations, nor can exemplary punishments be justified for these poor people. But we do have to come down harder on the real traffickers, the leaders, the people who leave their country and take suicidal risks down here, violating our laws and our sovereignty; those are the elements that we have to come down harder on...That's the truth!"

8743  
CCO: 5300



COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS, COUNTERFEITING LINKED BY AUTHORITIES

Counterfeit Money, Alleged Cocaine Seized

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 18 May 79 p 1-A, 16-A

[Text] A powerful criminal organization which alternated counterfeiting of dollars with trafficking in drugs has been uncovered by F-2 agents of the Police General Staff in one of the severest blows yet dealt by authorities to organized crime.

The ring had its operation set up at 26-36 114th Street, where undercover agents found a sophisticated printing press, \$3 million in counterfeit bills of 5, 10, 50 and 100-dollar denominations, 6 kilos of cocaine and items comprising a laboratory for processing the alkaloid.

The shop had a very modern printing press, and during the F-2 raid agents found the metal sheets and plates used for the almost perfect imitation of the American currency.

Undercover agents found enough paper in the clandestine establishment to make at least another \$8 million in bills--paper which, according to experts, was imported and of such fine quality that it differs little from that used by the U.S. mint.

F-2 National Director Col Miguel Maza Marques said he was satisfied with the results of the operation, and he said that the dismantled counterfeiting ring is one of the most powerful and best organized of those discovered to date and that there is no doubt it had international connections.

Six persons were arrested during the raid on the press. They were identified as Manuel Mogollon Franco, Armando Castellanos or Nicolas Rojas Castellanos, Jorge Gonzalez Arboleda, Julio Acevedo and two brothers, Wilson Adolfo and Jorge Alberto Gonzalez.

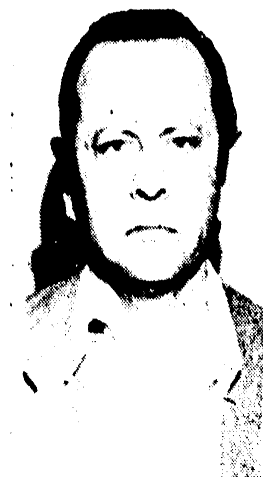
Jorge Gonzalez Arboleda, one of those arrested, was identified as being in charge of swapping the counterfeit dollars for cocaine, 6 kilos of which, as was stated before, were found on the premises, packed in polyethylene bags. It is understood that the gang's activities have been largely

responsible for articles published recently in the United States to the effect that Colombia had become one of the most active dollar-counterfeiting centers.

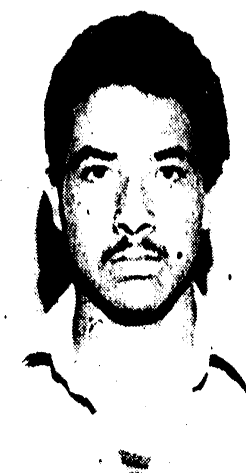
The organization had achieved great perfection in counterfeiting the bills, thanks not only to their modern printing press, but also to the high quality of the paper used, which came from outside the country and was very similar to that used in the legitimate bills.



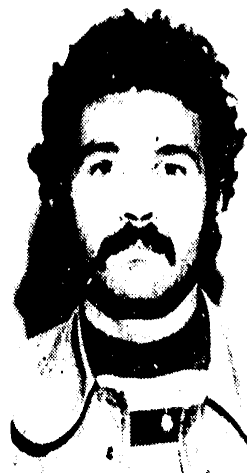
Press for printing the bogus currency, seized yesterday by the General Staff's F-2 in a Bogota residence, where they also found \$3 million in counterfeit bills and arrested six persons.



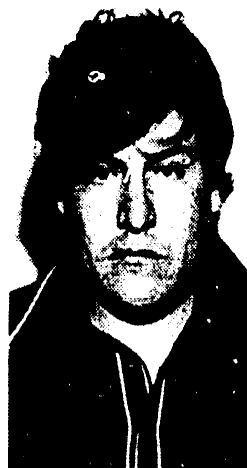
*Manuel Mogollón Franco*



*Jorge Alberto González*



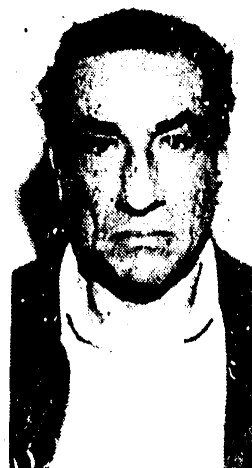
*Pedro Julio Otero A.*



*Armando Castellanos*



*Wilson Adolfo González*



*Jorge González Arboleda*

'Cocaine' Also Counterfeit

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 May 79 p 11-D

[Text] An alleged alkaloid substance confiscated last 17 May from a dollar-counterfeiting ring has proved not to be cocaine at all, but a powder resembling cornstarch.

The substance was taken from the gang, which had been discovered just as it was preparing to place in circulation more than \$3 million in currency which had been "fabricated" at a residence on the north side of the city. Six persons were arrested at that time.

While searching the residence, located at 26-36 114th Street, undercover agents found 4 kilos of powder and assumed it was cocaine which had been cut by 80 percent.

Later, while weighing and destroying the "alkaloid" at the F-2 installations, it was found that the substance was cornstarch. Assisting at the judicial inspection were the 85th judge of criminal proceedings, Carlos Nel Franky Becerra, and the attorney delegate in penal proceedings, Fernando Navas Talero.

After the powder had been examined, several hypotheses were set forth regarding the finding of the alleged alkaloid in the raided house.

One of these is that the counterfeiters may have made a "deal" with narcotics dealers, whom they paid with counterfeit bills.

It is possible that the members of the narcotics ring found out before making the deal that they were going to be stuck with the fake currency, in view of which they decided to go ahead and deliver the cornstarch instead of the alkaloid.

"They went out after wool, and they're the ones that get sheared," said an official source, commenting on the conjecture which was made during the weighing and destruction of the alleged alkaloid.

8735  
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'MOTO' JARAMILLO SEIZED, ON 'MOST-WANTED' LIST

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 May 79 p 1-A, 4-B

[Text] In spite of his relative youth--33 years--kidnaper German Jaramillo Cardona (alias "El Moto") came to be "public enemy number one" and has been at the top of the country's list of most-wanted criminals since the death of Jose Roberto Villarraga ("El Bandido"), who was cut down by F-2 agents a few weeks ago.

Although "Moto's" first criminal act to receive national publicity was his abortive attempt to kidnap industrialist David Naranjo in 1976, he already had a criminal record dating back 10 years. This stage of Jaramillo Cardona's life, however, had not demonstrated his real talent for organizing criminal gangs and spectacular raids, which he was to display in later years.

Jaramillo Cardona actually had been arrested for petty crimes. In his "life story" he appears sometimes as a "land pirate," the author of several relatively insignificant attacks along the highways of Valle, Tolima and the country's coffee zone.

This apprenticeship, however, was a very valuable experience for him in perfecting his system and encouraged him to begin to "think big" in the field of crime.

Before the abortive Naranjo kidnaping, Jaramillo Cardona had been picked up by the police for several bank robberies.

Jaramillo became famous--along with his nickname, "El Moto"--when in 1976, disguised as a motorcyclist passing through Bogota, he attempted to kidnap the aforementioned industrialist. During the attempt Jaramillo killed police agent Abelardo Monroy.

On that date, "El Moto" and three others stopped Naranjo's auto at the intersection of 17th Street and Highway 68 in the industrial section of Bogota. Officer Montoya [sic] appeared on the scene suddenly, when he realized it was a kidnaping, and there was a shootout between the police and the kidnapers. Jaramillo shot the police officer in cold blood,

killing him instantly. "El Moto" was shot in the abdomen and was forced to make a hasty escape.

Jaramillo was captured by F-2 in the waiting room of the Uribe Cualla Clinic, where he was awaiting his turn for treatment. Later he escaped from Model Prison, where he had succeeded in getting a job as an orderly in order to make his escape.

However, Jaramillo wasted no time while he was in Model Prison. From there he planned and perfected the kidnaping of Francia Ines Naranjo, daughter of David Nananjo, and the crime was carried out in 1976. During the action Jaramillo's gang murdered two F-2 agents who were acting as bodyguards for the girl.

From 1976 on there were several kidnapings and attempted kidnapings in Bogota, in many of which the famous "Moto" appeared repeatedly, and authorities say that the shadowy Jaramillo Cardona had a part in all of them. It was only in 1978, however, that there was another kidnaping directed by "El Moto." This time it was Constanza Arenas Marin, who was kidnaped by the gang on 4 March 1978. The kidnapers received a million-aire ransom for the return of their victim.

Jaramillo Cardona's latest known action concerned the case of Edna Patricia Silva Moreno, when the child was seized by the criminals on 14 November 1978 as she was entering her school north of Bogota with a younger sister. Two of the girl's bodyguards received serious bullet wounds at the hands of "El Moto's" gang. The criminals demanded and received a high ransom and returned their victim on 24 April 1979.

#### Change of Weapons

Among the "achievements" of the dangerous underworld gang is that of having forced their pursuers, the F-2, to change the weapons they had been using for other more modern and efficient ones.

Actually, since 1976 there have been more than ten confrontations between the F-2 and the criminals. On those occasions the automobiles being used by the kidnapers became veritable "sieves" from the impact of bullets from Uzi and Ingram machine guns. Even the power of these weapons was not enough to reduce the ease with which "El Moto" repeatedly eluded the hot pursuit of the detectives.

For this reason it was decided at the end of last year to use high-powered weapons, such as the M-16 made for the Vietnam war, and the hunt was on for Jaramillo.

Oddly enough, the weapons did not have to be utilized for his capture, because "El Moto" fell almost ingenuously. The undercover agents, knowing Jaramillo's attachment for his mother, brothers and children, set up an

ambush at his mother's house at the intersection of 106th Street and Highway 40, where his wife and several of his children were staying. There he was easily captured while he had both hands full carrying a heavy parcel for his family.

In spite of the mild manner he displayed during his arrest, Jaramillo had been preparing as if for a war. He was wearing a bulletproof vest and had several firearms hanging from his belt.

One of "El Moto's" secrets for having eluded the authorities so many times is his reputation as a generous man among the members of the native underworld. Jaramillo, in effect, could count on the protection of persons of questionable character, who kept him informed of the movements of the police as they moved about in search of him. Jaramillo rewarded his informants generously and thus partially had his own "secret police," which helped him in any emergencies.

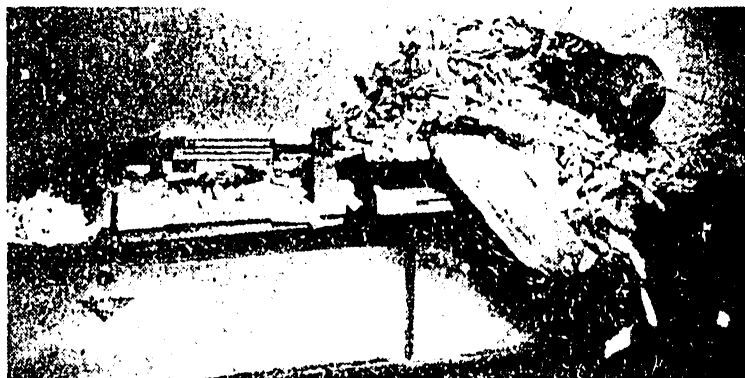
The large amount of money Jaramillo Cardona amassed in ransom for the kidnappings made it possible for him to get into the narcotics traffic with the United States. Authorities have established that he recently had been using "mules" to transport cocaine. In searching his mother-in-law's house, F-2 agents found high-precision scales, cocaine hidden in surgical gloves and six passports used in the drug traffic.



"El Moto" Germán  
Jaramillo Cardona



A series of false passports, found in possession of "Moto" Jaramillo, are witness to his activities as a narcotics peddler, which he had been carrying on for some time.



A high-precision scale and some surgical gloves, in which the cocaine was hidden, were also found in "Moto" Jaramillo's possession.

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CSO: 5300



COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS ATTEMPT TO BRIBE F-2 OFFICIAL

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 May 79 p 1, 16

[Text] Villavicencio, 16 May (Editorial Office)--F-2 agents struck a heavy blow at narcotics traffickers operating in this part of the country recently, when several agents seized 8 tons of marihuana about to be shipped overseas, three automobiles, among them a late model Ranger van, and an airplane belonging to the Urraca firm. They also arrested 15 persons, among them the crew of the plane.

The action took place in Llano Tigre, in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Puerto Rico, where a center of operations of the narcotics rings active in this country had been found. F-2 agents, led personally by the chief of the agency, also found six carbines and a large supply of ammunition for them.

The 8 tons of "grass" were being transported in the Curtis aircraft, registration HK-1856, to other countries, presumably Peru or Ecuador. The narcotics traffickers were just completing details of the plane's flight when the security agents went into action.

One of the traffickers, seeing that the security agents had left them no possibility of escape, approached Maj Rafael Santamaria, F-2 chief in Meta, and offered him 1 million pesos if he would permit the plant to take off and himself and his companions to flee. The narcotics dealer's proposal was flatly rejected by the high official, who signed a complaint of attempted bribery in one of the courts in the capital of Meta.

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COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

ANTIDRUGS PACT WITH MEXICO--Around mid-1979, Colombia and Mexico will sign an agreement designed to combat the cultivation, traffic and consumption of drugs, as the result of talks to be held from 7 to 9 June by the attorney generals of the two countries. It has been announced that the two heads of public ministries will talk in Mexico City, where they will exchange ideas regarding their governments' methods of fighting this scourge. Guillermo Gonzalez Charry, attorney general of Colombia, and his Mexican counterpart, Agustin Alanis Fuentes, will draw up the agreement and later present it to their respective foreign offices. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 May 79 p 2-A] 8735

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

NEW LAWS TO FIGHT ADDICTION STUDIED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 15 May 79 p 14-A

[Text] New laws and regulations protecting and helping children, youths and senior citizens residing in the metropolitan area will be examined by the Congress of the Union, especially in connection with the prevention, combat and cure of drug addiction and dependency.

Inasmuch as nationwide there are slightly more than 2 million persons between the ages of 6 and 69 who are drug addicts and users of narcotics, mind altering drugs, inhalants and other toxic substances, the public and private sectors must urgently redouble their efforts to prevent, combat and cure this social ill, stated German Corona del Rosal, the political delegate of Gustavo A. Madero.

For her part, Mrs Maria Eugenia "Kena" Moreno, the founder and chairwoman of the Executive Committee of Youth Integration Centers, A.C., who was with delegate Corona del Rosal at a ceremony inaugurating a Youth Integration Center in the sixth unit of San Juan de Aragon, congratulated the official and added that efforts are being carried forward nationwide to rescue children and youth from the serious problem of drug dependency and addiction.

During the ceremony Mrs Moreno stated that the new center will help to prevent drug dependency and to rehabilitate thousands of children and youths in northern Mexico City who are suffering from it.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

PJF ANNOUNCE ARRESTS, SEIZURES

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 16 May 79 p 8-A

[Text] Federal Judicial Police have arrested members of an international band of drug smugglers whose centers of operation were the states of Guerrero and Tamaulipas and who also operated in Illinois.

The investigation began when federal agents under the command of Maj Margarito Mendez Rico, apprehended Jacinto Vega Vega, Jose Merchan Hurtado and Jose Gregorio Perez Vargas.

They were traveling by car to Reynosa, Tamaulipas to collect \$31,000 from the sale of one-half kilogram of cocaine. They were detained on the Ciudad Mier-Monterrey Highway.

Later, in the city of Reynosa, Francisco Parra Vega and Juan Martinez Rodriguez were arrested, the latter a Mexican-American in charge of taking the drugs from the border to Chicago. Parra Vega stored the drug in Reynosa.

Several Groups

For its part, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic received a report accusing oil leader Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, alias "La Quina," of smuggling weapons and cartridges through Veracruz.

The charge was filed by the president and treasurer of the National Petroleum Movement, Hebraicaz Vazquez Gutierrez and Carlos Ibarra Perez, who asserted specifically that "La Quina" acquired six foreign-made high-power rifles and four boxes of cartridges.

According to unofficial reports, Federal Judicial Police agents who are very close to the oil leader were involved in the smuggling, and therefore the two men filing the charges asked that an investigation be undertaken immediately, inasmuch as it is very suspicious that 7 days after the smuggling took place, no one has found out anything.

Gen Joaquin Figueroa Luna, the assistant director of the Federal Judicial Police, told the media that pertinent investigations have also begun in the states of Tampico and Veracruz, since it is not certain that the aforementioned contraband went through Veracruz.

Meanwhile, in a dual blow to drug smuggling, six persons were arrested with cocaine, marihuana and high-power weapons, and news spread from the Hidalgo, Texas customhouse that a sizable shipment of coffee smuggled from Mexico had been seized, but no official agreed to release the information.

In connection with the first case, involving 80 grams of cocaine, according to Regino Vargas, an agent with the Public Ministry, it was a sample that Emilio Santana Rodriguez and Vicente Espindola were bringing from Mexico City to show here to Apolinar Alvarado and Santos Vaez, from whom the Federal Judicial Police, under the command of Benito Estrada, seized two 45-caliber submachine guns.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DRUG TRAFFIC CONVICTIONS DOWN 40 PERCENT

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 24 May 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] The remands and convictions for drug trafficking have declined 40 percent in comparison with past years, but there has been an increase in the demands for protection of civil rights and other types of activities related to the district court; which means that the work done in that office has not been reduced.

The foregoing statement was made by Alejo Sierra Gomez, the district judge, to EL SOL DE SINALOA. He remarked that the penal section has been able to devote more time to the cases which have been postponed and which are gradually being settled, since the court has not received so many cases involving crimes against health.

He added that, with respect to volume and comparing the activity which took place until May of last year (the date on which he took charge of the court), there has been a rather great increase in all areas; and that, owing to the good disposition of the personnel working in the department, it has been possible to standardize the work without causing delays which result in problems in administering justice.

Sierra Gomez claimed: "There has been no letdown in the work here; on the contrary, it is constantly increasing, despite the fact that we have a reasonable margin for reviewing the cases which have accumulated over a period of time, and which were not speeded up because of the lack of interest among the petitioners. And now those incarcerated who are awaiting sentence are justifiably demanding decisions."

The district judge concluded by saying: "Therefore, I am trying to set an example for all the personnel working with me in the court, in an attempt to preclude comments indicating intransigence on my part and ineffectiveness in my work."

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

SIXTEEN KILOGRAMS OF PURE HEROIN SEIZED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 May 79 p 30-A

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] Sixteen kilograms of pure heroin (which chemical processing would have sextupled in amount) valued at more than 100 million pesos were seized by agents of the Federal Judicial Police in the wake of an investigation that culminated in the arrest of two persons.

The coordinator of the anti-drug smuggling drive in Tijuana, Lower California, Carlos Aguilar Garza, and Maj Clemente Moreno, confiscated the drug at the U.S. border from Ana Maria Lopez Melgarejo and Javier Guizar Villanueva as they were about to negotiate the sale of 16 kilos of heroin.

The officials had learned previously that meetings were being held at La Mesa Prison in Tijuana to establish contacts and make deals for drug shipments to the United States.

After keeping the La Mesa jail under surveillance for a week, the federal agents observed that Ana Maria Lopez Melgarejo and Javier Guizar Villanueva were seeing inmate Francisco Joaquin de Leyva, who is serving a sentence for crimes against health, outside of visiting hours and with the authorization of prison directors.

They kept on their trail and finally arrested them yesterday in possession of 16 kilos of heroin.

In their statement to the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, the persons arrested indicated that the drug is the property of Joaquin de Leyva and that they were only the "runners" to transport it.

Federal Judicial Police stationed in Tijuana are also investigating the authorities at the La Mesa Prison, inasmuch as they were aiding the drug smuggler.

In addition, police have names and important information to break up a well organized gang operating in several Central and South American countries as well as in the United States.

It has already been shown that operations were carried out from inside the prison and that prison authorities were aware of this.

8743  
CSO: 5300



MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS OPERATING IN TIJUANA JAIL

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 15 May 79 p 8

[Text] Mexico City, 14 May--Over 100 million pesos' worth of heroin was confiscated by the Federal Judicial Police following a careful investigation conducted by the coordinator of the campaign against drug trafficking detailed to Tijuana, Baja California, Carlos Aguilar Garza. An international ring was also captured.

Ana Maria Lopez Melgarejo and Javier Guizar Villanueva are the two individuals who were arrested by Federal Judicial Police Comdr Clemente Moreno, who, in collaboration with his agents, carried out strict surveillance at the La Mesa jail, after it was learned that this prison was the site of the contacts and transactions being made for the purchase and sale of drugs.

After following the trail of the two arrested persons for a week, they learned that 16 kilograms of pure heroin which, if chemically treated, would have weighed up to six times more, were to be sold on the United States border.

When those arrested in connection with the incidents under investigation were questioned, it was discovered that the heads of the jail were implicated, because they were allowing visitors to enter and leave after hours, knowing that they were meeting with persons jailed for crimes against health.

Comdr Clemente Moreno received orders from the deputy director of the Federal Judicial Police, Gen Joaquin Figueroa Luna, to intensify the probe to its final consequences, regardless of the political ties that the head of that jail might have in the state.

Therefore, after the statements made by those in custody to the Federal Public Ministry, Francisco Joaquin de Leyva was ordered to appear. He is an inmate of the La Mesa jail who was identified as the owner of the drugs.

Moreover, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic announced that, during the past 24 hours, 26 persons have been arrested on charges of trafficking in marihuana, cocaine, toxic pills, weapons and vehicles, in 13 different parts of the country.

Included among the drugs confiscated were 870 kilograms of marihuana, 570 grams of cocaine, 500 marihuana cigarettes, 50 joints of the same drug, 200 toxic pills and other smaller quantities of drugs.

The action of the Federal Judicial Police took place in the states of Oaxaca, Tamaulipas, Sinaloa, Zacatecas, Michoacan and Baja California, as well as elsewhere.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

CAPTURED HEROIN TRAFFICKERS DENY CHARGES IN COURT

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 26 May 79 Sec A p 3

[Text] Ten individuals against whom charges were brought for drug trafficking appeared yesterday before the district judges and, as might have been expected, denied the activities and claimed to have been victims of the Federal Judicial Police.

The series of investigations was aired yesterday morning in the second and third district courts, in proceedings which lasted for several hours.

In the second district court, Luis Garcia Romero took the preliminary statements of Jacinto Vega Vega, Juan Rodriguez Martinez, Francisco Parra Vega, Mauricio Everardo Leal Barberi, Jose Marchan Hurtado and Jose Gregorio Velez Vargas, who declared themselves innocent of the charges brought against them. Their legal status will be decided upon today.

These persons were captured in the middle of this month by federal agents, after the first of them was arrested for having a small amount of marihuana in his possession. Upon being questioned, he confessed that, at a site called "Barranca de Agua Fria," in Chilpancingo, Guerrero, he had a laboratory in which he manufactured heroin, which was later sent to the Mexican border to be exported to the United States.

The other three made their statements in the third district court; they are: Mario Fernando Lee Lopez, Javier Antonio Sanchez Hernandez and Maria Guadalupe Gaona Esparza.

The first two were arrested by the federal police on the highway to Agualeguas, Nuevo Leon, and, upon being questioned, stated that they had some hashish in Sultana del Norte, where the federal agents went and seized 6 kilograms of that drug. Lee Lopez and Sanchez Hernandez, as well as Maria Guadalupe, claimed to be innocent of the charges brought against them, and today their legal status will be determined on the basis of the evidence supplied by the federal authorities.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

HEROIN, HASHISH TRAFFICKERS OFFICIALLY JAILED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 28 May 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] Five of the six individuals against whom action was initiated in the second district court for their connections with the drug traffic were declared officially imprisoned as persons presumed guilty of committing a crime against health in the various degrees.

Mauricio Everardo Leal Barberi, who was cited in the same case, was released for lack of evidence for bringing him to trial.

The others, namely, Jacinto Vega Vega, Juan Rodriguez Martinez, Francisco Parra Vega, Jose Marchan Hurtado and Jose Gregorio Velez Vargas, have now been officially jailed.

They were all captured a few days ago by the Federal Judicial Police, because they were engaged in heroin and cocaine trafficking. Jacinto Vega Vega was identified as the ringleader of the group. He had a large shipment of heroin and opium gum in his residence, located in Chilpancingo, Guerrero, and on a farm which he owned located in Barranca de Agua Fria, in the same state.

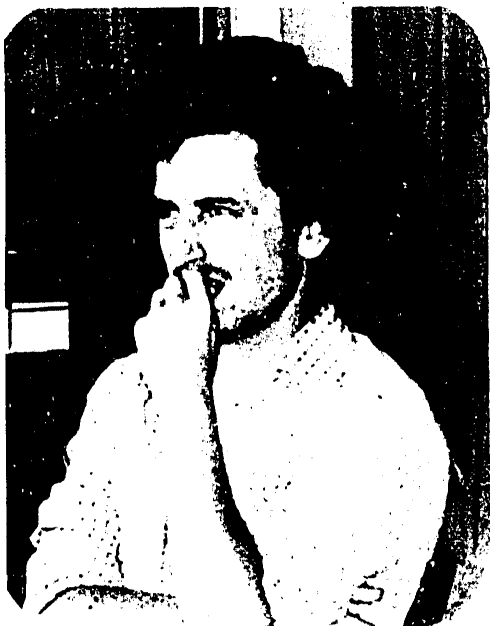
Officially Jailed

Moreover, the third district court issued an order for the official imprisonment of Mario Fernando Lee Lopez and Maria Guadalupe Gaona Esparza, as individuals presumed guilty of committing a crime against health.

Javier Antonio Sanchez Hernandez was cited in this case, but was released because there was not sufficient evidence with which to try him.



Maria Guadalupe Gaona Esparza was declared officially jailed as an individual presumed guilty of committing a crime against health. Her case was heard in the third district court.



Mario Fernando Lee Lopez is still incarcerated in the Social Rehabilitation Center, because the third district judge declared him officially jailed. He is accused of hashish possession and trafficking.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

FOUR HEROIN TRAFFICKERS HELD FOR TRIAL

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 28 May 79 p 5

[Text] Today, four presumed drug traffickers will be placed at the disposal of the district judge by the agent of the Federal Public Ministry who, after having made the pertinent preliminary investigation and on the basis of the report issued by the Federal Judicial Police, deemed it fitting for these individuals to be tried for a crime against health in the degree of drug purchasing and sale.

They are Carlos Fregoso Espinoza, Alejandro Nogales Juarez, Dr Francisco Molina Ochoa and Rafael Salomon Campas, who were operating in Sinaloa and Sonora, purchasing drugs to be sold to an American.

The discovery and capture resulted from the fact that when members of the police force were making their regular inspection tour, they noticed an orange Datsun car with United States license plates parked on the southbound lane of the International Highway, and that its occupants, Fregoso Espinoza and Nogales Juarez, assumed a suspicious attitude while watching the cars moving in both directions.

They immediately identified themselves and asked those individuals to do the same, promptly searching the vehicle. Suddenly, concealed under the back seat of the car, they found a hypodermic syringe, a hot-plate of the type used to heat heroin and a bag containing traces of a substance which appeared to be heroin.

Upon making the discovery, the agents arrested the aforementioned persons, who claimed in their statements to have come from San Luis-Rio Colorado, Sonora, where Dr Molina Ochoa gave them 90,000 pesos for going to Guasave, Sinaloa, and searching there for an individual named Rafael Salomon Campas, who was the manager of the La Central bar.

Obedying the instructions of Dr Molina Ochoa, who also gave them money for traveling expenses and food, the two men reached the town in question, where they immediately contacted the aforementioned person. The latter promptly gave them an ounce of the drug in exchange for 34,000 pesos, a transaction

which was carried out on 20 May, and told them that he would be able to give them the same amount of heroin 10 days later.

They agreed to return on the date indicated, and concealed their recent purchase in the car's air conditioning duct, awaiting the established time. But, upon being captured, they gave the federal agents a plastic bag which they removed from the place in question, containing 26 grams of heroin, and it was confiscated as evidence of the crime.

After having obtained confessions from both individuals, the Federal Judicial Police decided to pursue the investigation, and thereby succeeded in arresting Dr Molina Ochoa and Salomon Campas, also seizing a 1975 blue Chevrolet truck with red and blue markings and license plates TV-2521, serial No 3003HEM-101916, which the dealer used to ship the drugs.

The implements listed initially were used by Fregoso Espinoza to test the quality of the "product," and he had sufficient experience with this, since he is a heroin addict.

Also confiscated and turned over to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry was the sum of \$45,000, which the criminals had left over to make the second purchase, as well as check No 19141, for \$192.65, and \$9,980 in cash, which was part of the money for expenses given to those charged with the purchase and sale of the drugs.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKER CONFESSES, RECEIVES JAIL SENTENCE

Drugs Stolen

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 7 Jun 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] In making a preliminary statement to the third district judge, the presumed drug trafficker Agustin Duran Reyes confirmed the charges brought against him.

Upon being interrogated by the authorized personnel of that court, Agustin admitted that he had a small amount of marihuana at his residence, and said that he had sold 2 ounces of heroin.

The individual in question was captured on 25 May by the Federal Judicial Police, since it was known that he had sold 2 ounces of heroin to Guillermo Guajardo, who was promptly arrested by the United States authorities.

As for the origin of the heroin that he had sold, Duran Reyes said that he had stolen it from a larger quantity in the possession of someone named Ramon, who was captured about 2 months ago for drug trafficking.

Official Sentence Imposed

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 9 Jun 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] An order for official imprisonment was issued by the third district judge against Agustin Duran Reyes, as an individual presumed guilty of committing a crime against health in the degrees of marihuana possession and possession, trafficking and exporting of heroin.

The incriminating evidence submitted by the Federal Public Ministry was sufficient for the judge to order preventive incarceration of the accused, against whom penal case No 139-979 was initiated.

On 25 May, Federal Judicial Police agents captured Agustin Duran Reyes here, because he was known to have sold 2 ounces of heroin to someone named Guillermo Guajardo who, when questioned by U.S. authorities, said that he had bought the drugs from the aforementioned individual for the first time.



As for Duran Reyes, he admitted that he had carried out the transaction, and explained that he had stolen the "powder" from a larger quantity which had been turned over to him by a person who is currently imprisoned in Tampico.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TRAFFICKER ADMITS SELLING HEROIN IN UNITED STATES

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 27 May 79 Sec D p 4

[Text] An individual who was a member of a ring of drug traffickers which was broken up some time ago in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas, has finally fallen into the hands of the Federal Judicial Police.

He is Agustin Duran Reyes, who was arrested last Friday at his residence, located at No 6254 Venustiano Carranza Street, in the Hipodromo development. He had a very small amount of marihuana in his possession.

Duran Reyes was promptly identified as one of the members of a ring which was disbanded months ago by the Federal Judicial Police in Ciudad Mier.

The forces headed by Margarito Mendez Rico and Mario Aragon Zambrano announced that the agents had learned that Agustin Duran Reyes was engaged in drug trafficking, and they arrested him.

When in the custody of the Federal Judicial Police, this individual confessed that he had sold 2 ounces of heroin in the United States a few weeks ago.



Agustin Duran Reyes belonged to a ring operating in Ciudad Mier which was disbanded by the Federal Police some time ago. They arrested him on Friday because he had a small amount of marihuana in his possession.

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MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKER CAPTURED, ACCOMPLICE ESCAPES

Ciudad Juarez LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 15 May 79 Sec B p 16

[Text] Mexicali--Francisco Bejarano Perez, aged 22, was captured by Federal Judicial Police agents while enroute to this town from Sinaloa, and 252 grams of heroin were confiscated from him.

Francisco's accomplice, a relative of his who was to give him \$1,000 for bringing the drugs to him, managed to escape.

A few days ago, agents from that entity were detailed to the Sonora-Baja California railroad terminal to make a routine check on passengers arriving from the interior section of the country.

They observed Francisco Bejarano acting suspiciously, and decided to question him. At first, they thought that he was under the influence of some drug, and then they discovered that he was only very drunk.

Upon searching him, they found two packages containing heroin in his boots, one weighing 146 grams and the other 106 grams.

It was not until the next day, when he had recovered from the effects of the alcohol, that he could make a statement to the Federal Judicial Police.

The individual in custody is from El Rincon de los Monzon, in Badiraguato, near Guamuchil, Sinaloa.

That was where he met his relative, Alejandrino Vega Salazar, who offered him \$1,000 in payment if he brought him the two packages of drugs.

He said that the same Alejandrino had left him at the railroad station, from which he departed at nearly midnight for Baja California.

They were to meet upon his arrival at the house of Oralia Bejarano Perez, Francisco's sister, who lives at 239 Lazaro Cardenas Avenue, in Ciudad Morelos.

There, Francisco was to turn over the drugs to Alejandrino, and the latter was to pay him the \$1,000 which had been promised.

When the State Judicial Police learned about the manner in which the drugs were to be delivered, they attempted to capture Alejandrino Vega Salazar, but they did not succeed, because the latter, upon noticing that his relative did not arrive on time, must have realized that something had gone wrong, and fled from this area.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

COCAINE, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN NORTH

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 May 79 p 29-A

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Consuelo L. De Avalos]

[Text] Tijuana, Lower California, 16 May--Three kilos of pure heroin, valued at an estimated 35 million pesos, another kilo of cocaine, valued at 20 million pesos, and 30 kilos of marihuana were confiscated today by the Federal Judicial Police in this city, in Tecate and at the local international airport. Five persons were arrested, and other drug traffickers are expected to be captured over the next few hours.

It was officially reported that the first 3 kilograms of heroin were seized from Jose Carlos Peniche, who upon realizing that he was being pursued after crossing the border in a station wagon with superimposed license plates, abandoned it in the Del Prado District with the cargo.

Documents and equipment were also found in the vehicle. Police were thus able to determine his identity and expect to capture him within a few hours.

The kilogram of pure cocaine was confiscated from five drug smugglers who were staying at the Hacienda Hotel in Tecate. Their names were not disclosed so as not to hamper the investigation.

The five persons arrested in Tecate are apparently members of a gang, and their accomplices will soon be captured as well.

In conclusion, the headquarters of the Federal Judicial Police said that at the local airport a sleuthhound located a suitcase containing 30 kilos of marihuana and bearing the name Jose Banuelos.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

PILL TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED IN REYNOSA

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 May 79 Sec B p 3

[Text] A well organized ring of traffickers dealing in psychotropic substances was detected and disbanded by Federal Judicial Police agents under orders from that force's group chief, Mr Mario Aragon Zambrano, who succeeded in capturing four members of the ring, from whom 28,000 toxic pills were confiscated.

The successful investigation took place in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, where the agents, headed by Aragon Zambrano, went on Monday afternoon.

Those under arrest are Elias Garza Alvarez, his wife Laura Elena Yopez de Garza, Luis Serna Gutierrez and Rogelio Homero Rendon Trevino.

The Federal Judicial Police learned that a major transaction involving the purchase and sale of toxic pills was going to take place in Reynosa, whereupon several agents were assigned to open the investigation.

The first ones to be caught were Elias Garza Alvarez and Laura Elena Yopez de Garza, who had concealed in their residence a cardboard box containing a total of 5,000 "Qualude" pills, which are considered to be psychotropic.

Pursuing the investigation, the agents found out that the one who was supplying Elias and his wife with pills was an individual named Luis Serna Gutierrez, who was subsequently captured.

Serna Gutierrez had a huge cardboard box in his residence containing a total of 23,000 of the same type of psychotropic pills.

Later, Rogelio Homero Rendon Trevino was apprehended, since he was in partnership with Serna Gutierrez.

All of these individuals confessed their illegal activities, and hence they will be remanded to the pertinent district court at the proper time.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

PILL TRAFFICKERS JAILED, LABORATORY SOUGHT

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 1 Jun 79 Sec C p 7

[Text] The third district judge, Andres Cruz Martinez, decided to take penal action against two individuals who were trafficking in toxic pills in the town of Reynosa, Tamaulipas.

At the expiration of the constitutional period established by law, Cruz Martinez took steps to hand down his decision in proceedings 133/979, initiated against Luis Serna Gutierrez and Elias Garza Alvarez, who were accused of being guilty of committing a crime against health in the degree of possession and trafficking of toxic pills; and, since sufficient evidence was found to take penal action against them, he declared them officially imprisoned.

These two individuals were captured by the Federal Judicial Police, together with Laura Elena Yepez de Garza, after it was learned that Elias Garza Alvarez was trafficking in "psychotropics."

Elias and his wife, Laura Elena, were arrested at the San Carlos Hotel in Reynosa; and, in a 1973 Plymouth which they were driving, the federal agents discovered 5,000 toxic pills which Garza Alvarez had purchased for \$3,000 from Luis Serna Gutierrez. The latter was subsequently captured, and was found to have 20,000 "Qualude" pills in his possession.

Luis Serna admitted that he had purchased the 20,000 pills from an individual named Juan Cantu, who was killed in a traffic accident some months ago, and that he had paid 150,000 pesos for them.

The Federal Judicial Police are still working on this case, in order to locate the clandestine laboratory in which they "psychotropics" are being manufactured. They were distributed on the border between Tamaulipas and the United States by the aforementioned individuals.

Yesterday, Serna Gutierrez and Garza Alvarez were notified of the official imprisonment which had been imposed on them.

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CSO: 5330

MEXICO

GARZA: 85 PERCENT OF MARIHUANA PLANTATIONS DESTROYED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 8 May 79 p 8-A

[Text] Base El Zorrillo, Guadalupe y Calvo, Chihuahua--The ongoing campaign against drug cultivation and smuggling that the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is conducting in coordination with the Secretariat of National Defense has destroyed 85 percent of the marihuana and poppy plantations in the country's main drug cultivation area, which covers 44,000 square kilometers in the state of Sinaloa and part of Chihuahua and Durango.

Lopez Garza, the coordinator of the campaign in the zone comprising part of the aforementioned states, disclosed this during a demonstration for newsmen at the site of Campaign Condor's most intensive efforts to destroy these plantations. Also present were Antonio Quezada Fornelli, an agent of the Federal Public Ministry, and Hector del Castillo, the coordinator of the campaign in Chihuahua.

This campaign, which costs a million pesos a day in Zone 06 alone, thanks to an international agreement to provide ongoing financing, has succeeded in establishing the best airborne arsenal in Latin America, which includes 50 aeronautical technicians, 30 helicopters and close to 100 planes. Moreover, Mexico is the only country in the world that fumigates marihuana and poppy plantations from helicopters, which makes operations more effective.

In addition, 2,000 National Army troops are assigned exclusively to Operation Condor, which our state is involved in, and together with Federal Judicial Police agents, they provide a land-based complement to airborne fumigation of plantations.

This ongoing campaign against drug cultivation and smuggling was undertaken about 16 years ago in coordination with the Mexican Army. Operation Condor was begun in 1977, with 13 coordinating centers set up throughout the country.



The main coordinating centers, such as Zone 06, record a daily "clinical history" of each sector into which the zone is divided and report on plantations that have been detected, flight hours, etc. In addition, a Reconnaissance and Verification Unit (URVE) has been created in order to monitor the already fumigated plantations and the sites at which there has been a recurrence of drug cultivation.

This zone is in charge of the men and equipment that fly over, fumigate and monitor 87 percent of the nation's territory and that for this purpose have 75 percent of the air fleet of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

The activities of the campaign also include the uncovering of underground laboratories which, although crude, process the heroin with the juice extracted from the poppy bulb. These activities have succeeded in reducing the purity of the heroin, although logically, the price of the drug on the black market has risen to an astronomical level.

For example, 85 grams of pure heroin are processed from a kilogram of juice extracted from the poppy. Previously, heroin purity was 1.8 percent, and now it is 2.4 percent, which indicates that the constant persecution that they are subjected to has forced drug traffickers to process a more impure drug.

#### Worldwide Recognition

This campaign has now achieved recognition from other countries, which have even sent personnel here to receive instruction on working procedures for destroying plantations, inasmuch as the efforts of authorities to tackle the problem of drug smuggling should logically focus on primary objectives. Therefore, the Technical Institute of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, which is in charge of developing the office's manpower, has designed specific courses on academic and physical instruction for personnel assigned to the anti-drug program.

The Technical Institute also collaborates in the program to train dogs to sniff out drugs. The Federal Judicial Police utilize these animals as an effective tool to inspect previously determined crossing points and make sure that drugs are in the possession of suspected carriers.

The effective participation of the National Army has lent greater stability to the ongoing anti-drug program.

To culminate their efforts against drugs, authorities set fire to the confiscated narcotics as a symbol of the energy that ought to be devoted to saving mankind from the underground onslaught of drug smuggling.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA BEING SHIPPED WITH PEMEX, CFE EQUIPMENT

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 22 May 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] EL DIARIO was notified by unofficial sources in the Federal Judicial Police that large amounts of marihuana are being carried with the equipment and heavy machinery arriving from the interior section of the country for the activities of the PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] and CFE [Federal Electricity Commission] companies.

It was established that this is one of the most dangerous operations that have been carried out, and that it is at all times guarded by a large number of workers from these decentralized, paragovernmental companies.

The shipment is said to have been seized a few months ago, at one of the Carboelectrica housing construction units; but the situation is still dangerous, because it has proven impossible to control or eliminate the problem.

The marihuana traffic in the interior part of the country, extending to the border, is a problem which has been noted; but there is the obstacle that it is an illegal business which is protected by people who are implicated in the problem.

A series of stake-outs and investigations of a very intensive nature has been conducted, and full-time guards and searches have even been established; but no major results have been achieved thus far. The marihuana is still arriving in those vehicles, which are driven sporadically to the border from the interior section of the country, to the sites of the work being done on exploration for natural gas and oil, as well as that of the Federal Electricity and Mines Commission.

The problem has been treated with the appropriate seriousness, but there has been a series of obstacles, as well as the systematic interference by individuals who have made it impossible to conduct the investigation in the necessary manner, which is direct, with greater intervention in detecting the problem at the proper time, and attaching suitable importance to it.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER GIVEN 6-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 15 May 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Federal Judge Eduardo Aguilar issued and signed the sentence for Alvaro Perez Morales, who was accused of a crime against health in the degree of transportation and possession of marihuana, imposing on him a 6-year jail term and a fine of 10,000 pesos.

This information was given to the newspaper EL DIARIO yesterday, and it was added that Perez Morales had been arrested by the Federal Judicial Police forces in March 1974. He had 1,067 kilograms of marihuana on his farm, called "San Fernando," in the municipality of Nava, which he had brought from Guadalajara, Jalisco. He remained in custody in the municipal prison for 8 months, and subsequently escaped. He was recaptured in October 1978.

In the statement which he made to the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Perez Morales confessed that he had purchased and shipped the marihuana from Guadalajara, and confirmed the statement made to the Federal Judicial Police.

The report prepared by the Federal Judicial Police states that he was caught with the 1,067.5 kilograms spread out on the ground to dry in the sun.

The report and Perez Morales' statement claim that he shipped the marihuana in an ingenious manner, in a truck, with the marihuana covered with a tarpaulin in the bottom and a load of alfalfa on top. But the marihuana had become wet on the road, and that is why he decided to spread it out in the sun for rapid drying.

At first, he claimed in his preliminary statement that he had been hired as a driver to ship the marihuana to his farm, and that he later learned that there were packages of cannabis in the load, which were wet; and so he decided to spread them out to dry. This statement was rather stupid and childish, and was not believed, but even served to implicate him further. He explained some situations which were still unclear, and which were used to hold him, providing further evidence of his guilt.

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MEXICO

## BRIEFS

DRUGS, TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Mexico City, 7 May--The Federal Judicial Police captured 21 drug traffickers, and confiscated from them 2 tons of marihuana, 1.5 kilograms of heroin and several vehicles, all valued in excess of 20 million pesos. These criminals were captured in this capital, and in Saltillo, Reynosa, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Tijuana, San Luis-Rio Colorado, Sonora, Hermosillo, Durango, Nogales, Obregon and the municipality of Badiraguato, Sinaloa. The names of those accused are: the U.S. citizen Camille V. Anderson, and Alfonso Cruz, Fernando Ramos, Avelino Padilla, Noe Cruz, Aurora Tolentino, Lucina Cobos, Alberto and Alejandro Marin, Placido Espinosa, Maria Gallardo, Jose Cruz, Heriberto Esparza, Emilio Lopez, Gildardo Celaya, Aurelio Nunez, Domingo Ortiz, Hector Valencia, Javier Mendoza and Gildardo Martinez. This work was done by the federal police, who also seized 330 grams of opium gum, a small airplane, a truck, two automobiles and a 38 caliber special pistol. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 8 May 79 p 4] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Forces from the Federal Judicial Police assigned here in Nogales dealt another heavy blow to the drug traffic when they seized a large amount of heroin and arrested two notorious drug traffickers from the town who had been using 5 de Febrero Street as a site for dealing in the drugs. The foregoing announcement was made to DIARIO last night by Comdr Jesus Gerardo, who led the action taken by several federal agents to arrest the drug traffickers Domingo Ortiz Macias and Hector Valencia Reynosa, individuals who are very well known in the underworld. It was also reported that the pair in custody are closely linked with another likewise notorious trafficker in the town, who is also being sought by the same police forces. Yesterday, the prisoners were turned over to the agent of the Federal Public Ministry in this town, Humberto Garcia de Alba, to whom they will make their statement today. With this blow, the Federal Judicial Police have added another victory to their untiring battle against drug trafficking. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 8 May 79 p 4] 2909

WARDEN SOLD CONFISCATED DRUGS--Tijuana, Baja California, 8 May--Dr Emilio Rodriguez Ibarra, warden of the local health center, was arrested today by Federal Judicial Police agents in his own office, as he was turning over a sample of 100 grams of pure cocaine, intending to sell 4 kilogram later to Marcos Gastelum Roman, a drug trafficker from Los Angeles, California.

Carlos Aguilar Garza, coordinator of the anti-drug campaign in the northwest, made the foregoing announcement today, adding that Dr Ibarra, who is very well known in professional circles and high society, confessed that he had been selling drugs for a year to a ring of Los Angeles drug traffickers, charging them \$40,000, nearly 1 million pesos, per kilogram. The coordinator explained that the drugs which Dr Ibarra had been selling were stored at the health center in his custody, at the order of the penal judges who tried the drug traffickers. Aguilar Garza added that, since there was seldom an official check of the confiscated drugs, Dr Ibarra removed 35 percent of the drugs assigned to his custody, and was selling them to drug traffickers. The official claimed that, in this way, he had amassed a fortune of over 30 million pesos in less than a year. Arrested with Dr Ibarra by the federal agents were Jose Guadalupe de Leon Acuna and Marcos Gastelum Roman, who admitted: "We were the contacts for the sale of the drugs, and we shared the profits equally with Dr Ibarra." [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 9 May 79 p 4] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Yesterday, three federal criminals whom the Federal Judicial Police captured upon discovering that they were engaged in illegal drug trafficking were sentenced by the third district judge. They are Luis Quirino Gamon Torres, Inocencio Gonzalez Rodriguez and Rodolfo Lopez Arredondo, who were found completely guilty of the commission of a crime against health in the degree of heroin possession and trafficking. The first two will serve similar sentences of 6 years' imprisonment, and will pay a fine of 6,000 pesos apiece; and the third was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment and a fine of 7,000 pesos. Federal agents detailed to Reynosa made a stake-out at the "Rex" hairdressing establishment in that town, because there was a tip that a heroin purchase and sale transaction was to be carried out there. The first to be arrested was Luis Quirino, who turned over three polyethylene bags containing a total of 3 ounces of heroin, which had been delivered to him by Rodolfo Lopez Arredondo. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 May 79 Sec B p 3] 2909

TRAFFICKERS SOLD FAKE COCAINE--Mexico City, 4 May--Three of the leading Mexican drug traffickers were swindled when they were sold "a cat for a rabbit," believing that they were purchasing cocaine for several million pesos, whereas they were given a white powder which was neither a drug nor glazed sugar. Tomas Reyes Caceres, Manuel Arellano Loera and Hector Fisk were arrested by the Federal Judicial Police while they were attempting to travel from Mazatlan, Sinaloa, to the United States, with what they thought was drugs. When it was analyzed, the white powder turned out to be "buckshot," and the drug traffickers had to be released, but not before they had confessed who sold them the fake cocaine. It was dealers Francisco and Pedro Reyes Padilla, notorious drug suppliers among the country's leading traffickers, who swindled their Sinaloan "colleagues," and hence it is expected that the latter three will take revenge on the swindlers. As everyone knows, the Mafia does not forgive, and in the drug trafficking underworld treachery is paid for with one's life. Therefore, the authorities are keeping a close watch on

the activities of Caceres, Arellano and Fisk, who will almost certainly order the execution of those who dared to trick them. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 5 May 79 p 4] 2909

CHILDREN USED FOR SMUGGLING--Mexico City, 28 May--A new way of bringing drugs into Mexican jails has been discovered, of the Papillon type, but using children. The foregoing report was made when the guards at the eastern prison discovered that heroin was being concealed in the rectum of several children related to the inmates, and was later distributed in the jail. During recent months, about 70 instances of individuals who were caught while removing some tiny plastic bags containing drugs from the anus of the children, have been discovered. This ingenious system has prompted the General Directorate of Prisons to use more effective new guard systems, which will make it possible to put a stop to the flow of drugs circulating in the capital's jails. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 5 May 79 p 4] 2909

ATTEMPTED DRUG SMUGGLING THWARTED--The U.S. citizen John Joseph Lambuth was carrying a shipment of psychotropic substances bound for Houston Texas, carefully concealed in the trunk of a luxurious late-model Buick; but he was captured in time by the Federal Judicial Police. The agency of the Federal Public Ministry reported that, on Tuesday night, several federal agents who were detailed to Matamoros, Tamaulipas, set up an inspection post along the highway from San Fernando to Victoria. About midnight, the agents stopped a 1979 Buick with Texas license plates THP-574, driven by John Joseph Lambuth. The trunk of the vehicle was carefully searched, and the federal agents discovered a false bottom, in which there was a large amount of plastic "strips," covering toxic pills. There were 1,500 units of what were considered to be psychotropic pills, in all. Joseph stated that he had purchased the pills in the southern part of the country, and intended to sell them in Houston, Texas; because this was his activity for earning a living. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 24 May 79 Sec B p 3] 2909

TRAFFICKERS RELEASED--The notorious drug trafficker, Francisco Juarez Melendez, who has been incarcerated since 20 May 1975 in the Social Rehabilitation Center, serving a 6-year jail sentence, recovered his liberty yesterday upon completing his sentence after it had been reduced to 720 days' imprisonment. By virtue of official letter No 20306, signed by Marcial Flores Reyes, deputy director of the Directorate of Coordinated Prevention and Social Rehabilitation Serices, the warden of the local jail was ordered to release the inmate immediately. Hortencia Gloria Martinez, who is also known as Veronica Gonzalez Martinez, went free yesterday (she was confined in the Social Rehabilitation Center) at the order of the third district judge, since she paid the bail imposed on her by the court. She had been officially jailed as an individual presumed guilty of committing a crime against health in the degree of attempted marihuana and heroin trafficking. Hortencia was arrested last November, along with RoJolfo Cortes, alias "El Opi." [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 May 79 Sec B p 3] 2909

POLICE PROTECTING TRAFFICKERS HELD--Mexico City, 22 May--The Federal Judicial Police remanded two judicial police officers from Jalisco who were protecting drug traffickers, and who also provided clues leading to the confiscation of 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, valued at half a million dollars. Today, the commander-in-chief of the Federal Police, Gen Raul Mendiola, stated that this operation was carried out after the arrest of drug trafficker Eduardo Ramirez Jauri, who was captured with 90 kilograms of marihuana and 37 kilograms of cocaine, in Guadalajara. Shortly thereafter, Jose Cardenas Grajeda and Javier Coliglon Orozco, who had the drugs in their homes, were arrested. As the investigation continued, Ramirez Jauri disclosed that the drugs, consisting of cocaine, were in the residence of a person named Cesar Cores Moya who, in conjunction with Americo Guerrero Trevino, sold him 1.5 kilograms of cocaine, which was discovered at No 77 Veracruz Street, in the Condesa development of the Federal District. In connection with this same probe, the Jalisco Judicial Police agents Roberto Perez Martinez and Javier Soto Lopez were remanded for trial. They were protecting the aforementioned drug traffickers in exchange for 30,000 pesos per month. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 23 May 79 p 4] 2909

COURT RELEASES TRAFFICKER--Ramiro Barrera Saenz, described by the federal authorities as one of the most powerful czars of the drug traffic in the riverbank area, recovered his freedom, which was granted to him by the Unified Fourth Circuit Court, which set bail for him at 40,000 pesos. On Tuesday afternoon, Barrera Saenz left the Social Rehabilitation Center where he had been incarcerated for a year and 7 days, after having been arrested last year by the Federal Judicial Police in compliance with a warrant for his arrest. For the release of Ramiro Barrera Saenz, the administration of the La Loma municipal prison received official order 14028-79, issued by the third district judge, Andres Cruz Martinez, who thereby was complying with instructions given by the Unified Fourth Circuit Court, which had granted the aforementioned individual a release on bail. The La Loma municipal prison reported that Ramiro Barrera Saenz had entered that jail on 29 May 1978, and was at the disposal of the third district judge, who brought action against him for a crime against health. Andres Cruz Martinez imposed a jail sentence of 4 years and 3 months, after finding Ramiro Saenz guilty of the crimes with which he was charged. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 24 May 79 Sec A p 5] 2909

TRAFFICKERS' RELEASE DENIED--In connection with proceedings 50-978, the third district judge, Andres Cruz Martinez, refused to release federal convicts Jose Natividad Quezada Hernandez, Delia Lozano de Quezada and Irma Lozano de Escobedo because of the disappearance of evidence. These individuals are currently incarcerated in the Social Rehabilitation Center as persons presumed guilty of a crime against health in the degrees of possession, storage and trafficking of marihuana. The parties concerned filed this appeal on 16 May of this year. On 7 March of last year, the order for their official

imprisonment was issued. At the hearing, they argued that their official imprisonment was illegal, because the statements which they had made to the Federal Public Ministry were forced from them through the use of psychological pressure and torture. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 9 Jun 79 Sec B p 6] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER CAPTURED--On Tuesday afternoon, a drug trafficker who personally engaged in planting, cultivating and harvesting marihuana was captured in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; and, at the same time, the federal agents who arrested him destroyed a cannabis indica plantation and confiscated from him 1,100 grams of "Juanita" seed. The foregoing announcement was made by the Federal Public Ministry yesterday. Federal agents detailed to the Monterrey capital captured Narciso Cruz Guzman, alias "El Perico," on Tuesday, because they had a tip that he was engaged in drug trafficking. He had in his possession a bag containing 1,100 grams of cannabis indica seed which, the individual under arrest claimed that he intended to plant and cultivate. Then the prisoner took the agents to a site where he had a marihuana plantation covering an area of about 350 square meters. The plants were already 50 centimeters tall. On Tuesday, Isodoro Angeles Cuevas, who was a fugitive from justice, was captured in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. There was a warrant for his arrest issued by the second district judge in connection with proceedings 73-979, wherein he was identified as an individual presumed guilty of committing a crime against health. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 7 Jun 79 Sec B p 3] 2909

MARIHUANA GROWER SHOT--While conducting an investigation related to drug trafficking, agents of the Federal Judicial Police were met with gunfire from drug traffickers who were tending plantations. According to the report made by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Federal Judicial Police agents were fired upon in the vicinity of Poblete, in the municipality of Ejutla, Oaxaca, where, upon returning the attack, they killed an unidentified drug trafficker about 25 years of age. During the gun battle, agent Joaquin Rueda Campuzano sustained a bullet wound. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 8 Jun 79 p 4] 2909

CSO: 5330



URUGUAY

BRAZILIANS AMONG NINE ARRESTED FOR TRAFFICKING MARIHUANA

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 12 May 79 p 11

[Text] Nine youths have been arrested and another 21 held for psychiatric examination after police broke up a gang which was trafficking and using hallucinogens. Official communique No 14, released last night by the press and information department of the Montevideo police, gave the story, which is transcribed here.

The Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade learned that two Brazilians were making frequent trips to our country, bringing in illegal marihuana, which they were selling to various consumers of distributors or exchanging for amphetamines, which they then sold in Brazil. After the respective investigations into the case in cooperation with the Juvenile Department, the traffickers were identified as Jose Antonio Furtado Rocha, Brazilian, unmarried, 24 years old and a resident of the city of Santa Ana do Livramento (Brazil), and a 17-year-old minor whose identity was not revealed. They were picked up at the request of the Rivera Police Narcotics Brigade as they were about to cross the border with a packet of marihuana which they had not sold and a quantity of amphetamines, as well as a 22-caliber revolver.



"Furtado"

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/09: CIA-RDP82-00850R000100070002-1

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As a result of their statements and of other investigations, police arrested several persons, both male and female (32 adults and two minors), who were involved in the traffic and consumption of the drugs, as well as seizing a quantity of marijuana seeds.

The police action was supervised from the start by the Court of Instruction and the Juvenile Court, and after exhaustive action, the following persons were booked:

1. Jose Antonio Furtado Rocha, 24, Brazilian, unmarried; under Article 31, Paragraph 1, Law No 14,294, "Importation, distribution or possession"; Article 32 of the same law, "Organization and Financing"; and Article 34, "Illegally supplying and facilitating the use and consumption of drugs."
2. Oscar Martin Iroz Sayago, Uruguayan, 23 years old, unmarried; under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Facilitating use and consumption."
3. Luis Errazquin Iglesias, Uruguayan, 23 years of age, unmarried; under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Facilitating use and consumption..." [there is a garbling of the original text here]
4. Diego Martin Ahal Penades, Uruguayan, 21 years old, unmarried; under Article 35, Law 14,294, "Willingly supplying and facilitating the use and consumption," aggravated by Article 36, Paragraph 1, of the same law."
5. Alvaro Juan Ignacio Risso Castellanos, Uruguayan, 21, unmarried; under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Facilitation of use and consumption."
6. Gaston Montero Aranda, Uruguayan, 20, unmarried, under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Willingly supplying and facilitating use and consumption."
7. Martin Ernesto Gruber Von Freeden, Uruguayan, 20 years old, unmarried; under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Supplying and facilitating use and consumption."
8. Juan Jose Amorin Lage, Uruguayan, 20 years old, unmarried, under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Facilitating use and consumption."
9. Julio Cesar Miguez Garcia, Uruguayan, 19 years of age, unmarried; under Article 35, Law No 14,294, "Facilitating use and consumption."

At the same time, medical attention and eventual curative treatment, through the National Commission for the Anti-Narcotics Campaign, was ordered for 21 persons suspected of being drug addicts. Finally, a minor was admitted to the juvenile facility and another to Vilardebo Hospital for treatment, while 11 persons were freed.

It is deemed appropriate to publish here the text of the articles of Law No 14,294, which provides severe penalties for passing drugs and involvement in drug traffic.

Article 21 states: "Anyone who, without due legal authorization, imports, exports, introduces in transit, distributes, transports, has in his possession, holds in trust, stores, possesses, offers for sale or negotiates in any way the raw materials or the substances mentioned in Article 30 of this law shall be punished with from 3 to 10 years in prison."

Article 34 states: Anyone who, without due legal authorization or knowingly and willingly supplies, applies or delivers those substances listed in Article 1 of this law, or who shall promote, induce or facilitate their consumption, shall be liable to a term of from 2 to 4 years in prison."

Article 35 states: Anyone who violates the provisions of this law regarding the importation, exportation, production, manufacture, sale or supply of the preparations and substances contained in lists 3 and 4 of the Extraordinary New York Convention of 1961, as well as those mentioned in lists 2, 3 and 4 of the Vienna Convention, shall be liable to a term of from 24 months to 4 years in prison."

Article 36, Paragraph 1, states: "When the delivery, sale, facilitation or supply of the substances referred to in Article 1 involves a minor under 21 years of age, or one who is incompetent."

Article 37, Paragraph 1, states: "The attempted crime shall be punishable by the same penalty as the consummated crime. The preparatory act shall be punishable by one-third of the sentence corresponding to the consummated crime, but the judge may raise this to one-half, taking into account the gravity of the crime and the personality of the accused."

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VENEZUELA

PTJ SEIZES MANDRAX, MARIHUANA; FOUR ARRESTED

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 May 79 p D-29

[Text] The PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] confiscated 1 million bolivares in marihuana and mandrax while capturing 6 members of drug-trafficking groups, from whom arms, vehicles and other objects were also confiscated.

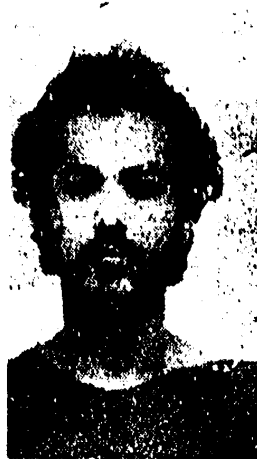
In a press conference, PTJ director Dr Jorge Sosa Chacin, said the first four arrested were Rafael Soto Ramos (23), Hilario Jose Gutierrez (24), Ana Maria Bernal Gonzalez (28) and Ramon Heduardo Lugo (30), who called themselves "the Tuyeros."

The arrests of these persons came about as a result of reports from neighbors in Valles del Tuy that naked minors, presumably drugged, were swimming in a nearby river.

He pointed out that the interrogations and investigations led to the traffickers and distributors, who were arrested and 75 kilograms of marihuana, 3,000 methqualone tablets (mandrax), knives and a late model automobile were confiscated from them.

In a similar operation, bricklayer Alfredo Cordova (55) and a minor--from whom 50 kilograms of marihuana, 2,000 mandrax tablets, a revolver, a television set, 4 extrawide tires and as many rims were confiscated--were arrested.

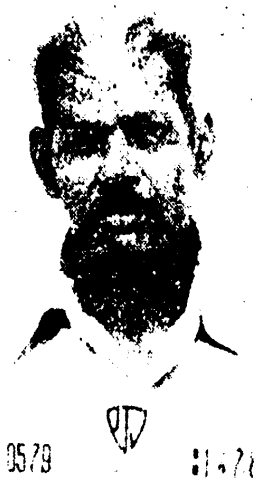
The PTJ director and his assessors pointed out that the drug came from Colombia. The mandrax tablets were packed in plastic bags and the marihuana in packets wrapped with Colombian newspapers and sandwich-bread bags.



Rafael Soto Ramos.  
(Foto PTH).



Ramón Eduardo Lugo.  
(Foto PTH).



Alfredo Cordova.  
(Foto PTH).



Ana Maria Bernal González.  
(Foto PTH).

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CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

MAIQUETIA AIRPORT BECOMES DRUG LINK TO NORTH

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 May 79 p D-29

[Article by Hernan Mena Cifuentes]

[Excerpts] Beaten in Colombia and Mexico by the police, drug traffickers have sought refuge in Venezuela. Aware of the circumstances, Venezuelan authorities, in collaboration with Interpol, last week captured the biggest shipment of cocaine in Maiquetia. Some 130 member countries of Interpol watch and control international ports and airports to combat traffickers of drugs, arms and counterfeit money.

Maiquetia, 9 May--Through the Maiquetia airport, "the north gate" to South America, every day thousands of passengers and tons of cargo arrive from and depart to all parts of the world, and mixed among these travelers with alarming frequency, the drug traffickers who have converted this airport into the new international bridge of the ill-fated traffic of cocaine, marihuana and other drugs and narcotics.

Every week agents of the different police organizations operating here detect some quantities of these substances hidden in the hand baggage of travelers or under their clothing when, suspected of being addicts, they are subjected to inspection.

But the detention of these addicts and the minimum quantities of drugs and narcotics confiscated by the authorities only begin to reflect the alarming situation where international bands operate, the volume and magnitude of their operations in this commerce of drugs producing millions.

Exactly 12 days ago a high military officer of the National Guard, an institution responsible for the control, protection and security of the Maiquetia airport, revealed the existence in Maiquetia of powerful mafias organized in bands with technical, financial and human resources superior to those at the disposal of the police organizations at that airport.

The officer's statement, which in reality is nothing more than a confirmation of something that has been known for a long time, was widely demonstrated last week when the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] confiscated the largest amount of drugs ever seized in Venezuela at the international airport of Maiquetia: some 65 kilograms of very pure cocaine, valued at some 150 million bolivares.

With the confiscation of the drug, the manager of the airline that transported it from La Paz, Bolivia, through Bogota, to Maiquetia, was arrested, as were another employee of the airline and a porter.

Maiquetia: New Bridge for the Traffic of drugs

After the heavy blows delivered recently in Mexico and Colombia to the drug traffickers through the organized action of the governments of these countries, together with the United States Government, one of the main markets of the drug in the world, the drug traffickers evidently have chosen Venezuela as a substitute center for the distribution of cocaine and marihuana destined for North America.

And apparently the "bridge" selected by the mafia has been Maiquetia, "the north gate" to South America.

Its strategic location and high volume of passengers: more than 4 million a year, makes Maiquetia International Airport an ideal point for the traffic of "couriers" and drug shipments intended for the United States.

But, if the drug traffickers discovered the situation, so did Interpol, and possibly even beat them to it, organizing special operations for the detection and control of that traffic, anticipating and planning all the actions to be taken when the mafia decided to use Maiquetia as the new bridge for the mobilization of drugs.

When the offenders attacked, Interpol counterattacked, and thus, last week the greatest confiscation of drugs in Venezuelan police history took place, an action which will possibly lead to the disbanding of one of the most sinister criminal organizations in the continent, with connections in La Paz, Bogota, Caracas, New York, Miami and maybe other great cities in America and Europe.

Undoubtedly this successful police operation was a hard blow for the drug mafia, specifically its "Latin connection," but it is known from experience that these organizations have considerable technical and financial resources and therefore they will continue their fateful activities modifying the procedures or systems to feed that millionaire market of addicts spread throughout the United States and Europe and which constitutes the source of their large incomes.



For this reason, Interpol remains watchful throughout its offices, following the steps of any suspects that arrive at the Lima, Quito, La Paz, Bogota airports, in route to Maiquetia where, once they get off the plane, they are followed by police agents who gradually surround them until they fall in the trap that takes them to prison as responsible for this fateful illegal drug trade that corrodes the basis of society, especially youth.

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ISRAEL

#### HEROIN PROBLEM IN ISRAEL SAID GROWING

Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 8 May 79 p 15

[Article: "Recent Uncovering of Heroin Smuggling Ring From Iran Worries Officials"]

[Text] Recently the police succeeded in intercepting the largest amount of heroin since this addictive drug was first introduced here in 1976. On about 10 May a smuggler with 650 gm of heroin was caught at Ben-Gurion Airport. By the end of the week the police uncovered another 900 gm of heroin in Tel-Aviv. The wholesale price of this amount would have been more than IL10 million.

The recent days were happy ones, days of professional pride, for the detectives of the central precinct and the policemen at the airport, who uncovered the Iranian smuggling ring and succeeded in apprehending the suspects. But the happiness was intermingled with sadness, because the worst fears that the market of hard drugs in Israel was growing were thus confirmed. The success is as big as the frustration at the knowledge that the white drug is taking a firmer hold in the country, and that it causes thousands of Israelis to cease functioning in society, thus adding fuel to the fire of crime.

#### The Ellusive Drug

A brief survey of drug findings in the last 10 months can shed some light on the problem and its dimensions, and what we can expect in the future.

In the summer of 1978 heroin was smuggled from Turkey. The police were aware that there were 800 gm, but only a very little of that shipment was ever found. The suspects were charged in the Tel-Aviv court, and their trial is about to end soon.

In November 1978 the police had intelligence reports of a shipment of 2 kg of heroin that had been smuggled from the Far East. An attempt to seize this large amount failed because of bad timing. Later the police used one of their undercover agents to transact a deal following which some suspects were apprehended and tried. The drug was not found.

In January 1979 the police had reports that a recently released prisoner, who had been in jail for armed robbery was now dealing in heroin, and that he had 1 kg of Iranian origin in his possession. The man was caught in Tel-Aviv in the company of a known drug pusher, who had been convicted many times before, and who was active in the Yemenite section in Tel-Aviv. Other people were also caught on that occasion, all of whom were known to the police. A search uncovered a small amount of Iranian heroin. According to the police spokesman who testified in court, this was a sample that the suspects were trying out in the apartment, prior to transacting a larger deal. The large quantity was never found.

In March some suspects were apprehended in the Ramada Inn. They were accused of plotting to push cocaine, whose origin--usually--is in South America, from whence it is smuggled to the United States and Europe.

In April a number of men, suspected of plotting to smuggle heroin from France, were caught.

In recent days a number of suspects were apprehended and a large amount of heroin from Iran was seized.

#### New Difficulties

The analysis of these cases brings out one fact--different from one case to another--the source of the heroin. The first case--Turkey; the second--the Far East; the third--Iran, then South America, France and Iran again.

The conclusion: the underworld takes advantage of every way and any chance to get hold of heroin from various and sundry sources and then smuggles it to Israel. They show unusual resourcefulness and they hardly leave any opportunity untried. The many sources make it difficult for police investigators, who cannot depend on outsiders for the purpose of their investigation. The many sources of heroin present difficulties for the police unlike any of the past, when it was fighting hashish.

Heroin, which reaches Israel from different sources, finds its way to pushers. On this aspect the organization and order is much clearer. Tel-Aviv is divided up into areas of influence of criminals, who ordinarily cooperate amongst themselves. But when this cooperation fails, and there are differences of opinion, we see violence--murder, car bombing, house bombings and grenade throwing. These phenomena, prevalent in recent months, are a result of the power struggle among drug pushers, on areas of influence.

One of the largest heroin centers is in Shkhunat-Hatikvah in Tel-Aviv. Recently a violent struggle among pushers was avoided following the release from prison of two of them. When they got out of jail, they discovered that their territories had been taken over. They left for Europe, and it can only be assumed that they will keep in touch with their colleagues of old--friends from the neighborhood and from jail. Israelis with a criminal background are scattered all over the world, and are the bridge between the local underworld and vast amounts of drugs overseas.

About 60 Kg Annually

One cannot ignore the fact that the police succeeded in seizing only relatively small amounts of heroin considering the worrisome intelligence concerning the dimensions of the imports. Even the recent arrests, which brought in a total of 1.5 kg of concentrated heroin--an amount considered to be very substantial--is rather frustrating. It is already known that the suspects have in the past smuggled shipments much larger than those seized, whose exact amount will probably never be known.

The discovery of the huge smuggling from Iran reinforces estimates of police and other observers that the amount of drug usage has reached about 60 kg of pure heroin annually--a disconcerting amount, which necessitates a tremendous cash flow. (The estimate of 60 kg was first published in HA'AREZ in a series of articles on "the white death" approximately 6 months ago.)

The feeling among police as regards the rise in heroin smuggling was expressed by the commander of the central precinct, Deputy Commander Zekharya Banai: "We are acting to make dissemination of heroin difficult. But we are not world reformers, and we cannot prevent users from getting the drug. Action on the street makes it difficult for addicts, creates dangers and maybe deters some would-be users. Most of the police efforts are directed at preventing the importation of the drug. Here the war is complicated and complex. Usually we know more than we manage to seize. The drug will continue to arrive. We do our best to reduce the problem. Those who were apprehended have smuggled in the past, and there are others who are still smuggling now."

Heroin is an addictive drug, which creates a need to continue usage of it in increasing quantities. As the amounts necessary grow, it becomes increasingly difficult to turn the wheel back. Much as the recent seizure is a success for the police, they will find it more difficult in the future. Even the commander of the central precinct looks at it this way: "There is still a lot to do, if such large amounts of heroin manage to be smuggled in."

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ISRAEL

COCAINE SEIZURE CONFIRMS IRAN MAJOR SOURCE OF SMUGGLING

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 May 79 Weekend Supplement pp 34, 35

[Article: "The Iranian Connection, the Thai Connection and More From the Files of the Narcotics Division"]

[Text] The TW/ jumbo jet came down and slowly landed on the asphalt runway of Ben-Gurion Airport. The engines were cut off and the passengers began to descend one by one. They walked to the bus that was to take them to the terminal for customs inspection. One of the passengers, a woman of about 35, dark skinned and good looking, rushed to go down the steps, holding a bag of Persian spices.

At that moment a woman's voice was heard over the public address system announcing that flight 972 had just arrived from Athens. Hearing that a 26-year-old man, who was sitting on one of the loungers, raised his face from the paper spread in front of him, looked at the incoming flight bulletin, slowly folded his paper, and headed toward the exit. After a short while the two met, got into his car and rushed off to 20 Levanda St. in Tel-Aviv, where the man lived.

The woman who had arrived is well known to Israelis from Iran. She is the well known belly dancer, Yaf'at Mahafruz, known as Shahallah. Shahallah has excited the imagination of many a man in the course of her career. Anyone who has any respect for himself goes to see her performance, the likes of which one can find only in the enchanted Mid Eastern nights.

Police Arrive at Dawn

Shahallah is Moslem, an Iranian citizen, who was married to a Jew, had three children by him, divorced him and recently, when she comes here, she stays with her manager-friend Mordechai Taharani, named Shakhzada. He also plays drum in her group.

On 11 May at dawn, agents of the narcotics division of the Tel-Aviv police entered Taharani's apartment and in a subsequent search, in Shahallah's presence, found 900 gm of Iranian heroin, known here as Iranian Coke.

A few hours later another man was apprehended, owner of a Tel-Qabir service station. He was suspected of buying 100 gm of the drug from the woman and her friend. The latter two are suspected of smuggling 1 kg of Iranian heroin. They have also smuggled the drug in the past. It is suspected that the dancer hid the drug in the spice that she was holding and that recently, in addition to her artistic endeavors, she has also, on the side, and very profitably so, served as a drug carrier.

A day after Shahallah's arrival a Greek Airlines plane arrived from Athens at Ben-Gurion Airport. During customs inspection a Jewish passenger, by the name of Levin Parajulla, who lives in Tel-Aviv, was detained. In a search police found 630 gm of Iranian heroin in a false bottom carton of his. Parajulla arrived here from Tehran via Athens, and it is suspected that recently he had taken this route a number of times and on all of them he had smuggled drugs.

#### Free Opium at Rehabilitation Centers

People of the narcotics division were shocked by the large amounts of Persian Coke seized in these two cases. The amount is unprecedented. In both cases investigators were tipped off earlier, and the operation was nicknamed "The Iranian Connection." The fact that such a large quantity was seized confirmed suspicions that Iran is one of the major sources of drug smuggling to Israel.

Persian Coke, or, as is referred to in Europe as Mediterranean Heroin, is considered a "hit" with addicts in Israel, the reason being that it can be used in sniffing as well as in smoking. When the shah was in power there was a boom in drug traffic from Iran. Connections between the two countries made for very convenient smuggling routes. The police thought that the Iranian revolution would put an end to the smuggling, but these two cases prove that even the hostile Khomeyni regime has not deterred the smugglers. The difficulty in stopping smuggling of drugs from Iran stems mostly from the fact that in many cases the smugglers are Jews with no criminal record, among them wealthy merchants, who have turned to this business because it is so lucrative. The risk, for the most part, is not too high.

Getting hold of the drug in Tehran is not a difficult task. Opium usage is very common there, and before the Persian Coke became fashionable here it was one of the most sought after drugs. Today, too, use of the drug is very common there. Any Iranian citizen over 40 who is an addict can purchase the drug at a rehabilitation clinic--of which there are many. He just has to declare his daily dosage and then receives it, perfectly legally. The authorities do so in order to stem the spread of the drug trade. Usually those who go to the rehabilitation clinics declare a larger amount than they really need. They are the largest source of the drug in Iran. The two suspects had some Moslem accomplices for the purpose of smuggling the drug to Israel. During the shah's tenure, and today, too, any Iranian citizen is allowed to come to Israel (today via a third country) for medical treatment. The smugglers worked under this pretext.

### "Pencils" in a Lemon

The smugglers used many and varied ways to hide the opium pencils. They hid it in corsets, in false bottom suitcases and even in stretchers of handicapped people. The favorite is introducing it into Persian lemons.

The Persian lemon is renowned for its unique flavor and aroma. It is brought here dried. Preserving is done by soaking and drying. When it is resoaked it swells. Smugglers used to cut the lemon in half during the first soaking, insert the opium pencil, glue the two parts together and dry the lemon. The cut is not obvious and thus merchants could buy 1 kg of opium in Iran for IL12,000 and sell it in Israel for IL800,000, with very little risk on their part.

This method was used for a long time by smugglers from Iran, and the narcotics division people found out about it when the Iranian Connection was first uncovered 3 years ago.

Four people were tried in this case: Eli'ezer Sharf, 46, David Peri, 32, Refa'el Sharf, 34 and David Muhaven. According to the charges, Eli'ezer Sharf received, in mid December 1975, a shipment of 2.5 kg of opium which had been smuggled from Iran by his son-in-law. Less than a month later David Peri met Ya'akov Franko at the central bus station in Tel-Aviv and offered to sell him 1 kg of opium. Franko agreed and gave him an advance of IL6,000. A few days later Peri went to Netanya and met Franko in a snack bar in order to complete the transaction. At that time Franko gave him IL25,000 in return for the drug. The next day a messenger went to Netanya and received from Eli'ezer Sharf 48 opium pencils, the total weight of which was 930 gm, and brought them to Franko in a shoe box.

### A Pretty American Messenger

The Iranian Connection started when Assistant Superintendent Amnon Shemesh, chief of the narcotics division, was tipped off. The tip related to a route of opium smuggling from Iran to Israel, which had been in operation for some time. Investigation revealed that a policeman was involved, and that he used police vehicles to transport the drug from one place to another. Assistant Superintendent Shemesh started following the policeman. It turned out that he got the vehicle every Thursday for the purpose of driving officers on Fridays and Saturdays. These weekends were utilized to conduct shipments. He himself was seen to use opium together with some of the gang. He was eventually fired.

Smugglers on the Iran-Israel line prefer the Persian lemon, whereas smugglers from other parts of the world use any other means. Cigarette boxes, shoe heels, belts, the human rectum, etc. But the pushers, especially those selling to police, are afraid of being caught, and turn to innocent messengers, who are traveling abroad for the first time, or citizens with no criminal record. An example of using an innocent messenger--along the lines

of the French Connection--was uncovered late in April of this year. The police suspects that the gang, whose members were caught in this case, used an American tourist--a pretty girl by the name of Caroline Ford who lived in Israel with an Israeli boy friend--in order to smuggle "white" heroin from France to Israel.

At one time smuggling was done primarily from Holland, France, Iran and Turkey. A few years ago drug dealers discovered that it is possible to smuggle directly from the Far East, without resorting to middlemen in Europe. About 3 years ago a smuggling ring from the Far East was uncovered, which was nicknamed "the Thai Connection." In this case investigators discovered how truly sophisticated the criminals were in using innocent messengers for smuggling heroin.

#### A Shot of Heroin for a Test

Five people participated in the Thai Connection: Merinel Hershko (Nello) who at one time was at the top of the most wanted list in Israel; Joseph Wahaba, 34, nicknamed Musmus; his brother Moshe and his wife Tami and Menash B'niya, nicknamed Mensh. Musmus lived in Wadi Jum'a in Rosh-Pina. At that time he was addicted to hard drugs. He used to travel a lot in Europe and the Far East and buy drugs for himself and his friends.

In the winter of 1976 Nello approached him to go to the Far East to get some heroin. Since he was known as an addict, Musmus suggested to Nello and Mensh that his brother Moshe and his girl friend, later his wife, would act as messengers. Moshe agreed for the sum of IL200,000. From then on things happened quickly. Moshe and his girl friend reserved flights. They met Mensh at the house of Moshe's parents. Mensh gave Moshe IL500 and promised to bring the rest at a later time. A few days later Nello came and gave him IL28,000 in cash. The sum was handed over to the travel agent and then Moshe went to the Thai consulate to arrange for visas for himself and his girl friend. A few days later Wahaba went to Nello's house to receive the rest of the money. When he got there Nello told his wife: "Go get the greenbacks." She returned a few minutes later and gave him a bundle containing \$5,000.

On the eve of the trip Wahaba received an additional \$2,500. Moshe and his wife reached Bangkok with the money for the deal in his shoes. They stayed at the Hotel Royal and left a message at the Atlanta, where the remainder of the group was to stay. A few days later Musmus, Merinel, Hershko and Menahem B'niya arrived in Bangkok. When they arrived they encountered some difficulties buying the drug and they went north to a city called Chieng-Mei, where they found what they were looking for. Nello and Mensh bought 307 gr of heroin. Nello's job was to shoot some of the stuff to ensure it was not fake.



A Decorated Soldier

While they were in Bangkok Tami and Moshe went for a walk. When they returned to their hotel, late at night, they met Nello and Menah holding a brown bag. They opened the bag and poured heroin on the table. They tried unsuccessfully, to stuff it in smaller bags and in shoe soles. Finally they managed to put it in cigars and in Tami's compact. Moshe and Tami returned to Israel. They passed customs with no problems. On the next day Moshe went to Nello's house and reported that the mission was accomplished. Nello, Musmus and Menah remained in Thailand waiting for the news. They were to call Israel and if they were told that "Tami had a boy" they were to return home.

When they landed at Ben-Gurion Airport Assistant Superintendent Amnon Shemesh and his men were waiting for them. The investigators addressed Musmus' guilt feelings. At one time he had been a decorated soldier in the Golani division. He agreed to cooperate and led them to Rosh Pina.

Moshe Wahaba and his wife Tami turned state witnesses. In the course of the trial an explosive charge was detonated near the home of Wahaba's parents in Bat-Yam. The accused were brought to trial. Menah and Nello were sentenced to 9 years in jail. Musmus received a 4-year sentence.

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MOROCCO

DRUG TRAFFICKING RING SMASHED IN KENITRA, AMERICANS INVOLVED

Concentrated Cannabis Seized

Rabat L'OPINION in French 17 May 79 pp 1, 10

[Article by Larbi Doulizane]

[Text] The narcotics traffic which has recently been the subject of a resounding trial, judged at the Special Court of Justice, a trial at the end of which several more or less heavy sentences were pronounced against the implicated persons, including a deputy and several police officers, has been followed by another traffic, itself quite large in scale.

The regional commander of Kenitra's Royal Police, under the guidance of commander Belbachir, has in effect performed a beautiful haul by putting out of commission a band of traffickers formed by seven Americans who were aided by two Moroccans, a truck driver and a guide.

The confiscated merchandise, concentrated cannabis of exceptional quality, has been estimated at 1,980 kilograms representing a market value on the anglo-saxon market, of some 1,498,800 thousand centimes.

During the first few days of this month, Kenitra's Royal Police had learned that a group of Americans had gone to Morocco in order to obtain narcotics supplies (concentrated cannabis).

In possession of reliable information, the police had launched a very tight surveillance on the axial routes as well as in the environments frequented by drug traffickers.

According to a statement issued by the regional command, a patrol had notified by radio that a suspicious truck had passed through the Col de Zagota and had taken the direction of Kenitra by going through Sidi Kacem, Sidi Slimane and Sidi Yahia, before taking RS 206 to come to a path leading to the douar of Oulad Abdallah Bahria and to a beach about 32 kilometers north of Kenitra. This beach was a meeting place for the traffickers.

According to the police report, upon its arrival at the unloading place, the truck had been subjected to a discreet surveillance which, later on, was put in the hands of the judicial force. The intervention of the royal police had been delayed, first because all the band was not in place, and then, given that they operated at night, the police forces did not want to take the risk of seeing some members of the band escape by taking advantage of the darkness in such hilly ground.

The judgment of Commander Belbachir's and Captain Benslimane's men proved to be correct since, suddenly, the gang's hideout became animated with the arrival of several vehicles, including a Land Rover jeep bearing foreign tags (equipped with a two-way radio) and 3 small cars (2 Fiat 131 and 1 R-12, all 3 rented, bearing tags: 234-88, 1831-83 and 7334-79).

The occupants proved to be seven American men and women and one Moroccan.

Upon arrival, they hid the vehicles and started waiting for the truck whose every movement was being observed by the judicial squad who was on the look out.

The truck arrived two hours late.

A while later, the truck's driver, a Moroccan, and two other associates started unloading. In the middle of the forest, the two tons of narcotics which were camouflaged under sacs of flour which the vehicle (tag 1861-81) was transporting.

Right after that, all the band started carrying the merchandise in the small cars from the place where the truck was parked toward the beach.

The operation lasted all night.

The packets of concentrated cannabis were buried under the sand in order to avoid their being discovered by fishermen (for whom this beach is a favorite place).

The next day, that is 7 May, in the morning, royal police elements had observed that a Zodiac piloted by an individual had reached the coast. The dinghy would serve later on to move the merchandise from the coast to the boat which was anchored at sea.

Around 1400 hours, one of the policemen observed that a woman belonging to the gang was watching all the roads leading to the aforementioned beach. It was at this moment that the regional commander gave the order to launch the operation.

Nine persons were arrested: Three American men, four American women and two Moroccans. The intervention permitted the confiscation of a Ford truck, a Fiat 131, an R-12, a Land Rover jeep, a second Fiat 131, a Zodiac, a camera, photographic apparatus, a pair of binoculars, a two-way radio, some "cows."

In addition, during a search of the rooms occupied by the interested parties at the Firdau Hotel (Bouknadel) and body searches, the following sums were discovered: 27,163 dirhams, \$146,371, 1,800 pesetas, 290 French francs, 1,160 Portuguese escudos and bills from other countries.

According to one of the members of the gang, this money had been fraudulently entered in Morocco and was intended to finance a coming operation.

It must be noted that the boat which should have assured the transportation of narcotics to foreign countries will incessantly be stopped and examined by Spanish and Portuguese maritime officials acting together with Moroccan officials.

Before leaving Moroccan waters the boat was photographed by a Moroccan Royal Police helicopter and the photo has been circulated in foreign countries.

We must thank commander Belbachir, captain Benslimane, captain Mellouki and all their collaborators who permitted us to perform this inquiry.

#### Details of Operation

Rabat L'OPINION in French 19 May 79 p 5

[Text] The little time we had at our disposal to report to the reader all the details about the business of drug trafficking which the regional commander of Kenitra's royal police has just brought up to date, restrained us to giving the essentials about the ins and outs of that business.

Today we return to the matter by dealing with it from other points of view. We will deal with the investigation itself. Before doing so, it might be interesting to remember that the gang which was put out of commission was formed by 7 American nationals, including 4 women. The oldest among the latter seems to be the brain of the gang.

They entered our country with perfectly legal papers. In the different towns of the United States where they come from the members of the gang are involved in the most harmless of activities. Most of them are teachers or students. One of them is an excellent carpenter.

When they were arrested they did not have any arms or pose any resistance.

At the Ferdaouss Hotel in Bouknadel, where they lived as almost perfect "ladies" and "gentlemen," their arrest had the effect of a bomb among the personnel of the establishment, so much were the 7 Americans "correct and generous in their tipping."

A waiter at the restaurant, contacted by us, does not believe it yet and thinks that the seven lodgers have been the object of an error....

In any business of this type, the police or Royal Gendarmerie services exploit the information which for the most part seem insignificant to outsiders. And then, as one says in the jargon proper to the men who investigate and repress crime, there is a "God of the policeman" who from time to time gives them a sacred surprise attack by handing them on a silver plate the "life affairs."

That was the case in this matter, since it was a "messenger," a shepherd in his state, that the "god of the policeman" sent toward the douar of Oulad Abdallah Bahria (some 30 kilometers north of Kenitra) to help our courageous policemen to corner the gang....

The shepherd had been intrigued by the frequent passing through a path leading to the sea of a red Ford truck (tag 1861-81), which, at the end of its trip was freed of its load of ... flour sacs.

The shepherd, reasoning more than usual, came to the conclusion that the flour could not be flour; that there was something fishy there and he informed the "mokkadem" of his douar.

The Kaid was then informed. And the regional commander of Kenitra's royal police became interested in the matter.

A security formation was implemented.

The brain of the group had thought out all the details. The day when the merchandise aboard the red truck was going to pass through toward the sea had been carefully chosen.

The gang's head had made it coincide with the day of inauguration of the Barrage d'Oued El-Makhazine, that is, a day when it was materially impossible for police forces to control each vehicle going in the direction of Gharb and vice-versa.

The leader of the American group had not forgotten the probability that our policemen would be scant in number because of the inauguration of the large works which would demand reinforcements and, consequently, diminish the manpower which under normal circumstances would be enough in all the roadways.

The chief of the regional command, Commander Belbachir, who was on the dam, gave a free hand to captain Benslimane, who tirelessly was able to put the puzzle together, bringing to an end the dangerous and ill-fated activities of the seven Americans and their two Moroccan accomplices, the truck driver who received 4 million centimes for his work and a guide, who had been paid in dollars (100-dollar bills). His "honoraries" were quite substantial: \$20,000!

While I write these lines, the supplier of the group, residing sometimes at Fes, sometimes at Ketama, sometimes at Taza, and a go-between must be at the point of being arrested....

At the same time, fragmentary reports tell us that the boat (a two-masted, 45-foot long sailboat) which served to transport the concentrated cannabis to foreign countries and continually changed its name, has been sighted by the Portuguese navy and they are closing in on it so that its examination could come in a matter of hours.

In tomorrow's edition we will publish the third and last part of our investigation.

#### Bribery Attempt

Rabat L'OPINION in French 20 May 79 p 5

[Text] As had been announced, we are publishing today the continuation of our investigation into the matter of drug trafficking in which 7 Americans and 2 Moroccans (all 9 arrested) have been implicated, as well as some other nationals, suppliers of the gang and some intermediaries.

Our readers know, after having read our two preceding articles, the circumstances under which the traffickers were arrested, the equipment confiscated and the millions found in their possession.

It must be stressed that the gang, a while after being arrested, made "interesting" proposals to the police in order that they "close their eyes" about what had happened.

Our policemen were "offered," in exchange for their silence, \$146,371; 271,163 dirhams, 1,800 pesetas, 290 French francs, 1,160 Portuguese escudos, 5 Dutch guilders, 3 Bahamian dollars and 6 pounds, that is, all the money which was confiscated at the hotel where the band dwelled; the gang gave the impression that they could go even further in their generosity with the policemen.

The bribery attempt failed.

The members of the gang, faced by the incorruptibility of the policemen, have begged Commander Belbachir's men not to reveal their names to the press, since they are afraid of being "burnt" in the middle, which could have dangerous consequences for their lives....

Since their arrest was made public, the American Embassy at Rabat intervened with Moroccan officials for their liberation and extradition. At the moment I write these lines, the status of the negotiations are still not known.

In other respects, we have learned that the fishermen usually frequenting the beach where the members of the group met had observed a mysterious disappearance of fish in the surroundings. This forced them to go somewhere

else with their lines. The desertion of the beach by the fishermen suited very well the gang, which could operate without indiscreet glances.

The disappearance of the fish was probably the result of a chemical product thrown in the water by the Americans.

Before concluding this investigation it is important to know that the value of the confiscated drug (1,980 kilograms) has been underestimated. Being first quality merchandise, had it reached the New York market, it would have brought more than 5 billion centimes. Drug of this quality costs, in effect, 3 million centimes per kilogram in New York compared with 1 million in Montreal and as much in Lisbon.

The seven Americans and all the nationals implicated in this matter will be handed over to the public prosecutor in Kenitra without delay.

Since no official is implicated, the case is not of the competence of the Special Court of Justice, as was the case for "Al Hoceima's traffic."

9341  
CSO: 5300

GREECE

FOUR PERSONS ARRESTED FOR HEROIN POSSESSION

Athens ATHENS NEWS in English 3-4 Jun 79 p 4

[Text] Bernard Bono, 22, van driver from France, was arrested by Security Police Drugs Squad detectives in Amerikis Square on Wednesday evening while bargaining over the price of a small quantity of heroine he was trying to peddle. Three other people, Konstandinos Kladakis, 29, unemployed from Alexandria, Egypt, Giorgos Papadopoulos, 21, from Athens and Athina Malandri, 21, a Greek-American, were also arrested, charged with unlawful consumption of narcotics.

Thirty grams of heroine were found in Bono's luggage, a police spokesman said.

During his questioning, Bono admitted that he had acquired the heroine while in India, and had smuggled it into Greece on May 11th.

Since then he had managed to sell 8 grams for 4,000 drachmas to various Greeks, including Papadopoulos.

Meanwhile, he had got to know Kladakis who put him up in his house in Palio Faliron.

The four arrested have been referred to the Public Prosecutor.

CSO: 5300



GREECE

BRIEFS

TURKS WITH COCAINE ARRESTED--(Salonica, from our correspondent, 25 May)  
A short time after their entrance into Greece, two Turks were arrested because 300 grams of cocaine were found in their car at the border post of Gefyra Kipon of Alexandroupolis. The two are Aladin Morova, 39, and his brother, Sabahattin, 37, both laborers from Istanbul. They had hidden the "hard" narcotic in the car's engine area. Both were referred to the Evros public prosecutor. [Text] [Athens TA NEA in Greek 25 May 79 p 20] 7520

ARRESTS FOR MORPHINE--An English couple was arrested by the Anti-Narcotics Service of the Piraeus General Security because they were carrying from India 3 kilograms of hashish, 30 grams of morphine and "a large number of saturated LSD tablets." The couple intended to sell the narcotics to the underworld but were arrested when the movements of the woman, who had arrived in Greece first, became suspect. She had registered in a Troumba hotel for tourist purposes, or so she stated! The arrested were Bryan Berket and Julie Preston 34 and 21, respectively. They were referred to the Piraeus public prosecutor and were judged to be detainable. [Text] [Athens TA NEA in Greek 25 May 79 p 20] 7520

CSO:4908

SPAIN

BRIEFS

HASHISH CONFISCATED--Malaga (correspondent Guillermo Jimenez)--Malaga Police have just rendered an important service in their efforts to uncover drug trafficking and use. Initial reports are that a total of 150 kilograms of hashish, which would bring in some 15 million pesetas on the black market, were found in a vehicle inside a garage in the Reding Avenue district. Although the police are, of course, remaining silent at this time, it was learned that a dozen persons, Spaniards and Moroccans, have been detained and are currently making statements. The drug, which came from Morocco, was apparently going to be shipped to and sold in other Spanish cities and European countries. [Text]  
[Madrid YA in Spanish 5 May 79 p 43] 8743

MARIHUANA CROP FOUND--Totana (Murcia), 16 May--In the wake of follow-up efforts to investigations begun in Lorca, the Civil Guard learned that marihuana has been coming from Totana. This led to the discovery of a crop of more than 6,000 marihuana plants at a farm in Raiguero Alto. Other plantations are thought to exist, and other plants have been uncovered in a yard and in flower pots on Palacio Street, while seeds to start new crops have been picked up near the railroad tracks. The plants are hard to find because the location and weather of the zone are clearly favorable to a thriving crop. It was indicated that the plantation that was discovered could yield between 2,000 and 3,000 kilos of grass. Since a kilogram sells for more than 75,000 pesetas on the market, this gives us a total value of about 150 to 200 million pesetas. Investigations into the matter are continuing. (EFE) [Text]  
[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 17 May 79 p 55] 8743

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

FORMER DRUG SQUAD CHIEF JAILED FOR SEVEN YEARS

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 10 May 79 p 3

[Text]

**T**HE former head of the Northumbria police drug squad was jailed for seven years yesterday for drug offences. He admitted stealing drugs from a police strong room and supplying them to an addict who sold them in London.

When the Metropolitan police arrested the addict with a case full of drugs they could hardly believe their ears when he told them about his supplier, said Mr HARRY OGALL, Q.C., prosecuting at Teesside Crown Court.

Det. Insp. MICHAEL MELDRUM, 42, based at Market Street police station, Newcastle upon Tyne, pleaded guilty to two charges of stealing drugs from the force, six of supplying them to the addict, Ronald Hart, 25, and to inciting Hart to change or refuse to give evidence with intent to pervert the course of justice.

Meldrum, of Hilladen Way, Whitley Bay, maintained that he had been setting up an undercover police operation aimed at catching a big supplier. The

Judge, Mr Justice SMITH, did not believe him.

Mr. OGALL said: Meldrum stole drugs worth about £14,000 at street level. They included heroin, cocaine, morphine and opium and were in police hands awaiting destruction.

**'Money shared'**

He said that Hart, of Lincoln Walk, Great Lumley, Co. Durham, who had been a registered drug addict since he was 17, was Meldrum's "salesman."

Hart had made several trips to London, selling drugs for up to £1,000 a time and shared the money with Meldrum.

Mr WILFRED STERN, Q.C., defending, said that admittedly — and he had pleaded guilty — Meldrum had done wrong in stealing the drugs and in supplying them to Hart. "But that was not done for money. It was done to get information in the hope that a large supplier would fall into the net."

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 May 79 p 19

[Article by Terence Shaw]

[Text]

**I**MMEDIATE abolition of the offences of possession and cultivation of cannabis for personal use was called for at the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers in Llandudno yesterday.

A resolution passed by a considerable majority of the 1,100 officers attending the conference pledged the association to support the "Legalise Cannabis Campaign" and to actively support its aims and objectives.

It also said that after investigation of a legal means of distributing cannabis, offences of supply and importation of the drug should be scrapped.

Miss JOSEPHINE KEMP (South Midlands) said much time and energy was wasted by magistrates, police and others in enforcing the law against possession. Yet an increasing number of people from all levels of society were using the drug.

**Dangers exaggerated**

Its dangers had been greatly exaggerated. It was not physically addictive, did not lead to tolerance and had no withdrawal effects.

"To say that the use of cannabis can lead a person to experiment with and to become dependent on hard drugs is no more logical than to point out that an even larger amount of heroin addicts have used alcohol," she said.

Because cannabis was illegal, users resorted to the black market, which brought them into contact with a wide range of other drugs. But by legalising cannabis the black market would be eliminated.

**"Cut jail population"**

Mr MURRAY BRUGGEN, retiring chairman of the association, urged the Government to reduce the prison population.

He said almost every body or agency involved in the penal system was urging a reduction in the prison population, which now stands at over 40,000.

Money earmarked by the Government for its law and order programme should be spent on improving regimes in prisons and revising the system of boards of visitors so that there was separation between its complaints and discipline procedures.

There should follow a reduction in numbers sent to prison by the courts and in the length of sentences imposed.

Mr Bruggen said he knew critics would describe his suggestions as the typical outburst of the social worker and the do-gooder.

But probation officers spent their lives working with criminals. Their primary task was to maintain, support, and control the offender within society as a means of facilitating some compromise between the needs of the offender, the needs of the victim and the need of society in general.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

PROSECUTION OPENS IN COCAINE TRAFFICKING TRIAL

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 22 May 79 p 3

[Article by Ian Henry]

[Text] Britain's entry into the Common Market unwittingly opened up a new route for a trans-Atlantic drugs ring, it was alleged at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Mr Michael Corkery, prosecuting, said South American cocaine traffickers were involved.

They had found increasing difficulty in smuggling drugs from Colombia into the United States, where prices were highest.

But in January, 1973, the United Kingdom entered the Common Market, said Mr Corkery, and "it appears the idea sprang up that cocaine could be got out of South America into Europe.

"Because of the easing of travel restrictions in Europe it could then be shipped to this country and then trans-shipped to Canada and into the United States."

Charges Denied

Mr Corkery was opening the prosecution case against Vincent Elberto, 38, an American he described as a "very high-level operator in the trafficking and financing side of that evil trade."

Elberto, who was arrested in October at an address in Chiswick High Road, Hammersmith, denied 11 charges, eight concerning drugs, two of making a false statement to obtain a passport and one of uttering a forged passport with intent to defraud.

Mr Corkery said it was alleged that in one deal Elberto was offered five kilogrammes (11 lb) of cocaine every fortnight and said he would pay \$17,000 (8,500 pounds) a kilo, indicating that most would be shipped to Canada and eventually to New York.

He had a chauffeur-driven red Rolls-Royce while in London and kept a coded diary of his deals. One of his alleged accomplices, who had since cooperated with the United States Drugs Enforcement Agency, could decipher the diary code, said Mr Corkery.

Indeed, he alleged in September, 1975, Elberto himself offered to cooperate with undercover drugs agents and named several traffickers.

"He told one agent he was a very wealthy man and had two-and-a-half million dollars and had secreted his money in various banks in the world--in Spain, Germany, France and the United States--in safe deposit boxes."

The trial was adjourned until today.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

HEROIN IMPORT CHARGE--Six people were remanded in custody for a week by Harwich magistrates yesterday, accused of being concerned in evading the ban on the importing of heroin. They were: Fuat Yukse1, 40, a jeweller from Istanbul, Turkey; Ahmet Ahmet, 32, a director of Dongola Road, Tottenham, London; Edward Scanlon, 29, sales manager, and Mrs Susan Cooper, 30, manageress, both of Dunboyne Road, Hampstead, London; Miss Victoria McCaffry, 24, a secretary, of Hartismere Road, Fulham, London, and Miss Sharon Bryant, 21, unemployed, of Green Lanes, London. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 9 May 79 p 19]

CANNABIS SMUGGLER JAILED--A pop group manager who helped to smuggle cannabis worth 40,000 pounds from Jamaica into Switzerland was jailed for three years in the High Court sitting at Lincoln yesterday. Peter Goodsell, 38, of Inverness Mews, Bayswater, had been found guilty a fortnight ago of assisting in the smuggling operation. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 12 May 79 p 19]

DRUGS SQUAD OFFICERS CHARGED--Committal proceedings at Marylebone Court began yesterday against three suspended Scotland Yard Drugs Squad detectives accused of recycling police "seized" cannabis. Det. Chief Insp. Anthony Rich, 32, of Airlie Gardens, Kensington; Det. Insp. David Draper, 34, of Fernleigh Road, Winchmore Hill; and Det. Sgt. Kevin Carrington, 31, of Strathmore Gardens, Hornchurch, Essex, are accused of obtaining, possessing, supplying and dealing in cannabis between February, 1976, and March, 1977. They are further charged with stealing 112 lb of cannabis resin belonging to the Commissioner of Police. Carrington faces three other charges of stealing and dishonestly receiving Lebanese cannabis resin belonging to police. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Jun 79 p 3]

CSO: 5320

END