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(FOUO 47/79)

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JPRS L/8756

8 November 1979

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 47/79)

FBIS

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

OPIUM, MORPHINE SEIZED--More than 218 kilograms of opium and over 60 kilograms of morphine, with a total value of 30 million Afghanis, were seized today by officials of the antismuggling department at Paghman junction. The case has been turned over to proper authorities for legal action. The vehicle carrying the above narcotics was on its way from Kabul to Qandahar. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Cari 1600 GMT 7 Oct 79 GF]

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

TACHILEK ARRESTS--Tachilek, 24 September--The officials of the Customs Department of Tachilek township, while patrolling near the spirit houses in the vicinity of Tale village yesterday, searched Daw Swei Lan of Ward No 4, Lashio, who was riding the Mong Hpayak-Tachilek passenger jeep, and seized nine packages of brown heroin powder, weighing about 2 kilos 4 mgs, hidden in a false bottom of a honey jar. The Myoma police have taken action under Sections 6 (B), 7 (B) and 10 (B) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. SW/ [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 3 Oct 79 p 4 BK]

KALAW ARREST--Heho, 1 October--In a gesture to support "Project Galon 18/79," Raid Party No 2 led by U Aye Myint and Sub-Inspector of Police U Htan Za Nan, under the leadership of the Kalaw Township party unit and under the supervision of the township people's council, searched the people at Kalaw railway station and seized from Maung Tha Myint of Kalaw, who was travelling to Thazi, nine balls of cooked opium weighing 4.5 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 lbs]. Maung Tha Myint testified that he was asked to carry the opium by U Zaw Min Than of U-min ward. Action has been taken against both of them under Sections 6 (B), 7 (B) and 10 (B) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. SW/ [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 3 Oct 79 p 5 BK]

MOGOK ARREST--Mogok, 28 September--Acting on information, U Tun Nyo, executive of the Mogok Township People's Council, accompanied by ward people's councillors and members of the people's police force, searched the house of 50-year old Daw Swe in Panma Kyaukthabeik ward, West Mogok, on 26 September and seized a package of raw opium weighing 1 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 lbs] and also a small package of opium weighing .5 tical [100 ticals equal 1 viss] hidden in the wall. Action was taken against Daw Swe under Sections 6 (B) and 11 (B) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. SW/ [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 8 Oct 79 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5300

INDIA

MANSAUR: WHERE OPIUM TRAIL ENDS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 79 p 10

[Text] Mansaur, Oct 10--Interpol has been able to trace only a few cases of opium smuggling in other parts of the globe to Mansaur, the world's largest poppy growing area. Mansaur, in Madhya Pradesh adjoining the Rajasthan border, remains a puzzle for those following the opium trail right up to the morphine converting factories in Europe. By official accounts, an astonishing sum of Rs 13 crores was disbursed to 86,000 cultivators who grow poppy plants on 23,287 hectares under Government licence.

But underworld reports claim that Mansaur easily exports about Rs 5 crores of opium annually through illicit channels. Officials suspect that the international link is maintained through the Mogha checkpost on Punjab's border with Pakistan and the southern connexion which takes Mansaur opium to Madurai and Hyderabad and then to Sri Lanka.

Mansaur opium has been found in Gujarat and Rajasthan but it is believed that this may largely be for domestic consumption. However some officials question the veracity of intelligence reports which attribute the presence of opium from Mansaur in Delhi and Punjab to the increased consumption of hard drugs by university students.

With several links missing in the opium trail, authorities claim to have reason to believe that morphine factories exist in India, though only one has been found (at Varanasi) so far.

Sources say a good deal of the opium leaves the country. Officials disclosed that there were 10 to 15 top smugglers in the country dealing in opium and all of them are depend on supplies from Mansaur though Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan also grow poppy. One smuggler has been able to give Mansaur its international stature. The opium he supplies carries a crescent and a star and, it is claimed, this mark is respected the world over. The smuggler is based at Mansaur and is the owner of property worth half a crore.

There is another smuggler at Mansaur. Formerly the owner of a cycle repair shop, today he has lakhs of rupees. There are many others like him, and the owner of a tea shop put it, "Here anyone who has made more than 3 lakhs has some time or the other been in the business."

This is not hard to believe since the authorities suspect that opium is pilfered from every village that grows it. The allegation that all villagers are smugglers may not be wholly true, but the price offered by smugglers (Rs 900 to Rs 1,200 a kg) is far more than the Government price (Rs 140 to 200 a kg).

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INDIA

BRIEFS

OPIUM CROP--New Delhi, 17 Oct (AFP)--India, the largest opium producing country in the world, has curtailed its production by 20 percent this year. A press report here today said that the production had been cut in view of the slackness in demand in the world markets for morphine which is an extract of opium. The area under cultivation for next crop had thus been reduced from 50,000 hectares to 40,000 hectares, it said. This year India was estimated to have exported opium worth 120 million rupees or about \$15 million. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, all of them in the north, are the major opium growing states in the country. [Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 17 Oct 79 BK]

GANJA SEIZED--Dimapur airport security officials seized 48 kg of ganja, valued at about Rs 28,000, last week, according to an official report received in Kohima on Tuesday.--UNI [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 25 Sep 79 p 9]

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MALAYSIA

SURPRISE RAID ON 36 STORES IN PAHANG NETS LARGE QUANTITY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS

Kuala Lumpur KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 16 Aug 79 p 7

[Article: "Ministry of Public Health Launches Anti-Corruption Operation"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 15 August--The Ministry of Public Health has confiscated toxic drugs totaling 4,800 Malaysian dollars in value from 16 stores in Pahang State.

Ministry of Public Health Inspector General Dr Dan-si-li-la-re-a-mo Nuo-ting [transliteration] today revealed that law enforcement personnel from the Public Health Ministry's Drug Section, assisted by police, carried out an anti-corruption operation which resulted in the seizure of 183 kinds of dangerous drugs.

He said that during last week's 2-day operation, a total of 18 pharmacies which had not applied for licenses as required by the 1952 Narcotics Law were inspected.

Dan-si-li-la-re-a-mo explained that these drugs, which include items such as antibiotics and cortisone, can produce serious and dangerous side effects if misused.

He added that if these drugs are taken without the guidance of specialized physicians, serious reactions could result.

In view of this factor, the distribution of medicines requires ample knowledge regarding symptoms, proper dosage quantities, timing of use, contraindications, and the effects of reactions in cases in which the user has an allergy or unusual physical condition.

The inspector general said that the Ministry of Public Health will closely scrutinize the sale of toxic drugs, and Chinese pharmacies which don't have licenses will not be allowed to sell drugs of this category.

He said that anyone who violates the 1952 Narcotics Law will be prosecuted.

9292
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MALAYSIA

RICE MERCHANTS CHARGED IN SUSPECTED \$400,000 OPIUM SALE

Kuala Lumpur KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 21 Aug 79 p 12

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 20 August--Rice merchants Huang Shijia [7806 0013 0163] and his wife Zhang Naijiao [1728 0035 1293], both Chinese citizens, went on trial today in the local superior court for the sale of more than 79 kg of raw opium valued at 400,000 Malaysian dollars. Before this case went to trial, co-defendent Zhang Naijiao indicated that she would not be able to participate due to ill health. However, after undergoing a diagnostic examination by a court-appointed physician, she was pronounced fit to stand trial. The judge thereupon opened the trial.

The complaint against the two defedents is as follows: (1) Huang Shijia, 47 years old, is a rice dealer. (2) Zhang Naijiao is 41 years old. The two are a married couple. It is alleged that at 2:45 pm on 12 January of the year before last, at Number 179, Re-lan-ban [transliteration] Section, Hua-lian [transliteration] Garden, Jiu-ba-sheng [transliteration] Road, they illegally sold an amount of raw opium totaling 79.159 kg, in violation of Article 39(B) of the Dangerous Drugs Statute.

9292
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MALAYSIA

CUSTOMS BUREAU PLANS ANTI-SMUGGLING POLICE DOG TEAM

Kuala Lumpur SIN CHEW JIT POH in Chinese 27 Aug 79 p 4

[Article: "Effort to Curb Penang's International Narcotics Traffic Obstructed by Lack of Suitable Location for Headquarters Station"]

[Text] Malaysia News Agency, Penang, 26 August--The Customs Bureau Anti-Smuggling Section plans to set up a police dog team for the purpose of curbing the international narcotics traffic which transits Penang, but this plan is being held up because authorities have been unable to find a suitable location at which to base the proposed unit.

The Anti-Smuggling Section's Northern District Supervisor A-mo-a-du-la [transliteration] today told reporters that this plan requires a station located in a nonresidential area, with at least half an acre of open space adjoining the building.

He said that although an anti-smuggling police dog team is urgently needed at Ke-liu-bai [transliteration] Airport for narcots reconnaissance, the unit cannot go into operation for want of a headquarters building and an adjacent vacant lot.

Since the recent confiscation of 3 million Malaysian dollars' worth of heroin by officials at the airport, this need has become even more obvious. Customs officials discovered the heroin by chance when they noticed a strange odor emanating from an unlocked briefcase.

The supervisor said that the state government has proposed several sites, but in every case they are either too close to residences or not suitable for maintaining dogs.

He is presently considering a half-acre tract on Wu-ting-ni [transliteration] Road, which is the most suitable location.

However, the state government has already given this piece of land to the police for their future use.

The Customs Bureau people have asked the police whether or not they would sell the land, and are now awaiting an answer.

The district supervisor pointed that two of the six specially trained customs police dogs currently being used in narcotics detection activities in Kuala Lumpur could be stationed in Penang after a kennel is set up there.

These dogs are commanded by people who have received special training abroad.

The supervisor said, "We need to find a building in an uncrowded area to properly set up these dogs and their masters."

If a suitable location including a vacant lot can be found, the authorities would be willing to lease it.

The supervisor said that these dogs are of the best quality for narcotics detection activities at any airport.

Without the dogs, customs officials can only arbitrarily select baggage for thorough search.

9292
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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

CHARAS RECOVERED FROM CANADIAN--Railway Customs on Thursday recovered 5,000 grams of charas from the luggage of a Canadian national, Rocas Dellavle, who was to leave for New Delhi by train. While his luggage was being examined, Dellavle left the counter and disappeared. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Sep 79 p 8]

OPIUM SEIZED--More than 70 maunds of opium valued at Rs. 30 crore in the international market was seized by the customs authorities at Torkham this morning. The consignment was said to be more than double the previous record haul in the Indo Pakistan Sub-Continent. A Karachi-bound truck was carrying wheat and in between its double flooring 400 bags of opium containing seven kilas each were found hidden. The driver of the truck has been arrested. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Oct 79 p 5]

CHARAS, OPIUM SEIZED--The Peshawar Crimes Branch Police, has seized 21 maunds of charas and 20 seers of opium in an operation near Khairabad on the G.T. Road. Police sources said, that the seizure was made from Mazda car No. KAN-1371 and its three occupants namely Fazal Hussain, Abdur Rehman, and Master Bilore Khan have been arrested. The contraband opium and charas was reportedly being smuggled out to different parts of Punjab for transportation abroad. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 4 Oct 79 p 6]

CHARAS IN CHAGI--The Civil Administration' district Chagi, lightning raid has recovered 25 maunds of opium and charas from Kalangur Checkpost in district Chagi Saturday. Official sources told APP that the Political Agent, Ghagi Mr Khuda Dad Khan supervised a raid by Levies and a truck loaded with bricks and on search the contraband charas worth about rupees one crore was recovered. Further investigations are underway. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 1 Oct 79 p 1]

HUGE OPIUM HAUL--The customs authorities of Torkham, on the Pak-Afghan border, Sunday made the biggest ever haul of opium in country's history and seized 2828 kilograms of the contraband intoxicant from an Afghanistan bound truck. The opium, packed in 404 bags of seven kg each were concealed in secret cavities of the foreign registered truck, laden with wheat provided by the United States to Afghanistan under the World Food Programme. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 1 Oct 79 p 1]

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SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

SMUGGLERS USING PASSPORTS--Colombo, Oct 9--The Government of India has alerted Sri Lanka about an organised gang of hashish and opium smugglers who were reported to be using Sri Lankan passports to cross the Indo-Pakistan border, according to Mr Newton Samarasinghe, Controller of Immigration and Emigration. He said he and the Deputy Inspector-General, Mr R. Sundaralingam, had been asked by the Defence Ministry to ascertain from the Commissioner of Indian Narcotics Board whether they had any specific cases where Sri Lankan nationals had been suspected of involvement in smuggling. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Oct 79 p 7]

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THAILAND

THONBURI HEROIN RING BROKEN, AMNESTY DESCRIBED

Police Seize Ringleaders

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 21 Jul 79 pp 1, 2

[A shorter report on this item also appeared in JPRS L/8631, 22 Aug 1979, (FOUO 35/79) of this series p 25]

[Text] A major heroin processing outfit in Thonburi was raided and over 66 million baht's worth of heroin was confiscated; the owner was dressed in a colonel's uniform, and his business contacts were once sentenced for life under Section 17 on a charge of narcotics trafficking, but claimed to have served their sentences. All were apprehended following a chaotic chase.

Having been informed of a heroin processing outfit in a three storey building at 17/59 Christchak Lane, Charansanitwong Avenue in Bangkokyai District, Police Lt Col Nukhun Somathat, Tha Phra police station chief inspector, ordered a one-month observation by an informant until it was known that there would be a meeting between the building owner and an accomplice on July 20. Therefore, on the same day Col Nukhun, along with Maj Anèk Chiawsamut, Capt Suppanit Phromphayak, a suppression officer, 2d Lt Bunchuai Chaemchukun, a duty officer, as well as several other police officers, set up an ambush from the beginning of the lane to the above mentioned building.

At 1400 hours, a blue Toyota Corona with a license number 9 KH 8275, as had been reported and recorded by the police, came from the beginning of the lane. It carried a man clad in a uniform worn by a special colonel commanding territorial defense cadets, resembling a senior military officer, called the "fat battalion." He was immediately apprehended and searched as soon as he got out of his car to enter the building.

The man in unifrom was competely taken by surprise. He told the police that his name was Sa-nguan Chiwathammanon, 42 years old, and that he was a tenant of the building. After searching the building, the police discovered three persons busily processing the heroin. They were Mr Khwan Thapchan, a 23-year old from Rayong Province; Miss Nit Luengcharoen, a 19-year old from Sisaket Province; and Mr Suwan Sinsombat, 23 years old. The police found 30 kilograms of processed grey-powder heroin worth 660,000 Baht in Thailand, and about 66 million Baht on the U.S. market. Over 20 items of heroin-processing equipment were also found.

Meanwhile, a brown Datsun 120-Y, carrying a man and a woman arriving at the building but sped away upon seeing the police. Col Nukhun immediately ordered a chase, while radioing Bangkoknoi police to stop the car heading their way. Bangkoknoi police apprehended the occupants of the car and later remanded them to Tha Phra police.

Following an investigation the police discovered that the occupants of the Datsun, license number 1 K-4755, were Mr Somphong Sae Lim using a Lao name Thao Sanit, 39 and Mrs Phanit Sit-Ari, 40, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1965 under Section 17 on a charge of narcotics dealing, she said she was in prison for 11 years but was later granted amnesty. The police searched both occupants and found a small amount of heroin and several tens of thousands of baht in cash [on Phanit], and 150,000 Baht in cash and a 1977 amnesty certificate issued by the prison on Mr Sa-nguan.

Col Nukhun later disclosed that an initial charge of danger to society will be brought against Mr Sa-nguan and Mr Suwan, heroin producers, running the show as well as against Mr Somphong or Thao Sanit and Mrs Phanit. A separate charge will be brought against Mr Khwan and Miss Nit since they were simply employees.



[Top photo left to right] Somphong Saelim (Thao Sanit), Miss Nit Leuangchareon, Khwan Thapchan, Suwan Sinsombat [Bottom left] Phant Sit-Ari [Bottom right] Sa-nguan Chiwathamanon

Amnesty Procedure Explained

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 22 Jul 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] Following a raid to break up a heroin ring led by Police Lt Col Nukhun Somathat, Tha Phra police station chief inspector, a three storey building at 17/59 Christchak Lane, Charansanitwong Avenue, Tha Phra Sub-District of Bangkokyai District in Bangkok at 1400 hours, Friday, July 20, Mr Sa-nguan or Nguan Chiwathammanon, a 35-year old owner of the building; Mr Khwan Thapchan, 23 years old; Mr Suwan Sinsombat, 25 years old; and Miss Nit Luengcharoen, a 19-year old employee, were arrested. Heroin-processing equipment, as well as a great quantity of heroin, was also confiscated. In addition, Miss Phanit Sit-Ari, 40 years old, and Mr Somphong Sae Lim or Sanit, a Lao, were apprehended by the police in attempting to escape in their car from Mr Sa-nguan's house. Miss Phanit, a suspect in this case, was once arrested on a charge of narcotic dealing and trafficking and later was sentenced to life imprisonment under Section 17, but is now free as a result of claiming amnesty granted her, as earlier reported in BAN MUANG.

To find out the fact of this matter, our reporter contacted a well-known Thai lawyer, because many have inquired whether people sentenced specifically on a heroin charge under Section 17 could be granted amnesty. The lawyer responded that as far as is known amnesty for this type of conviction has never been proposed by the government for only certain cases. He said, "These orders must be endorsed and carried out just as court decisions. Based on Royal Amnesties, there are categories such as narcotics-heroin trafficking, sex offenses, political offenses or communist activities which are not granted amnesty. However, depending on promulgated Royal Decrees, some cases are granted amnesty. For example, there was a case of a police colonel who was involved in narcotic trafficking and was sentenced for life under Section 17, but who is now free. Regarding this case, amnesty may have been granted, and we had best reexamine the evidence."

9013
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THAILAND

AUSTRALIAN DEFENDANTS CONFESS HEROIN SMUGGLING ATTEMPT

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 4 Sep 79 p 1

[Article by Neil Kelly and AAP]

[Text]

BANGKOK. — Sydney Rugby League player Paul Hayward and hairdresser Warren Fellows said they had been hired to take heroin to Australia, the Bangkok Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Konkrit Patanapongpanit said this at the trial of Hayward, 26, Fellows, 28, and another Sydney man, William Sinclair, 68.

All three are charged with having attempted to smuggle 8.5 kilograms of top grade heroin to Australia.

They have been in custody since their arrest last October.

Lieutenant Colonel Konkrit said he went to Bangkok's Montien Hotel to arrest Hayward and Fellows a few hours before they were booked to fly to Sydney.

"When I met Fellows in room 413, he said the heroin was in room 415 — Hayward's room," he said.

"I took Fellows to that room, where he gave the combination number of the lock on a red suitcase.

"Another police officer opened the red suitcase and I saw 24 plastic bags of what I now know to be heroin.

"Both Hayward and Fellows said it was not theirs but they had been hired to take it back to Australia.

"Later Hayward and Fellows signed confessions which were countersigned by Australian narcotics agent, Frank Davies.

'Beaten'

"Nobody forced the two to write the confessions."

A defence lawyer representing Fellows alleged at an earlier hearing that police Major Virat

Juttimit beat Fellows to extract the confession.

Hayward and Fellows have pleaded guilty to possession of the heroin, worth \$3 million, but denied having had the drug for sale, distribution or export.

Sinclair has pleaded not guilty to charges of having aided a smuggling attempt. A fourth defendant, Thai taxi driver Kitti-imsap, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of having supplied the drug.

The hearing was adjourned until Friday.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

OFFICER FIRED--Police Captain Thong Kitsi, Chief of Chiang Kham District Police Station in Chiang Rai Province was discharged from government service and will face criminal charges for falsifying evidence of a reward for the capture of smuggled opium. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Jul 79 p 12] 9013

RAW OPIUM SEIZED--Today at 1400 hours policemen raided house No. 324 Phetkasem Road, Hat Yai District, Songkhla on the instructions of Pol Maj Gen Phimphan Netrangsi, deputy commander of provincial police Zone 4, who learned that an amount of raw opium had been hidden there. The policemen found raw opium weighing about 10.4 kg in seven plastic bags hidden on top of a closet inside the house. The opium is worth about 165,000 baht. Mae Sonsa-at, owner of the house, said she did not own the opium or know who owned it. She has been taken into custody for further questioning at the Hat Yai police station. [Excerpt] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 2 Oct 79 BK]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

LESS HEROIN, MORE MARIHUANA REPORTED IN MONTREAL

Montreal LA PRESS in French 21 Sep 79 pp 1,6

/Article by Andre Cedilot: "Less Heroin and More Marihuana and Hash"--
Montreal, the exporter of chemical drugs

/Text/ Montreal has become an important port of entry for cannabis and especially for hashish, after having been one of the centers for international heroin traffic in the early seventies. Besides, during the past 3 years it has developed a reputation as an exporter of chemical drugs.

During the first 6 months of 1979, the Royal Canadian Police /GRC/ has seized in the province of Quebec hashish valued at \$10 million and brought about 260 charges against about 150 hashish dealers. This did not include \$500,000 worth of confiscated heroin and cocaine, as well as dismantling five clandestine laboratories.

This is, in short, the picture drawn for LA PRESSE during an interview by Inspector Gilles Favreau, head of the drug squad of the GRC in Quebec, and he insisted on explaining that the problem in Montreal was, on the whole, less serious than in Vancouver or in Toronto.

According to the officer, it is actually the number of heroin addicts which determines the extent of the drug problem in a country or a region. In fact, the experts estimate that there are 1,500 to 2,000 heroin users in Montreal compared with 5,000 in Toronto and 15,000 in Vancouver.

As for the reasons that would explain this disparity between the three Canadian cities, they are as diverse as they are contradictory. Inspector Favreau believes that this is mainly a social phenomenon.

"It is a little bit like trying to explain why 85 percent of the hold ups on the island of Montreal are committed by French-speaking people..." said the policeman, pointing out that a greater number of English-speaking people are involved in drug trafficking. However, in this case, he cannot give exact figures.

Yet, the drug problem must be taken seriously. A study by the police of CUM /expansion unknown/ showed that not too long ago almost two-thirds of crimes committed in its jurisdiction were connected with drug groups.

In order to really understand the evolution of the drug phenomenon in Montreal, it is important to remember that cannabis, whose derivatives are marihuana and hashish, appeared here only at the beginning of the fifties. Then only about 10 years later did the use of "hash" actually start to exceed that of the other hallucinogenic substance.

At the time, all things considered, heroin was much more widespread in the Montreal region than elsewhere, users being mainly 30 years old or over, many of whom were former musicians and sportsmen who had already had the opportunity to "try" stimulants.

Following the rampant use of drugs in the United States, after "high priest" Timothy O'Leary gave speeches on the "beneficial effects" of LSD, this drug and others like it, such as mescaline, the metamphetamines, PCP, etc., reached the Canadian metropolis around 1965.

Since then, all kinds of drugs can be found in Montreal, the popularity of each one rising and falling at the same rate as it does in Uncle Sam's country. And the drug dealers cater to the demands of the users.

Important Seizures

Thus, as proven through numerous hauls by the GRC, the smugglers were very active during the first 5 years of the last decade. During this period, Montreal was actually one of the centers of heroin traffic, a drug originating in Marseilles and then sent to New York.

Also the quantity of hashish reaching Montreal became substantial at the beginning of the seventies, members of organized crime having become interested in this substance. Hashish had found a growing number of users because people became suspicious of chemical drugs after getting reports of numerous accidents from across the border.

Among the most notorious individuals apprehended by the GRC we find Lucien Rivard, Conrad Bouchard, "Pep" Cotroni (deceased last week), Frank Cotroni, Guido Orsini, Frank Dasti, Frank Zaurini, Santo Mandolia, Michel Mastantuano, and several others.

"Hash" Always Popular

Oddly enough, it seems that heroin traffic is now the domain of minor, lone smugglers who, according to police information, bring less than 200 kg per year into the country to satisfy consumer demand in Montreal.

In the opinion of Inspector Gilles Favreau, cocaine is also brought in secretly, in very small quantities, at most a pound at a time. He recalled the "exercise," which is dangerous at best, during which some young importers, including

a woman, hid "coke" in condoms that they then swallowed.

In the case of hashish, the story is a different one. Here trafficking is more extensive, if one can judge by the results of only three GRC operations when at least 3,000 lb of this derivative of cannabis was seized in Montreal and the surrounding area.

Furthermore, Inspector Favreau is afraid that there is a new generation of chemical drug users in Quebec, since the discovery, during the last 3 years, of at least 15 clandestine laboratories that manufactured LSD and "speed." The Federal Police believes that a part of the merchandise was earmarked for local consumption and the rest for Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. However, the most important supplies entering La Belle Province Quebec come from manufacturers in California.

A World Premiere

Besides, the main task of about 125 policemen who make up the narcotic squad of the GRC, several of whom are double agents infiltrating just about everywhere, is to thwart the importation and the manufacture of any drugs.

"In going to the source, we hope to reduce as much as possible the quantity of drugs put on the market," explained Inspector Favreau, who points out that it is the responsibility of the Quebec Intelligence Service and of the Municipal Police to catch the small suppliers.

In case of pressing need, the GRC does not hesitate to assist other police forces by organizing large-scale raids throughout the province. This was actually the case last year when at least 740 "pushers" were locked up following the infiltration of 30 federal agents which cost the GRC about \$700,000. In the whole world, there had never been a precedent for such an operation!

9465
CSO: 5300

CANADA

BRIEFS

MONTREAL DRUG SEIZURE--Jacques and Andre Couture, 22 and 25 years old respectively, appeared this morning at the Montreal Palace of Justice to answer several charges, including possession of drugs for the purpose of sale, possession of offensive weapons, police radio, etc. The SQ [Quebec Police Force] seized "speed" valued at \$250,000 in their residence at 5681 Rue Charlemagne, Montreal. A large quantity of cocaine was also seized at the residence of the two young men. Lieutenant Lucien Gauthier met with journalists yesterday to report on this case. [Text] [Montreal LA PRESSE in French 20 Oct 79 p F 27]

CSO: 5300

BULGARIA

BRIEFS

SUCSESSES AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLING--The Bulgarian customs authorities occupy a worthy place in the struggle of the international customs authorities against drug smugglers. One example is the case of the British subject Harper Brian John, [as published] who arrived at the Captain Andreevo check point with a Volkswagen bus. The customs authorities found 100 kg of narcotics in his car. At the trial Harper John said that he had done this for Mr Koufs from Birmingham, who had sent him to the Syrian city of Haffe, where he was to park the car at a special place and wait. During this period somebody had loaded his car with narcotics--and that was it.... Then back in England, Harper John was to report his successful return to Mr Koufs and receive the promised 200 pounds. [Excerpt] [Valentin Panayotov] [Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 21 Sep 79 p 2 AU]

CSO: 5300

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST RESIDENT RECEIVES HASHISH FROM PAKISTAN

AU241113 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 20 Oct 79 p 12 AU

[Article by "S.A.": "The Addressee Had Not Asked for It; He Has Received Chests Lined With Hashish"]

[Summary] "Presumably, Zoltan M., a resident of Budapest, was very surprised when he was notified in the spring that 'packages' addressed to his wife had arrived from Rawalpindi at Ferihegy Airport." The couple was even more perplexed to learn that the consignment consisted of two antique chests on which a duty of 9,000 forints was to be paid. However, they paid the duty when they found out that the sender of the chests was a friend of theirs--Gyorgy Levai, who is living in the FRG--when he promised to "take care of the financial side of the matter." The chests ended up at the Budapest apartment of Levai's sister, Mrs Jozsef B.

Early in April, a West German citizen, Freiherr Paleske Petcz, visited the couple, paid the duty and transportation costs and requested access to the chests for the purpose of taking something out of them. He was given the keys to Mrs Jozsef B.'s apartment and told to do whatever he wanted with the chests. When Mrs B. arrived home later, she found the antique chests reduced to kindling.

"In the meantime, a chest arrived in the FRG from Pakistan, and it was found to have something in it, also: 23 kilograms of Hashish was concealed between its double walls. An international narcotics group ended up under lock and key. Levai, whose 'colleagues' had sent the chests 'lined with' narcotics to Budapest, was a member of that group. Experts have computed that 15 kilograms of hashish must have been hidden in the pieces of furniture sent to Zoltan M. and his wife.

"Because Zoltan M. and Mrs Jozsef B. were unaware of the secret of the chests, they will be charged with a customs misdemeanor at the central district court."

CSO: 5300

YUGOSLAVIA

HEROIN SMUGGLING INCREASING ON YUGOSLAV BORDERS

AU222000 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Sep 79 p 10 AU

[Tihomir Nestic report]

[Summary] Dimitrovgrad, 18 September--After a pause of 15 years, heroin has again appeared at the Gradina border crossing near Dimitrovgrad. Tons of hashish are confiscated every year at this crossing point. The record was reached in 1976 when over 3,400 kilograms of this drug was confiscated. However, in the period from 1963 to 1978 no heroin was detected at the Gradina crossing point. Last year, 54 kilograms of heroin were found on smugglers and in the first 8 months of this year 27 kilograms of the drug have been found. Experience shows that more drugs are smuggled during the national holidays and the new year's holidays.

Regardless of how much is detected at the border, it is certain that a quantity of drugs will pass through the border crossing. There is hardly a place in an automobile, bus truck or train that has not been used for hiding drugs. Women, too, are increasingly [found to be] smuggling drugs, particularly those carrying small children in their arms. At the border crossing they would pinch their babies to make them cry so as to induce sympathy in customs officers.

Heroin is expensive and small quantities of it are smuggled at a time. That makes it very easy to hide in one's personal luggage, clothing or to affix it with plaster to one's body. A German woman was found with her brassiere full of heroin.

"For that reason the fact that 760 kilograms of hashish was confiscated in 8 months of this year causes less concern than the fact that 27 kilograms of heroin were confiscated. Customs officers believe that not much undetected hashish has slipped through, but they do not know how much heroin has passed through unnoticed. A 'factory' has obviously begun operating somewhere in the Middle East and until it is discovered, heroin will reach the Gradina border crossing and Western Europe, too. And 10 grams of heroin can destroy more lives than even 100 kilograms of hashish."

In recent years, traffic at the Gradina border crossing has diminished. Could it be that customs officers have contributed to the reduction in the number of passengers using the border crossing, and that drug smugglers are now using another route? No Yugoslav drug smuggler was caught at the Gradina border crossing this year or last year. Most numerous among drug smugglers are the Turks, and there are more and more from Western Europe, particularly West Germany. There was also not a single drug smuggler from an East European country.

CSO: 5300

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ARGENTINA

ARGENTINE-PARAGUAYAN BORDER DRUG TRAFFIC IS SUBJECT OF ALARM

Prefect Tognola Describes Situation

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Sep 79 p 8

[Editorial: "Drugs on the border"]

[Text] Perhaps because the line between truth and fiction is not always clear cut, when reference is made to drug trafficking there is usually a tendency to think of the sources of supply as being in exotic and remote countries of the Far East. However, while it is impossible to ignore the existence of plantations devoted to this dishonorable trade in those remote regions, it is necessary to face the certainty of a danger which lies behind an Argentine border region. The chief of the Naval Prefecture of the port of Posadas has raised a cry of alarm concerning the seriousness of the matter. The chief prefect, Rolando Tognola, said that this city has turned into one of the main points of entry for drugs coming from Paraguay. He verified this statement by pointing out that operations were carried out recently which have proven that the drug trafficking is increasing. Some persons, primarily youths, were subsequently arrested and considerable amounts of marihuana were confiscated. He added that all cases have been turned over to the Federal Court of Misiones, whose judge has said that there is no doubt about the existence of real organizations devoted to illegal activities, in addition to the activities of the drug traffickers who were arrested. The judge stated that Posadas and Puerto Iguazu are the main points of entry for the marihuana and added that the marihuana is grown in the Paraguayan region of Amambay, where an estimated 25,000 kg are produced. This gives rise to an operation in which some 3,000 persons are involved.

Thus, along the river border, between the town of Pedro Juan Caballero and the capital of the neighboring country, there is intensive trafficking which is difficult to control both because of the nature of the area and because of the various tricks used by the "smugglers" to hide their illegal merchandise. Once it is introduced into our country, it is transferred to Buenos Aires, Rosario, Cordoba and Mar del Plata, where it is distributed and sold in the form of cigarettes. Consequently, the Naval Prefecture authorities have taken measures to strengthen their control and to increase the patrols all along the banks of the Upper Parana. They have also issued a warning to parents about the dangers inherent in the intensive drug trafficking in the region.

This straightforward account of the facts provides an idea of the magnitude of a problem which has devastating social repercussions and which is aggravated by the relative nearness of the center for the production of the marihuana and the apparent freedom of action enjoyed by those devoted to growing the marihuana and those in charge of handling it and transferring it across the border. As long as these conditions persist, the clandestine organizations will find it easy to carry out their activities and the already widespread and dauntless efforts of the Federal Police Narcotics Department will have to be increased. When the cooperation of the authorities of the neighboring country is obtained--a cooperation undoubtedly provided for in inter-American agreements on the matter--it will be possible to undertake the task of putting an end to one of the biggest sources of this illegal traffic, which is carried out clandestinely by the shrewd and cunning purveyors of drug addiction.

Mexican Newspaper Comments

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 20 Sep 79 p 12

[Commentary by Gregorio Selser]

[Text] The subject of drug smuggling and trafficking which we began discussing yesterday in connection with Paraguay was suggested to us by official reports from Argentina stating that these illegal activities were going on and voicing concern as a result of the growing problem involving the clandestine introduction of marihuana into that country.

The Argentine Naval Prefecture has reported that smuggled merchandise worth 50 million pesos was confiscated during various operations carried out last August at the ports of the federal capital, Formosa, Iguazu, Pilcomayo, San Javier and Posadas. This included "several kg of marihuana from Paraguay." The other merchandise included cigarettes, television sets, transistor radios, radio-type recorders, cassette players, whisky, foodstuffs, clocks, clothing and various home appliances.

Naval Prefect of Posadas Expresses Alarm

Confirming this report, Rolando Tognola, the chief prefect and head of the Naval Prefecture of the port of Posadas, which is the capital of Misiones province on the border with Paraguay, has stated that this city in north-eastern Argentina has turned into one of the main points of entry for drugs coming from Paraguay. He added that dozens of operations have been carried out which have proven that the drug trafficking is increasing, and noted that some persons, primarily youths, have been arrested, and that considerable quantities of shredded marihuana have been confiscated.

In his turn the federal judge of Misiones said that there is no doubt about the existence of real organizations devoted to the production and "routing" of drugs and that some 3,000 persons are involved in these activities. Both Posadas and Puerto Iguazu serve as the main points of entry for the marihuana. The marihuana is grown in the Paraguayan region of Amambay, on the border

with Brazil, and its port of exit is Pedro Juan Caballero. An estimated 25,000 kg of marihuana are produced and it is shipped down the Parana River from Caballero to Asuncion, thanks to the leniency and complicity of the officials in charge of preventing it. The so-called "smugglers"--in other words, those who "smuggle" the drugs and other merchandise--are old hands at all the tricks of the trade needed to evade the patrols along the vast and mountainous border.

'LA NACION' Expresses Alarm

The statement by Prefect Tognola gave rise to an editorial in the conservative Buenos Aires morning paper LA NACION ("Drugs on the Border," 12 September 1979, p 8). The editorial stated: "Perhaps because the line between truth and fiction is not always clear cut, when reference is made to drug trafficking there is usually a tendency to think of the sources of supply as being in exotic and remote countries of the Far East. However, while it is impossible to ignore the existence of plantations devoted to this dishonorable trade in those remote regions, it is necessary to face the certainty of a danger which lies behind an Argentine border region."

After reporting the information provided above, LA NACION noted that the Paraguayan marihuana is distributed and sold in the form of cigarettes in Buenos Aires, Rosario, Cordoba and Mar del Plata. The paper ended its editorial as follows: "This straightforward account of the facts provides an idea of the magnitude of a problem which has devastating social repercussions and which is aggravated by the relative nearness of the center for the production of the marihuana and the apparent freedom of action enjoyed by those devoted to growing the marihuana and those in charge of handling it and transferring it across the border. As long as these conditions persist, the clandestine organizations will find it easy to carry out their activities and the already widespread and dauntless efforts of the Federal Police Narcotics Department will have to be increased. When the cooperation of the authorities of the neighboring country is obtained--a cooperation undoubtedly provided for in inter-American agreements on the matter--it will be possible to undertake the task of putting an end to one of the biggest sources of this illegal traffic, which is carried out clandestinely by the shrewd and cunning purveyors of drug addiction."

In Search of the General

The subtle wording used in the LA NACION editorial expresses the certainty of the Argentine police and naval authorities that Paraguayan officials are turning a blind eye to both the cultivation and "smuggling" of the marihuana. These authorities also know that if they identify the Paraguayan general who has the region of Amambay and the port of Pedro Juan Caballero under his command, they will have hit upon the main person responsible for the illicit business. We have already noted that Stroessner's system of government relies on parceling out smuggling transactions among his chief officers in the three branches of the armed forces and that this is based on the very wise premise of the dictator himself. According to this premise, "smuggling is the price of peace."

This means domestic peace, of course--a peace which after the Chaco War and the abortive mutiny by Col Rafael Franco, was only disturbed in 1947 by the bloody revolution in Concepcion which Gen Higinio Morinigo put down thanks to the considerable aid in weapons and ammunition provided to him by the man who was president of Argentina at the time, Juan D. Peron.

There is not a single person on the Argentine side of the border--and least of all within the Naval Prefecture--who is not aware that smuggling is also one of the prices which Argentina has had to agree to pay for a long time so that the geopolitical balance in the region will not lean too much toward Brazil. The Itaipu dam already represents a resounding victory for Brazil. Meanwhile, the delayed construction of the Yacyreta-Apipe hydroelectric dam is the ploy Stroessner uses against Argentina every time the latter tries to put a halt to the smuggling by the Paraguayan generals.

Yacyreta-Apipe is vital to the development of the northeastern region of Argentina. Stroessner is well aware of this and so far he has played his cards with the wisdom gained from five consecutive terms in power. Itaipu, a joint Brazilian-Paraguayan dam which is the biggest in the world, will begin operating in 1983. Yacyreta-Apipe is still under negotiation and even under the best of circumstances would not begin operating until the 1990's. Stroessner knows that the smuggling carried on by his close relatives and most loyal generals can continue.

'VISION' Oversight

Although the smuggling of marihuana to Argentina is just one more of the jobs assigned to one or another of Stroessner's generals, for Argentina the problem is acquiring alarming proportions.

The latest issue of VISION ("The Drug Network," September 1979, Mexico, Vol 53, No 6, pp 6-9) carries a list of the Latin American countries affected by the cultivation, traffic and/or consumption of drugs. The list includes Argentina (the reporter notes that "the number of habitual or occasional drug users is probably as high as 50,000"), Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela, but makes no mention of Brazil, Uruguay, Guatemala and Honduras, among others, nor does it mention Paraguay. This same article states that "in 1975 Argentina was not only a link in the illegal drug traffic, but also had vast marihuana plantations," and adds that "there was a major market for consumption in the federal capital and in metropolitan Buenos Aires, and individual outbreaks of use in other urban centers."

Without wishing to arouse suspicion, the failure to mention Honduras as one of the links cited by the Interpol in the drug traffic to the United States might be explained by the 18-page "Advertising Supplement"--in other words, a paid advertisement--which VISION devotes to Honduras in the same issue. In the case of Paraguay, the explanation goes back further to the time when Anastasio Somoza Debayle's son-in-law, Richard Rapold, decided to take over as general manager of VISION and to reveal that the publication belongs to the former dictator's family. And how could Somoza pick a quarrel with his buddy Stroessner?

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COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN MINISTER CRITICIZES U.S. DOMESTIC NARCOTICS CONTROLS

PA251626 Paris AFP in Spanish 0214 GMT 25 Sep 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 24 Sep (AFP)--Hector Echeverry Correa, chairman of the Colombian Senate, today harshly criticized the U.S. Government and people for not fighting determinedly to control the narcotics traffic. Echeverry accused the U.S. authorities and people of "immorality" by promoting the production of marihuana and cocaine in Colombia to supply the U.S. market.

The criticism was leveled today during talks between the governments of Colombia and the United States to analyze the results of the joint struggle against the narcotics traffic. Florida Governor Robert Graham and U.S. Ambassador Diego Asensio are participating in the talks. Graham noted Echeverry's frankness and although he pointed out that the U.S. Army cannot, unlike the Colombian Army, legally combat the narcotics underworld, he announced that studies are underway on possible changes or amendments in the law to make this possible.

During the talks, another Colombian senator, Eduardo Abuchaibe, said the narcotics traffic has caused approximately 400 deaths in the Guajira Peninsula--considered the principal marihuana production center--and on the Atlantic coast. Guajira has been drenched in blood because of marihuana and cocaine going to the United States, he said, and added that a climate of fear exists which influences social problems there.

The Colombian Government signed an agreement with the United States 1 year ago to combat drug traffickers. According to official statistics, some control over the smugglers has been attained, although enormous quantities of narcotics are still leaving for the United States.

Senator Echeverry said in his accusation that "you bring the dollars, you bring valium and all kinds of tranquilizers." He then accused them of bringing weapons and dollars into Colombia and affirmed that the money was issued to bribe our authorities without caring what effect the U.S. economic power has on the Colombian people. He said that "you amuse yourselves by bribing our authorities, stimulating domestic consumption of marihuana and cocaine in our country and exporting increasing amounts to your own country." Everyday you bring us more weapons, heroin, narcotics and sedatives, said the congressman in his harsh criticism, pointing out that the Colombian Government has done everything possible to control this illegal traffic but that it has been unable to stop it. He affirmed that the people in cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Boston and other places use marihuana and cocaine out of despair. Echeverry also said it is possible that when the United States can produce good-quality marihuana and cocaine it will legalize that trade and then close its borders. Graham accepted the criticism but affirmed that the United States is also worried about the illegal commerce in narcotics.

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COLOMBIA

HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

PA211603 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0222 GMT 21 Sep 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Sep (EFE)--Colombian Congressman Arcesio Sanchez revealed today that high-ranking authorities of the government, such as senators, are involved in narcotics trafficking cases. He confirmed that the main operations are carried out in the province [as received] of Narino, in the southern tip of Colombia, with the complicity of Colombian and Ecuadorean authorities.

In his denunciation, he revealed that a former senator and a senator of the republic are seriously implicated in the narcotics scandal although he refrained from revealing their identities so as not to interfere with the investigations in progress. He added that the son of a former senator of the republic was among the persons arrested but was later released even though a large shipment of cocaine had been found in his possession. He emphasized that members of international narcotics traffic bands operate freely in Colombia, without the authorities bothering to arrest them, as is the case in other countries.

LA REPUBLICA, a conservative morning paper in this capital, reports in today's issue the charges of Senator Arcesio Sanchez who affirmed that "the complicity of the authorities in narcotics cases is notorious."

CSO: 5300

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN, MARIHUANA SEIZED--A Venezuelan couple was arrested by the Judicial Investigation Organization [OIJ] for trafficking marihuana. Armando Borges Brondergranden and Ivonne Coromoto Martin de Borges, who live in San Pedro de Montes de Oca, had 2 pounds of marihuana and several weapons in their home. The OIJ reported that they are a multimillionaire couple who recently moved to Costa Rica. [San Jose RADIO RELOJ in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Oct 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Quito, 21 Oct (EFE)--Peruvian Mauro Guarniz Pineda has been arrested at Huaquillas, on the border with Ecuador, while carrying 1,638 grams of cocaine. Also arrested was Ecuadorean trafficker Maximiliano Castillo Avila, who was the "contact man" for Colombian buyers. Guarniz told the police that his supplier was Jorge Serrano, whose record is already familiar to Interpol. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 21 Oct 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

ARMS, DRUGS SEIZED--Nine men have been arrested and two guns, ganja [marihuana] and other items confiscated during a raid of a house in (Tucker), St James. The raid was carried out by the Montego Bay Special Anti-Crime Squad between 7 and 9 o'clock this morning. They found in the house a machine gun loaded with 26 rounds of ammunition, a Smith and Wesson revolver with 10 rounds of ammunition, a tear gas paralyzer, a large amount of ganja and hashish, a ganja compressor, several soldier's uniforms and one CB radio. The names of the arrested men have not been released by the police. [Text] [FL191754 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Oct 79 FL]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

POLICE TIPPED ON MARIHUANA--Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas--The night before last, about 20 Federal Judicial Police officers mounted a large-scale stakeout at the intersection of the highway between Matamoros and Mazatlan, at turnoff 124, leading to the town of Nuevo Progreso, in response to an alleged "tip" on a drug shipment coming from the southern part of the republic. The officers, supplied with submachine guns, pistols and high-caliber, long-range weapons, were stationed at the intersection of the two highways. They remained there for 4 hours. As of the time when this report was being written, it was not certain whether a drug shipment had been seized; but it was emphasized that the Federal Judicial Police had confiscated small amounts of drugs from several individuals traveling on motorcycles. According to information that was circulating in police stations yesterday, the Federal Police received a "tip" on a 3-ton shipment of marihuana; but thus far there has been no official report as to whether or not a large volume of drugs was seized. The Federal Police group, riding in over eight small trucks and cars, was provided with safety signals, because the stakeout was made at about 2030 hours. Thereafter, the Federal Judicial Police returned to their base in Reynosa; and the official results of this stakeout of Federal Judicial Police officers have not been learned as yet. [Text] [H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 12 Oct 79 p 9] 2909

TRAFFICKERS BATTLE POLICE--Mexico City, 11 October--A policeman killed, a criminal arrested and several drug traffickers who escaped was the toll after a gun battle between the Federal Judicial Police and "poisoners." The shooting took place in the town of San Baltazar, in Oaxaca, at 1000 hours, when the forces of Comdr Ricardo Rodea Reyes set out to capture a ring of marihuana growers and sellers. The Judicial Police were caught in an ambush prepared for them by the drug traffickers and, after a heavy gun battle, each side suffered a casualty. The policeman who was killed was Vicente Merino Gomez, whose body will be turned over to his relatives today. The individual under arrest is Ignacio Martinez, who supplied the Federal Judicial Police with important information that will surely lead to the arrest of the criminals who fled. It was claimed that several of the fugitives are wounded, since they left behind traces of blood. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 12 Oct 79 Sec B p 1] 2909

BRIBED PRISON GUARDS HELD--Acapulco, Guerrero, 8 October--Today, seven employees and guards of the Social Rehabilitation Center who were accomplices in the escape of the drug traffickers Carlos Villegas Duran and Conrado Barragan Perez were remanded to Judge Froylan Guzman. Last week, the two fugitives went out with permission from the jail authorities (whom they presumably paid 300,000 pesos in phony bills, because they are counterfeiters), to visit nightclubs in the company of guards. However, while on the spree they decided to escape; and, in order to do so, they disarmed their guards, killing one and wounding another. The warden of the prison, Manuel Berdeja Fierro, and his cousin, supervisor Eliseo Berdeja Galeana, as well as five other persons, have been held for trial; and, within a period of 72 hours, their liability in the escape will be ascertained. Carlos Ulises Acosta, the court prosecutor, said that an investigation would be made of the claim that the drug traffickers paid 300,000 pesos for allowing the escape. [Text] [H. Matoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 9 Oct 79 p 10] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS HUNTED--The Federal Judicial Police are on the trail of several drug traffickers who are presumed to have a large shipment of heroin, and who are connected with the large seizure made by the Federal Police from three traffickers who were arrested the day before yesterday with a sizable amount of that drug. It was reported that the traffickers Martina Ortiz Si-queiros, Juan Bautista Beltran Machado and Conrado Leyva Ponce confessed to having been engaged for some time in the trafficking of heroin, which was delivered to them by some individuals whom the Federal Police have now identified. The traffickers, who were captured with over 20 grams of heroin, admitted that they had more accomplices. For this reason, the Federal Police are hunting them, and it is expected that they will be arrested at any moment. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 10 Oct 79 p 4] 2909

CSO: 5330

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--U.S. citizen Robert William Gibbs, 46, was arrested on Friday at Tocumen Airport with 319 grams of cocaine, which he carried in a thermos bottle. Gibbs is the vice president of a travel agency and was on his way to San Francisco, California. In addition, Colombian Jorge Gabriel Piedrita Garcia, 24, was arrested on Sunday, 14 October, also at Tocumen Airport. He was carrying cocaine in his double-sole suede shoes and was traveling with a forged Venezuelan passport under the name of Arnaldo Jose Lopez Rincon. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Oct 79 p 2-A PA]

COCAINE SEIZURE--Narcotics agents of the Finance and Treasury Ministry arrested Colombian Rogelio Bedoya Idarraga, 40, for carrying 200 grams of cocaine in two plastic bags in his shoes. He was traveling from Bogota to Nassau, Bahamas, and the United States. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 9 Oct 79 p 2-A PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Lima, 29 Oct (AFP)--The Peruvian Investigations Police today reported that it has uncovered 10 drug rings in Iquitos with the arrest of 24 persons, four of them Colombians, from whom it seized 117 kilograms of basic paste of cocaine worth \$18,830; 1,218,000 soles, a glider, motorcycles and firearms. The police said the cocaine came from Peruvian cocaine production centers in Huenuco, Tingo Maria, Yurimaguas and Pucalpa. The cocaine was then shipped from Iquitos to the United States, Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 29 Oct 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA SEIZED AT AIRPORT--Police have arrested a customs guard and a porter at Piarco International Airport in Trinidad and charged them with conspiring to smuggle an estimated one million dollars of marihuana into the country over the weekend. The police commissioner said several warrants have been issued for the arrest of other persons said to be involved in the conspiracy. It was reported that a large police party intercepted a car at the airport compound and seized four large suitcases containing compressed marihuana. The owner of the suitcases had earlier disembarked on a flight which had gone from Miami by way of Jamaica. [Text] [FL222041 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 22 Oct 79 FL]

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED--Yesterday afternoon half a kg of heroin worth 8 million Israeli pounds was taken at the Ben-Gurion Airport from a tourist who had arrived from Turkey. The police had advance information about the smuggling and several Israelis are suspected of belonging to a smuggling ring. Investigations are continuing. Four suspects from Israel have been detained. [TA272010 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 27 Oct 79 TA]

CSO: 5300

AUSTRIA

BRIEFS

GROWING DRUG ABUSE NOTED--According to the 1978 Drug Criminality Report released by the Interior Ministry on 18 October, drug abuse in Austria continues to increase despite the great successes of the police. In 1978, 67 Austrian Army soldiers were charged with drug abuse as against 34 soldiers in 1977, and 103 university students were charged as against 68 in 1977. Altogether nearly 3,000 persons were prosecuted for drug abuse in 1978, 24 percent more than in 1977. "The report states that 'Austria is being increasingly used as a transshipment and storage place by drug smugglers.' Drugs from the Middle East are chiefly bound for the FRG and the Netherlands, but occasionally are also sold in Austria." In 1978, 6 tons of cannabis products were seized in Austria. Measures to intensify the struggle against illicit drug trade and drug smuggling will be discussed at a meeting of experts of the interior, health, justice, education and finance ministries in Vienna-Oberlaa on 12 and 13 November 1979. As a first concrete measure, another 18 detectives will be assigned to the narcotics department. [Martin Wimmer] [AU191405 Vienna KURIER in German 19 Oct 79 p 18 AU]

HEROIN DEALERS ARRESTED--On 19 October 1979 Vienna police announced the arrest of three heroin dealers and the confiscation of 750 grams of high-grade heroin worth 8 million schillings. The arrested persons are Ronald Bartosik, 24, Wolfgang Kuebler, 27, and Kurt Grabler, 28, all Austrian citizens. Some 1,000 grams of heroin were smuggled into Austria from Turkey by Grabler, and 250 grams had already been sold by the three dealers at the time of their arrest. [Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 20 Oct 79 p 5 AU]

CSO: 5300

DENMARK

NEWSPAPERS REPORT DRUG ARRESTS, TRIALS

LD011403 [Editorial Report LD] Recent Danish dailies carry the following reports on drug offenses and arrests:

Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 12 September 1979 carries on page 5 a 200-word "TO-AN" report on the conviction of two Italians for having smuggled 1.5 kg of heroin worth 81 million Danish kroner [DKr] into Denmark from Bangkok. The defense immediately appealed against the decision to impose a sentence of 6 years.

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 12 September 1979 carries in part I on page 3 a 300-word "Dav." report on the trial of a restaurant keeper from Arhus who confessed to having smuggled in and sold around 60 grams of pure heroin and 35 kg of hasish. The man is suspected of being one of the leaders of one of the biggest drug operations uncovered in Denmark, and is charged among other things with selling 100 kg of hasish, 2.5 kg of heroin and 14.5 kg of morphine base. The trial continues.

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 12 September 1979 carries in part on page 5 a 550-word Anders Wiig report on the arrest of Peter Philipsen from Denmark and Brahim Bouzaoui from Algeria, both previously convicted, for trading in narcotics on a large scale. The total value of morphine pills and money seized is around DKr225,000. The men were remanded in custody for 14 days.

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FRANCE

BRIEFS

DRUGS SEIZED AT ORLY AIRPORT--Orly customs men have seized 5.5 kg of gray heroin valued at Fr550,000. It was concealed in a false-bottomed suitcase belonging to a passenger travelling from Karachi. David (Sergent), a New Zealander cook, told investigators that he knew nothing about the origin and the destination of the drugs which had been put into his luggage "without his knowledge." Eleven kilograms of hashish were seized on the same aircraft. They were found in the sleeping bag of an Indian passenger, Mr (Shan Anwar), who admitted that he intended to sell the product in Portsmouth (Great Britain) where he lives. [Text] [Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 8 Sep 79 p 3 LD]

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ITALY

HEALTH MINISTER EXPLAINS CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN

Milan IL MONDO in Italian 14 Sep 79 pp 24-25

[Article: "Help, the State Is Drugging Us!"]

[Text] Minister Altissimo fears that his proposal for controlled distribution of heroin to addicts may be misunderstood. And so he will ask RAI-TV [Italian Radio broadcasting and Television Company]....

He declared war upon reading the newspapers. "Too many, too many, too many," he comments. "And I too am the father of three daughters, and I live in terror that they too might become victims of it tomorrow." Renato Altissimo, 39, Liberal minister of health, has decided to put the struggle against the scourge of heroin at the top of the list of his governmental tasks. And he will do so, he specified to IL MONDO, by following "the criteria of my trade: industrial manager. We shall attack this great plague scientifically. And to begin with," he admits with irony, "even though I am a Liberal, I will try to destroy a free market: the market for heavy drugs."

His point of departure is simple. There are 100,000 drug addicts in Italy ("an approximate estimate only," he is careful to state; "the ministry does not have any precise data, statistics"), and they are multiplying in a geometric progression, "by a Saint Anthony's chain mechanism: the customer often becomes a dealer so as to be able to get his own dose. And he is always finding new customers, who then end up doing the same thing. Heroin thus spreads like an oil slick. And those who end up dealing it don't do so for the money, but so as to get the drug free--a very strong motivation. To block expansion, the chain has to be broken." He discovered this revolutionary approach by studying the experience of other countries, England especially: the idea is to get quickly, by Christmas at the latest, to "controlled distribution of heroin." "We should be concerned with the 100,000 first of all," he says. "We should keep them from becoming dealers out of need. Let us supply them with the drug, to begin with. And at the same time let us try to rehabilitate them, from both a health point of view and a social point of view."

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The plan, to which Altissimo, together with the highest officials of the ministry, is putting the finishing touches, provides for effective publicity campaigns and the systematic use of television. "Our messages must get to everyone. Why shouldn't the state television give me 10 minutes 2 or 3 times a week, in prime time, so that I can give information to everyone about the dimensions, the damage, the risks of a trade that kills and that has to be wiped out?"

Again according to the minister, the risks of the "controlled distribution of heroin" operation and of the campaign against the heavy drugs are many. They are psychological and organizational. The first, the biggest one, especially for its impact on public opinion, is that the decision to give the drug directly to those who already use it, to break the Saint Anthony's chain of dealers-addicts, may be misunderstood. "Getting the community to accept this principle will not be easy," Altissimo admits. "It will be up to us to explain well what a social disturbance the illegal drug market represents today, to make it clear how many crimes, how many felonies are now committed every day, throughout Italy, by young people looking for the money they need to buy their fix. We will trust in everyone's common sense, we will strive to explain ourselves clearly. And above all, we will try to make it very clear that this is only one chapter in a vaster, capillary operation, in a general offensive to break up a business network involving hundreds of billions of lire in dirty dealings, which is mowing down victims at a now fearfully rising rate."

Altissimo is not yet stating his precise practical criteria for putting the plan into effect; before deciding, he wants to establish a good documentary foundation. For this, he has asked for reports and documents, he has sent experts and officials from the ministry abroad to study and analyze the experiments already in progress in this direction, and he has commissioned studies and research, calling on the Higher Institute of Health in particular. "I have given everyone short deadlines," he announces--"sufficient for studying the question, but without wasting time. We can no longer afford to do so."

The other big question mark has to do with the health structures: will they be capable, fast, of sustaining the offensive against heroin? Altissimo is confident. The main point, he says, is above all the political will to achieve precise results. And he has an example ready, a concrete one, to demonstrate that when an urgent appeal for effectiveness is made, the response does not fail to come. And the example itself is connected with the drug phenomenon.

Reading the newspapers, the minister learned that in the United States there is a particular product, Naloxone, considered very effective as an antidote to heroin; but it had not been imported into Italy yet. Why not? Perhaps because no one had thought of it yet. And a series of telephone calls, a telex to the United States, and a decree prepared rapidly by the ministry's bureaucratic structures were sufficient for Naloxone to arrive in Italy too.

"We will issue an appeal to everyone; we will mobilize," Altissimo maintains. "I think we will succeed." Special attention will be given to the aspect of

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the problem considered the most difficult: social rehabilitation. The drug laws already in force permit agreements, contacts by public organizations with groups of expert volunteers capable of approaching drug addicts and former addicts to help them find an arrangement that protects them definitively "from the epidemic of heroin," as the minister of health defines it. There are already many such groups functioning in Italy; in the ministry, the most appropriate ways to coordinate activity and make them increasingly effective are under study.

Does the push given by Altissimo to the fight against the heavy drugs, by means including the "controlled distribution of heroin," mean that there will be action also on the soft drugs (hashish, marijuana, and so on)? And in particular, that the sale of them, in accordance with proposals and suggestions made by many, especially by the Radicals, some time ago, will be liberalized? The minister of health is very cautious. "It does not seem to me that the dilemma of whether the light drugs lead to use of the hard drugs or not--as many maintain--has been scientifically resolved yet. Until an unequivocal answer to this question is arrived at, I frankly do not feel like making a decision. Moreover, I do not believe a decision is up to me alone. I will indeed try to get the problem tackled very soon at the European level, so that, putting our experience and studies all together, we can arrive at a correct solution. There are really many things that can be done in the area of the fight against drugs on the European-community level: to begin with, a complete joint inventory of drugs and standardization of the criteria for analysis. We shall set these mechanisms in motion also. No one can draw back from a problem which too often now means death."

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ITALY

OPINIONS ON PLAN TO CONTROL HEROIN DISTRIBUTION

Rome IL SETTIMANALE in Italian 19 Sep 79 pp 18-20

[Article by Enzo Iacopino: "Free Heroin--An Immense Ghetto for Drug Addicts"]

[Text] This is the opinion of former minister of health Tina Anselmi, who is against the controlled distribution of heroin. The opinions of Gianfranco Spadaccia and of Prof Francesco Di Raimondo.

The security services took alarm immediately after the first flashes about the declarations by the minister of health, Renato Altissimo, regarding possible controlled legalization of heroin. Within a few hours, they consulted military and civilian experts, social and health workers, and prepared a report to send to the minister in which they declare the dangers of such an initiative, which, according to them, would achieve no appreciable result other than an initial contraction of the illegal traffic. Altissimo is reflecting. To understand, he has wanted to meet someone who is living the tragedy of drug dependence on the front lines, and is committed to solving the problems of the man first, not just the symptoms of the disease. But in Italy, the fire of debate has been lit, finding public opinion divided, as always. On the one hand are those who for years have been preaching the advisability of total liberalization of the use of drugs; on the other are those who, armed with the experience obtained by other countries, maintain that such enterprises not only do not check the problem but also help aggravate the causes of general malaise for which--more and more, unfortunately--heroin is the relief valve. In the middle are two categories of persons: the drug addicts, indifferent to what happens, and the relatives of those hooked on drugs, tormented by the slow and inexorable agony of their kin.

Minister Altissimo has sent a delegation from his department to Great Britain, a country in which controlled legalization has been in force since 1973. The results can be seen in the table which we publish below, and which obviously, although it comes from an official source such as the Home Office, does not claim to sum up the reality existing even in the United Kingdom [words missing] considerable resistance by drug addicts to presenting themselves at the public offices, which, by law, must register them, sending a copy of the reg-

istration to the police. Margareth Sharp, who initiated the program in Great Britain, has declared that the heroin problem in her country has different dimensions than in Italy because the English are addicted especially to barbiturates. Nevertheless, the supporters of legalization are reviewing their positions, in view of the results, and a reform of the legislation is already beginning to be considered.

It should be added that in Great Britain there are many therapeutic groups--that is, cure and rehabilitation centers--which, without the use of pharmaceuticals of any kind, help drug addicts to free themselves from slavery to drugs.

IL SETTIMANALE put several questions on possible controlled legalization of heroin to the honorable Tina Anselmi, former minister of health in two governments, to Senator Gianfranco Spadaccia, and to Prof Francesco Di Raimondo, chief physician of the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome, where more than 500 drug addicts have been admitted in his department in 5 years.

Question: The declarations by the present minister of health, Altissimo, have aroused hope and concern. What do you think about them?

Anselmi: The drug phenomenon requires that its causes be attacked. In most cases, it is a matter of family crisis, of lack of motivation in life, of difficulties of adjustment to society. If we do not want to hide our responsibilities, we must commit ourselves to eliminating all these factors that push young people into fleeing from life. This obviously implies a self-criticism which we must have the courage to make. Of course, this operation has a health aspect also.

Di Raimondo: To prescind for the moment from any evaluation of what the minister has said, which is a vague idea more than a proposal, I want to make it clear that in tackling the drug problem, one cannot act hastily. In a word, it is not like going into Friuli with earthquake relief. Legalized and controlled distribution of heroin essentially cannot be a shortcut, but before any decision is made, all the factors must be reviewed very carefully.

Spadaccia: It has to be seen how the proposal will be articulated. In any case, the minister already deserves credit for breaking the inertia that prevailed in this field. This is enormously positive.

Question: Altissimo's proposal should see the light around Christmastime. Four years ago, also in December, the new law on the use of narcotic and psychotropic substances was passed. It was said at the time that it would help solve many problems.

Anselmi: Very little has been done through application of law 685. The mental-health centers provided for in the standards are insufficient both in number and in services offered. I believe that the antidrug law placed too much emphasis on the health aspect, which is necessary but not sufficient in

itself. Essentially, there has been inadequate action by the public sector. More must be done. In what direction? I maintain that we must concentrate on preventive work covering all of society. The public institutions must be linked with the voluntary organizations, which in Italy as in other countries must mobilize to help young people get away from drugs.

Spadaccia: That law is responsible for many things. First of all, for having confronted the problem only halfway. And the results are obvious to everyone. The diffusion of heroin has risen sharply. There has been a decrease in criminalization, to be sure; but then it happens that in the same zone where the manager of DER SPIEGEL was in jail for 48 hours, other young people, in an analogous situation, remain for weeks. The law has created an artificial distinction between consumer and dealer, not taking account of the fact that the former is inevitably forced to sell other mortal doses in order to get his own. Thus, the structures created by the law are largely inadequate to their task.

Question: Fundamentally, what is the enemy?

Spadaccia: Here is the point. The enemy is heroin, because one gets used to it and it therefore leads to drug dependence. We must have the courage to say that marijuana and hashish are not drugs because they do not kill anyone. The Communists themselves, 4 years after law 685, are realizing that we were right to maintain this and they are proposing liberalization. They are arriving 4 years late on all problems because they continue to hold that reality coincides with their categories. But life passes them by instead. In any case, if one does not have the courage to say that marijuana and hashish are not drugs, one must say that coffee and alcohol are, and also the car that one drives at 150 kilometers an hour. Let it be clear, anyway, that I have never believed in the search for happiness by a facile escape into drugs.

Question: There are those who maintain that the light drugs lead to use of the heavy ones, basing their assertions on the fact that all heroin addicts have known marijuana and hashish.

Anselmi: The transition is inevitable, and leads to drug dependence that injures the entire personality physically and psychically. We must therefore help the young person to escape from drug dependence, not prolong the dependence by controlled distribution. That is neither healthful nor moral: it is a ghettoization that runs counter to respect for every person's personality, for which we must all have regard. It is not worthwhile to say that with legalization, one wants to pursue the goal of reducing the thefts and violence committed by heroin addicts. We may not repeat, in another field, legislation that bears a strong resemblance to the legislation on prostitution that has been repealed, even if at first sight it may appear humane, whereas it is actually simplistic and inhumane.

Spadaccia: The problem must be confronted without moralism. I am not interested only in rehabilitating the drug addict. Even more people die in

auto accidents today; there are people who kill themselves for the same reasons for which others drug themselves--without ever using heroin, but jumping off staircases. Yet no one says: let's abolish cars, let's abolish staircases. One asks why young people are taking drugs. In a world in which one sees 50 million people die from hunger without anyone's being concerned about it, sure, you will find Curcio and your son shooting up. In this society, the value of life is being turned inside out; the expression of socialism today is Vietnam and Cambodia, which some defend.

Di Raimondo: The problem should be faced calmly. One should consider the psychosocial motivation for an individual choice. The choice of drugs is a "second" choice," as one says; the "first" choice is for nonlife. By negative conversion, the group substitutes for school, family, work without ethical limits. After the transition from light drugs to the heavy ones, the return becomes extremely difficult.

Question: What injury does heroin do to the organism?

Di Raimondo: First of all, there is injury to the hepatic cells by the adjuvants. In the case of strichnine, it can be fatal, but the injury done by talcum and marble dust can be considerable too. It is probable that heroin too causes harm to the liver, as the derivatives of cannabis do. In any case, both the one and the others contribute to a lowering of one's capacity to fight infectious diseases. In 80 percent of drug addicts, the viral-hepatitis virus that brings on chronic forms leading to cirrhosis and death is present.

Question: What would be the advantages of controlled legalization of heroin?

Spadaccia: Legalized access solves two problems: it protects the drug addict from the possibility of death caused by the adjuvant substances, and it cuts out the spiral of involvement and the relationship between consumer and dealer.

Anselmi: I repeat that in my opinion it will change into a de-facto ghettoization of drug addicts. The initiatives taken through law or other means will have to be adequate to the health and human needs that are dramatically presented to us by the problem of the drug addicts.

Spadaccia: Frankly, I think that this is not so important to the drug addict as his concern about registration. The route taken can be that of medical prescription of heroin, with the obvious risk of abuse, but a lesser risk than at present, or the controlled-distribution route; but the contraindication in the latter case is both the distrust about relations with the institutions and the situation of the clinical units, which are falling apart and are overloaded beyond all tolerance.

Di Raimondo: I prefer to put some questions for evaluation by those who will have to decide. Is the controlled distribution of heroin conceived with the aim of breaking the habit, and is it expected to break the habit within a

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Total number	1,615	1,815	1,970	1,952	1,879	2,023
including: men	1,194	1,369	1,459	1,438	1,388	1,468
women	421	446	511	514	491	555
Age Groups: under 20	96	84	64	39	18	20
20-24	727	750	692	562	411	387
25-29	376	530	684	754	809	826
30-34	117	134	163	219	247	355
35-49	118	136	163	169	189	208
49 and older	165	180	197	193	188	201
age not ascertained	16	1	7	16	17	26

specific time? Will the doses which the institutions give the drug addict be sufficient for him, or will he continue to use the illegal market? Do we really have the information for knowing the injury that heroin does to the organism? What are the consequences of pure heroin, which so far has not circulated in Italy? Won't the heroin addict, feeling legalized, fall into the state of mind of the chronic invalid, without any further stimulus to take action? And furthermore, are we certain that the hoped-for drop in criminal activity will occur, or rather, won't the addict, having no will to work, continue to maintain his links with the underworld?

Question: But is it possible that there won't be a therapeutic community?

Spadaccia: There are two levels--the macrosociety and the microsociety. In this latter field, I as just one individual can take action. Because of this, I am not against initiatives like that of Don Mario Picchi, who has a therapeutic community here in Rome. Of course, they work in a very limited field.

Anselmi: There is a third way. In Rome in September last year there was held the third world congress of Therapeutic Communities. We heard how throughout the world these communities get close to the young people, offer their solidarity, friendship, opportunities for work and a roof over their heads, and help them to remotivate themselves and not be alone in life. We have such experiments going in our country too, and they should be supported and aided financially.

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ITALY

SUPPORT FOR ALTISSIMO'S PLAN TO CONTROL HEROIN DISTRIBUTION

Milan L'EUROPEO in Italian 13 Sep 79 p 3

[Article by Mario Pirani]

[Text] It is indeed true--as Michelangiolo Notarianni writes in IL MANIFESTO--that drugs are the culminating point of the crisis of consumerism--a kind of "general merchandise," he says, "that synthesizes all consumer goods in a single commodity which consumes the consumer." The same opinion, moreover, was expressed in a most elementary fashion by Minister of the Interior Rognoni in his interview at Scalfari when he disclosed that "kidnapings and drugs are the two terrible evils of industrialization."

Very well; let us grant that this is true. What then? Can we be content with the usual sociophilosophical lucubrations, in the presence of a drama that is striking down its young victims at an increasingly rapid rate and is invading not only limited areas of certain large cities but schools, factories, barracks, prisons (20 percent of all prisoners are drug addicts!), working-class districts, and middle-class districts? There are no longer any knowledgeable parents who do not have to worry about their own children, and no one believes that police repression suffices to control this phenomenon.

Today the havoc wrought by heroin has become a political problem of the first magnitude; and we agree with deputy Altissimo, who in an interview granted to our newspaper spoke of the possibility of a controlled legalization of the market. We understand very well the sensitivity--including the moral sensitivity--of this subject; but we must attempt, in a reformistic and empirical way, to attack the problem with the object of obtaining some measure of success, knowing full well that only partial successes are possible and that laws will certainly not overcome the trend toward despair, escape by suicide, and death.

Our current experience tells us that the 1975 law--the product of a thousand compromises between the DC [Christian democrats] and the communists--has largely been a failure. This law "decriminalized" the so-called "soft"

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drugs for personal use (although only in appearance) and sentenced to prison--without exception--all heroin addicts, who must every day sell two envelopes in order to earn one for themselves. In 4 years a situation has developed whereby drug addicts are transformed into distributors in a frenzied quest for proselytes; the market of death obeys its perverse exponential logic; and the Mafia gangsterism that controls this market cleverly manipulates soft drugs and "hard" drugs (sometimes pushing the former almost gratis in order that they can subsequently cause them to disappear and "convince" the predestined victims to switch to the latter).

This infernal circle can be broken--at least in one respect--by controlled legalization, which would spare the drug addict the daily hunt for his ration, with its sequel of burglaries, bag-snatchings, violence, prostitution and--above all--new converts. The administration of heroin--under medical supervision and in appropriately equipped centers that are supported by experts and psychologists with the aim of rehabilitating the addict--would also offer the advantage of avoiding the use of "contaminated" heroin, which is almost always the ultimate cause of so many deaths (most users die because they do not know what they are putting into the syringe; because the "cut" is excessive or the mixture is poisoned with strychnine; because when the addicts are in a coma no help is forthcoming; or because in the security rooms, or in the jails, they are abandoned until they commit suicide during their crises of withdrawal).

If this course is undertaken decisively, and if it is accompanied by a genuine liberalization of the laws governing marihuana and hashish (which are certainly no more harmful than tobacco or alcohol), the entire Mafioso criminal structure which is currently proliferating in the black market for drugs would be smashed at one stroke.

We are aware that the initial psychological reaction of the great majority of public opinion may well be rejection of such proposals. If, however, we are able to discern--behind the veil of moral restraints that are more than justified--the terrible reality that faces us and has rendered us completely defenseless (if there are any other credible and effective proposals, let them be presented), then we have no other choice than to undertake the only remaining solution, even though it be only a partial solution but one that is capable of containing, reducing, and above all controlling this phenomenon.

Instead of debating the "historic compromise" or the "leftist alternative," the government, the political parties and the parliament would do well to deal with this problem and demonstrate at least once a capacity for correlating politics with real life.

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ITALY

MILAN TO OPEN FIRST AID STATION FOR DRUG ADDICTS

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 26 Sep 79 p 17

[Article by Augusto Pozzoli]

[Text] The recovery of drug addicts on the basis of this initiative is the first example of cooperation in a hospital between public health officers and experts on this problem. A response has been made to the growing demand for first aid stations in the Baggio and Giambellino districts.

The first "screening clinic" for drug addicts will be opened at San Carlo Hospital. This service--which will at last see the operators of the public health establishment acting in cooperation with public health personnel stationed throughout the territory--may become the solution for remedying the state of ineffectiveness which has to date characterized all attempts to help drug addicts to reenter the mainstream of society.

This initiative was drawn up by the "council of public health officers" of San Carlo Hospital, who are concerned with responding to the growing demand for first aid stations for drug addicts in districts such as Baggio and Giambellino where heroin use is especially widespread. In this hospital--as in a number of municipal hospitals--drug addicts have never received adequate assistance.

What, then, are the plans to correct this serious deficiency? Public Health Director Cesare Molinari, in presenting the plan for the "screening clinic" (which is scheduled to go into operation in early October) said: "The first objective we want to achieve is rationalization of the first aid service. While first aid will always be applied to emergency cases, the main problem is that of hospitalizing those drug addicts who desire detoxification through a well-defined program of treatment, so as to avoid mistakes that cause confusion within the establishment and leave the drug addicts themselves dissatisfied.

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"The most pressing problem, however," he continued, "is what happens when these patients are discharged. Until the present time, once the detoxification therapy is completed there have been no alternatives to returning the addicts to the same environment where they learned the drug habit, so that they are left with the same difficulties to overcome. In order for the action taken by the hospital to be meaningful, it is essential for the public health personnel to establish a liaison with those outside entities which are in a position to ensure that at the moment of his discharge the addict does not find himself left to his own resources."

All personnel (psychologists, social workers, doctors and psychiatrists) already assigned to assist the addicts should therefore be transferred to the "screening center." Until now, these personnel have had to work in separate departments.

"Originally," Director Molinari continued, "consideration was given to establishing this service at the existing outside facilities, but we subsequently realized that the addicts did not like these centers, went to them only rarely, and did not want to meet with the psychiatrists because they did not want to appear insane. The ineffectiveness of these centers is, moreover, an established fact, just as it is equally true that the hospital has never shown itself able--by itself--to provide an adequate response to the problem."

With respect to the importance of the inauguration of this service, certain entities concerned with the drug problem (the anti-drug dependency committee of the San Carlo Hospital superintendents' council; the coordinated anti-drug dependency campaign of the 17th and 18th districts; the New Community organization; and a group of public health officers of the same hospital) have issued a document in which they declare: "Although physical detoxification remains an important task of the hospital, this cannot be the only type of demand for health services on the part of drug addicts. This service should primarily be the initial instrumentality for contact with those addicts who voluntarily desire help in the form of human relations and medical advice. It should act as intermediary between the public health function, on the one hand, and the social reality of the city districts and the cities in general. It should therefore be able, when indicated, to refer drug addicts to the other entities--public or private--as an alternative or ultimately to the first aid service for detoxification."

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TURKEY

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZED--Security forces discovered 102 kilograms of powder hashish in a village in Pazarcik, a district of Kahramanmaras. A pistol, dynamite fuses and a dynamite cap were also found hidden behind bushes together with the hashish. An investigation has been started. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 17 Oct 79]

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END