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JPRS L/10299

3 February 1982

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 6/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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HONG KONG

REORGANIZED CUSTOMS SERVICE HELPS COUNTER DRUG SMUGGLERS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Dec 81 p 25

[Article by Tommy Lewis]

[Excerpt]

A reorganisation and expansion of the Customs and Excise service has helped counter new methods adopted by drug smugglers.

An enlarged investigation and marine fleet has helped in the continuing battle at the borders and within Hongkong.

Officers have cracked down on a new route used by smugglers to get drugs here.

Instead of sending drugs direct from source countries, some smugglers have started to use Chinese ports as stepping stones.

The new route was discovered when Thai customs men made two seizures of drugs bound for China, but believed to be intended eventually for Hongkong.

Two couriers, a Hongkong resident and a Thai woman, believed to be members of syndicates with links here, are still being detained in Bangkok for inquiries.

Despite the new route, drug smugglers are still using Kai Tak airport, and trying new methods all the time to beat the customs checks.

False-bottomed suitcases were popular early this year, but when numerous couriers using the method were arrested, racketeers made their couriers switch to concealing drugs within their bodies.

Then another switch was made.

Couriers would bring drugs into the arrival hall and

hide them in toilets where they would be picked up by drug racket contacts working at the airport. This method was uncovered and a few seizures were made.

Several people, including some airport workers, were arrested.

Customs officers believe that drugs are still coming into Hongkong by air, and have been doing their best to target suspected couriers returning to Hongkong.

But they cannot body-search all arriving passengers, and they have been trying their best not to anger genuine travellers.

It is estimated that there about 8,000 passengers arrive from suspected drug ports each day, and only about 25 per cent of them are body-searched.

A bumper harvest in the Golden Triangle this year brought fears of a big drug smuggling increase.

During the past 11 months, customs officers have had help in the drug battle from police Narcotics Bureau detectives locally, and from law enforcement agencies worldwide.

Over this period, customs officers seized a total of 190.88 kilograms of dangerous drugs with a market value of \$59.3 million, and made 680 arrests.

The seizures made so far this year have already exceeded the total quantity seized last year.

This year's many success-

ful interceptions of drugs at the airport, the post office and in the harbour brought to light new and sophisticated methods of concealment.

Drugs were found concealed inside cans of abalone, bars of soap, tins of ginseng, hollowed-out rambutan fruit, metal cylinders and in machinery spare parts.

Co-operation from the local Customs Investigation Bureau recently helped in the seizure of 2.8 kilograms of heroin base and the arrest of six people by law enforcement agencies in Paris.

Customs officers in Bangkok also arrested two women and seized about 10 kilograms of No 4 heroin in September as a result of intelligence passed to them by the Customs Investigation Bureau.



False-bottomed hair cream jars filled with drugs . . . one of the finds by customs men at Kai Tak airport.

CSO: 5320/9109



HONG KONG

STIFF PRISON SENTENCES GIVEN TO DETER DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Imposed by Chief Justice

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Dec 81 p 17

[Text]

The Chief Justice, Sir Denys Roberts, yesterday imposed sentences ranging from nine to 14 years in three cases of possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking and manufacture of dangerous drugs.

In sentencing the defendants, Sir Denys said the courts had emphasised on many occasions that for this type of drug offences, a deterrent sentence was normally necessary.

It was essential in the interest of society that people should be discouraged from taking part in drug trafficking, he added.

Sentenced to 14 years was a lorry driver, Or Shui-po (34).

Or pleaded guilty to one charge of possessing 11.766 kg of a mixture of esters of morphine for the purpose of unlawful trafficking and two charges of possession of dangerous drugs.

The court was told that on July 11, customs officers mounted an observation in Granville Road, Tsimshatsui, and saw Or leaving a building and getting into a car.

He drove to Tsz Wan Shan where he entered a

building. He emerged some 45 minutes later with a case and a plastic bag.

The officers intercepted him and found dangerous drugs in the plastic bag he was carrying.

Or then led the officers to a flat in Tse Wan Lane the same area where his wife and children were living. There were about 11 kg of drugs in a bedroom.

Or also led the officers to another flat in Granville Road where another quantity of drugs was seized.

The drugs seized, if converted into heroin, had a street value of \$10 million.

Another defendant, a 36-year-old former seaman, Ng Wing-shing, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment when he pleaded guilty to possessing 5,576.8 grams of a mixture of salts of esters of morphine, possession of part one poison connected with the preparation of dangerous drugs, manufacturing dangerous drugs, and possession of dangerous drugs.

Ng was arrested on July 9 when customs officers intercepted him outside the Hung-hom Bay Centre.

They found on him a quantity of dangerous drugs

wrapped in a \$10 note.

After inquiries, the officers searched two flats in the Hung-hom district where more drugs were seized.

In one of the flats, in Ming On Street, officers found utensils connected with the manufacture of dangerous drugs. Ng admitted that the place had earlier been used for drug manufacturing.

The estimated value of the drugs seized was \$850,000.

In another case, a 26-year-old man, Ho Kuen, was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment on two counts of possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking.

Ho, who pleaded guilty, was arrested by officers from the Narcotics Bureau on June 30 on the roof of the Ocean Terminal after his movements during the day had been watched.

They found two bags of dangerous drugs weighing 893.47 grams of a mixture of salts of esters of morphine in his car.

Ho took the police officers to an address in Reclamation Street where drugs weighing 1,517.73 grams of a mixture of salts of esters of morphine were seized.

The drugs had a total worth of \$600,000.

Based on Quantity Involved

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Dec 81 p 6

[Text]

Two Thai nationals who arrived in Hongkong with heroin worth a total of \$1.3 million were sent to prison by Mr Justice Jones in the High Court on Thursday.

The court heard that the drug was hidden in the false bottoms of plastic hair cream jars.

Sae Eng Penglee (47), who pleaded guilty to possession of the drug for trafficking, was sent to prison for 10 years.

Amorntakoisuwech Kittichai (27), who was convicted by a jury after a trial, was sentenced to 11 years.

The judge noted that on the back page of the South China Morning Post that day was a report of an Italian who was sent to prison for 25 years in Bangkok after conviction on a similar charge.

He said that the policy of the Hongkong courts was to impose heavy sentences for the offence, which was of the utmost gravity.

He referred to the fact that the Chief Justice and Court of Appeal in Hongkong had laid down a tariff of recommended sentences according to the quantity of drugs involved, and said that the two defendants had been found with a very substantial quantity.

"Drug offenders should make no mistake, severe pun-

ishment will be meted out to them by the courts if they indulge in this evil but lucrative trade which has the most appalling social and family consequences," the judge said.

The court was told that Sae arrived in Hongkong from Bangkok on July 8. He was stopped and searched by customs officers at Kai Tak Airport and was found with 36 plastic jars of hair cream. These had false bottoms which contained 1.449 kilograms of a mixture containing 1.289 kilograms of heroin. The drugs had a street value of \$652,000.

Customs officers questioned Sae and in consequence of what he told them went with him to the premises of the Kar Fong Trading Company in Jordan Road, Yaumati.

Later that day Kittichai came into the premises, where he had a room. He said he had arrived in Hongkong the day previously.

Customs officers found in his room another 36 plastic jars of hair cream with false bottoms. These contained 1.451 kilograms of a mixture containing 1.164 kilograms of heroin. These drugs also had a street value of \$650,000.

Kittichai denied that the drugs belonged to him and said someone else had put them in his room.

He was convicted by a jury after a retirement of just over an hour.

CSO: 5320/9109

HONG KONG

## SMUGGLING OF DRUGS INTO CHINA BY AIR, SEA INCREASING

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Dec 81 p 10

[Article by Tommy Lewis]

[Text]

Narcotics racketeers are taking advantage of China's inexperienced customs officers to smuggle dangerous drugs into that country by air and sea.

The narcotics are then distributed to Asian countries bordering China which are suspected of being drugs export points.

China, a member of the Customs Control Council (CCC), should give more intensive training to customs officers, many of whom had "never seen narcotics before," according to veteran drugs fighters from several Asian countries.

They claimed that China's customs officers are at present concentrating more on tax on goods being taken into the country.

The Chinese had neglected to search for concealed narcotics — contraband hidden in tinned foods, by body concealment, hollowed-out fruit, false-bottomed suitcases and hair-cream jars, all well tried and detectable methods which had easily been spotted by customs officers in Hongkong as well as in other Asian countries.

Drugs agents claim that many of China's customs officers are inexperienced in detecting drugs and say that they need more intensive training to spot narcotics smugglers arriving in China, especially those from Thailand.

This training could include visits to other countries

where drugs law enforcement officers had for years successfully intercepted traffickers and couriers.

"China should also set up a national training centre," the experienced Asian narcotics agents said.

They claimed that if tighter measures were not taken soon, drugs racketeers might use China's weakness in detection to step up their activities and use that country as a stepping stone in the transfer of their illegal cargoes to more lucrative markets, either in the region or overseas — where drugs are in great demand and fetch high prices.

"China, which is not considered suspect as a narcotics export point at the moment, could soon see the situation change . . . if the authorities do not increase their vigilance, they claimed.

In the past year, several drugs consignments — mainly Nos 3 and 4 heroin bound for China — had been intercepted by Thai customs officers at Don Muang airport in Bangkok.

The No 4 heroin was believed to have been routed for markets in America, with which China has an air link.

The No 3 heroin was believed to have been Hongkong-bound.

Narcotics fighters said that the traffic's kingpins believe it is less risky for couriers to bring their deadly cargoes from Thailand into

China than to have them smuggled directly to Hongkong.

When the drugs arrive in China, smugglers believe, they can then be more easily transported into Hongkong by the land route, because of lax customs vigilance at non-suspect Chinese border checkpoints.

This new drugs route has already been noted by customs officers in Hongkong. Others, stationed at border checkpoints, have been alerted.

In recent months, some drugs — notably opium and heroin — have been seized by Macau marine police officers from fishing junks returning from China, sources said.

This could mean another route for narcotics entering Hongkong — whereas previously, Macau's drugs traffickers had had to depend on Hongkong's supplies for their narcotics supplies.

Officials in China have not revealed what preventive measures or action they are taking to stop trafficking through their country, both by air and by sea.

But only last month, China revealed that a number of people — including Chinese residents and residents from both Hongkong and Macau — had been rounded up in Guangdong in connection with "criminal activities."

These activities included robbery — and dealing in dangerous drugs.

CSO: 5320/9109

HONG KONG

## ATTENDANCE AT METHADONE TREATMENT CLINICS DOWN SLIGHTLY

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Jan 82 p 7

[Article by Renu Daryanani]

[Text] Another bumper crop of opium is expected from the Golden Triangle this month and next month, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee has warned.

The harvest could yield another 600 tonnes — the amount reaped early last year — if crop conditions remain favourable, Narcotics Bureau officers say.

But it is essential that the street price of drugs stays high to keep down the addict population, Mr Lee said.

"It is an unfortunate fact that heroin addicts prefer cheap heroin to cheap methadone," he said.

The wholesale price of 100 grams of No 3 heroin now is about \$7,000, compared with \$5,000 in early 1979.

When the effects of the 1979 drought in the Golden Triangle hit local markets in about July, the price shot up to \$23,000.

The drought lasted two years, during which the annual opium crop was only 150 tonnes.

"But the present price is still about 40 per cent higher than it was before the drought, and it's still very expensive in relation to the wages of the average drug addict in Hongkong.

"Though there is more activity in the drug market, the

methadone clinics are a valuable way to obtain cheap relief," Mr Lee said.

In his review on Tuesday of police operations this year, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Roy Henry said average attendances at methadone treatment clinics had dropped by 2.06 per cent compared to 1980.

Mr Lee said the decrease comes to about 100 people and the average attendance at the centres is about 7,000 a day.

This small drop is encouraging, because since the early 1970s, when drug prices fell, the number of clinic attendances went down proportionally, he said.

"This last year has been exceptional. Although the drug prices have declined from the heights in 1979, attendances are remarkably well up," Mr Lee said.

The average daily attendances at the clinics were 5,000 from 1976 to July 1979.

When the drought set in, attendances shot up to 8,000 a day that July.

"While the attendance figures declined last year, they have not declined by nearly as much as I expected," Mr Lee said.

About 71 per cent of those going to the clinics are regular attendants, he said.

The decline in attendances should also be seen in connection with the increase in arrests of drug offenders last year, he said.

The total number arrested for minor offences last year is expected to go up by 41.2 per cent to 5,251, and for major offences by 20.7 per cent to 2,461, over the 1980 figures.

Law enforcement and treatment facilities for the estimated 40,000 addicts in Hongkong must go hand in hand, Mr Lee said.

Two new methadone clinics will open on Monday in Shatin and Yuen Long, bringing the total number of clinics to 22, he said.

Methadone is the main form of treatment provided by the Government.

"What we normally try to do is provide facilities for addicts near their homes and places of work so that a clinic is nearby when they get withdrawal symptoms. Otherwise they may go back to drugs," he said.

Mr Lee said the police and customs service had done well to keep prices this high.

Last year, their drug seizures were up from 1980.

The following seizures were made last year: 103 kilos of opium (86 kilos in 1980 and 18 kilos in 1979) and 59 kilos of heroin (76 kilos in 1980 and 129 kilos in 1979).

CSO: 5320/9109

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

DRUGS ABOARD FREIGHTER--Customs officers from the Anti-Smuggling Division were this morning searching a Thai-registered freighter after two pounds of dehydrated prepared opium, worth about \$32,000, was seized. The opium was found in a false ceiling compartment inside the crews' cabin in the freighter, Mah II, which plies regularly between Hongkong and Thailand. Two Chinese crew members were arrested in connection with the seizure and are assisting customs officers with their investigations. One of the arrested men, aged 53, will be charged today with possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking and is expected to appear in South Kowloon Court. The other seaman, who was detained last night, is expected to be released when interrogations are completed. The vessel arrived from Bangkok yesterday afternoon and was raided by customs officers as a part of a routine search of all freighters arriving from Thailand. Customs officers said last night they would search the freighter again today and possibly tomorrow to make sure they had found all the drugs. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 23 Dec 81 p 15]

RAW OPIUM SEIZURE--Police have arrested nine people and seized about 18.2 kilograms of suspected raw opium worth about \$370,000 in a raid in Yaumati. Acting on a tip-off, officers from the special duty squad of Yaumati police station raided a restaurant staff quarters at 47 Man Cheong Building, eighth floor, Ferry Street, about 10.50 pm on Christmas Eve. Eight men and a woman inside the premises were arrested. Some raw opium and a quantity of paraphernalia usually associated with the manufacturing of dangerous drugs were taken away. No charges have yet been preferred against the people arrested, whose ages range from 23 to 35. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 26 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 5320/9109

NEW ZEALAND

PAPER BACKS AUSTRALIAN DRUG INQUIRY IN NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 1 Dec 81 p 20

[Editorial: "Australian Inquiry in N.Z."]

[Text] The arrangement under which an Australian inquiry into the "Mr Asia" drug ring may conduct some of its hearings in New Zealand may be unprecedented but it seems a sensible one. Drug-running is an international business and if two countries of such similar institutional structures as New Zealand and Australia cannot co-operate, the advantage would go to the drug ring. The point about similar institutional structures is an important one, however; it would not be practicable for a country with a different approach to justice and procedure to be granted the same facilities.

If a New Zealander or an Australian were wanted on a serious criminal charge in the other country, he would be extradited. In the instance of the Australian Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drug Trafficking sitting in Australia; there is no way in which New Zealanders or the citizens of other countries can be compelled to appear before the commission; yet in the "Mr Asia" affair there was New Zealand and Australian involvement. The mechanics of the trafficking need to be learned so that steps can be taken to avoid a repetition. The inquiry would be appallingly incomplete if only the Australian activity of the drug ring could be considered. More than that: if New Zealand failed to co-operate to the full, the failure would appear churlish, if not suspicious.

If it comes to New Zealand, the Australian commission will be appointed as a commission under New Zealand law. This would be necessary for several reasons. One is that in summoning any New Zealand citizens, if that has to be done, the inquiry has to have the backing of New Zealand law. A second reason is that any New Zealand citizen who gives evidence before the inquiry has to feel the protection of New Zealand law.

Although there is little difference between the laws of Australia and New Zealand on the conduct of commissions of inquiry, New Zealand citizens still have to be certain that their legal rights are being protected by the law that can be enforced here. Because the Australian commission would in effect become a New Zealand commission, New Zealand will have full access to the evidence that is presented to the commission. Some thought might well be given to arranging the secondment of a New Zealand judge to the commission for the term of any inquiry in New Zealand.

The question of precedent is important, but should not be too daunting. The already-well-established formal and informal links between New Zealand and Australia made this decision easy. The New Zealand Attorney-General, Mr McLay, was approached informally by the Australian Attorney-General, Senator Durrack. Mr McLay consulted the Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, on the point, and it was all settled reasonably.

Whether other countries with similar institutions would be able to make similar arrangements is a question for them if the need arises. Because of the special relationship between Australia and New Zealand in many matters, particularly the freedom with which people come and go between the two countries without restraint, the facility with which a commission of inquiry can cross the Tasman may be exceptional. Were New Zealand to initiate a similar inquiry, its business would almost certainly be unfinished if it could not have questions answered in Australia. Provided that any inquiry is held here under New Zealand rules, there seems to be no serious objection to taking advantage of what is common to the laws and practices of both countries to bring to light matters that are of concern to each.

CSO: 5320/9110

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

DRUG ABUSE DISCUSSED--Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan has stressed the need for intensified efforts at the international level to curb the scourge of narcotics. He said that drug abuse, addiction and trafficking are increasing at the international level. During his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Clyde Taylor, he said that Pakistan has enforced stringent punishments within limits for drug addiction and trafficking. Dominic L. Dicarolo applauded Pakistan's efforts in this regard and assured his government's assistance in this campaign. [Text] [BK150432 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jan 82]

CSO: 5330/4598



THAILAND

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CITES COSTS OF DRUG ABUSE

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 22 Sep 81 pp 3, 10

[Text] Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, deputy prime minister, stated that the narcotics has an adverse effect, both directly and indirectly, on national security, especially internal peace and order, since drug addicts are ringleaders in crime. From the aspect of the economy there is great harm to the country. At present there are about 500,000-600,000 addicts. Each one spends 50-60 baht per day for the purchase of drugs. Calculated for a whole year this amounts to 10 billion baht, not including the appropriations for suppression operations. Besides, the drug traffic diminishes the prestige of Thailand because foreign nations understand that Thailand is the site for production and one of the main trading centers.

However, in remedying the problem the government has taken steps to obliterate it completely, particularly in the areas of prevention and suppression. For control and correction it has requested aid from foreign countries, for to carry out this task successfully it must receive cooperation from every side.

9615  
CSO: 5300/4527

THAILAND

BPP OPERATIONS AROUND BAN HIN TAEK DESCRIBED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 5 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] The drug suppression operation of the Border Patrol Police (BPP) must be called a blue ribbon job by the BPP District 5, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chaing Rai Province, which demonstrated force by seizing opium, making sensational news on the pages of the press. For up to now it had not happened that anyone or any narcotics suppression unit could confiscate the raw material, that is the opium, for the production of heroin along with the production equipment, in great quantities.

This Golden Triangle is well known in opium-heroin traffic circles in Thailand and worldwide. The Golden Triangle covers the southern part of the Shan State, Burma, continues to the LPDR, and extends to the northern part of Thailand that borders on Burma, Amphoe Mae Sai and Amphoe Mae Chan of Chiang Rai Province.

Two heroin production sites were destroyed by the BPP Region 3 force on 10 and 12 August 1981. The first site was Doi Huai Mak, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai Province, about one km from the Burmese border and 10 km west of Ban Hin Taek, Amphoe Mae Chan. In the second operation the same BPP team destroyed opium production at Ban Huai Yuak, Tambon Pa Sang, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai Province.

The seizure and destruction of both heroin production locations were the responsibility of the BPP Region 3 Headquarters, where a basic force under the command of Police Maj Gen Wichai Wichathanaphat, BPP Region 3 commander, carried out the operation to the end.

This success brought honor to the unit in performing their duty with pride. Nevertheless, a great deal of heroin will flow out into Thailand where millions of Thai youth will be destroyed, their energies wasted. It is killing Thai in cold blood. The terrain on the Thai-Burmese border in the north is steep dense mountainous jungle, especially the Golden Triangle area. It is easy to infiltrate and to hide for those ill intentioned toward the nation. The terrorists like this kind of territory, just like the smugglers or the drug traffickers. All these murderous groups use this region as a sanctuary until they escape. Besides the terrain which supports the ravaging of national security there are other problems such as minority groups and an ill-defined border. This makes the Thai-Burmese boundary very important. Government officials must realize these problems and be interested sincerely in solving them.

The reporter himself does not understand why both these heroin factories were located in Thailand, since the Thai do not support the opium trade. But there is no puzzle about Burma, for Burma has many minorities who make their living raising opium and selling it because opium brings a good income. Some minorities make the opium trade their occupation since they take the money to buy weapons to fight the Burmese government, for the establishment of independent states. The Burmese government has used suppression forces against the minorities with continual struggle in the Karen State, Khaya State, and the Shan State.

Under these circumstances then the Thai-Burma border is the location for heroin factories for ease of trade and transport into Thailand or for fleeing into Thailand if they are hard pressed by Burma.

It might be that since the demarcation between the two countries is not clear narcotics factories will be unintentionally located in Thailand. However, this problem might not arise if our forces operating along the border perform their duty in the area of their responsibility.

What must be considered is the group of Khun Sa or Chang Chi Fu, who is influential and is the leader of the S.U.A. (Shan United Army) forces in the Shan State, which seeks to liberate the Shan State from Burma. Khun Sa has a base for his force in Ban Hin Taek, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai Province. Khun Sa has many heroin factories on the Burmese border with Thailand. He is the world ranked heroin king. His relatives and most of the families of his group live in Ban Hin Taek. Therefore, it can be surmised that the two heroin factories, which the BPP Company 2, Amphoe Mae Chan, seized on 10-12 August 1981 belonged to Khun Sa since they were situated only 10 km west of Ban Hin Taek.

But at the same time from another viewpoint perhaps these factories were not Khun Sa's, because he does not want to displease the Thai. If Khun Sa is hostile to Thailand, it will be difficult for his force to live peacefully in Ban Hin Taek. He wants to develop Ban Hin Taek as a supply base for his army. From evidence at the time of Khun Sa's former arrest, it appeared that he had not even one opium or heroin installation in Thailand.

In that case, the heroin factories on the Thai border that the BPP Company 2 seized on 10-12 August 1981 must be presumed to belong to the Chinese Haw of the 93rd division. The behavior of this group has shown that they have profited from the opportunity offered by support from the Thai government to traffic in heroin and smuggled goods, within the radius of Headquarters 04, which has supervision. Many times these Chinese Haw evacuees took over state powers by setting up an illegal customs collection post at Ban Nong Uk, Amphoe Chiang Dao, Chaing Mai Province, bringing hardship upon the people. Besides this, the Chinese Haw in Amphoe Chiang Dao monopolized the selling of goods along the border, preventing the Thai traders from buying or selling, because there is never enough money to satisfy them. They have enraged the Thai people along the border where the Haw Chinese are living. The cleverness mixed with fraud, of the Chinese Haw evacuees, who live outside the control of Headquarters 04 has made many of them rich, with money in the bank and property worth millions of baht. These people do not pay taxes to the state and in many ways their activities are indirectly destroying the national economy. This is a problem for Headquarters 04 and those who administer the nation to resolve as a matter of urgency.

While the reporter was gathering this information, he received an anonymous threat warning him not to "touch the 93rd Division". He did not understand the reason.

The story of the BPP is better. The reporter is happy at the success of the narcotics suppression operation of BPP Company 2, Amphoe Mae Chan. Their action makes clear that though the terrain is very difficult, no matter how dense the jungle and steep the mountains, this cannot conquer the staunch spirit that motivates performance of duty. This drug suppression fight proves that the BPP can reach every square inch of the border, having a sense of accomplishment, and many times they have given their blood and their lives for the success of their tasks.

If every company along the border had the spirit that support such action, like BPP Company 2, Amphoe Mae Chang, Chiang Rai Province, we believe that they could destroy the range of drug traffic from the Golden Triangle that passes south into Thailand. This would obstruct the army of Khun Sa, the caravans of the Haw Chinese, and the groups of independent Muser soldiers in the Golden Triangle. It would sap their strength and leave them crumbling in the end. But the BPP, working alone, could not succeed because narcotics traffic is worldwide. Information must be coordinated with working units on a world scale. For example, in this heroin seizure, besides working with Thai officials concerned, there should be coordination with the US drug enforcement units. Of great importance is that the government must dampen the fire from the winds, because the drug traffic in the Golden Triangle has clearly disrupted friendly relations between Thailand and Burma. Since Khun Sa conducts the trade for economic reasons, to build his army for liberation from the Burmese government, we must close the border with continuous military operations by the BPP, to destroy those units working the world narcotics trade in the Golden Triangle. These are the results that would benefit the nation.

1. Promote friendly relations, on a firm basis, between Thailand and Burma.
2. Help to free the world's people from the great destruction of narcotics.
3. Destroy the relationship of the Haw Chinese 93rd Division with the Chinese caravans in the Golden Triangle and destroy the influence of the 93rd Division over the independent Muser soldiers and the connection with certain politicians who play a role with the 93rd Division.

This is a major problem that occasioned threatening words to leave the subject alone.

So then this is courting trouble. But if it is a threat to a man who has a moral standard, the reporter would be crazy to touch it if there is more news.

9615  
CSO: 5300/4527

THAILAND

BACKGROUND OF KHUN SA'S TIES WITH RTG NOTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 24 Oct 81 pp 19-21

[Article: "Will Khun Sa's State Power Remain or Disappear?"]

[Text] "Thailand once had a policy of using minority forces as a buffer against the expanding influence of outside threats. But it can be seen that this policy can not be used and is of no use in the present situation," stated an official of the national news agency to SIAM MAI.

At 1700 hours on 7 August, there was a clash between Thai forces and Shan State forces, a minority group in Burma that lives in the mountains in the area of Ban Kophaya Samakhi, Mae Kham Commune, Mae Chan District, Chiang Mai Province. Approximately 100 armed troops crossed into Thailand and surrounded a Thai force. The clash lasted the entire night.

Concerning this Thai force, a news source stated that it was composed of [Unit] 513 rangers from Pangthongchai District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The Third Army Area sent the 7th Infantry Unit, 3rd Battalion, and the 2nd Company of the Border Patrol Police went to provide support.

"Before the clash broke out, there was a disagreement between the KMT leaders and so the forces of another group moved down in order to join the Shan State forces. Burmese troops put pressure on the Shan State forces and so they had to flee into Thailand, resulting in the clash mentioned above, "which was just coincidental," stated this military news source to SIAM MAI.

The leader of this Shan State force is an important person named Chang Si Fu, or Khun Sa. He also has a Thai name, which is Chan Chang Trakun. He is a Ho Chinese. As for the name Khun Sa, Burma named him this during the period when he served as the leader of Burmese government volunteers, whose aim was to suppress the Shans. He was also once a soldier in a KMT unit. Later on,

when some elements of these forces in Burma returned to Taiwan, Khun Sa joined General Li's KMT forces, which are known as the 3rd Army.

In the period 1962-1969, Burma trained Khun Sa and made him the leader of the volunteers for the suppression of Shan rebels. But Khun Sa used this position for his own personal gain by engaging in opium trafficking and he gained great influence. He gathered together his followers and established a force to transport opium and produce heroin. He set up checkpoints to collect taxes illegally and he formed his own personal army, which is called the Shan United Army, or SUA. Its stated goal is to win independence for the Shan State. The Burmese government looked for a way to stop this. Khun Sa was arrested in 1969 and the volunteers were disbanded. But Khun Sa's forces were unwilling to give up their weapons and so they turned against the Burmese government.

Then in 1973, these forces kidnapped Russian doctors, who were serving as advisors to Burma in accord with the Medical Cooperation Program, in order to bargain with the Burmese government for the release of Khun Sa. Burma sent out even larger suppression forces and this scattered Khun Sa's forces and sent them retreating into Thailand. Burma asked Thai officials to help find a way to negotiate with Khun Sa's group for the release of the two Russian doctors. Air Chief Marshal Tawi Chunlasap concluded negotiations at the end of the year.

As for Khun Sa's forces, they have grown from a small force of approximately 800 men to a force of about 3,000 today. Khun Sa has fled the suppression activities of the Burmese government and established his headquarters at Ban Hin Taek in Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province, which is near the Thai-Burmese border. Some of his forces act like civilians but they have hidden their weapons in places where they are readily available for use. Some of his men have posed as Chinese KMT soldiers of General Tuan and General Li and had identification cards made in order to pose as refugee Ho Chinese.

Khun Sa uses a policy of trafficking in opium and heroin like a godfather. He has tried to expand his influence throughout the northern part of Thailand that borders Burma. If someone does not cooperate with him, he has him "executed." For example, the leaders of Burmese minority groups that used to trade with each other have been killed. Thus, it has reached the point where he now controls 70 percent of the opium and heroin trade in the north. He also controls five heroin refineries. Besides

trafficking in opium and heroin, Khun Sa also deals in jade and precious stones from Burma; these are openly sent into Thailand to his companies in Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai.

Khun Sa's influence on an international level became evident in 1977. He proposed that the United States government buy 20 million baht worth of opium each year, saying that this should be done in order to solve the narcotics problem by stopping the flow into the United States at the source and in order to use the money to liberate the Shan State. In 1979, Khun Sa sent some of his followers to assassinate U.S. congressman Lester Wolff but the attempt failed.

This alter-state influence of Khun Sa in Thailand stems from his having "high-level protectors." He has travelled to and from Bangkok freely and he has a house worth several million baht in Bangkok. This house was searched by the police this year but nothing was found. When Khun Sa comes to Bangkok, he often meets former Thai political leaders of importance and is very close to them. When great pressure is put on him to take his forces out of the country, Khun Sa flies in and discusses things with these important Thais. They always advise him to "leave temporarily until the matter dies down and then enter the country again." This has happened again and again.

The police have never been able to do anything to Khun Sa because, in addition to his having high-level protectors, some police superintendents in Bangkok have built houses with money from Khun Sa. And this is without mentioning the policemen in the north with the rank of police major general or police colonel who serve as protectors for Khun Sa's narcotics trade even though they are the ones who are directly responsible for suppressing narcotics.

At the beginning of 1978, the Thai government issued a resolution concerning chasing all of Khun Sa's forces out of Thailand. But Khun Sa has continually played a game of hide-and-seek with the Thai border patrol police. In July 1980, the Police Department issued a warrant for his arrest. But to date, it has been impossible to catch him. Also, a reward of 500,000 baht has been offered for his capture, dead or alive, and the Thai government has distributed leaflets to Khun Sa's forces to tell them about the reward, but he has still not been caught.

Khun Sa's men, who earn only 200 to 300 baht a month, do not dare seize him in exchange for the 500,000 baht. The military news source also told SIAM MAI that the reward will soon be increased to 1 million baht. The air force once dropped bombs on Khun Sa's headquarters at Ban Hin Taek. But since then, Khun Sa has moved back and forth across the Thai-Burmese border.

When Burma carries on suppression activities, he flees into Thailand and when Thailand carries on suppression activities, he flees into Burma.

One [Thai] government once protected Khun Sa just as it protected the Chinese KMT soldiers because of the return benefits for doing this. It was claimed that these forces could be used as a "buffer" for Thailand against outside threats and that if they were pressured, they would join the communists or take revenge on the villagers living in the border area. But now, some government officials have proposed that Khun Sa's forces are of no value at all to Thailand's security. They only sell narcotics, which is a danger to humanity and the Thai people, and they even have contact with the Burmese communists. The present government should suppress Khun Sa.

The official from the national news agency also told SIAM MAI in summary that, concerning the "great pressure applied by Thailand, the Burmese government feels that we are sincere about this. And do not overlook this clash because there may be a change in the northern forces. To date, these forces have never made such a strong attack.

11943  
CSO: 5300/4564



THAILAND

ONCB REPORT LISTS TRIBAL VILLAGES CULTIVATING POPPIES

Bangkok DOI THIM NGAN SIAM MAI in Thai 7 Nov 81 p 1

[ONCB Report]

[Text] From various reports received by the ONCB, it has been learned that, this poppy growing season, Thai hill tribes have planted large numbers of poppies. They are not cultivating any substitute crops since opium is bringing an especially high price this year. In particular, the tribesmen in the following areas are engaged in this:

1. The Meo village at Ban Khun Chang Khien in Chang Phuok Commune, Muang District, Chiang Mai Province.
2. The Lisu village at Doi Sam Mun in Wieng Haeng Commune, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province.
3. The Meo village at Ban Khun Wang in Mae Win Commune, San Padong District, Chiang Mai Province.
4. The Lisu village at Ban Nam Ru in Wieng Haeng Commune, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province.
5. The Meo village at Ban Phui in Ban Thap Commune, Mae Chaem District, Chiang Mai Province.
6. The Ho Chinese village at Ban Luang in Mae Ngon Commune, Fang District, Chiang Mai Province.
7. The Lahu village at Ban Khop Dong in Mae Ngon Commune, Fang District, Chiang Mai Province.
8. The Karen village at Ban Phamon in Ban Luang Commune, Chom Thong District, Chiang Mai Province.

9. The Lisu village at Ban Pa Kiamai in Wieng Haeng Commune, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province.

10. The Meo village at Ban Mae Samai in Pong Yaeng Commune, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province.

In particular, concerning Ban Luang (No 6), Ban Khop Dong (No 7) and Ban Ang Khang in Fang District, Chiang Mai Province, there have been reliable reports that have stated that Phisadet Ratchani, the director of Royal Projects, has given the tribesmen in these areas permission to grow poppy and is supporting them in this.

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CSO: 5300/4564

THAILAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLERS SEIZED--Two Thai men were arrested late Sunday night while allegedly attempting to smuggle over 4 kilogrammes of No 3 "brown sugar" heroin to West Germany. The two men, Pramot Kaeoprasoet, 32, and Thoedsak Tosaks, 25, refused to make a statement to customs and police officials upon arrest. The officials reported that they found the narcotic drug, neatly packed in 16 plastic bags, hidden in specially-made secret compartments of the suitcases. The drugs weighed a total of 4,190 grammes. [BK270930 Bangkok POST in English 24 Nov 81 p 5]

AUSTRIAN HELD FOR HEROIN--Officials detained an Austrian woman about to board a flight for Rome on Tuesday night and charged her with possession of 140 grammes of No 4 heroin. Officials named the woman as Miss Birgitte Ferrari, 24. They said they found the heroin in a package tied round her waist and in a tube concealed in her vagina. The search was made by customs narcotics investigation unit officials as Miss Ferrari and a male companion were about to board a Thai International flight for Rome. The man was released after no drugs were found on him. She was detained at Don Muang police station for further interrogation on charges of possessing drugs with intent to sell and attempted smuggling. [BK270930 Bangkok POST in English 26 Nov 81 p 2]

CONVICTED MONK ARRESTED--A convicted drugs traffickers, who became a monk three years ago in an attempt to avoid serving a life sentence, was arrested by a Bangkok north police team at a temple in Si Samrong District of Sukhothai Province. Deputy commander of the Bangkok north investigation bureau, Pol Lt Col Kittichok Seangnil said that Ong-at Peng Sae Tae or Phikkhu Sompong had gone to the temple to perform a religious rite. He was disrobed from the monkhood after his arrest, he added. In October 1978 Ong-at was sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia after escaping arrest in a police raid in Samut Prakan. During the raid 92.7 kilograms of heroin, 58.4 kilograms of morphine and 81.2 kilograms of processed opium were seized. [BK270930 Bangkok POST in English 22 Nov 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/4918

BOLIVIA

PRESIDENT STRESSES FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS

PY191749 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] [Begin Torrelío recording] The Government of the Armed Forces wishes to once again reaffirm its very strong desire to definitely do away with the social scourge that involves the manufacture and trafficking of narcotics. My government has repeatedly expressed that 1982 will be the year of the nation's economic and moral reorganization. [end recording]

This assertion was made by President Gen Celso Torrelío Villa, when they installed the new executive director of the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, Lt Col Raul Gonzalez Ferrys who replaces Col (Rene Ocampo Monjes). The ceremony was held yesterday at Government House. Executive branch officials, members of the armed forces and national police personnel attended the ceremony.

The chief of state also reaffirmed that his government will in no way cease to continue the head-on fight against the narcotics trade, no matter who is involved or who falls in that fight.

[Begin Torrelío recording] It will, therefore, be the permanent obligation of the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking to use the law in all its rigor, without contemplation or weakness, against all those who, directly or indirectly, are involved in this type of nasty action. [end recording]

The president asserted that the recovery of the nation's dignity, both abroad and internally, is a top priority task for the government.

[Begin Torrelío recording] We will carry out this task no matter who is involved or who falls. While the nation's armed forces are functioning as a government and while I am the president of the republic, there will be no refuge or asylum throughout our vast territory for those Bolivians or foreigners who, individually or by association, traffic in death, in the weakness of a few bad Bolivians and in the prestige of the fatherland. [end recording]

On his part, the new director of the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking outlined the task he will carry out during the current year.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Our program's priority is that of rationalizing the production of the coca leaf, in other words, to see that it is used only for legal purposes in view of the expansion that drug trafficking has undergone. It would be nice to believe we could stop production completely, but there are very viable reasons of an (?anthropological), cultural, (?economic) and medicinal nature that council us, before taking any such measure, to be knowledgeable about the topic, to delimit its components, its benefits and the evil it can cause. [end recording]

CSO: 5300/2128

BOLIVIA

## BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER EXTRADITION--La Paz, 21 Jan (AFP)--A local evening paper reported here today that President Celso Torrelío Villa will request the extradition of drug traffickers Roberto Suarez Gomez (Sr) and Roberto Suarez Levy (Jr) from Switzerland. It was reported that Suarez Gomez and Suarez Levy were captured yesterday in Locarno (Switzerland) carrying forged passports and trying to introduce a large amount of money into the country, purportedly obtained from the cocaine traffic. The newspaper pointed out that Roberto Suarez Gomez, who has become the most important drug trafficker in Bolivia and perhaps in all Latin America, has been wanted by the U.S. police for a long time. Therefore, the possibility for the United States also requesting Suarez' extradition cannot be dismissed since he is charged with having violated U.S. laws. [Text] [PY221109 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 22 Jan 82]

COCAINE LABORATORY RAID--A gang of cocaine manufacturers and traffickers using submachineguns and other firearms had a shootout with police agents who had discovered a drug laboratory in the (Okinagua) Zone, Santa Cruz Department. The official report, released by the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, asserts that there were casualties among police officers and agents, but it does not reveal the number. The incident took place on Saturday, when the police discovered a camouflaged laboratory, where 4 persons were captured and 20 kilograms of cocaine were confiscated. The council's report adds that there is no specific information about what happened to the drug manufacturers and it asserts that many of them fled and hid in the jungle. Arms, munitions and a small truck were also confiscated in addition to the cocaine. The council's experts have begun the appropriate investigation to identify those involved and to capture those responsible for the manufacture of drugs. The council also reported that its agents have discovered a clandestine warehouse in which coca leaves were being held in the so-called (Pampas de La Isla) neighborhood in the city of Santa Cruz. The police have confiscated a total of 10 drums. The drums have been deposited in the council's warehouses. The pertinent investigations continue. [Text] [PY191826 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82]

CUSTOMS CONFISCATES COCAINE--The customs inspector general has reported that his agency has handed over 3.150 kilograms of cocaine to the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking. The drug was confiscated during an operation carried out on 15 January in the neighborhood of (Guati). [PY210150 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82]

CSO: 5300/2126

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED--It has been reported that the Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS) seized 20 kg of unprocessed cocaine last weekend. No detainees were reported. [PY210150 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Jan 82]

DRUG RING DISMANTLED--The Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS) has reported that the seizure of 40 kg of cocaine in the township of (Codia) has led to the dismantling of a drug ring linking Manaus-Sao Paulo-Miami. Three traffickers have been arrested, while two others have been identified. [PY210150 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Jan 82]

CSO: 5300/2126

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA FOUND--Bogota, 12 Jan (LATIN-REUTER)--The police last night reported that a shipment of 62 tons of marihuana was found yesterday near a clandestine landing field in Barrancas, La Guajira, 900 km north of Bogota. The police said that the airplane that was to take the marihuana to the United States did not arrive on time. There were no arrests. [PA160400 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0633 GMT 12 Jan 82 PA]

MARIHUANA SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The Colombian authorities seized 4,680 kg of marihuana and captured three well-known international drug traffickers. The operation took place in a farm in (Matisa) district, jurisdiction of Riohacha, La Guajira department. The drug traffickers were identified as: (Jose Adan Padilla), (Luis Alfonso Nieves) and (Andres Enrique Pautivas). [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Jan 82 PA]

COCA PLANTS CONFISCATED--Bogota--Police authorities today confiscated 270,000 coca plants worth 60 million pesos. The seizures occurred in Barrancas and Miraflores in La Guajira department. There were no reports of arrests. [Text] [PA171509 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 82 PA]

CSO: 5300/632



MEXICO

CALLES SPEAKS AT DRUG SEMINAR

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 2 Dec 81 p 12-A

[Article by Jose Vilchis Guerrero]

[Text] Dr Mario Calles Lopez Negrete, secretary of public health and assistance [SSA], said yesterday that to fight against narcotics traffic and the unlawful consumption of drugs is not only a government duty, but also a duty of man toward his fellow human beings.

On inaugurating the Seminar for Agents Responsible for Drug Control in Latin America of the United Nations, in the name of the President Lopez Portillo, Dr Calles Lopez Negrete asked for international solidarity to intensify the battle and "to reach the point where each human being is consciously master of himself."

The event is taking place in the conference center of the Foreign Ministry and was organized by the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations, with the support and coordination of the Mexican Government through the office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Yesterday, after the inauguration of the activities of the participants, the Attorney General of the Republic, Oscar Flores Sanchez, referred to efforts made in Mexico under the present administration, during which the cultivation of drugs was reduced by 90 per cent.

The attorney general, Flores Sanchez indicated that the Mexican anti-drug program was orchestrated in collaboration with all countries affected by the production and traffic in drugs and now --being 90 percent successful--"Mexico places at the disposition of all interested countries the experience it has gained."

For his part, Dr Calles Lopez Negrete informed the participants that in Mexico "this business, the most criminal and irresponsible imaginable, has been fought street by street. The severity of the penalties has been increased and preventive measures, repressive operations and therapeutic measures have multiplied."

All for the purpose of preventing Mexicans from becoming victims or perpetrators of an offense which constitutes a crime against all humanity."

He then reiterated that "we will continue to seize and burn large shipments. We will continue to increase measures of prevention and of rehabilitation among youth. We will continue to apprehend and imprison those who produce or traffic in drugs in our nation's territory.

Finally, the head of SSA stated that this battle against drugs must be coordinated with all countries, because it concerns a "crime which dehumanizes man."

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CSO: 5300/2101

MEXICO

PILOT REFUSES TO TRANSPORT DRUGS, CHILDREN KIDNAPPED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Nov 81 p 6-D

[Text] For his refusal to transport drugs to the United States, the children of Pedro Rafael Lora Heyer, airline pilot of Aeromexico; Abigail Daniela and Rafael Lora Lopez, 2 and 1-year-old respectively, were kidnapped in the Ojo de Agua district.

Lora Heyer informed the Judicial Police that his wife, Blanca Lopez, was involved in drug trafficking, and her accomplices, by means of telephone calls had advised him that if he did not carry drugs to the neighboring country, his children would be kidnapped.

The kidnapping of the children occurred yesterday at 7:30 in the house of the Lora Lopez family, Fresas Street, in the district mentioned.

Roman Hernandez Palacios, head of the Judicial Police group stationed in this town said that there are no clues as to the whereabouts of the children and that they search wide areas, since several witnesses who were present said that the gunmen fled toward Pachuca, Hidalgo.

The kidnapers also beat the pilot's wife. The pilot stated that the drug traffickers tried to force him to fly a plane loaded with drugs.

The traffickers used submachineguns and pistols to carry out the kidnapping of the children. The airline pilot of Aeromexico stated that his wife, Blanca, was involved with criminals of this sort since she was 13 years old.

The first commander of the Judicial Police of the State of Mexico, Alejandro Cuevas Gomez, said that more than 50 members of the organization are investigating the case and that they hope to recover the two children alive.

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CSO: 5300/2101

MEXICO

PSYCHOTROPICS FROM HAMBURG SEIZED AT VERACRUZ

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Dec 81 p 8-D

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] A cargo of drugs valued at more than 775 million pesos was intercepted in the port of Veracruz by agents of Interpol Mexico, who also arrested three narcotics traffickers who are part of an international gang which operates in the United States, Europe and Mexico.

The drug had been brought into Mexico under the name of a chemical product called "sulfaguanidina" but on making the analysis, it was determined that it was methaqualone considered by the Health Code as a psychotropic.

Almost 5 tons of the drug were brought in from Hamburg, in a ship flying the Swedish flag in the name of the laboratories Industria Medicinal Americana S.A. where they were delivered.

The Interpol Mexico investigations were begun when Interpol Germany discovered that since 1979 large quantities of methaqualone were being sent to Europe, the United States and Mexico under another name.

That organization requested the collaboration of the Mexican attorney general, and the chief of that organization, Oscar Flores Sanchez, ordered Cdr Florentino Ventura Gutierrez, director of Interpol Mexico, to begin the investigation.

Ventura Gutierrez and his special group started inquiries and after receiving reports from the United States, they continued their investigations in Jalisco, Nayarit, State of Mexico, Veracruz and the Federal District.

Having sufficient evidence already, Commander Ventura and the agent from the Public Federal Ministry for special cases, Javier Coello Trejo, proceeded to arrest the narcotics traffickers, Manuel Godoy Calderon, a narcotics trafficker known in Guadalajara; Manuel Arnulfo Lopez Loera, for whom a warrant is outstanding from the second judge of Monterrey District; and the German, Holger Markman Mamero, an international narcotics trafficker.

The public federal minister, Javier Coello Trejo, advised that two other members of that gang were still at large, one Mexican and the other a foreigner.

Concerning the foreigner, he said that his name is Klaus Kesting, who in turn is a partner of the company, Globe Chemical S.A., which is engaged in the importation of chemical pharmaceutical products, with offices in Mexico and Germany.

The gang, considered by the attorney general as one of the most powerful on an international scale, in order to import the drug, made it under the name of another substance and were also giving as consignees different laboratories involved in drug traffic.

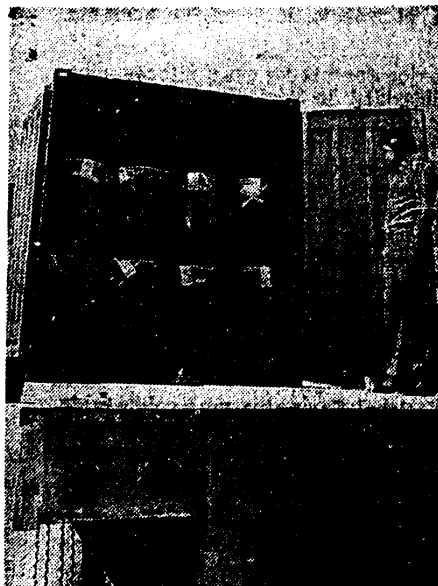
Certain information was corroborated and surveillance was instituted in the port of Veracruz, 19 November, the date the shipment arrived covered by invoices and documentation which gave the appearance that 10 tons of "sulfaguanidina" were coming in on board the vessel.

Those arrested confessed that since 1979 they were engaged in the bringing in of this drug, with which they were processing mandrax pills, whose sale is prohibited.

With the seized cargo, they would process more than 31 million pills.

The investigation of the attorney general, according to Coello Trejo, was started 2 months ago.

Those arrested were sent yesterday to Reclusorio Oriente of the city of Mexico, at the disposition of the seventh judge of the district in criminal matters.



The drug arrived in these drums from Hamburg, Germany, which would be made into more than 31 million psychotropic pills.

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CSO: 5300/2101

MEXICO

BREAK-UP OF LARGE-SCALE DRUG GROWING, PROCESSING RING DESCRIBED

13 Poppy Growers Captured

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 11 Dec 81 Sec C p 1

[Text] Federal Judicial Police agents under orders from Comdr Jose Siordia Jimenez dealt a terrific blow to the drug traffic in the area of poppy growing and opium gum processing when they captured 13 persons engaged in this illegal business, and also seized approximately one kilogram of opium and other items used for processing that drug.

The permanent campaign against drug trafficking being conducted by the Office of the Attorney General of Justice of the Nation has brought splendid results, breaking up large drug trafficking rings and confiscating all types of implements used by the poisoners to convert and process drugs.

During a surveillance operation on the Mante Gomez Farias Highway, the group of Federal Judicial Police agents detailed to this town succeeded in arresting 13 individuals responsible for growing poppies, who were questioned to determine the sites on which the plantations were located and the number of persons engaged in this illegal work.

During the questioning to which the 13 subjects under arrest were subjected, they stated that all of them were natives of the states of Durango and Sinaloa, from which they were taken by the ringleaders of the group to grow poppies in this state, because it was a more strategic location for smuggling the drugs to the United States.

They claimed that they had brought the opium gum from the hill known as La Cima, in the municipality of Xicotencatl, Tamaulipas, a site inaccessible by ground transportation, because the only way of reaching it is on foot or by helicopter.

Those in custody said that, on this hill, there were approximately seven poppy plantations covering an area of about 16 hectares, nine of which were in the productive state, because the rest were lost owing to the temperature.

The poppy growers also said that they had planted the crop about June, with 30 persons from the aforementioned states engaged in this.

Upon being interviewed, the Federal Judicial Police commander, Jose Siordia Jimenez, stated that the air surveillance units had not detected the plantations, because they

had been planted at the rate of about 100 plants per 500 meters. However, upon the capture of part of the ring, a group of agents and members of the National Army was assigned to "sweep" the area and destroy all the remaining plantations.

The group of 13 subjects arrested turned over to the Federal Judicial Police approximately 1.5 kilograms of opium gum, which is worthy between 750,000 and 800,000 pesos per kilogram.

The federal authorities estimate that there is more processed opium gum on La Cima hill; which is why the members of the National Army and the Judicial Police agents have specific orders to capture the other members of the ring and to destroy the plantations.

Those in custody are: Manuel Quinones Quinones, Antonio Quinones Angulo, Eloy Osuna Vidana, Oscar Villarreal Angulo, Roberto Quinones Quinones, Luis Vargas Villa, Jose Guadalupe Ortega Ortega, Alfredo Monarrez Monarrez, Pilar Magdaleno Torres, Exiquio Rito Quinones Quinones, Manuel Navarrete Nevarez, Maximina Arteaga Villa and Teodoro Quinones Torres.

All of them will be turned over to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, where penal action will be taken against them for the crimes that may be attributed to them in connection with drug trafficking.

Moreover, the federal authorities have begun investigations for the purpose of arresting the "ringleaders" of the group, because all those under arrest were apparently only responsible for growing and processing the poppies.

#### PJF 'Comb' Area

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 12 Dec 81 Sec B p 3

[Text] After the tremendous blow dealt to the drug traffic with the capture of 13 poppy growers, the Federal Judicial Police have issued specific instructions to all their agents to "comb" the area of "La Cima" hill in the municipality of Xicotencatl, Tamaulipas, and to destroy the plantations of that crop which the subjects in custody claimed to have in the aforementioned location.

Thus far, despite the swift action taken by members of the Army and the Federal Judicial Police to capture the "ringleaders" of the group, the latter have succeeded in evading the authorities; but the investigations will continue until the "fat fish" fall into the hands of the law.

When interviewed, Federal Judicial Police Comdr Jose Siordia Jimenez said that steps had been taken to locate and destroy the plantations which the 13 poppy growers claimed to have.

He also gave assurance that a "hunt" has been started to capture 17 more persons who are in collusion with this matter and who were not captured by the federal agents during the first raid.

The capture of this group of individuals will expose a large ring of poisoners who have been operating in the entire northern section of the country.

This action has proven once again the magnificent job being done by the Federal Judicial Police against the drug traffic, on the basis of the permanent campaign begun by the Office of the Attorney General of Justice of the Nation.

#### Plantations Destroyed

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 14 Dec 81 p 8

[Text] Over a period of 4 days, a fleet of helicopters from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic was engaged in fumigating the poppy plantations discovered in the municipality of Xicotencatl, Tamaulipas, over an area of 16 hectares. Specialized equipment was used for the aforementioned action, involving the largest discovery ever made in this state insofar as drug plantations are concerned.

The Federal Judicial Police agents, headed by the regional commander of that entity, Jose Siordia Jimenez, and the general coordinator, Carlos Aguilar Garza, took nearly 2 days to arrive at the highest part of the mountains where, based on the investigations that were under way, those poppy plantations were located. As reported at the time, the investigations began with the arrest of a woman who had 75 grams of opium gum in her possession, and who had been supplied from those plantations which were situated on a farm called "La Cima".

It had been raining; they traveled along paths for many hours; it was a very arduous journey, and even more difficult owing to the harassment from hordes of mosquitoes and other problems germane to the mountain area. However, it was necessary to strike the sudden blow in order to be effective, and it all turned out well.

When the plantations had been discovered, the assistance of the Army was requested to carry out the destruction.

At some hour of the day, the especially equipped helicopters located each one of the plantations. The vigilance was tightened up over several kilometers of the vicinity to ward off any gunfire on the part of the drug traffickers who had been affected. The entire operation took place in complete calmness.

Then the fleet of helicopters destroyed the plantations. There were several of them, and each one had an area of from two to four hectares.

The poppies had been grown on any level plot of land in the most obscure section of the mountains, and the clandestine laboratory for processing the opium gum had been set up.

The commander of the Federal Judicial Police in Matamoros, Mr Benito Estrada Villagomez, explained the action which had been taken since the beginning of last week and which ended last Thursday; an effort led by Comdr Siordia Jimenez and the coordinator, Carlos Aguilar Garza.

A large portion of the planted poppies had already been scored, to cause the dripping of the gum from which the heroin and morphine are obtained after processing. It is assumed that they had been supplying that drug for some time to the market in the United States.



Samples of poppy plants and opium gum, and the laboratory equipment for the processing thereof, were taken to Nuevo Laredo. Some samples of this action taken against drug production are also being held at the Matamoros headquarters of the Federal Judicial Police.

The pertinent authorities will also have to consider this case an example of the fact that there are areas in Tamaulipas where any kind of drug can be grown, and that therefore the vigilance will have to be intensified in order to prevent their cultivation.

The preliminary investigations of this case are still being conducted directly in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, where the 13 persons who were captured are being held in the federal jail.

#### Official Imprisonment Ordered

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 19 Dec 81 Sec C p 3

[Text] The 13 persons recently captured by the Federal Judicial Police with opium gum and poppy plants in their possession received the writ of official imprisonment yesterday in the third district court for crimes against health; while at the same time the case is to be transferred to the circuit court of Tampico, Tamaulipas, because the incidents occurred in the municipality of Xicotencatl, which belongs to that jurisdiction.

Yesterday, the writ of official imprisonment was issued by Federal Judge Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal against 13 individuals who were captured last week by Federal Judicial Police agents, for their presumed guilt of crimes against health in the degrees of poppy planting and harvesting, and possession of opium gum, as well as trafficking in that drug.

Those implicated in the case are Manuel Quinones Quinones, Exiquio Quinones Quinones, Teodoro Quinones Torres, Maximina Arteaga Villa, Oscar Villarreal Angulo, Antonio Quinones Angulo, Guadalupe Ortega Ortega, Manuel Navarrete Nevarez, Pilar Magdalena Torres, Alfredo Monarrez Monarrez, Jose Roberto Quinones Quinones, Eloy Osuna Vidana and Luis Vega Villa.

After the writ of official imprisonment had been issued, Federal Judge Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal demonstrated his lack of authority in the case; hence, it will be turned over to the circuit court of Tampico, because the incidents took place in that jurisdiction.

#### Probe Intensified

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 22 Dec 81 Sec B p 3

[Text] Today, Federal Judicial Police forces dealt a mysterious blow to the drug traffic in the national territory by capturing 31 members of a well organized ring that had been operating in the northern part of the country, at the height of their illegal activity.

At the instruction of Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, director of the PJF, an intense investigation was started in the port of Tampico, the town of Nuevo Laredo and part of Huasteca in Veracruz, in order to locate the brains of that powerful ring.

The probe ended with the arrest of 13 drug traffickers who, at the time of their capture, had in their possession a large amount of opium gum, heroin and recently harvested poppies.

The centers of operation in these towns acted as distribution sites for hard drugs which were sent mainly to the United States, while another portion was allocated for consumption by the addicts in these areas.

Teodoro Quinones Torres, Antonio Quinones Angulo, Eloy Osuna Vidana and Luis Vargas Villa were the main "ringleaders" who headed the organization of drug traffickers in the northern part of the republic.

The Federal Judicial Police director ordered the immediate disposition of the drug traffickers, and instructed a group of Federal Judicial Police forces to concentrate in the town of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, in order to capture the possible accomplices of this ring who had managed to escape in the process of the arrests.



Manuel Quinones and Antonio Quinones Angulo had 75 grams of opium gum in their possession which they turned over to the federal authorities at the time of their capture.

Eloy Osuna Vidana and Roberto Quinones Quinones will be remanded to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry for their presumed guilt of crimes related to the growing of poppies and processing of opium.



These two subjects named Luis Vargas Villa and Jose Guadalupe Ortega Ortega had been engaged in growing poppies since June, when they planted that crop on La Cima hill.

Brought from the state of Sinaloa, Exiquio Rito Quinones Q. and Manuel Navarrete Nevarez were engaged in growing poppies, which will be destroyed on their plantations by National Army forces and Federal Judicial Police agents.



For their part in the growing of poppies in the municipality of Xicotencatl this January, Alfredo Manarrez Manarrez and Pilar Magdalena Torres will be remanded to the Federal Public Ministry where they will be confronted with their accomplices.

Maximina Arteaga Villa was also captured by the Federal Police in the company of the poppy growers. In the photo she appears with Teodoro Quinones Torres. Both are members of the large ring of opium gum traffickers. The authorities are expected to capture the ringleaders within the next few days.

2909  
CSO: 5330/61

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS SELLING DRUGS FOR WEAPONS SENTENCED

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 14 Dec 81 Sec C p 3

[Text] A few days ago, the third district judge, Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal, handed down a sentence against two individuals who had been captured in January by Federal Judicial Police agents and were found with marihuana and high-powered weapons in their possession.

- For crimes against health in the degrees of possession and trafficking, and the collection of weapons, the third district judge issued a sentence of 8 years in prison and a fine of 1,500 pesos for an individual named Jose Maria Galvan Alejandre, a resident of 1826 Lucio Blanco Street; while sentencing Arturo Alvarado Martinez, a resident of 2858 Iguala Street, to 3 years in jail and giving him a fine of 5,000 pesos for his guilt in committing crimes against health in the degrees of possession and trafficking.

The aforementioned individuals were captured by Federal Judicial Police agents on 16 January of this year, after a series of investigations to capture those traffickers who were known to have been engaged in this illegal business.

When the two subjects were questioned, the first-mentioned said that he had sold the marihuana to Arturo Alvarado, so that he might resell it; and that it had been supplied to him by a cousin of his named Ismael Sanchez Saucedo.

The drugs had been brought from the state of Michoacan, to be taken to the United States, where they were exchanged for high-powered weapons, which they were bringing into the country illegally to be taken to the south.

In addition to the drugs which the federal authorities seized from Arturo Alvarado and Jose Maria Galvan, two pistols and five rifles were confiscated from them. These weapons were 380 and 22 caliber, and were placed at the disposal of the local garrison.

2909  
CSO: 5330/61

MEXICO

TRAFFICKER KILLED IN MONTERREY HOSPITAL

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 9 Dec 81 Sec B p 8

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon--At exactly 0200 hours on Monday, the fourth floor of the Muguerza Hospital in this city was shaken by the repercussions from four gunshots which caused over 20 patients who had been resting to jump from their beds.

Unidentified individuals reached Room 507, where Hector Fernando Gonzalez Flores, aged 37, was confined. He had been admitted at 1930 hours the previous night because of a bullet wound in his right forearm.

At a press conference, the chief of the State Judicial Police, Capt Jesus Torres Espejo, said that the one or more assassins had gained entry into the hospital using a construction project being built beside this hospital; which is why no one noticed their arrival or saw them leave.

The now deceased had a record as a drug trafficker, having served a sentence of 6 years and 3 months in the notorious Lecumberrri prison in the Federal District. He was incarcerated in 1972, at the time of the scandalous death of Gen Humberto Mariles Cortez, also for the same crime; and had changed his residence to 425 Rio Nava, in the Del Valle housing development in this city.

The State Judicial Police found Hector's car abandoned, with several bullet holes; and therefore it is presumed that his death was a Mafia-style execution by those who had already attacked him in the morning. The car is a 1975 Ford with Nuevo Leon license plates RHG-745.

Perla Gutierrez, Hector's wife, a native of Acapulco, Guerrero, was miraculously saved, because she was sleeping on a cot beside Hector's bed. However, the one or more assassins disregarded her, proving that they were only interested in putting an end to the deceased.

2909  
CSO: 5330/61

MEXICO

DECLINE IN DRUG TRAFFIC REPORTED IN SINALOA

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 15 Dec 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] There is currently a decline in the drug trafficking activity in the Sinaloa mountain area and, thus far this month, only 210 poppy and 18 marihuana plantations have been destroyed by fumigation, over areas measuring 25,630 and 1,800 square meters, respectively, representing an insignificant volume in comparison with the plantations 5 years ago.

The battle has become more difficult for the forces from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, because the plantations have been reduced to the maximum possible extent, and this has caused the tracking effort to become more extensive, successfully locating small plots which are destroyed immediately.

In making the foregoing statement, the coordinator for Zone 06 of the permanent campaign against drug trafficking, Hector Aviles Castillo, explained that the phenomenon that is occurring at present may possibly be due to the ideology of Mexicans who like to be near their families about this time of year, and who do not want to give any cause for their arrest.

He added that, at the present time, there is less movement and, consequently, but few drugs as well; but that this is no reason to stop seeking plantations, because when the pressure is eased he is certain that the activities of those engaged in planting drugs will become intensified.

Aviles Castillo said that, every day, reconnaissance flights are being made; while in the areas where marihuana and poppy plantations have been detected, the helicopters proceed to destroy them with the fungicides which have been improving, putting an end to the plants without hurting the ecology.

In conclusion, the Zone 06 coordinator noted that, fortunately, the situation in the state and in the mountain area adjoining the states of Chihuahua, Durango and Nayarit has been extensively controlled; which represents assurance insofar as the activity of the permanent battle against drug trafficking is concerned.

2909  
CSO: 5330/61



MEXICO

## BRIEFS

YOUTH ADDICTION INCREASING--Mexico City, 28 November (EXCELSIOR)--The drug addiction in the country is on the rise, particularly among the youth. Therefore, the Secretariat of Health and Assistance has requested that the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic increase the action in the border zone where the highest rates of drug dependence have been recorded. The foregoing report was made in the medical department itself, where it was explained that recently about 200 tons of drugs seized by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic were incinerated. It was claimed that the drug-addicted adolescent population on the border with the United States is becoming increasingly larger. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 29 Nov 81 Sec A p 4] 2909

CRACKDOWN ON SECRET RUNWAYS--The general directorate of civil aeronautics, which is subordinate to the Secretariat of Communications and Transport, has issued orders to its personnel operating in Sonora to redouble the surveillance, especially in the coastal and mountain areas, to prevent all the landing strips which exist and which are not registered from operating outside of the law. Stiff penalties will be imposed on those violating these regulations, and they could even go to jail. However, the small number of personnel available, as well as equipment, has made a general tracking of them difficult. The few clandestine landing strips detected have been discovered by Federal Judicial Police forces in the campaign being conducted by that entity against drug planting and trafficking. At the headquarters of the command at the General Ignacio Pesqueira Airport it has been reiterated that, even though all the landing strips are the only means of communication for some settlements in the high sierra, it is recommended that those using them register them, so as thereby to furnish a complete report on the number of them. Moreover, there will be continued penalties for all those who use such strips for riding teams of horses, because they leave them in very poor condition, with the resultant risk of accidents for the small aircraft using them. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 29 Dec 81 Sec A p 5]

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER RELEASED--Yesterday, Tomas Degollado Ramos obtained his provisional release on bail after having been sentenced to 4 years and 10 months in prison as an individual guilty of a crime against health, according to a report from the third district judge. Degollado Ramos entered jail on 21 October 1980, his case being connected with Simon Mariscal and Ramiro Pena Ayala. Mariscal was driving a flatbed truck loaded with marihuana which they were attempting to take over to the United States on communal farm land, when they were caught by Federal Judicial Police forces. The aforementioned case was highly publicized at the time owing to the large amount of grass that they were carrying in the vehicle. The Federal Judicial Police made a roundup of individuals, in which connection there are some

awaiting sentencing who managed to escape, while others are still in jail serving long terms. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Dec 81 Sec B p 7] 2909

POPPY GROWERS CLAIM INNOCENCE--Yesterday, during the course of their statements in the third district court, the 13 individuals arrested in connection with the opium gum seized from them by the Federal Judicial Police flatly denied the charges. Maximina Ortega Villa, from whom they seized 75 grams of opium that she was to use as a sample for making a transaction, claimed that the Federal Police who captured her as she was riding in a vehicle along Mante-Gomez Faris Highway, the captors themselves, had given it to her, making her state, by means of threats, that it was her property. The same claims were also made by the others, who said that they had been subjected to severe torture and beatings to force them to confess their guilt of possession of 1 kilogram and 100 grams of the aforementioned drug, but that they are actually innocent. They are: Manuel Quinones Quinones, Antonio Quinones Angulo, Eloy Osuna Vidana, Oscar Villarreal Angulo, Roberto Quinones Quinones, Luis Vargas Villa, Jose Guadalupe Ortega Villa, Alfredo Monarrez Monarrez, Pilar Magdaleno Torres, Exiquio Rito Quiroz Quiroz, Manuel Navarrete Nevarez and Teodoro Quinones Torres. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 17 Dec 81 Sec B p 11] 2909

ARMY ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN CONTINUED--Nogales, Sonora, 17 December (PH)--The commander of the local military garrison, Gen Heriberto Bello Fernandez, announced that the campaign undertaken by the Army to curb drug trafficking will continue on a permanent basis, and has the necessary capacity to intervene directly when the situation so requires. He said that, at the instruction of the Secretariat of National Defense, both in Nogales and elsewhere in the country, our armed institution is being kept on constant alert to check in an effective and timely manner any resurgence of this activity, acting in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, through the Federal Judicial Police. The main functions carried out for this purpose are the timely detection of those trafficking in drugs, proceeding with strict adherence to the law, he claimed. With regard to Nogales, Bello Fernandez noted that there is relative calm in this area, and he does not foresee any major resurgence of this activity, thanks to the vigilance exercised by the federal authorities. Despite the foregoing, he said that both the Attorney General's Office and the Army are keeping stringent control over the area, to prevent this from happening, by detecting and immediately curbing any possible outbreak. [Text] (Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 17 Dec 81 Sec D p 1] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKER CAUGHT--The coordinating entity of the Office of the Attorney General of Justice of the Nation in the northeast, residing in this port, announced the arrest in Monterrey of an individual named Pedro Burgos Lugo, with 280 grams of heroin and 270 grams of a brown-colored powder which, based on its features, would appear to be a substance used to cut heroin. The capture of this individual took place as he was about to deliver the drugs to some American drug traffickers who managed to flee the scene. The Federal Judicial Police reported that Pedro Burgos Lugo was captured outside a supermarket located on Ruiz Cortines Street in that Monterrey settlement. He had the powder in a briefcase, and it was confiscated from him along with a 38 caliber pistol which he was carrying at his belt, with six usable cartridges. It was claimed that this subject is being questioned properly, and assurance was given that new information would emerge from these probes, to put an end to all the members of this ring of vicious criminals. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 Nov 81 Sec B p 7] 2909

PRISON OFFICIALS ACCUSED--Four guards and the secretary of the director of the state penitentiary were arrested as presumed responsible for drug traffic which exists within that prison. The regional coordinator of the Campaign Against Drug Trafficking, Jose Domingo Martinez Riverol, announced the arrest of the secretary of the prison's director, Jose Luis Bautista Serrano and of the guards Antonio Lopez Ramos, Luis Lazaro Santiago Perez, Conrado Garcia and Joel Gonzalez. Martinez Riverol said that they would continue the investigations to arrest the other persons who are involved in drug traffic in the state penitentiary which holds 700 prisoners. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Nov 81 p 32-A] 9678

TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT IN MONTERREY--Monterrey, Nuevo Leon--Held in the custody of State Judicial Police agents, at the disposal of the federal authorities, are Pedro Lira Torres, aged 52, a former uniformed policeman and, until yesterday, a guard in this city's prison; Gustavo Leal Cavazos, alias "El Borrado", a taxi-driver and bartender; Ana Maria Rodriguez Lopez and Ramon Silva Ponce, all accused of engaging in the illegal drug trafficking business. It was agents Raul Perez Macias, Mario Segovia, Rodolfo Martinez and group chief Jorge Flores Enriquez, under orders from Comdr Raul Reyna Rodriguez, who after a long, tedious investigation, managed to capture the ring of drug traffickers who had taken up residence in this city. The State Judicial Police members found in Gustavo Leal Cavazos' domicile three bags containing grass which was apparently marihuana, as well as cocaine and pills, worth over a million pesos on the drug black market. They also confiscated a pickup truck, a 22 caliber revolver, and several boxes of 22.380, .25.22 and 9 mm magnum ammunition, and retrieved a check in the amount of 30,000 pesos, 33,000 in cash and a switch used to steal any kind of car. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 15 Dec 81 Sec C p 2] 2909

PILL SEIZURES REPORTED--Mexico City, 21 December (OEM)--The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic announced that, during the current administration, since the permanent campaign against the cultivation and distribution of drugs began, 34 million toxic pills worth over 500 million pesos have been confiscated. The PGR statistics indicate that most of the toxic pills have been seized from international drug trafficking rings, and a few national ones, which had their clandestine laboratories primarily in the states of Sinaloa and Jalisco. Included among the drugs are LSD and metaqualone pills, as well as other stimulants sold clandestinely in drug stores and among students at the various educational centers. The deputy attorney general of the republic, Samuel Alba Leyva, for his part, explained that during the permanent campaign against drugs 22,000 drug traffickers, both native and foreign, were arrested. He explained that some of them were farmers, who were released because, as a result of a socioeconomic study to which they were subjected, it was discovered that they were victims of the drug traffickers, who took advantage of their poverty and ignorance. The official noted that, this year, there has been a considerable decline in drug trafficking in Mexico, owing to the fact that the drug traffic has been combated at its roots, with 90 percent of the drug crops destroyed. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 22 Dec 81 p 2] 2909

BAR ASSOCIATION INQUIRY--The 2-hour visit paid to the facilities of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic by the members of the Sinaloa Bar Association, AC, afforded the members of that entity an opportunity to observe the treatment given

to the persons who have been arrested, and also to become familiar with the work that is being done in the battle against drug trafficking. The foregoing was learned from statements made in this regard by the president of the Bar Association, Jesus Michel Jacobo, who remarked that they had been cordially received by Hector Aviles Castillo, coordinator of the permanent campaign against drug trafficking in Zone 06. The latter provided them with an extensive explanation of the action being carried out by the PGR in the state. With regard to the jail quarters, Michel Jacobo said that, at the time of their tour, those in custody indicated that they had not received bad treatment during the 6 days of their confinement; however, they did complain about the deplorable sanitary conditions which prevail in that place. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 21 Dec 81 p 11] 2909

LARGE MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Mexico City, 27 November (ANPE)--Over 4 million pesos' worth of marihuana was seized by the Federal Judicial Police after a battle with drug traffickers who had the drugs in their possession. The confiscation took place at dawn today in the settlement of Caracoa, Michoacan, on the Curindalito farm, where Andres Barajas and Octavio Diaz Barrera were captured. Reports issued by the Judicial Police state that, yesterday, they arrested Leonardo Cruz Reyes, in Zasanda de Morelia, as he was heading toward the settlement of Charro, Michoacan, carrying with him 20 samples of marihuana which, according to the statements made, he claimed to have intended to use in a purchase-sale transaction. Later, Cruz Reyes said that in the settlement of Apatzingan de Romero, in the municipality of Tiquiche, Michoacan, he met the chief, Francisco Ambriz Barajas, owner of the drugs and of several farms on which the marihuana was grown. Several of the drug traffickers escaped during the gun battle which took place, because they had various types of alert systems. Found on the site were 180 plastic bags contained approximately 2 tons of marihuana, covered with sesame seeds. Also discovered at that location were several weapons of different calibers, and lists of "customers." The drugs and those arrested were placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry for remand. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 28 Nov 81 pp 1, 2] 2909

FORMER OFFICIAL DRUG SUSPECT--Francisco Esquivel Gutierrez, who was a chauffeur and aide of the former state governor, Mr Manuel Bernardo Aguirre, is either a trafficker or an addict. He was found yesterday between Mariscal and Mejia Streets and at the time, according to the text of the report issued by agents Garza and Sifuentes, he was applying powder to his nose which turned out to be cocaine. He was even in the usual or typical stance of those who sniff that drug. And if that were not enough, when he was searched they found on him a bag containing drugs. The police offices do not know whether Esquivel is an addict or sells drugs. Insofar as is known, he reportedly did not even drink liquor, but that was during the 6 years when he served as an aide to the former governor. It is impossible that he could have changed so much in such a short time, and even reach the point of becoming addicted to drugs. As everyone knows, during the final months of Mr Aguirre's administration Pancho Esquivel held several positions. He was even director of the municipal prison. He soon became notorious for the harshness of his nature. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 17 Dec 81 Sec B p 2] 2909

POLICE, TRAFFICKERS IN SHOOTOUT--Uruapan, Mich, 25 Nov--The commander of the PJF, Jorge Nunez Mora, said that the Judicial Federal Police seized 1,735 kilograms of marihuana after an encounter with narcotics traffickers at the Cuerandito ranch, in the municipality of Caracuaro. Of some 15 persons who were looking after the drug, and who opposed the police, six were captured and their pistols, rifles and shotguns were seized. Apart from the drug which they had in sacks, the agents located four plantings which were destroyed this morning. Those arrested were turned over to the Federal Public Ministry in Morales. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Nov 81 p 32-A]

IRAN

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--The Central News Unit reports that following the investigations by the antidrug headquarters during the past week, about 300 kg of opium together with 15 million rials cash and three G3 and Bernos were discovered belonging to a drug smuggling gang. According to this report, during the past week, also discovered was 7 kg of heroin from a heroin smuggling gang in Mashhad. [Text] [LD240314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 82]

MASHHAD OPIUM SEIZURE--During the past week the Mashhad antidrug squad seized 300 kg of opium, 15 million rials and three G-3 and Beruo rifles from four persons. The squad also seized 7 kg of heroin during the past week. The squad also seized 500 kg of opium and 25 million rials during the past month. [GF240551 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Jan 82]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN RASHT--Thanks to the persistent efforts of the brothers of the Islamic Revolution Guards and the cooperation of the Moslem and revolutionary people of Area of Ashrifiyeh, 23.3 kilograms of heroin was seized from a smuggler. According to a report of the Islamic Revolution News Agency from Rasht, this quantity of heroin was seized after a search of the house of Ahmad Ma'sumi, a well known smuggler in the Ashrifiyeh area, and he was arrested and turned over to the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office. [Text] [Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Jan 82 p 2]

CSO: 5300/5354

GREECE

## DRUG TRAFFICKERS, USERS ARRESTED IN PIRAEUS

Athens ELEVTHEROITYPIA in Greek 24 Dec 81 p 1, 8

Excerpts The war on drugs waged by the General Security of Piraeus continued on Christmas with the breakup of another gang. Nine persons were arrested, two dens were closed down and several quantities of narcotics were seized before they had a chance to reach the illegal market. More specifically, the following were arrested: Giorgos Kourakos, 37, drug trafficker; Zoumboula Panagiotou, 28; Kosmas Giannakos, 24, also known as "Germanos;" Triandafyllos Triandafyllidis, 37; Vagia Maka, 21; Khrysostomos Mathesis, alias "Bahoumis," 25; Vranos Mykoniatis, alias "Fafoutis," 27; Giannis Nikolaou, 22; and Dimitra Kharitidou, 18.

The above worked together with four others who are in the Korydallos prison for drug trafficking. The two narcotics dens belonged to Kourakos, at 38 Kypros Street in Nikaia, and to Khr. Mathesis, at 114 V. Konstandinou Avenue in Aghia Varvara. In the first den the police found 20 grams of heroin, 35 grams of hashish, 25 grams of marijuana, 15 grams of hashish gum, several capsules of "Romidon," 65,000 drachmas and instruments for drug packing. In the Bahoumis den the police found 12 grams of heroin and 110 capsules of "Romidon."

The initial investigation that followed the arrests revealed that Kourakos procured the heroin from Thai Thailand suppliers. He moved most of the drugs to the illegal market of drug addicts but kept some quantities for his own den.

Kourakos also procured hashish from gypsies he refused to identify. He was also getting marijuana from transient "tourists" he met at disreputable night clubs. In turn Kourakos supplied Bahoumis' den in Aghia Varvara.

All of them have connections with the Korydallos prison where their colleagues are: "Vaporakias," Giannis Kasseris, alias "Papias," Giannis Kondogiorgis, alias "Xifias," Alkis Bangos and Giorgos Panopoulos.

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CSO: 5300/5348

GREECE

BRIEFS

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS--Two more drug traffickers, carrying 75 grams of heroin, were arrested in Salonica. They are Ioannis Dimitriadis, 26, and Lazaros Tsamouras, 47, residents of Salonica, carrying 73 and 2 grams of heroin respectively. Dimitriadis had purchased 130 grams of heroin 2 months ago from a Pakistani merchant he met in Istanbul. Tsamouras was buying the heroin from Dimitriadis and selling it to young people in Salonica. They were both referred to the public prosecutor. /Text/ /Athens TA NEA in Greek 28 Dec 81 p 12/ 7520

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