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JPRS L/10320

11 February 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 8/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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AUSTRALIA

DRUG INQUIRY COMMISSION TOLD FEDERAL POLICE ILL TRAINED

Research Officer's Charge

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Nov 81 p 29

[Text]

SYDNEY: A private submission to the royal commission into drug trafficking alleged yesterday that the federal police were producing ill-trained law-enforcement officers and that the force did not attract people of high calibre.

The allegation was made by Mr Roger Shand, of Canberra, who is a senior research officer with the federal police.

He was appearing in a private capacity.

He formerly worked with the Federal Narcotics Bureau and the Joint Intelligence Organisation.

His 13-page submission contained proposals for the restructuring of the federal police to try to get a functional, modern and flexible system.

He wrote that through no fault of one individual or group of individuals the federal police were producing ill trained law-enforcement officers

who were expected to handle complicated issues without proper career development.

TRAINING

Insult to injury was added by giving the officers limited training—10 weeks of general police-recruit training.

In his recommendations, Mr. Shand proposed three new organisations to carry out the present functions of the federal police.

He wrote that these were:

- A protective-service force on the lines of the U.S. Secret Service for physical and human security purposes.
- The re-establishment

of the Australian Capital Territory police force.

- An investigative intelligence organisation.

Mr Shand wrote that since 1974 there had been nine royal commissions, and one commission of inquiry into the administration of the Australian criminal justice system and news media revelations that indicated a big criminal subculture.

Little had been done by the law-enforcement bodies in fighting this subculture.

Therefore, there was something wrong with the law-enforcement organisations.

The hearing will continue today.

Police Association Agrees

Melbourne THE AGE in English 14 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Matthew Stevens]

[Text]

The federal police force is almost incapable of operating efficiently, according to the Federal Police Officers Association.

"The whole concept of a Federal police force should be reconsidered. Unless the force is quickly and extensively restructured it will never operate properly," the association's federal secretary, De-

etective Senior Constable Pat Curtin, said in Sydney yesterday.

He said the Federal Police Officers Association had decided to make a comment after evidence criticising the force had been given to the Royal Commission on drug trafficking by a witness on Wednesday.

A senior research officer with the Federal police, Mr Roger Shand, told the commission that the force was a "retarded law enforcement instrument, producing officers expected to handle complicated issues without adequate training".

Mr Shand also criticised the force's administrative structure, training procedures and recruitment base.

Mr Curtin said the force was riddled with problems. He said morale had reached "rock bottom" and that training and administrative procedures had left many men confused and angry.

"A lot of potential recruits are being lost to us because of the confusion arising out of the internal division of the rank and file policemen," he said.

"We have two types of constables. They belong to either the protective services or the general services divisions. They are employed at different rates of pay

and under different conditions of employment — they even wear different uniforms. It is a crazy, unworkable situation.

"The administration is a mess. It is in a chaotic state at the moment and is only adding to the divisiveness and confusion in the ranks. It is only the dedication of the individual police officers which keeps this force going at all.

"The criticism of our training procedures was also justified. There has been no continuity of training during the two years of our existence. The approach has been changed at least three times with no consultation within the force or with the association.

"Training is quite adequate for producing the average policeman. But when they move into more complex areas of crime, for example computer crimes, all too often our officers find themselves out of their depth. Our training procedures should be moving with the times."

Mr Curtin said the Federal Government had been told many times that the administration of the force was not operating efficiently, but the association's call for changes had been ignored.

CSO: 5320/9111

AUSTRALIA

FEDERAL POLICE GUIDELINES STRESS COMBATING TRAFFICKING

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Ted Knez]

[Text] THE Federal Government has hit an obstacle in its plans to combat organised crime and drug trafficking with some States and tax officials opposed to widening the powers of the Federal Police.

Under government proposals recommended by the Williams royal commission, the Federal Police would have access to income tax records of suspected crime figures or drug traffickers. But the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, disclosed yesterday that some States had objected.

Taxation officials also had "reservations" about the sensitive question of opening up personal tax records.

Mr Newman said he thought this power had a "very high priority" and a special federal-State committee set up to examine the royal commission recommendations would continue seeking a solution to the impasse.

He released a set of guidelines for the Federal Police, designed to give the commissioner, Sir Colin Woods, "clear objectives" on which to develop operations, measure performance and enhance co-operative efforts both here and abroad.

One of the main features of the guidelines is the emphasis on "common policing" or task force operations involving federal and State police as well as experts in areas such as banking, computers or finance.

Mr Newman described this as "quite a brand new approach to fighting crime" which would be bolstered by an expanded international intelligence network.

He said Sir Colin had introduced a system of posing Federal Police "liaison officers" overseas, particularly in South-east Asia, to work with local police forces to channel intelligence back to Australia.

Mr Newman said a liaison officer was working with Interpol and the Government would soon announce a posting in the US.

The guidelines are a major step in the development of the

Federal Police which, in recent times, has been troubled with morale problems, a point considered by Mr Newman in drafting the guidelines.

Mr Newman said judicial inquiries and royal commissions had shown that organised crime and drug trafficking were a "very serious problem".

He said: "It simply cannot be overstressed just how serious the problem is."

GUIDELINES

"This series of guidelines will help the Federal Police to do its part in combating that problem."

In the guidelines:

- High priority had been given to ensuring the integrity and honesty of the Federal Police was maintained, especially because of the "situation" in some State police forces.

- There would be a strongly staffed internal investigation division and full co-operation with the ombudsman to ensure the integrity of the force "is maintained and is seen to be maintained".

- Task forces were "targeting in on central figures implicated in organised crime" in operations taking up to two years and using civilian expertise.

- These operations were either "overt or covert" with police in some instances detached from normal police organisations to operate in an under-cover capacity.

- The Federal Police were permitted to tap telephones in drug cases only after "due process" and reference to the Attorney-General and Minister for Administrative Services.

- Top priority would be given to combating drug trafficking, criminal conspiracies and organised crime as well as protecting VIPs, providing counter-terrorist police action in the ACT and supporting State police forces in their counter-terrorist roles.

Asked why it was necessary to spell out the need for maintaining integrity and honesty, Mr Newman said: "You have a look around at some of the other police forces around the country."

"I don't want to get into the act of criticising other State police forces, obviously."

"But right now there is a serious investigation into the South Australian Police Force."

CSO: 5320/9112

AUSTRALIA

DRUG DEALER'S CLAIMED ACCESS TO POLICE RECORDS DENIED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 13 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Aileen Berry]

[Excerpts]

SYDNEY. — The former head of the Federal Narcotics Bureau yesterday denied claims by members of the Mr Asla heroin syndicate that drugs millionaire Terrence John Clark had a tap on the bureau's computer.

The syndicate members, Douglas and Isabel Wilson, made the claims in June 1978. The former bureau head, Thomas James Mullaly, said that at that time the bureau did not have direct access to a computer.

The Bureau of Customs, to which the Narcotics Bureau belonged, had only one computer system, known as the Passenger Automated Selection System. He said this was operated only by Customs officers at Australia's international airports.

In March 1979, he said, a second system — the Information Retrieval and Intelligence System — was introduced.

"I put to this inquiry that any claims that Clark may have made to the Wilsons or any other of his associates prior to June 1978 concerning his access to computer records could not possibly have related to IRIS and could only have related to PASS, to which Narcotics Bureau members in Sydney had no direct access," he said.

Detective Chief Inspector Mullaly is now the officer in charge of the Federal police's divisional criminal investigation branch, which is based in Redfern, Sydney. At the beginning of June 1978 he was second-in-charge of the bureau. On 16 June he took command.

He prepared a statement for the Royal Commission in order to deny allegations by the Wilsons that either the head or the section in charge of the Narcotics Bureau, who they had described as "an embittered cynical old copper" was paid by Clark.

Mr Mullaly told the commission that he did not know Clark, by that or any other name, except through his reading of official Narcotics Bureau documents. He said he had never made contact with Clark or the Wilsons.

"I have never had any person approach me or make an offer of payment to disclose information relating to the Wilsons or Clark or any other suspect within the records kept by the then Narcotics Bureau," he said.

"Never on any occasion have I sold information from within the Narcotics Bureau to any person. I have never on any occasion received any money from any person in respect of duties I performed within the bureau other than my normal salary."

Challenge

Mr Mullaly also challenged allegations by the assistant commissioner of the Victoria Police, Mr Rod Hall, of a conspiracy among former members of the Narcotics Bureau "to defeat the course of justice specifically in relation to his prosecution of two former Narcotics Bureau members."

Mr Hall headed a joint police task force which investigated the allegations made by the Wilsons and the leaking of those allegations to Terrence Clark.

CSO: 5320/9111

AUSTRALIA

SEIZURE OF FINANCIAL PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFIC WEIGHED

Melbourne THE AGE in English 14 Nov 81 p 9

[Article by Aileen Berry]

[Text]

SYDNEY. — The Royal Commission on drug trafficking is looking at the possibility of legislation enabling the police or the Government to seize the financial proceeds of illegal drug traffic.

A senior New South Wales police officer told the commission yesterday that if such legislation were offered he would "grab the opportunity with both hands".

Mr Justice Donald Stewart said that under the commission's terms of reference, he was required to look at the financial status of the Terrence John Clark drug syndicate.

"The man Clark stood trial in Lancaster in England and was convicted of murder," he said. "It has been said that he had accumulated vast assets. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen, but certainly it has been said.

"One of the matters that I intend to look at, pursuant to the terms of reference, is whether to recommend some act of Parliament or some means by which ill-gotten gains such as are said to have been gotten by

Clark or his group can be traced and confiscated."

Mr Justice Stewart also asked the police officer, Chief Superintendent Ralph Dudley Masters, if there would be any advantage in legislation which would require any police officer or other Government employee in possession of a large sum of money reasonably suspected of being illicitly obtained to prove how he or she got it.

He pointed out to Superintendent Masters that he knew this was stepping on dangerous ground on the question of liberties, and said: "But it would be very handy, would it not, if you were investigating somebody who you believed to be a corrupt policeman and you were able to have a look at his bank account and if he had a mansion at Vaucluse and drove a Rolls-Royce . . . for him to have to say where he got it from?"

Superintendent Masters, who is the officer in charge of the police internal affairs branch, replied: "As a professional policeman I would have to say I would grab the opportunity with both hands. As an ordinary member of the community, I think I might vote against that on a referendum question."

CSO: 5320/9111

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN MORE AVAILABLE IN SYDNEY, STRENGTH GREATER

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 14 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Jenny Cooke]

[Excerpts]

Heroin had become more readily available in Sydney and the Government Analyst last week estimated the street strength of the drug was greater now than in recent years, the joint Federal-State Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking was told yesterday.

The analyst estimated the street strength of the drug was as high as 20 per cent purity against 10 to 12 per cent in recent years, the commission was told.

Detective Sergeant James Willis, of the NSW drugs squad, presented a statement detailing statistics on heroin charges in the past five years. He said the statistics appeared to show that 1978 was a bumper year for heroin users or suppliers in NSW.

Although this coincided with the hey day of the Mr Asia drug syndicate's operations in Australia, Terrence John Clark, who was sentenced to life imprisonment

in England earlier this year, Sergeant Willis said he did not know if the apparent decline in heroin-related offences since 1978 was due to the demise of the Clark syndicate.

"Just from conversations I have had of late years and recently with

the Government Analyst, heroin normally ran at a street strength of about 10, 11, 12 per cent, and as recently as last week I was informed by the Government Analyst that the street level of heroin was 13 to 20 per cent which would indicate to me that there is more heroin available now than there has been in past years," Sergeant Willis told the commission.

Sergeant Willis said figures showed the current heroin prices in Sydney were \$122 for a street gram, \$300 to \$400 for a weight gram and \$1,700 to \$3,000 for a 10-gram bag.

The heroin is marketed in silver paper foil for the street trade and in small plastic bags in the 10-gram quantities, he said.

In other evidence yesterday, Chief Superintendent Ralph Masters, officer-in-charge of the NSW police internal affairs branch, presented a document setting out evidence of police officers under investigation for drug-related activities in the past five years.

The document was tendered as confidential as it identified the 20 policemen concerned and in some instances court proceedings were incomplete.

The Royal Commission resumes on Monday.

CSO: 5320/9111

AUSTRALIA

JOINT TASK FORCE TO FIGHT NORTH QUEENSLAND DRUG TRADE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 21 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] **SATELLITES, Iroquois helicopters and patrols along Queensland shipping lanes will be employed by a joint Commonwealth-State task force in an attempt to stop illicit drug traders in north Queensland.**

The establishment of a joint anti-drug task force by the Queensland and Federal Governments was agreed to yesterday at the Australian police ministers' conference in Hobart.

The Queensland Police Minister, Mr Hinze, told the conference the cultivation and importation of illegal drugs in north Queensland had reached "alarming proportions."

"The joint resources of the State and Commonwealth police forces will enable some of the latest technological equipment to be used in the detection of illegal drug crops," Mr Hinze said outside the conference.

"The kid gloves came off long ago and things are going to get a lot tougher for anyone involved in illegal drug trafficking in north Queensland."

Mr Hinze said joint operations already undertaken by the two police forces in recent weeks had resulted in a significant number of arrests on drug-related charges.

In a joint statement, Mr Hinze and the federal Administrative Services Minister, Mr Newman, said instructions had been issued and the task force would be operational soon.

The ministers said a joint task force was the best method of

tackling the northern drug problem. "Significant results" had been achieved by similar forces in other states.

Mr Hinze said Commonwealth surveillance equipment including Iroquois helicopters, patrol boats and the latest technological equipment would be available to the task force.

Controls over north Queensland shipping lanes would be tightened, the lanes being possibly one of the state's major drop-off points for illicit drugs.

Satellites would be employed to detect illegal crops of marijuana in northern areas.

CSO: 5320/9112

AUSTRALIA

FORMER PRIME MINISTER GORTON BACKS REFORM OF DRUGS LAW

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 16 Nov 81 p 3

[Text]

CANBERRA: — The personal use and possession of marihuana should not be a criminal offence and heroin should be available legally to addicts, a former Prime Minister, Sir John Gorton, said yesterday.

Sir John said he favoured the introduction in Australia of a program to cope with the heroin problem similar to that which existed in Britain where the drug was legally dispensed to registered addicts.

In line with his belief, he has agreed to be the patron of a group called NORML — The National Organisation for the Reform of Marihuana Laws.

"It seems to me that you just

cannot wipe out the problem with the present methods — there is too much money in the business here and overseas," he said.

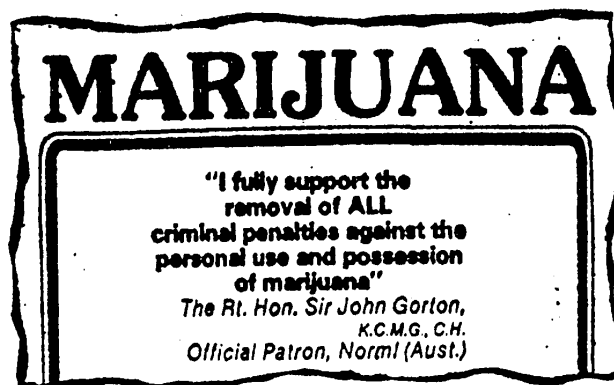
"If addicts were registered and had access to the legally dispensed drug it would take out the profit from the trade and cut out the criminal involvement."

Sir John said the de-criminalisation of marihuana seemed to be a thoroughly sensible thing to do.

Sir John said that while nobody should use marihuana the drug did not seem to be addictive and its effect was similar to an overdose of alcohol.

"Why then make its use a criminal offence," he said.

"By getting police to go and find the stuff and then take it out of circulation an argument can be made that the resulting shortage only pushes people to use harder and more dangerous drugs."



Sir John Gorton's endorsement on the Norml advertisement.

CSO: 5320/9112

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST DRUG HAUL--Marijuana with a potential street value of at least \$30 million was seized early yesterday from a farming property south of Adelaide in what is believed to be South Australia's biggest drug haul. Drug Squad detectives swooped on the property near Tooperang about 60km from Adelaide at dawn and discovered at least 80,000 immature plants growing for 1km along a river bed. Senior police last night declared the plantation the most elaborate and professional yet uncovered in South Australia. Extensive earthworks had been carried out on the bed and banks by a bulldozer and the crop was watered by an intricate pressure feed irrigation system using water from a dam. Detectives said the plantation would have been almost impossible to spot from the air because of the winding course and thick cover from river gums. Pipes leading from the dam had been camouflaged until they reached a secondary pumping point where petrol engined pumps were used to feed high pressure sprinklers. The immature plants, many in bunches of more than five, were estimated by botanists to be about one month old, and detectives said the growers would soon have had to cull the plants. No arrests had been made last night. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Nov 81 p 3]

CSO: 5320/9113

BURMA

BRIEFS

POPPY PLANTATIONS DESTROYED--Police personnel under operation "The Bloom of Hell Phase II," together with about 200 villagers destroyed 27.65 acres of illicit poppy plantations in Hopang Township between 16 and 19 January. [BK050200 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 31 Jan 82 BK]

OPIUM, HEROIN SEIZURE--On 14 January, a narcotic suppression squad arrested Aik Swe, age 26, of Man Waing Village, Namsan Township, on a Lashio-Mandalay train along with 346.3 grams of heroin hidden in a milk can and a glucose bottle and 3.80 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 pounds] of black opium. The seized heroin and opium were found in a shoulder bag carried by Aik Swe. Two plastic bags stamped with a single lion and double lions brands for wrapping heroin were also seized from Aik Swe. Charges have been filed against him by the police under Sections 6.B, 7.B and 10.B of the narcotic drugs law. [BK050200 Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 27 Jan 82 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5300/5628

HONG KONG

ALLEGED MAJOR FIGURE IN HUGE DRUG SYNDICATE CONVICTED

Opening of Trial

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Jan 82 pp 1, 24

[Article by Winsome Lane: "Drugs Case Fugitive Arrested"]

[Text]

Cheng Ah-kai (53), who is alleged to have been one of three major figures controlling a massive drugs syndicate that was smashed by police in 1978, went on trial in the High Court yesterday on drug trafficking charges.

Cheng was said by Crown counsel to have been the close associate of the Ma brothers, Ma Sik-yu and Ma Sik-chun.

Cheng is charged with conspiracy to deal in dangerous drugs and to traffic in dangerous drugs between January 1967 and January 1969.

Cheng was arrested recently when a plane on which he was travelling from Thailand to Taiwan stopped in Hongkong for refuelling.

Officers of the Narcotics Bureau had been tipped off that Cheng would be on board.

When police investigations tightened on the syndicate in 1978, Ma Sik-yu went to Taiwan before a warrant was issued for his arrest.

His brother, Ma Sik-chun, then the proprietor of the Oriental Daily News, was charged with two drug trafficking offences.

Shortly before his trial was due to begin on Septem-

ber 25, he jumped bail and went to Taiwan.

Nine men were charged, including Cheng Ah-kai, but only four actually went on trial. The other five had absconded.

Three men were later convicted, but their convictions were quashed on appeal 11 months later.

Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse told Mr Justice Hooper and a jury yesterday that it was the Crown's case that Cheng was, during the period named in the charges, a member of the Ma brothers' organisation.

According to the Crown, Cheng became involved in the syndicate in 1967.

"It is alleged he was a first lieutenant to Ma Sik-yu," said counsel.

"It is not alleged he was the brains behind the organisation but was the man who would arrange shipments of raw opium into Hongkong via Macau and when things went wrong, he helped to put them right," counsel said.

The Crown would say that Cheng was in the continuous employment of the Ma syndicate between 1967 and 1971.

The syndicate imported raw opium which was grown in the Golden Triangle and was brought here through Bangkok.

A transfer was made in international waters to fishing vessels from Macau which brought the opium into Hongkong.

The syndicate was involved in the importation of regular shipments on Thai trawlers which transferred their illicit cargo to Macau fishing

vessels in waters outside Hongkong.

The quantity of drugs was extremely large, said counsel, and in the case of two police seizures of the drug, each consignment was a lorry-load weighing at least 1½ tons.

"The money involved was simply enormous," said counsel.

Following upon information received by police in 1976, a large operation was begun by the Narcotics Bureau with a view to breaking the Ma syndicate.

It resulted in 1978 in the arrest of nine defendants, including Cheng.

Some of the men arrested at that time would be called as prosecution witnesses, said counsel.

The evidence would be concerned only with those activities of the syndicate in which there was evidence that Cheng took a direct part.

Mr Whitehouse then gave details of shipments of raw opium brought into Hongkong by Macau fishing vessels which resulted in seizures by police from fishing vessels in Aberdeen in early 1968 and at the Yaumatei typhoon shelter in mid-1969.

He said that 35 sacks of the opium which had been hidden in the oil tank of a junk were hijacked by a rival syndicate from Aberdeen.

But they were subsequently recovered by the Ma syndicate.

Evidence would be given that Cheng was seen with both the Ma brothers and to be carrying out their orders and acting on their behalf.

The trial continues today.

Drug Pickups Described

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 7 Jan 82 pp 1, 12

[Text]

An elderly fisherman identified the defendant in a drug trafficking trial in the High Court yesterday as "Bald-headed Cheng," one of the bosses of an opium smuggling syndicate.

Cheng Ah-kai (53) is on trial for conspiracy to deal in dangerous drugs and to traffic in dangerous drugs.

He is alleged by the Crown to have been an associate of the Ma brothers — Ma Sik-yu and Ma Sik-chun — in a massive drug syndicate that was smashed by police in 1978.

The fisherman, Chan Han-hin, said he arranged fishing junks to take shipments of raw opium from Thai trawlers in international waters, then delivered them to Kowloon and Aberdeen.

He said he had been given immunity from prosecution by the Attorney-General on condition he gave full and true evidence.

Chan said that in early 1967, when he was working as a fisherman between Hongkong and Macau, he met a man called Pang Lap.

Pang asked him to arrange for a fishing junk to pick up certain cargo from a Thai trawler south of Man Chau.

He would be paid \$700 for each piece of the cargo.

Later, he said, he received instructions that he must set sail on the 12th Lunar month.

According to these instructions, he then met a Thai man in Macau. He was introduced to him by Pang.

Chan said he took his junk out to sea for this meeting.

About 30 sea miles south of Man Chau, he met a Thai trawler and took on board 22 pieces of cargo.

He then returned to Kowloon Bay, Chan said.

He said he had previously met a man to whom he must deliver the goods.

He said he had torn a banknote in half and given one half to this man, named Leung Chung.

When he reached Kowloon Bay, he met this man again and they compared the

two pieces of the banknote which matched.

Chan said he then transferred the goods to Leung Chung's boat.

Chan said he was paid \$700 for each of the pieces he had delivered.

A year or so after this, he said, he was asked to arrange another boat to pick up another cargo.

About this time he visited Pang Lap's home. Other men he had already met were present as well as two strangers.

Chan said he was told that one was named Pui and the other was Cheng Ah-kai, and he was told that these were the two bosses of the syndicate.

These two men took part in discussions about collecting another consignment of goods, Chan said.

He said he subsequently met another Thai trawler south of Man Chau.

He knew the vessel because of a prearranged signal — the captain was wearing a yellow cap.

Chan said he took another consignment of goods from this vessel and took it back to Aberdeen.

The goods were 40 bags of opium.

After unloading they were transferred to cardboard boxes to look more innocent when loaded on to a lorry, he said.

Chan said that later the car he was travelling in with two other men was stopped by the police and he was arrested.

He was told that the police had seized the lorry and its contents.

On being questioned by Crown counsel, Chan said that at an identification parade in a police station he identified Cheng Ah-kai as one of the bosses of the syndicate called "bald-headed Cheng."

Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse prosecutes.

Mr Anthony Sedgwick defends.

The hearing continues today.

Opium Cargo Disappears

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Jan 82 p 17

[Text]

A fisherman told the High Court yesterday that Ma Sik-yu, alleged boss of a drug syndicate, held his son captive and threatened his life because a cargo of raw opium had disappeared from a fishing junk.

The fisherman, Leung Chau-yun (62), was giving evidence at the trial of Cheng Ah-kai (53) for conspiracy to traffic in drugs and to deal in drugs.

Leung told Mr Justice Hooper and a jury that Cheng introduced him to the Ma brothers and gave him instructions to pick up a load of raw opium.

Leung said he met a man called Pang Lap some time in 1967.

The fishing business was poor at that time and Pang introduced him to another man called Chan Man-hing who suggested he pick up some sacks of drugs at \$700 a sack.

Leung said he was based in Aberdeen at the time.

One day towards the end of the Lunar Year, he berthed his boat in Macau and around midnight, three men arrived in a sampan and moored alongside his vessel.

They had about 20 sacks of opium on the sampan and these were then loaded on to his boat.

Leung said he sailed back to Hongkong with the load on the following day and was given \$2,000.

He then berthed his vessel in Kowloon Bay.

In Pang's house in Macau he was introduced to two of the bosses of the syndicate, and he was told they were called Ah Cheng and Ah Pui.

Later Ah Cheng introduced him to a man called Ma Sik-yu and he was told he was the boss.

This introduction took place at the Lung Fung

apartment house, he said.

He said Ah Cheng told him to wait there and while he was waiting, introduced him to Ma Sik-yu.

Leung said he later arranged for another fishing vessel to pick up a cargo of drugs from a Thai boat south of Man Chau.

Later it was discovered that the cargo of opium was missing from his boat and Ah Cheng took him to see Ma Sik-yu in the Shamrock Hotel in Kowloon, he said.

He said that after taking him into Ma's room, Ah Cheng waited outside, peering in from time to time.

Leung said Ma was not very pleasant and said words to the effect that he (Leung) was in trouble because the goods had disappeared.

Ma showed a bad temper and told him that he was holding his son, Leung Kam-hei, who would be detained if he did not locate the consignment, Leung said.

He said Ma also said if the goods were not recovered, he (Leung) would have to take his own life by jumping from a height.

Leung said he told Ma he had nothing to do with it, but Ma would not believe him.

He was in the room with Ma for two hours and at one point Ma's younger brother came in, he said.

At another time two people, who were said to be the owners of the goods, arrived.

They were both Thai men. Leung said the goods were later found and after a time he was asked to arrange a fishing vessel to pick up another consignment.

He said Ah Cheng was in touch with him about this and gave him instructions.

The trial continues today. Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse prosecutes.

Mr Anthony Sedgwick defends.

More Pickups Related

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Jan 82 p 14

[Text]

A witness told the High Court yesterday that he picked up loads of raw opium for a drug syndicate and brought them to Hongkong.

Leung Wing-ming was testifying at the trial of Cheng Ah-kai (53) on charges of conspiracy to traffic in drugs and to deal in drugs.

Leung told Mr Justice Hooper and a jury that towards the end of 1967 he was given instructions to pick up a load of opium from a Thai boat from 20 to 30 km south of Man Chau Island.

He said he was given the instructions in an apartment house in Macau.

There were several men there at the time, including Cheng.

On this occasion he failed to pick up any goods at sea and when he got back to Macau he saw Cheng again.

He was told the goods had been picked up by someone else, but they would be transferred to his boat to be taken back to Hongkong.

Leung said he was given several thousand dollars out of which he had to pay \$1,500 to fokis to help him.

The goods were then transferred to his vessel and he sailed back to Hongkong.

The opium was in 40 sacks which he concealed in the oil tanks of his boat.

Thirty-six of the sacks were put in one tank and four in the other, he said.

Later he learned from his fokis all the sacks had disappeared from one oil tank, leaving four in the other.

Leung said he reported what had happened to other members of the syndicate, and then took his boat to Aberdeen.

When he went back to his boat he found that the four remaining sacks had been deposited in the seabed just underneath where his boat was moored, he said.

He said a few days later he was told the boss was investigating the matter.

He was interviewed by the boss, a man surnamed Ma, at the home of another member of the syndicate, he said.

Leung said he told him he knew nothing of the missing sacks.

The trial continues today. Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse prosecutes.

Mr Anthony Sedgwick defends.

Prosecutor's Summation

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Jan 82 p 14

[Text]

The Ma brothers organisation brought huge quantities of opium into Hongkong and traded in drugs on an enormous scale, Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse told the High Court yesterday.

Giving his final address to the jury in the trial of Cheng Ah-kai (53), alleged to be the No 3 man in the Ma brothers' organisation, Mr Whitehouse said this massive syndicate existed under the noses of the police and with the knowledge of certain policemen.

He added that this was in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Hopefully, it could not happen today, he said.

Cheng is on trial for conspiracy to traffic in drugs and to deal in drugs.

Mr Whitehouse said the Crown alleged that during

the period of the conspiracy, Cheng was a member of the Ma organisation.

"You may feel certain that a huge conspiracy to import drugs headed by Ma Sik-yu did exist," counsel told the jury, "and the quantity that was involved was enormous."

Evidence had been given in court of five shipments of raw opium, each of which was a lorryload, being brought in by the Ma organisation.

And the court had heard only part of the story because the prosecution had concentrated on evidence which connected Cheng directly with the drug shipments, Mr Whitehouse said.

He said it had been proved that Cheng was one of the men who Ma relied upon to do his dirty work.

Cheng was not an old fisherman who got the rotten job of picking up the drugs with all the inherent dangers — he

was a top man attached to headquarters.

He was a very useful man, a man of many parts, Mr Whitehouse said.

He arranged boats from Macau to Hongkong to pick up the opium when a consignment was due to arrive. And when the goods were missing he took an active part in the inquiry which followed, he added.

Counsel went on to say that Cheng's role in the organisation was an important one and he was important to both Mas.

Mr Whitehouse said the bosses were much too clever to get involved in the dirty work; other people of the type of Cheng were employed to do this.

A massive organisation such as the Mas were running could not have operated unless people like Cheng existed to assist the bosses, he said.

Counsel admitted it was a very old case and that witnesses had been asked to describe events in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"It is not the fault of the Crown that the Mas and all their cohorts are not sitting in the dock on trial today," said counsel.

He said the Crown had to rely on the evidence of "rascals and villains" and this was necessary because drug syndicates were by their nature secret organisations.

They had heard a story of

double-dealing and deceit and might rightly come to the conclusion that most of the witnesses were not honest men.

They might, however, be telling the truth, he said.

They might be rascals, but this did not mean they were liars, said counsel.

He said it was difficult to see what they had to gain by lying: if they had wished to frame Cheng, they could have made up much more convincing stories.



Cheng Ah-kai

Jury Finding of Guilty

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Jan 82 p 14

[Text]

Cheng Ah-kai (53), a former cook alleged to have been one of the leading members of a massive drugs syndicate smashed by the police in 1977, was yesterday convicted by a High Court jury of conspiracy to traffic and to deal in dangerous drugs.

He will be sentenced by Mr Justice Hooper on Friday.

Cheng, who is alleged to have been the first lieutenant of the notorious Ma brothers, was found guilty by a unanimous vote of the jury after just over two hours' deliberation.

He was defended by Mr Anthony Sedgwick.

Nine men were arrested when the opium smuggling syndicate was smashed.

The leaders were alleged to be the brothers, Ma Sik-yu and Ma Sik-chun.

During his trial Cheng was said by the Crown to

have been the No 3 man in the organisation.

Cheng jumped bail in July 1978 and went to Thailand.

He was arrested by officers of the Narcotics Bureau last month when a plane on which he was travelling from Thailand to Taiwan touched down for refuelling in Hongkong.

The Narcotics Bureau had been tipped off that he was on board.

Ma Sik-yu, named by police as "Mr Big" in the organisation and a multi-millionaire, left Hongkong for Taiwan in February 1977 as police closed in on the syndicate.

His younger brother, Ma Sik-chun, alleged to be second in command and their nephew, Ma Woon-yin, were arrested and charged with trafficking in drugs, but were granted bail.

They left Hongkong together for Taiwan just one week before their trial was due to begin in the High Court in September 1978.

During Cheng's trial, Crown counsel Frederik Whitehouse said the Ma brothers' syndicate had for a number of years been smuggling enormous amounts of

raw opium into Hongkong.

He said that shipments seized by the police consisted of several tons of opium that could be measured by the lorry load.

Police believed that these massive quantities had been brought in at frequent intervals by Thai trawlers.

The Crown alleged that Cheng was the man responsible for organising Hongkong and Macau fishermen to pick up the shipments of drugs from the trawlers in their fishing junks.

In his summing up to the jury yesterday, Mr Justice Hooper pointed out inconsistencies and contradictions in the evidence of prosecution witnesses.

He drew their attention to the fact that a police witness had testified that Cheng, when arrested, had very little money and was living in modest circumstances.

"A first lieutenant in such an organisation might be expected to be a wealthy man," said the judge.

All the events described by witnesses for the Crown took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Cheng chose not to give evidence in his own behalf.

CSO: 5320/9114

HONG KONG

NARCOTICS CHIEF: SEIZE ASSETS OF CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Jan 82 p 9

[Article by Christopher Wood]

[Text]

The assets of convicted drug traffickers and their relatives should be seized, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Peter Lee, said yesterday, repeating a call for a change in the law he first made some five years ago.

He said he will be seeing a member of the Government's legal branch in the next few days to pursue the issue of sequestration of assets, particularly the problems that have prevented any action being taken so far.

Most people, said Mr Lee, do not appreciate the "enormity" of the profits gained in this "stinking trade."

To deter the traffickers it is necessary to go beyond the present custodial deterrent.

The very foundation of the business, the enormous sums being reaped, has to be attacked, he said.

Talking after holding a press conference on the latest statistics on drug abuse in Hongkong, Mr Lee said the question of asset seizure was now becoming an international issue.

The main obstacle was the practical one of enforcement.

Even under present law, he said, if the prosecution wants a heavy fine imposed it has to prove a convicted trafficker has sufficient means to pay.

And this is often extremely difficult.

Drug money can be laundered through various legitimate investment vehicles and also through relatives, making it necessary to include them in any scheme of asset seizure.

Consequently, only one convicted drug runner has ever received a heavy fine in Hongkong, Mr Lee said, although the maximum penalty for drug trafficking is a \$5 million fine and life imprisonment.

One country that has made progress on the question of tracing drug laundered money is the United States.

There the authorities are helped by more regulatory legislation, for example banks have to report any transaction of more than US\$10,000 (about HK\$55,000) to the Government.

Although commenting that such a measure would be a "non-starter" here, Mr Lee remains convinced action can still be taken compatible with Hongkong's open economy.

He said: "I have been trying for several years to secure an amendment to the law which would sequester assets without much progress. 'I am still pushing.'"

But despite the continuing problems faced by the authorities in tracking down the ill-gotten gains of large syndicates, Mr Lee was able to report some encouraging progress in Hongkong's own drug problem.

He based his figures on the findings of the eighth re-

port on the Narcotics Division's Central Registry of Drug Abuse, a computerised system which receives and analyses data supplied by some 40 Government and voluntary agencies, including the police and welfare organisations.

Covering a five-year period, from September 1976 to June last year, the report estimates Hongkong's total number of addicts at around 40,000.

They are overwhelmingly male (94 per cent) and 62 per cent are aged over 30.

This is the result of a continuing downward trend in the number of newly registered addicts, from 13,000 in 1977 to 2,800 in 1980.

Mr Lee was particularly encouraged by the small number of addicts falling into the under 20 age group; fewer than five per cent with a minute 0.2 per cent under the age of 15.

The report said: "While the problem of teenage drug addiction is said to be mushrooming in many developed and developing countries, our extremely small proportion of young drug addicts points to the fact that Hongkong is not following this trend."

Another hopeful feature signalled by Mr Lee is the continued high attendance at Government clinics for methadone outpatient treatment.

This is despite the sharp fall in the street price of her-

oin this year after a two-year period where the drug was in scarce supply.

The wholesale price for 100 grams of number three grade heroin is now about \$7,000, with the street price some three times as much.

This compares with a wholesale price of some \$23,000 in the summer of 1979.

Yet, said Mr Lee, the attendance at clinics has not dropped with the fall in price.

About 71 per cent of those registered attend the 22 Government clinics regularly — this figure includes two more opened this week at Shatin and Yuen Long as the result of evidence of a growing drug problem in the New Territories.

This shows growing confidence among addicts in the ability of methadone, a heroin substitute, to help them overcome their problem, Mr Lee said.

Heroin remains by far the most popular drug with incidences of opium addiction on the decline, according to the report.

In the first six months of

last year, 89 per cent of all newly reported addicts were hooked on heroin.

The recent severe shortage of the drug has also led to a change in method of use.

Faced with a limited supply, addicts have increasingly injected heroin, to obtain the fullest effect, as opposed to the traditional practice of inhaling.

The report also noted that use of codeine and tilidine is on the increase, especially as a secondary drug.

Female addicts fall into a lower age group than men, with nearly 60 per cent of registered cases under 30 at the time of their first report.

Women are less willing to seek voluntary treatment, with most of their cases being reported by the police.

This, suggests the report, may be because they are employed as "prostitutes" or "dance girls" and so are able to afford to maintain their habit.

"It is therefore possible that drug addiction among females in Hongkong is somewhat under-reported," the report says.

CSO: 5320/9115

HONG KONG

DRUG OFFENSES BY YOUNG PEOPLE MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 1981

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 21 Jan 82 p 10

[Text]

The Secretary for Security, Mr Lewis Davies, revealed that drug offences by people under the age of 21 more than doubled over the past year.

He was asked for the statistics and for details of the Government's anti-narcotics campaign by Dr Ho Kam-fai.

Mr Davies said that 693 people under 21 were prosecuted for drug offences last year out of a total of 7,706 charged with such offences.

The comparative figures for 1980 were 304 out of 5,609.

Mr Davies said the anti-narcotics education and publicity activities were co-ordinated by a sub-committee for preventive education and publicity of the Action Committee Against Narcotics.

"This sub-committee is under the chairmanship of an Unofficial member and its members include representatives from all relevant Government departments and voluntary agencies," he said.

"The Commissioner for Narcotics assists in the co-ordination work and is the executive agent of the sub-committee."

The programme of the sub-committee embraced a wide range of community involvement projects and publicity material, plus district campaigns, participation in youth programmes, discussion groups, inter-school competitions, celebrity concerts.

CSP" 5320/9115

HONG KONG

THREE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING HEROIN FROM BANGKOK JAILED

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Jan 82 p 14

[Excerpt]

Three men, including two Thais, who took part in a conspiracy to smuggle into Hongkong heroin base which could be turned into heroin worth \$7.2 million, were yesterday each sentenced in the High Court to 15 years in jail.

The two Thais, Surhchat Tantisangaroon alias Chan-Hing-lung (48) and Saman Tosompak alias Wong Muk-chuen (52), jade stone merchants, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to traffic in dangerous drugs.

The third defendant, Chong Ming-sing (34), also a jade stone merchant, pleaded not guilty to the conspiracy charge and was tried by a jury before Mr Justice Pennington last week.

The jury found him guilty of the conspiracy charge as well as another count of resisting arrest.

The prosecution's case was that the two Thais were members of a drug syndicate in Thailand and Chong was the head of the distribution side of the syndicate in Hongkong.

The court heard that an American undercover agent, Mr Robert Flynn, entered into negotiations with the Thai defendants and some other people in Bangkok in April to smuggle heroin into Hongkong.

The arrangement was that Mr Flynn would bring in the drugs himself.

On April 10, Flynn arrived from Bangkok carrying 25 lbs of heroin in a mail bag.

He was not stopped because he claimed diplomatic privilege.

He took the drugs to a Causeway Bay hotel where he met Surhchat and Saman who had arrived one day earlier.

Mr Flynn was to be paid 500,000 baht by the syndicate in Bangkok for carrying the drugs.

However, Surhchat and Saman told Mr Flynn they were not able to pay him and that they could not contact the person in Hongkong to whom the drugs were to be handed over.

Surhchat then got hold of Chong who in turn contacted a Wong Ho-hin.

Both Chong and Wong went to the hotel on April 12.

The drugs were repacked into a case and handed to Wong who took it and boarded a taxi.

However, the defendants' movements were kept under watch by officers from the customs and excise office.

They arrested Wong.

Chong was arrested outside the hotel after putting up a struggle with the officers.

The other defendants were also arrested at the hotel.

Wong was originally jointly charged with the defendants for conspiracy, but he died while in custody.

CSO: 5320/9114

HONG KONG

BOSS OF HEROIN SMUGGLING SYNDICATE GETS 12 YEARS' JAIL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 21 Jan 82 p 12

[Excerpts]

The boss of a syndicate that brought heroin into Hongkong in condoms concealed in the bodies of couriers was yesterday sent to prison for 12 years.

Lam Chung-ho (33) was sentenced by Mr Justice Bewley who told him: "I intend to pass a severe sentence to mark society's condemnation of anyone who profits from such a lucrative and evil business."

The judge said that the evidence had shown that Lam was the boss of a syndicate formed to import heroin base from Bangkok into Hongkong and the value of the drugs handled by the syndicate was enormous.

Lam was convicted of conspiracy to traffic in dangerous drugs by a High Court jury on Tuesday.

Crown counsel Peter Cahill had told the court that the total value of the heroin, which could have been sold as a result of the activities at the time it was operating in October 1980, was \$1,006,176.

Two other men, Hui Yuet-chuen (33) and Ng Yuk-tong (21), were also convicted of conspiracy to traffic in drugs.

Describing them as Lam's lieutenants, the judge said

they had recruited the couriers and recovered the drugs from them in Hongkong.

They were each sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Yau Chi-keung (21) pleaded guilty to the same charge.

The judge said Yau had been caught while acting as a courier.

He told Yau: "In your case, there is some mitigation. You pleaded guilty and you were a gullible country boy who was tempted by the reward of \$5,000."

Yau was sent to prison for four years.

The jury found Li Ho-fai (23) and Fung Sheung-sang (21) not guilty of the charge.

During the trial evidence was given that the ringleaders recruited couriers who were given condoms full of heroin base in a Bangkok hotel.

They were told to insert the condoms into their anuses and bring them into Hongkong.

Customs officers at Kai Tak were tipped off and stopped the men carrying the first consignment.

They were taken to hospital where the condoms were removed.

CSO: 5320/9114

INDIA

BRIEFS

GANG OF HASHISH SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--Bombay, Jan 14 (UNI)--The Bombay Customs today claimed to have busted an international gang of hashish smugglers with the arrest of an American and two Australians including a girl--all stated to be fugitives from Australia. The American Christopher Sisney, was arrested in Cochin on 4 January when he was, about to take a flight for Bombay and the Australians, Reginald Spiers and Barbara Tobin, were nabbed the following day from a hotel in south Bombay on a charge of trying to smuggle hashish out of India in steel containers by attaching them to the hulls of Australia-bound Indian vessels, the customs said. Diving equipment and two specially-fabricated steel containers totally valued at over Rs 80,000 and 25 kg of hashish, worth about Rs 70,000, were seized from them. Customs officials had acted on intelligence reports that Christopher and Reginald had made unauthorised scuba-diving operations in Cochin harbour near MV 'Vishwa Mohini' and MV 'Vishwa Nandini', both bound for Australia. The three were today produced before chief metropolitan magistrate C S Kotwal here, who remanded them to jail custody. They had earlier been arrested in Australia for smuggling hashish from India, but had jumped bail and come to India with fake passports, the customs added. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jan 82 p 4]

CSO: 5300/7017

MALAYSIA

INCREASED FLOW OF HEROIN INTO SARAWAK

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Dec 81 p 3

[Text]

KUCHING, Mon. — Police are alarmed by the increasing supply of heroin in Sarawak and have detained four suspected traffickers and seized a sizeable amount of the drug over the past week.

Last Sunday, they picked up three people, including a woman in Bintulu and seized 108 tubes (about 6 gm) of heroin.

On Friday they detained a West Malaysian here and seized 700 tubes (about 30 gm) of the drug.

In both cases it was evident that the heroin were brought into the State by couriers and smuggled through the airport from Peninsular Malaysia.

According to CID chief Supt. Haji Malek Rahmad, the drugs seized at Bintulu could have been for addicts working in the fast developing area. This was one of the rare seizures in Bintulu.

Now police are trying to establish the link between the traffickers from West Malaysia and the pushers in the State.

The Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Haniff Omar, only recently announced that the drug problem in the State had increased by "leaps and bounds" over the past two years and

that the menace would have to be nipped before it spreads further.

There are some 800 registered drug addicts here but the actual figure of drug takers is estimated at 2,000 in the First Division alone.

Though this figure may seem small compared to those in Kuala Lumpur, Tan Sri Haniff has stressed that the police must not wait until it was too late.

Checks have to be more stringent at the airport though couriers are expected to use all sorts of means to smuggle in the drug. The heroin seized from the suspect at Carpenter Street here on Friday was in three plastic packets hidden inside a hair-cream container.

As the drug trade is lucrative (a tube of heroin costs \$20 here — twice the price in Kuala Lumpur) the traffickers were not expected to slow down.

The seizure over the week was worth at least \$16,000 and for a fee couriers are willing to risk anything to bring it to Kuching.

Severing the drug link between Kuala Lumpur and Kuching may not be an easy task but police have increased operations and hope to send several of traffickers to Pulau Jerejak soon.

CSO: 5300/8316

MALAYSIA

DRUG ARRESTS, CONFISCATIONS INCREASE IN 1981

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRATTS TIMES in English 19 Jan 82 p 4

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.

— Police arrested 8,269 people for various dadah offences last year, including 134 for trafficking, the director of CID, Datuk Abdul Rahman Ismail, said here today.

They also seized 103.1 kilos of drugs, including heroin.

Datuk Rahman said: "This all-round performance was due to the extension of narcotics units and efforts of other divisions to suppress the dadah problem in our country.

"What we have been more successful in is to make the public realise the problem at hand and that unless greater efforts are placed by us the chances of eradicating the dadah menace are

slim"

Datuk Rahman warned that though there was a considerable increase in seizures and arrests it did not mean that the police had been successful in curbing the menace.

He said of the 8,269 arrests last year, 134 were for trafficking and another 254 for dadah pushing.

He said in 1980 police arrested 5,610 for dadah offences, of which 82 were for trafficking and 159 for pushing, while the rest were for possession.

The amount of dadah seized also showed a frightful increase.

Last year police seized 101.2 kilos of raw opium as compared to 4.7 kilos in 1980.

CSO: 5300/8316

MALAYSIA

NATIONWIDE OPERATION TO ARREST DRUG ADDICTS

Areas Arrests Reported

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Dec 81 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Police have picked up another 460 suspected drug addicts in the continuing nationwide operation which began yesterday.

The operation code-named "*Ops Berkas*" is expected to go on indefinitely. A total of 660 suspected drug addicts have been picked up.

While the police operation is in full swing there are fears that the hospitals, detoxification and rehabilitation centres will not be able to cope with this sudden increase in addicts seeking treatment.

Already police in Perak are having problems in finding accommodation in rehabilitation centres for

the 150 drug addicts rounded up in the state over the past 26 hours.

In KUALA LUMPUR, city police rounded up another 111 suspected drug peddlars and addicts, bringing the total to 261.

In IPOH, police are facing a problem of accommodation for the 150 drug addicts who were rounded up throughout the State during the past 26 hours.

"We don't have enough space to accommodate these addicts in the police

station lock-ups," said the Perak CID chief Haji Shamsuri bin Arshad.

In PENANG, police officers from the anti-narcotics division of the Georgetown police raided suspected drug haunts.

Police are still compiling the list of suspected addicts detained.

In KUALA TRENGGANU, police detained 38 suspected drug addicts.

A police spokesman said that the operation is also being carried out in other towns in the State.

In KUANTAN, Anti-drug enforcement units in all the districts in the state are going all-out to curb the drug menace.

The anti-narcotics branch here picked up a drug addict and two other men for having heroin during raids in the town last night.

In NEGRI SEMBILAN, police have also launched their crackdown on drug addicts.

In JOHORE, 30 suspected dadah addicts were detained and 11 tubes of dadah recovered in a three-hour police operation here today.

Inadequate Detention Facilities

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Jan 82 p 3

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Operasi Berkas (detain) may soon become Operasi Bebas (release).

About 1,000 suspected drug addicts picked up over the past three days have nowhere to go.

Police sources said Welfare officers in the Federal Territory were "grumbling" when the police sent them the first 30 addicts on whom urine tests were positive.

Said the sources: "The officers said they could not cope with so big a number.

"We have 300 more suspected drug addicts. We cannot just keep them in the lock-up, so once the urine tests prove positive we will refer them to the Welfare Department."

The Welfare Ministry has only three rehabilitation centres on the west coast to cope with the police swoop.

Two of them are already full.

Said the Superintendent of the Bukit Mertajam rehabilitation centre which serves Penang and the northern States: "We are full house."

His centre has 106 inmates and he has yet to be told whether he will have to squeeze in any of the 82 suspected drug addicts rounded up by Penang police.

The Tampin centre is full, according to reports from Johore and so has no place for the addicts in Johore Bahru lock-ups.

"We have room for 120 more," said Mr Ganesan of the Kuala Kubu Bahru centre.

The Kuala Kubu Bahru centre, which normally houses between 120 and 180 addicts, now has 170 inmates.

After a similar police operation in October, 1979, the Ministry's rehabilitation centres were flooded with unwilling inmates, many of whom were hardcore addicts with criminal records.

Officers lost out to gang-rule and several inmates were seriously injured.

In the Besut Centre, a boy was murdered.

This time, Welfare officers are determined to keep out the hardcore or criminal addicts.

But the Prisons Department is not ready for them either.

Meanwhile, the prisons are already overcrowded and the new law under which courts can commit an addict to prison simply for being an addict has yet to be passed by Parliament.

Confirmed addicts netted in Operasi Berkas can only be sent to prison if they are charged with possession or trafficking.

The Pemadam centre in the Federal Territory is full, although it has space in its centres in Kajang and Seremban.

The Batu Gajah Help Centre has already taken five of the 306 addicts detained by police in Perak and cannot cope with more.

The biggest number of suspected addicts, totaling 423, were picked up from the city.

Another 306 were detained in Perak, followed by 88 in Johore, about 82 in Penang and 45 in Malacca.

CSO: 5300/8317

PAKISTAN

HEROIN ADDICTION IN ALARMING PROPORTIONS REPORTED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD, JAN. 23: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, MAJ.-GEN. (RTD) M. SHUAIB, TODAY SOUNDED A NOTE OF WARNING OVER THE GROWING DRUG ABUSE AND SAID THAT HEROIN ADDICTION HAD ASSUMED AN ALARMING PROPORTION IN PAKISTAN.

Addressing a Press conference, he said the use of drugs had spread rapidly in Karachi Baluchistan and the NWFP, particularly the tribal area.

Also present at the news conference were Chairman of the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, Mairaj Husain, and members of the Coordination Committee, Dr. M.H. Mobbashar and Dr. Nasir Qureshi of Rawalpindi, Dr. M.M. Zaheer Khan (Karachi), Dr. Hyder A. Kazi, Dr. Ijaz Bakhsh (Gilgit) and senior officials of the Board.

Maj-Gen. Shuaib said a survey to asses the situation of heroin addiction would be conducted soon, but added that circumstantial evidence did exist to show a rapid growth of this menace.

Dr. Shuaib said heroin addiction was the worst kind of addiction and difficult to treat. He expressed his concern over the general and cheap availability of the drug in the underground market.

Tribal Area

He further said that the tribal areas are inaccessible for the authorities and it is difficult to control the production of this commodity there.

The recently started production of heroin is a highly alarming fact, as the opium addicts are easily curable,, but heroin addicts are very difficult to cure.

One of the officials also informed that this menace has now gone as far as places like Karachi, and other large cities. There have also been reports about its increasing use within the students of educational institutions, including medical colleges and universities.

Heroin is made from opium, through a chemical process. There have also been reports of small factories set up at various places within the tribal areas of the NWFP.

In the last six months as many as 160 cases of heroin addiction have been brought for treatment to one of the PNCB detoxification centres located in different parts of the country.

This does not mean that the actual number of such addicts is not far more than this figure.

Another medical expert from Gilgit informed about the opium addicts in the Northern Areas, however no heroin addicts have been reported so far.

There are also reports of drug addicts among the Afghan refugees, who are located in some parts of Northern Areas, Baluchistan and NWFP.

A leading psychiatrist of the country, and a member of the National Coordination Committee, Dr. Mubashir, expressed his grave concern over this situation and said that once this problem takes place, it will be very difficult to control it.

He said that use of drugs resulted in mental sickness in most of the cases and drug addicts who had been cured or were under treatment should be considered as mentally handicapped people and should be given jobs out of the 2 per cent quota for jobs recently fixed by the President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

He also emphasised the need for better health care facilities to be introduced for curing drug addicts throughout the country.

CSO: 5300/4611

PAKISTAN

BBC REPORT DENIED ON SOURCE OF PAKISTAN DRUGS

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 14 Jan 82 p 5

[Text] Pakistan is becoming 'the major centre' for the traffic of illegal narcotic trade, according to a recent announcement by the BBC. However, the local drug enforcement sources categorically claim that this observation is false.

It was reported on the BBC's "News About Britain," this week, that a record seizure of heroin was made in Britain in 1981. Most of this narcotic seized by the British Narcotic Control officials had been coming through Pakistan, which is now becoming the 'major centre' for illegal narcotic trade.

However, Mr M. Mubeen Ahmed Khan, Superintendent of the Drug Enforcement Cell (Preventive Services), has said that this news report is totally false.

Most of the heroin, he said, was being transported through the 'Golden Triangle,' comprising Thailand, Burma and other South Asian countries.

"Tribal people in these countries," he said, "are growing opium which they convert into heroin. A major portion of the illegal drug traffic is also through Turkey," he added.

Besides, much of this heroin trade, he stated, was also through India as couriers found smuggling of narcotics through India much easier than Pakistan, because in India the export of opium was officially allowed which served as a cover for smugglers.

Ban on Opium Export

Mr Mubeen Khan said that the Pakistan Government did not permit the export of these drugs under any form.

He believed that 1,000 tons of opium was being grown in certain Asian countries. International smugglers, with connections all over the world, were finding it easier to transport these narcotics through other countries, instead of Pakistan.

It may be stated that the Customs seized contraband narcotics in Pakistan, estimated at Rs 930 million on the foreign market, during the year 80-81.

Two inspectors and one Customs sepoy of the Collectorate of Central Excise and Land Customs, Peshawar, and one sepoy of the Quetta Collectorate were killed in encounters with narcotic smugglers.

In 1981, there were record seizures of heroin, including clandestine heroin manufacturing laboratories, discovered in slum areas and the suburbs of Karachi.

CSO: 5300/4610

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

SIND HEROIN HAUL--Sind crime branch made a seizure of 14 kilograms of heroin worth over Rs.15 million (Rs.150 million in street value) at the Karachi airport on Saturday night. [GF051223 Karachi DAWN in English 1 Feb 82 p 1 GF]

OPIUM PRODUCTION DECLINE--The production of opium has declined from 800 metric tons during 1978-79 season to 85 tons in 1979-80, following concerted efforts of the government, a report on growth and control of opium and cannabis cultivation prepared by Pakistan Narcotics Control Board said. One of the factors was banned on opium cultivation imposed in February 1979, it said. PPI [Text] [GF031308 Karachi DAWN in English 31 Jan 82 p 8]

CSO: 5300/4612

PHILIPPINES

DANGEROUS DRUG BILL APPROVED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 27 Jan 82 p 1, 3

[Article by C. Valmorla, Jr.]

[Text] The Batasang Pambansa added teeth last night to the nationwide campaign against drug abuse when it plugged loopholes in the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972.

As approved by the assembly, mere possession of marijuana and opium seeds will be punishable with imprisonment of from 12 years to 20 years and a fine of from P14,000 to P30,000.

It was observed that persons found in possession of these seeds had been acquitted by the courts because this is not covered by the law.

The amendments to the law also define the liability of the owner of the land on which the plants are grown.

The bill, which amends Republic Act 6425, was approved in record time after President Marcos challenged the Batasan to enact the measure in 48 hours.

The President had threatened to issue a decree if the assembly failed to act on the bill on time because of its urgency.

Under the law, prohibited drugs include opium and its active components and derivatives such as heroin and morphine.

coca leaf and its derivatives, particularly cocaine, and Indian hemp or marijuana and its derivatives.

The changes in the law were introduced by the late Health Minister Enrique M. Garcia. As chairman of the Batasang committee on health, Garcia reported out the bill for approval.

Assemblyman Leopoldo Diaz (KBL, Central Luzon), minister of state for health and vice chairman of the health committee, sponsored the bill on the floor.

The authority given to the food and drug administration under Presidential Decree 280 to order the closure, suspension, or revocation of the license and permit of a drug establishment dealing in dangerous drugs was transferred to the dangerous drugs board.

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

ANTIDRUG MEASURES--The Batasang Pambansa approved last night the bill providing for a tougher law to curb drug abuse in the country. The bill amended the dangerous drugs law of 1972 to provide stiffer penalties and widen the scope of the law. Under the amendment, the possession of permitted drugs [as heard], cultivation and possession of seeds of all kinds of narcotics plants are punishable with up to life imprisonment and fines reaching 30,000 pesos. The bill now goes to President Marcos for his approval. The Batasan approved the measure after a clause that allows as evidence the refusal of a suspected drug user to undergo laboratory tests was removed, after it was opposed as unconstitutional. The bill was passed 1 day before the expiration of the deadline imposed by President Marcos on the Batasan. The president, in stressing seriousness of the drug problem, said he would use his decree-issuing powers to enact the bill if the Batasan failed to approve it in 1 week. [Text] [HK260032 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 25 Jan 82]

MARIHUANA PLANTS UPROOTED--Camp Alimano, Tuguegarao, Jan. 7--Military authorities uprooted and seized today some 30,000 fully grown marijuana plants worth several millions of pesos in a three-hectare plantation in barangay Bugnay, Tinglayan, Kalinga-Apayao. Brig. Gen. Vicente Custodio, PC Region 2 commander, said the plantation was believed owned and cultivated by the New People's Army headed by Ernesto Garado alias "Ka Sungar" Custodio said the cultivators fled minutes before the arrival of a raiding team led by Lt. Col. Benjamin Aguinaldo, Kalinga-Apayao PC commander. The raiding team found a marker identifying the alleged cultivator as a certain Pano Dawing, a resident of Bugnay, Custodio said. Tinglayan is one of the identified havens of dissidents in the Cordillera range, he added. Bugnay, where the plantation was located, used to be headed by barangay captain Macling Dulag, who hogged the limelight last year when he was murdered at the height of the Chico dam controversy. [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 8 Jan 82 p 3]

CSO: 5300/4919

SRI LANKA

SIX ACRES OF GANJA DESTROYED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 12 Jan 82 p 7

[Text]

UDAWALAWE rious place for ganja
In a ganja raid conducted last week Udawalawe police were able to add another six acres to the vast acreage already destroyed in the Udawalawe National Park during the six-day operation Ganja there in mid-December.

The raid conducted on a tip-off given by a man who was taken into custody on the Timbolketiya-Tanamalwilla road while transporting 585,000 grains of ganja in two gurny bags. The suspect had led the police party six miles through the jungle to a chena at Muwanpelesse, a noto-

cultivation.
According to the Police there were about 75,000 ganja plants in the chena but all of them had previously been cut and removed leaving only the stubs. Nevertheless everything was uprooted and destroyed by police.

Sub-Inspector Wijepala, Officer in-Charge, Udawalawe police directed the operation and was assisted by Police Sergeants Ratnapala, Wijesiriwardane and constables Ramnayake Premadasa, Soimasiri and Mahindaprema,

CSO: 5300/4920

THAILAND

BRIEFS

COMMITTEE TO TACKLE OPIUM--A high-level committee has been set up to solve problems in connection with opium growing by hilltribes people. This followed the prime minister's order dated 15 January. The committee is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Prachuap Suntharangkun. It is empowered to review, improve and correct policies and measures as well as various orders issued in connection with attempts to solve the opium growing problem. The committee is also empowered to set up a subcommittee to help it with its work as found necessary. The new committee comprises members of the military, the National Security Council, the local administration department and other agencies of the civil service. [Text] [BK010657 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 1 Feb 82]

CSO: 5300/2158

CANADA

HEROIN SEIZURE CALLED OTTAWA'S LARGEST BUST ON RECORD

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 28 Dec 81 p 1

[Text]

An estimated \$2-million worth of heroin was seized by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the weekend in Ottawa's largest heroin bust on record.

One pound of the drug was found Christmas Eve in a van spotted travelling near the intersection of Bronson Avenue and Catherine Street at 10 p.m.

The drugs were packaged in several plastic bags.

A handgun was also found in the vehicle, but there was no resistance at the time of arrest, said RCMP narcotic division Sgt. Ken Kelly.

The arrests came after an investigation by a four-man drug squad formed in late September.

"Top priority has been given to heroin use in the area," said Sgt. Kelly. "And this is our first big bust.

"The heroin line is one of the biggest in the drug business and

our squad is analysing it.

"It's one of the worst drugs out on the market."

He would not speculate on whether heroin use has increased in this area.

The Ottawa RCMP detachment has a 45-man drug squad and senior narcotic officers decided to form a special unit to investigate the heroine drug trade.

The heroin will be analysed by federal health officials this week.

After examination, the drug will be taken to the Bureau of Dangerous Drugs where it will be burned.

Two Edmonton residents, Ahmad Watfa, 26, and Bassem Bassil, 31, have been charged with possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking.

Watfa and Bassil are to appear in provincial court Tuesday at 10 a.m.

CSO: 5320/18

YUGOSLAVIA

DRUG CONTROLS ON YUGOSLAV, BULGARIAN BORDER

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 31 Dec 81 p 15

[Article by Andre De Kromme: "Yugoslavia, Europe's Biggest Heroin Trap"]

[Text] As the struggle against drugs gets harder, customs and border police, too, are changing their tactics. Their strategy is directed more now towards attacking the men behind the scenes, which produces a dangerous situation because of the billions at stake. What is found at the borders is important primarily as an indication of what is entering Europe. Our reporting team has followed the wearisome battle against drug smuggling for five days and nights in Dimitrovgrad, on the Yugoslav/Bulgarian border, a primitive corner of the Balkans, where the drug smugglers run the highest risk in all of Europe. In Yugoslavia there are more than 300 imprisoned drug couriers. According to West European statistics and data from Interpol, Yugoslavia is now conducting the most successful fight.

Dimitrovgrad, Thursday--The motors of the road grants, which take the slippery grade at a crawl, growl tiresomely. The chains bite into the icy layer which the heavy trucks themselves press from the constantly falling snow. Frequently the wheels slip through and the modern caravan on the Bombay-London crossing comes to a halt.

At the same place on the age-old Mesopotamian trade route caravans used to travel to Europe with mules and horse-drawn and ox-drawn wagons with spices, precious metalwork, hides and carpets. Then armed merchants accompanied their costly trade goods, constantly exposed to robbers and quick-flaring conflicts in the Balkans.

Now battle is once again being done in this rugged area and detectives and uniformed customs men are lying in wait for one of the most expensive materials on earth: heroin, one gram of which about 2,000 kilometers further along, in Frankfurt or Amsterdam, is worth at least 250 guilders. They are fighting the preventive battle against the misery of tens of thousands of addicts and increased street crime.

File of Trash

The halts on the mirror-slick road leave the fatigued drivers, many of whom already have a few thousand kilometers behind them, as cold as the weather outside. They are used to it and know that in a few hours it will become a complete pile of trash, when

they land on the notorious Autoput in Nisj, a largely ill-maintained two-lane asphalt stretch on which once again all the freight traffic from Greece and Albania, along with tens of thousands of passenger cars, bounces along to Austria and Western Europe.

For their part, the Yugoslavian border patrol members are not concerned about the condition of the drivers. "We are not standing here for the fun of it," says border post chief Gradimir--"O'Grady"--Hadzinladzic. As a seasoned practical specialist in fighting drugs at the borders, he is proud of his nickname, for the only real "Mr. O'Grady" in this little world is an internationally famous narcotics expert from the American "Drugs Enforcement Administration."

"On our borders, we catch nearly one-third of all heroin found in Europe. In Amsterdam and Frankfurt, they estimate that about 10 percent is uncovered. But we think that it is about 2 percent or even less, because even though we make the lion's share of discoveries, they are based purely on spot checks. By agreement with Austrian, West German and Netherlands narcotics brigades, from time to time we allow suspect vehicles to pass through to be able to take a look behind the scenes at the destination."

A few days earlier while we sat in the (over-) heated Ministry of Information of Belgrade, it was made clear to my colleague Will Dekkers and me that the detective instinct of the customs man is the best means of detection. Vido Popadic, chief of investigations for the federal Yugoslavian customs: "Because of our lack of modern equipment, we have just turned in a request for financial assistance with the narcotics department of the United Nations in Vienna. We particularly need freezer cabinets, so that we can also take a close look at refrigerator trucks. For, to express it carefully, we have the strongest suspicion that a lot of heroin is also entering Europe by way of frozen foods.

"The fact that my men are doing spectacular work despite the primitive circumstances is because they have taken a special course in drugs detection at our customs school here in Belgrade. Technology is important, but it is precisely because of the lack of that technology that we have built up the experience that the discovery of a drug shipment is primarily a matter of psychology, of knowing people. The behavior of the drivers and other occupants is an important indication and the 'nose' of a customs man reacts better than the nose of a heroin dog.

"Furthermore, most recently pure, practically odorless heroin is coming in instead of raw opium, so that we now know that once again the laboratories are located in the production areas themselves. But just like the delivery routes and the smuggling methods, that can change from one day to the next. Our opponent is both intelligent and quick. We recently discovered heroin in shipment of corn. That meant that somewhere in Europe there had to be a special filtering system through which the corn could be sifted without leaving any dangerous traces of heroin behind. Unfortunately, our theory quickly leaked out and was published, after which the trick with the corn was pulled out of the bag of tricks."

By Sea

According to Popadic, it is also because of the observation of behavior that Yugoslavian Customs is now on the track of a new heroin route by sea. "In our harbors on the Adriatic Sea, not only are we faced with the same problems as in Rotterdam and elsewhere, but we also have regular auto-bridge connections with Turkey and the Middle

East. Last summer, we drew a bead on people who came to pick up autos from the twice-weekly ferry from the Syrian port of Tartus. We already knew that it had been a hash route, but now we have discovered that it has become an important heroin route. I always say: We took our basic training from the hash couriers, we are rounding out our education with the heroin smugglers, but we cannot graduate yet because we still have not gotten to see the professors of this criminal science."

On the Yugoslav/Bulgarian border it was proven that top customs man Vido Popadic has a right to be proud. In five times 24 hours, the customs men were successful three times: Once at the hangdog Dmitrovgrad station, where the express from Istanbul to Western Europe encounters its longest delay, solely because of sharpened drug control, and twice in spot check in the column of trucks and passenger cars at the net on the "Bombay road." Here, my colleague Dekkers and I saw how heroin was uncovered from under the seats of a passenger and from a--to customs eyes--remarkably hidden space between the rear axle and the floor of a truck.

Spare Batteries

"Dumb," say Gridimir Hadzimidzic, "but these hiding places are still used, even though less often. The newest method, which we got onto 4 months ago, is carrying things in spare batteries. On these long distances, both trucks and passenger cars almost always carry all kinds of spare parts, such as contact points, a distributor cap, belts and tires, spark plugs, and a battery. Because it is normal, we never paid any attention to it until the end of August, when we were so good as to help a Turk who worked in West Germany with his starting problems. When we could not get his Mercedes 230, which would not run because of the heat, and which he said ran on gas, to start either, we wanted to take a look under the hood and at the gas tank in the trunk. When the Turk gestured that that was too much trouble, we became more interested. Everything appeared to be mounted properly, and if he had not been so nervous, we would never have found the 12 kilograms of heroin in the gas tank. The car simply ran on gasoline...."

That experience of 27 August set the Yugoslavian customs on the track of the usual spare parts, particularly the batteries. In 4 months' time, a total of 41 kilograms of heroin have been turned up that way. The refinement of this trick-with-the-battery: under the hood, everything looks normal. The spare battery sits in the trunk along with the other spare parts, packed in with suitcases, cans, and bags. But there are two holes bored in the bottom of the spare battery, invisible at first look. The two holes are also in the rubber mat on the floor of the trunk. The rest is a matter of refined wiring: the "spare battery" is the actual source of current; the "real" battery contains heroin.

Last Seals

Yugoslavia's customs chief, Vido Popadic: "The methods are becoming increasingly more refined and are changed faster and faster, and when we further realize that the Bulgarians on the Greek border, too, are discovering one new trick after another, we sometimes ask ourselves what we are doing. With a watertight control, all traffic between Europe and the Near East would come to a halt. We also have to deal with the problem that frequently the last goods are loaded in Istanbul and it is there that the last lead seals are applied. Here the last seals, which are 'holy' to a customs man, weigh the heaviest, because Istanbul appears to be the point of departure, while the

trucks often come from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan or from deep inside Turkey. [The term: "The last seals weight the heaviest" is also a proverb meaning "It's the last straw that breaks the camel's back." Here the meaning is both literal and figurative. TR.] Now we are also highly interested in what happens before or in Istanbul. From what we have discovered from spot checks, that must be something which would make the most exciting television crime show pale into a kiddy show."

6940
CSO: 5300/2133

CHILE

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS CONFISCATED--Santiago, 31 Jan (AFP)--It was reported here today that the Chilean investigations police confiscated 28.7 kilograms of cocaine, 255.7 kilograms of marihuana, 2,762 units of other manufactured drugs and approximately \$120,000 during 1981. [PY031129 Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 21 Jan 82 PY]

CSO: 5300/2150

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE LABORATORIES DISCOVERED--Bogota--The police seized 8.5 tons of marihuana in the municipality of Fundacion, Magdalena department, the police department has announced. In the area known as (La Guarapera), San Jose Del Guajiare, 5,000 cocaine plants were seized and 4 cocaine processing laboratories were discovered. [PA301735 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Jan 82 PA]

MARIHUANA SHIPMENT CONFISCATED--Barranquilla--In the past few hours the anti-narcotics police seized another 10-ton cargo of pressed marihuana ready for shipment, presumably to Central America. This was at the Cristalina farm, Fundacion Municipality. No arrests were made. The authorities will burn the marihuana. [PA301735 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 82 PA]

MARIHUANA SEIZED--Medellin--The Colombian authorities today seized 9 tons of marihuana worth 40 million pesos, in the region of Pueblo Nuevo, Uraba, Antioquia department. [PA301735 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Jan 82 PA]

ARMY CAPTURES DRUGS, ARMS--Rio Hacha, Colombia--Units of the 2d brigade headquartered in Barranquilla and members of the narcotics squad, today seized a large amount of marihuana and an arms cache near Rio Hacha. On a search mission, the soldiers in a house 1 M-1 rifle, 2 .30 cal Smith rifles, magnum revolvers of different calibers, 10 .26 gauge [as heard] shotguns, 3 communications radios and several army uniforms. A total of 19 metric tons of marihuana and 100 kg of marihuana seed were seized in the same operation. The arms and drugs were turned over to the proper authorities. No one was captured in the operation. [Text] [PA281408 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 82]

CSO: 5300/2148

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

SEAGA ON MARIJUANA--Toronto, Dec. 21 (CANA)--There are only about 2,000 acres of marijuana (ganja) being cultivated in Jamaica and marijuana farming is not as extensive as the foreign news media describe it, Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300/7523

MEXICO

TRAFFICKING SAID TO CONTINUE IN NATION'S PRISONS

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 6 Jan 82 pp 1, 5

[Text] "So long as there are drugs on the market, there will be trafficking in the CeReSo [Social Rehabilitation Center] and in all of the nation's prisons." This statement was made by Antonio Lopez Bustamante, director of the detention establishment, upon being questioned on the subject.

He claimed that it is extremely difficult to eradicate the drug traffic inside prisons and, furthermore, it is "absurd" to try to do so; noting that 90 percent of the inmates are drug addicts.

The institution's director remarked: "Moreover, even though on both the general and conjugal type visiting days an inspection is made of persons coming to see their relatives or friends, they are quite often found to have in their possession large amounts of toxic pills of the so-called 'prodoline' type."

Lopez Bustamante noted that medium-sized cans containing marihuana and toxic pills are very often discovered, but despite the fact that this problem appears frequently, he claimed that there has been a decline in the drug traffic in comparison with other years.

He said that this is because "I am enacting retention" for all inmates caught with drugs; adding that from August, when the first retention took place, until the present, 19 inmates have received retention owing to their bad behavior, disobedience of orders from superiors or drug trafficking.

The retention consists of increasing the period of time in jail to twice what has been given in the sentence. He said that the inmates whose term has been increased are prisoners sentenced for various crimes.

Although the official reported that, to date, there has been no reply to the messages sent to the state capital and to Mexico City, because this is the first time in the prison's history that retention has been applied to the inmates, the measure was necessary because of the bad conduct shown by certain prisoners: "They had to be made to realize that wherever they are they must behave like normal persons."

He said that despite the fact that "I have received approval from the director of crime prevention and from some directors of other prisons, I have not had a reply to the messages." Adjustments must be made to the prison laws, adding the application of retention for inmates who do not obey the prison rules.

2909

CSO: 5330/63

MEXICO

BRIEFS

NEW PJF COMMANDER REPORTS--Yesterday, the office of head of the Federal Judicial Police was assumed by Comdr Rodolfo Moises Calvo, who was group chief of this police entity, replacing Comdr Carlos Mondragon Olguin. Comdr Moises Calvo stated that, thanks to the campaigns which the government has conducted against drug production throughout the entire republic, the clandestine growing of drugs has gradually been disappearing. He cited as specific examples the states of Sinaloa and Chihuahua, places which until a few years ago had been considered critical areas, owing to the high rate of drug production. Now, he claimed, from the 100 percent that the latter represented, the volume has dropped to 8 or 10 percent at the most. In connection with Sonora, Comdr Rodolfo Moises Calvo said that our state does not represent any problem, because it is categorized as a "passage way" toward the towns bordering the United States. Noting that the invasion of different types of drugs is currently very slight in the urban areas, he said that they occur only in the abandoned urban locations; but that this is nothing compared to what it was during the 1970's in the universities and schools. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 7 Jan 82 Sec A p 11] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Nogales, Sonora, January 9 (PH)--Another blow was dealt to the drug traffic, this time in Agua Prieta, by the Federal Judicial Police in the northern section of Sonora yesterday, when they seized 60 kilograms of marijuana and arrested those presumed responsible for the illegal shipment. The entity's group chief, Carlos Silva Urrutia, reported that the first to be arrested was Alejandro Peralta Mata, who was carrying a little over 1 kilogram of the injurious grass in a van type Ford truck with state of Arizona license plates ZNW-310. After arresting Peralta Mata, the Federal Judicial Police agents searched his house, found the rest of the drugs and in the same action arrested Jose Dolores Villegas and Matias Lopez Acosta, the former's accomplices in the crime of drug possession and trafficking. The marijuana was carefully concealed in five packages in a suitcase inside the residence that was searched, where those now under arrest had presumably stored it for some time, so as to sell it later in the United States. Its origin was the El Zumbido farm in the municipality of Janos, Chihuahua. Those presumed liable were moved to this border and placed at the disposal of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 9 Jan 82 Sec D p 2] 2909

CSO: 5330/63

EGYPT

INTENSIFIED EFFORTS REDUCE DRUG SMUGGLING

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 267, 6 Dec 81 pp 64, 65

[Article by Ahmad Mustafa]

[Text] Why has "al-Bataniyah," the section of Cairo most notorious for narcotics dealings, become completely empty of "big dealers," retailers, and even the "Nadurjiyah," who are the "young kids" who act as an alarm system and warn the dealers of "raids" by the narcotics squad?

Why have the prices of drugs risen, although few are present? The price per "piaster of hashish" has risen to 30 and 40 pounds, when it had been 7 pounds. Why has the price of a "piaster of opium" risen from 60 to 200 pounds? What is the secret behind all of this?

Is there a "substitute" or "substitutes" for hashish and opium which citizens can take? What are they?

What can the state and the various agencies do to stamp out these terrible drugs once and for all? The official report of the Narcotics Agency in Cairo says: "During the past 9 months, 157 kilograms of opium were seized, while in the same period of the preceding year more than 3,147 kilograms were confiscated.

As for hashish, during these past 9 months, more than 50 tons were seized, while in the same months of the preceding year only 12 tons were seized.

Now, drugs have definitely disappeared, and their prices have risen drastically.

Secret of Drug Disappearance

Does the secret lie in the efforts of the border patrol of the armed forces, who patrol all of the borders of Egypt along the sea and in the desert to prevent smuggling?

Does it lie in the concentrated efforts of the narcotics agents and the investigators in all of the governorates of Egypt?

Does it lie in the continuous campaigns conducted night and day by police officers and investigators as they search some cars on the desert and farm roads,

and police "undercover" men who are stationed on bridges and in many areas within the cities, searching some private and rental cars and trucks looking for weapons and sometimes finding drugs in these vehicles?

Opinion of Minister of Interior

I sought the opinion of Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, deputy prime minister and minister of the interior. He said: "There is no doubt that the border patrol of the armed forces has a very large role in combatting smuggling of drugs into Egypt. I would also like to say that there is very firm cooperation between the armed forces and the Ministry of the Interior in this field. As for combatting drugs within Egypt, the UN has given Egypt some modern equipment and apparatus, including airplanes to observe the movements of smugglers and look for their positions in the mountains or on the farms, and also to look for fields planted in opium."

I left the deputy prime minister and minister of the interior preoccupied with his many responsibilities. I sympathize with his efforts as he reads the dozens of dossiers piled around him in his office, all of them describing activities of members of terrorist organizations. I directed my questions to Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki, director of the Narcotics Agency, to seek his opinion.

Rising Price of Drugs

He said: "As to the rising price of drugs, I would like to say that narcotics, like any commercial commodity offered in the markets, are subject to the law of supply and demand. If the cost rises, that is a sign that the supply of drugs is diminishing.

"If the price goes down, that is a sign that there are large quantities of drugs on the market. The disappearance of drugs from the market in all of Egypt is attributable to the firm cooperation between the drug combatting apparatus on the national level and the forces of the border guards, 'the first line of defense,' on whom the Ministry of the Interior relies to stop drug smuggling. Very, very large quantities have been seized, especially in recent months." He added: "This is in addition to the major efforts by the officers of the narcotics units in Cairo and all of the governorates to follow scientific methods and to arrest major drug dealers and smugglers, especially in the recent period, which has had a very great influence on the disappearance of drugs and their absence among the citizens."

I asked: "Do you expect some dealers, the 'little guys,' to resume their activities after things calm down and the security and stability situation returns to normal?"

Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki replied: "I believe that the crime of dealing in drugs is a social crime which can be stopped for a time but then will reappear. It is like any other crime which cannot be completely wiped out."

He added: "However, it is very possible to put a stop to the activities of smugglers and drug dealers, large or small, by scientific planning and other

methods such as precise and constant monitoring of their activities, and also supervision of other narcotic substances which can enter Egypt as 'drug substitutes'".

Addict is Weak Person

I asked the director of the narcotics agency: "Do you believe that the drug addicts will stop taking or smoking hashish, opium, or other types of drugs in light of the scarcity of these drugs?"

He said: "I would like to tell you that drug addicts are weak and cowardly human beings who cannot keep themselves from using drugs. Therefore, if the drugs are absent, they start to look for a substitute for this type of drug, even if it is medication that contains certain types of drugs such as codeine, which people take to relieve coughs. Thus, it is now being noted that there is a major shortage of certain medicines in pharmacies, medicines which contain codeine."

He added: "There are other types of substances which affect the mental state of people or drug users such as methaqualone makston fort, which are smuggled into Egypt from some European countries where they are produced. During the past 9 months of this year, more than 188 kilograms of solid substances of these types and 179,016 centimeters of liquid substances were seized."

Question: "Is Egypt considered a drug-consuming state?"

Answer: "Yes. The most widespread drug in Egypt is hashish, which is smuggled into Egypt from Lebanon. In recent months, huge shipments have poured into Egypt. More than 50 tons were seized during the past 9 months, the largest quantity seized in the history of the narcotics apparatus. This indicates the huge quantity of hashish produced in Lebanon and the intensity of the efforts exerted to put an end to operations to smuggle it into Egypt. This is more than four times the quantity of only 12 tons seized last year.

"As for opium, it is smuggled into Egypt from Turkey. In recent years, Egypt has tried to foil the plan of Turkish smuggling rings to flood Egypt with opium by concealing it in secret hiding places in cars shipped with some members of the Turkish smuggling rings to Egyptian ports. When the Narcotics Agency checked these attempts, the ring members resorted to individuals of other nationalities (German and British). They were all apprehended, with the help of officers from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. They passed themselves off as American diplomats and were able to mingle with the smugglers and make them believe that they were willing to help them smuggle drugs into Egypt."

The director of the Narcotics Agency said: "There is something important that I would like you to know. There is complete cooperation between the Narcotics Agency in Egypt and its counterparts in America, England, Germany, Holland, Pakistan, and a large number of other European states. This cooperation played a large part in arresting the rings of dangerous smugglers who were smuggling hashish and opium in hiding places in luxury cars which were being shipped from certain states to Egypt and, also, in secret compartments in luggage and shoes."

Finally, I asked Maj Gen Mamduh Salim Zaki: "Can the state take advantage of this climate in which drugs have disappeared and direct some young people toward wholesome activities to divert them from such drugs?"

He replied: "There are two aspects to preventing the spread of drugs.

"The first is fighting them. That is complemented by prevention and treatment by the various information media, such as television, the press, radio, movies, etc."

"If the media acted in solidarity and cooperated, with sound guidance from the state, young people could be guided to sound ways to serve the nation and could be prevented from turning to drugs or substitute pills which can cause mental and nervous disorders and even death."

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CSO: 5300/5008

IRAN

MORE THAN ONE TON OF HEROIN, OPIUM SEIZED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 Jan 82 p 2

[Report by Col Bakhtegan, chief of the Antinarcotics Department]

[Excerpt] Officers of the Antinarcotics Department of the National Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] have seized more than one ton of heroin and opium.

Hojjateleslam Nateq-Nuri, minister of the interior, and Col Hejazi, chief of the National Police of the IRI inspected the narcotics seized.

Colonel Bakhtegan, chief of the Antinarcotics Department, in regard to these seizures, stated: "This year, officers of this department have seized about 2,250 kilograms of heroin and morphine and 3,240 kilograms of opium and hashish." He added: "The activities of this department in comparison to the number of its personnel are tremendous."

While pointing out the inadequacies of this department, Col Bakhtegan said: "The job of the personnel is 100 percent police work and sometimes strike-force work, according to plans made in advance. As a matter of fact, we have control from a distance, and we keep watch on the country's borders from here. And the important thing about this is that in making these massive seizures we do not have many casualties, so that during this period of activities we have suffered only one casualty along with several persons shot and wounded--and that was due to their own lack of experience. Every time these consignments change hands, more than 30 armed men accompany the shipments, whereby our officers are faced with certain dangers."

Regarding the distribution of narcotics in Iran, Col Bakhtegan said: "This problem has several causes, one of which is lack of control at the borders--whether air, water or land--as if we were leaving the faucet turned on and then trying to collect the water coming out of it; and this is very difficult! Instead of this, we should turn off the faucet completely so the water would not flow out. We should destroy the source of the heroin. Another difficulty consists of the 2 million Afghan refugees whom, even at the best, we would say that 200,000 of them are smugglers who play a very active role in smuggling narcotics into Iran."

"Another problem is unemployment which causes a number of people to engage in smuggling in order to support their families; for this work is very profitable. On the Afghan border, a kilogram of heroin sells for 1 million rials, and when this heroin reaches Tehran, it is sold for about 20 million rials retail, that is, after being augmented with various additives.

"Yet another problem is the war imposed by Iraq, which has engaged most of our law-enforcement organizations. We hope that the war will end soonest with victory for us and that these forces can handle the narcotics problem."

In another part of his remarks, Col Bakhtegan said: "In order to combat this ruinous plague, we have submitted plans to the authorities which, unfortunately, have not been carried out. Narcotics are not a traditional crime but an international crime. All smugglers conduct a certain kind of operation on a worldwide level, and their job is to destroy human societies."

Colonel Bakhtegan then said: "Officers of Team Eight of this department, in connection with these seizures, have arrested four international smugglers. [see photo] One of these smugglers is Haj Abdolghani Kamalzahi, known as Haj Allahdad, who has a force of more than 5,000 men; and for 20 years the police officers had not been able to arrest him. Another one is Naser Soltani who had been active in this field for a long time; and two Afghan persons were also among them; their names are Seyyed Hasan Madares and Bank Lalmir. They had been bringing narcotics into Iran and smuggling out gold bars."

Four International Smugglers Arrested, With Narcotics Seized



Shown from left to right:
Haj Abdolghani Kamalzahi (also known as Haj Allahdad), leader of the band;
Naser Soltani;
Seyyed Hoseyn Madares; and
Bank Lalmir.

IRAN

BRIEFS

YEAR'S NARCOTICS SEIZURES TOTALED--Tehran, Jan 13 (IRNA)--Last year, 13,456 kgs of various kinds of narcotics were seized by the Anti-Narcotics Squad of the Islamic Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's Office. From this amount 922 kgs were destroyed and the remainder was used for medical purposes. The Anti-Narcotics Squad of the Islamic Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's Office also destroyed 644 kgs of various kinds of medically worthless narcotics during the three past months. These narcotics included 469 kgs of hashish, 34 kgs of opium and 113 kgs of other useless narcotics. Meanwhile, a large number of published materials judged to be contrary to public morals and also 40,000 opium smoking pipes were destroyed. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Jan 82 p 2]

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HEROIN DATA--About 14 kg of pure heroin were seized in Israel in 1981. This was reported by the police inspector general. He said that the police have difficulty coping with the trade and smuggling of this drug since no complaints reach the police. Inspector General Arye Ibtzan was speaking in Netanya. [Text] [TA200742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jan 82]

HEROIN SEIZED--This week one of Tel Aviv's largest drug smuggling gangs was uncovered by the police. A large amount of heroin apparently purchased in Turkey was seized. Its value is reported to be 8 million shekels. [TA200742 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Jan 82 p 4 TA]

CSO: 5300/4710

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

COCAINE HAUL--A 27-year-old Cape Flats man has been arrested by police and is expected to appear in the Cape Town Magistrate's court this morning in connection with 8.64 g of cocaine, worth R10,000, seized by police on Wednesday. Brigadier Dries van den Heever, Divisional CID Chief for the Western Cape, said yesterday drugs like cocaine "are becoming a problem" in Cape Town, because they have enormous value on the black market. [Text] [Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 15 Jan 82 p 3]

DAGGA PATCHES--Middelburg--The Lowveld narcotics squad, in a 10-day swoop, cleared 150 dagga patches, spotted from the air. Altogether 95,000 plants, some more than two metres high, were found in the Baberton, Nelspruit, White River and Hoedspruit mountains. The dagga was estimated to be worth more than R100,000 and weighed 4,000 kg. In addition, the two squads found 37 illegal stills, and 11,000 l of illicit liquor were destroyed.--SAPA [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 26 Jan 82 p 2]

CSO: 5300/5624

NETHERLANDS

ROTTERDAM PORT EXPECTS INCREASE IN HEROIN SMUGGLING

Rotterdam HET VRIJE VOLK in Dutch 13 Jan 82 p 17

[Text] Rotterdam--Customs in the Rotterdam port fear a hefty increase in heroin smuggling in the coming months. They base this fearful prediction on information about a very rich poppy harvest in the Golden Triangle, an area in Thailand, Burma and Campuchea.

Last year the customs only intercepted 7 kilos of heroin. H.M. Huisman, head of the Rotterdam Customs detective service: "That is because last year the heroin was imported mainly from Turkey, and that route runs overland. For smuggling from the Far East, on the other hand, Rotterdam is a prominent port of entry and exit."

The seven kilos of heroin is presumed to be only 10 percent of the total quantity which passed through the port last year. Customs, which is prepared for the coming of the new wave of heroin, hopes to catch a few more kilos this year, which will also be assumed to be only 10 percent. In fact, the inspectors at the port have nothing more to go on than their own "finger-tip feeling."

"Certainly not every container gets opened," says Huisman. Even though not much of the highly addictive heroin is intercepted, a great deal of illegally imported luxury goods such as hash and marijuana are found. Customs caught a total of 3890 kilograms of hash and 1362 kilograms of marijuana last year.

Customs detective Huisman: "I am surprised each time at the inventiveness of the smugglers. Still, it all does come down to the same thing: making room in 'normal' articles in which you can hide your goods. We are currently encountering hash and marijuana, particularly that which comes from Ghana and Columbia, frequently in loads of household goods.

The special attention of customs is accorded to such apparently common articles as televisions, furniture and packages of dried shrimp. In the case of the 10 kilos of marijuana which was recently found in the arms and backs of cane chairs from Ghana, it was the high freight bill which raised the suspicions of customs.

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CSO: 5300/2132

NORWAY

TWELVE ARRESTED IN LARGEST-EVER AMPHETAMINES SEIZURE

Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 7 Jan 82 p 3

[Article by Knut Johnsen]

[Text] Twelve persons have been put in prison and a million kroner's worth of narcotics confiscated in Langangen. There are two Finnish narcotics wholesalers with quarters in Skien who have now been uncovered, and Swedish police are working under great pressure to break through to the source of the amphetamines.

The two Finns played a reckless game for months, with the police at close range. It is unknown how much amphetamine and possibly heroin they managed to sell off while they could still stay on top of the game.

Courts on E 18

The whole thing came apart at Christmas when the investigators got tips that the Finns were getting their supplies by the use of courts and hiding places on E 18. Six armed policemen took the 2 Finns by surprise at Langangen on 22 December--after several days of standing watch. It was learned later that the Finnish couriers, who had been sent out from Sweden, had put half a kilogram of amphetamine away in a hiding place on the Lillegård cliffs. The hiding place was disclosed after the couriers had been imprisoned in Sweden between Christmas and New Year's. The police could then get the drugs--the biggest seizure of amphetamines ever made here in Norway.

Big Fishes

The Swedish press is still saying nothing about the affair, because the police there are planning early arrests and raids. The Skien police describe the two arrested Finns as big in narcotics, but hope that still bigger fish will wind up in the net.

At a press conference in Skien yesterday the police indicated that the Finns realized that they were being pursued by the police, and managed several times to get away in fast cars.

The Finns have made big money on their narcotics business in the Grenland areas. But they themselves claim that they got rich on gambling winnings and hard work.

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CSO: 5300/2135

NORWAY

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS STOLEN FROM PHARMACY--Tromsø (NTB)--In a break-in at Renen pharmacy in Tromsø the night of Tuesday and Wednesday [5-6 January], the thieves took all the pharmacy had in the way of narcotics, including morphine in ampoules and opium in drops and tablets. The narcotic substances were kept in a safe which was broken open. The thieves also took 10,000 kroner from the safe. [Text] [Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 7 Jan 82 p 2] 8815

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