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JPRS L/10533

20 May 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 23/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN CRIME COMMISSION WILL FOCUS ON DRUG ISSUES

Melbourne THE AGE in English 24 Mar 82 p 15

[Article by Bill Birnbauer]

[Text]

The Victorian Government's proposed Crime Commission would concentrate on investigating organised drug trafficking and drug-related crimes, the Attorney General, Mr Storey, said yesterday.

Mr Storey said the commission also would ensure that official corruption and organised crime were exposed as quickly as possible.

"The new crime investigation body will give the greatest priority to investigating high level drug traffickers and organisation trafficking, as well as combating drug related crimes, which have the greatest potential for causing social damage," he said.

"Traditional law enforcement measures have been hampered in the past in deterring highly organised and professional crime in the State, particularly the activities of drug-racketeers".

Mr Storey said the establishment of the commission would be one of the Government's top priorities after next week's election. The Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr Miller, called on the Government to establish the commission in February. The ALP has said that it would not favor the commission unless Mr Miller could produce evidence of organised crime in Victoria.

Mr Storey said the commission would have the powers of a Royal

Commission and would be able to summon witnesses to give evidence or produce documents. It would be able to recommend that charges be laid against a person where there was prima facie evidence of criminal involvement.

The commission would be headed by a commissioner with the status equivalent to a judge, and would be staffed by expert criminal investigators.

Mr Storey said that a report would be tabled in Parliament each year on the commission's activities, investigations, and the complaints it received. Its report would be made public unless there were "exceptional circumstances."

"The Crime Commission will be able to recommend to the Government that a Royal Commission be established on specific terms of reference where patterns have emerged indicating a situation with potential serious implications for the community," Mr Storey said.

"The commission will aim to ensure that organised crime and official corruption are exposed as quickly as possible, and will have the power to make public details of organised crime as a real deterrent to those contemplating further breaches of the law."

A policy document released by Mr Storey says that the commission would have the power to act on complaints received from the public. "Appropriate safeguards will be included in the legislation to ensure that the commission cannot be used as an avenue for unwarranted attacks on people's reputations," it says.

CSO: 5300/7549

AUSTRALIA

COMMISSION HEARS NEW DISCLOSURES ON NUGAN-HAND DRUG LINKS

Police Involvement

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Mar 82 p 2

[Text]

The names of several police and that of Mr Ken Nugan were found on an impression of a diary page belonging to a Sydney solicitor, Mr John L. Aston, the Royal Commission into drug trafficking heard yesterday.

Detective-Sergeant Keith Conwell, a former Homicide Squad detective now with the CIB Special Breaking Squad, was shown a photographic reproduction of an impression of a diary page dated November 29, 1979.

The November 29 page had been "cut out" from Mr Aston's desk diary according to the Royal Commissioner, Mr Justice Stewart.

The impression was constructed from the following page left in the diary.

It revealed names and telephone numbers of several policemen, including Sergeant Conwell, Mr Richard Spencer, a former Narcotics Bureau agent, and Mr Ken Nugan, the managing director of the Nugan Group Ltd, the Griffith-based group of fruit and produce merchants.

Sergeant Conwell told Mr Ian Lawry, counsel assisting the Commission, that he knew the name Ken Nugan but had never met him, spoken to him, or been involved in any official investigation of the man.

The same applied to the late Mr Frank Nugan, the co-founder of the collapsed Nugan-Hand Bank.

He knew of some of the officers mentioned on the diary page impression.

He had known Mr Spencer for about 14 years, having kept in contact after working with him at Darlinghurst Police Station some years ago.

He agreed he was aware Mr Spencer was one of the people involved in a committal hearing at a Court of Petty Sessions in 1980.

Mr Lawry told him Mr Spencer had been charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by an alleged disclosure of information to Terrence John Clark and others.

Clark, the leader of the Mr Asia drug syndicate, is serving a life sentence at Britain's Parkhurst Jail for his part in the murder of his former syndicate partner, Christopher Martin Johnstone — "Mr Asia" — whose handless body was found in a flooded Lancashire quarry in October, 1979.

The commission has heard that Mr Spencer, another former narcotics agent, Mr Wayne Brindle, and a former Sydney law clerk, Mr Brian Alexander, who were similarly charged, had the charge dismissed by a magistrate on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

Sergeant Conwell and Mr Spencer had mentioned the matter to him before the committal hearing began in April, 1980, and the only other person who had spoken to him about the matter was Mr Alexander, whom he had known as a friend for about 15 years.

He said Mr Alexander had told him that "as far as he was concerned he was not involved" (in any conspiracy).

"He said he should have given evidence at the Coroner's Court in Melbourne but his counsel advised him not to and it would have

cleared the matter up there and then," Sergeant Conwell said.

The commission has heard that both Mr Alexander and Mr Aston, his employer at the time, went to Melbourne in 1980 to give evidence at the inquest into the deaths of Douglas and Isobel Wilson, heroin addicts and Mr Asia syndicate couriers.

Their bodies were found in a sandy grave at Rye, in Victoria, in May, 1979. The coroner later found they had been shot on Clark's orders after he found they gave details of syndicate activities to Queensland police in June 1978.

The Commission has also heard of Mr Alexander's reluctance to answer questions put to him during the inquest, a matter which was brought before the Supreme Court.

Mr Lawry: Was the substance of all the conversation in relation to Mr Spencer that he, Alexander, was not guilty and was something further said about Mr Spencer?

Sergeant Conwell: I think the inference was that he and Spencer

were not guilty — they were not involved in anything.

And Mr Alexander said he should have given evidence at the coroner's inquest in Melbourne? — Yes.

Later Sergeant Conwell said he had "no idea" why Mr Aston or anybody else would have removed the page dated November 29, 1979, from Mr Aston's diary. Nor could he think of any "particular reason" why Aston would have wanted to speak to him on that day.

The last time Sergeant Conwell saw Mr Alexander, who has been officially reported missing since last December, was about two weeks before Christmas last year when he had dinner and watched a picture at his home.

He said Mr Alexander seemed in good spirits that night but had failed to arrive at his home on Christmas Day as arranged.

The commission resumes today.

Opposition Charges

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Mar 82 pp 1, 8

[Text]

CANBERRA: Documents tabled in Federal Parliament yesterday link the controversial Nugan Hand bank with massive heroin smuggling, American intelligence services and the laundering of "black money."

The documents say that the now-defunct Narcotics Bureau was informed about the heroin racket on May 3, 1977, and was forced to scale down the investigation within 10 months because the bank discovered the inquiry.

The Opposition Leader, Mr Hayden, finally was allowed to table seven documents yesterday which he has used in the last two weeks to attack the Government.

Mr Hayden repeatedly has called for a royal commission into the bank after allegations

that the bureau investigation was hindered and existing inquiries did not have the ability to investigate the bank fully.

Mr Fraser maintained yesterday that the terms of reference of the existing Stewart royal commission into the drug trade were wide enough to cover the Nugan Hand affair, but he said he would consider widening them.

Mr Hayden said the drugs royal commission was not able to investigate allegations of gun-running, money laundering and involvement with the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Censored

He had censored the documents heavily to protect sources and said that he could give further information to the Stewart royal commission when the terms of

reference were settled. A Narcotics Bureau minute paper dated November 14, 1977, links the Nugan Hand bank with a South-East Asian syndicate which exported an estimated \$3000 million worth of heroin out of Bangkok before June 1976.

The paper continues: "If Nugan Hand Ltd is involved in the drug business it is most likely as either a behind-the-scene financier for drug importations or as a means of laundering the money made from drug sales."

An informant told the bureau in another document that the bank made most of its money by "couriering black money out of Australia to areas in South-East Asia."

"How the people in Australia get this money is open to the imagination," this informant said.

"The business claims to be merchant bankers but a look at their balance sheet will show you that they don't make their money that way."

Another document is a record of an interview between a narcotics agent and an informant in Melbourne on November 23, 1977.

The agent said that one of Frank Nugan's associates was involved in the handling of incoming parcels and the movement of money out of Griffith in wine casks.

THREATS

The agent then referred to "some sort of threats implied by Nugan to (name deleted) and to other farmers."

Another document examines the various ways that Frank Nugan may have learnt of the bureau investigation into

the bank.

The document says that the leak may have come from the informant who first told the bureau about the bank's activities on May 3, 1977.

Mr Hayden had already quoted the informant as saying: "They are bigger than anything you have seen here in the heroin game and are said to be part of an American security organisation."

"If you caught these blokes a) hell would break loose. This is spot-on information."

The later document says that this informant may have become aware of the bureau's investigation when an officer rechecked the original information and become scared that Nugan would find out.

The document says: "I consider it more than possible that this re-

checking made (name deleted) assume a bureau interest in Nugan Hand and that he may then have advised Frank Nugan to play safe."

The record of the interview in Melbourne also referred to several meetings in Asian and Pacific countries with Frank Nugan, Michael Hand, three retired U.S. military officers and Bernard Houghton, who operated the Texas Tavern in Sydney's Kings Cross.

The informant said that Houghton was still affiliated with the CIA.

At a meeting in Honolulu Frank Nugan allegedly had said: "Anybody that gets in our way, we can take care of."

The agent said the informant had become frightened and severed his connection with the bank and tried to avoid any possible involvement.

CSO: 5300/7550

AUSTRALIA

NATION'S BIGGEST DRUG BUST NETS TWO TONS OF HASHISH

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Mar 82 p 1

[Article by Fia Cumming]

[Text] IN A dramatic French Connection-type swoop, Federal Police have seized hashish worth between \$80 million and \$110 million in the nation's biggest drug haul.

Two tonnes of hashish were found in a container of Middle East foodstuffs aboard a ship which arrived from Marseilles.

The hashish was discovered by accident.

The container was consigned to Melbourne but the shipping company received directions from someone claiming to represent the owner that it was to be taken on to Sydney instead.

But after it was unloaded at the Sydney Container Terminal, the container sat neglected for several days before police were called to examine it.

The first two rows contained cartons of food tins but cartons in the third row were full of plastic bags containing hashish - marijuana resin which can be smoked or eaten.

Of 663 cartons in the container, 59 contained hashish weighing 2150kg.

Each gram of hashish has a street value of \$40 to \$50. Police said last night it was considered "top quality".

Police said they believe the container was not collected because of a documentation problem in either Customs' requirements or the shipping company's own bill-of-lading regulations.

The investigation, headed by Detective Chief Inspector Ra, Phillips of the Federal Police in Sydney, is continuing in Melbourne and Sydney.

The seizure was announced in Canberra by the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Moore, and the Acting Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Thomson.

The haul was made at least 10 days ago.

The announcement of the seizure was made only hours before Mr Moore introduced the second reading of a bill to increase the penalties for breaches of the Customs Act.

The changes to the Act were prompted by the substitute horse and kangaroo meat scandal uncovered last year, and the recommendations and findings of the federal royal commission into drugs.

Under the proposed law, the penalty for evading Customs would be related to the value of the goods involved.

REVIEW

In the case of prohibited goods, the maximum penalty would be three times the value of the goods, or a flat \$50,000 penalty where value could not be determined.

Existing penalties provide for a fine of only \$1000, or three times the value of the goods.

But the bill does not alter the penalties for narcotics offences, which are covered by Section 235 of the Customs Act.

Mr Moore said yesterday: "Those penalties were reviewed and substantially increased by amendments in 1977 and 1979.

"The penalties already provided under section 235 range from \$2000 or two years (imprisonment) for simply possessing imported narcotics, up to a penalty of \$100,000 or 25 years or both for trafficking in narcotics.

"There is further provision for imposing a penalty of life imprisonment in the most serious cases."

CSO: 5300/7549

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

LEGALIZED CANNABIS OPPOSITION--CANBERRA--Police commissioners from Australasia and the south-west Pacific have strongly opposed a recent recommendation that cannabis should be made openly available to the public. They also oppose decriminalisation of the drug. The 1982 Police Commissioners' conference is being held in Canberra. A statement issued yesterday said the commissioners had discussed the recommendations on cannabis put in a discussion paper sponsored by the Australian Foundation of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The police view of the suggestion that cannabis should be legalised in the foreseeable future agreed with that of the Commonwealth and some state governments--they did not agree with the suggestion. Commissioners noted the discussion paper's reference to the lack of conclusive data on the long-term effects of cannabis ingestion. They pointed out that partial measures were more likely to result in corruption of the system of control, resulting in insurmountable problems for the police. The commissioners agreed there was a need for wider and more informed debate on alcohol and drug abuse, which was the stated aim of the AFADD discussion paper. They recorded appreciation of AFADD's action in sponsoring a significant contribution to that debate. [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 24 Mar 82 p 22]

THAI COOPERATION PROPOSAL--CANBERRA--The Federal Government would intensify its efforts to combat drug trafficking, the Administrative Services Minister, Mr Newman, said yesterday. Mr Newman, who is in Thailand to see at first hand the narcotics problem, said the government would concentrate on boosting cooperation with the Thai Government. He would look at ways of improving the handling and analysis of intelligence related to narcotics suppression and would make sure Australia continued to provide equipment and training programs. "Our assessment of the narcotics problem is that the Thais are continuing to make determined efforts to seek out and destroy the organisations which manufacture the narcotics," Mr Newman said. "However, in immediate terms, the potential supplies available in the region still are of concern." [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 27 Mar 82 p 13]

NZ MINISTER TO CANBERRA ON DRUGS--New Zealand's justice minister, Mr McIay, is to visit Canberra next week for talks with his Australian counterpart, Senator Durack. The New Zealand Press Association says the main topic in the ministers' discussions is expected to be the forthcoming hearings in New Zealand of Australia's Royal Commission into drug trafficking. The commission is expected to sit in New Zealand in June. Inquiry follows the so-called Mr Asia drug-murder trial in London last year which exposed the trans-Tasman drug trafficking on a large scale. [Text] [BK070559 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Apr 82]

BANK REPORTED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING--The leader of the federal opposition, Mr Hayden, has tabled documents showing reports that the failed Nugan-Hand Bank was engaged in trafficking heroin and money in and out of Australia. The files are from the Australian Narcotics Bureau and the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs. They are dated from May 1977 to August 1978. Mr Hayden tried to table some of the documents yesterday with certain names deleted because he said their publication could lead to deaths. Prime Minister Fraser then insisted the names be included but did not insist on that condition today. The reports contain references which named the late Frank Nugan and Michael Hand, whose whereabouts are unknown, as bigger than anything seen in Australia's heroin game. The reports also refer to the illegal movement of Australian currency to areas in Southeast Asia by the Nugan-Hand Bank Limited and involvement in a syndicate which exported an estimated \$3,000 million worth of heroin from Bangkok. Mr Hayden said that a Royal Commission on Drugs, which is in session, is prevented from fully investigating the illegal activities of Nugan-Hand. [Text] [BK251037 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Mar 82]

CSO: 5300/5731

INDIA

HEROIN LABORATORIES UNCOVERED IN VARANASI

New Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 30 Apr 82 pp 45-46

[Text]

ABOUT 15 years ago the international hippie community discovered their soul-brothers among Varanasi's *bhang* and *charas*-using sadhus. But with the coming of the hippies a new drug has been added to the holy city's psychotropic pharmacopoeia - heroin. It was widely believed that heroin was an illegally imported item until last month when in one week two laboratories refining heroin from raw opium were unearthed in the city, thanks to an informer's tip-off. They were the first such labs to be discovered in India.

The raid on the first heroin lab on March 19 by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) narcotics wing had virtually gone unnoticed. So had the second, five days later by the Varanasi city police. The two incidents were being viewed in isolation. Not so much as by design but more so because of the lack of cooperation. Neither of the two enforcement agencies knew what the

other had discovered. Varanasi has long been known as a centre of drug trafficking (INDIA TODAY, May 1-15, 1981).

The CBI narcotics department analysis was probably correct when they said, "No organised peddling of drugs has come to our notice so far," but it was a growing possibility and there were factors that pointed towards it. Said Pratap Kumar Srivastava, deputy superintendent of police, Varanasi, "Since November we have seized small quantities of heroin and morphine and have apprehended 10 drug peddlers."

They would possibly have succeeded in apprehending many more had they known what to look for. Said a police official, "Our problem is that we are really not trained to identify drugs, even if we were confronted with the drugs it would be difficult to tell the difference between heroin and glucose. What is required is a crash course in drug detection."

First Seizure: The prelude to the discovery of the labs was arrest of the "Foxi brothers" by the French drug enforcement agency. The arrest of Pascal Holay, 23, and Lionel Bourderieux, 24, two Frenchmen at Orly Airport in Paris on April 22, 1981 with 210 grams of heroin and their subsequent interrogation led them to reveal their Varanasi contact known as Foxi. Foxi turned out to be Bharuv Nath Chatterjee, 28, the chemist and his younger brother Ram Babu, 19, who had sold the heroin. CBI investigations led them to the small alleys of Varanasi. They gathered that the Chatterjee brothers were about to make a contact.

On the afternoon of March 19 they had shadowed the two who were to pass 250 grams of heroin to a foreign buyer as sample for a larger shipment. The foreign contact did not materialise and the CBI officials moved in. The CBI officials were surprised when Bharuv Nath confessed during interrogation, "I have been selling it for two years and I make heroin on order only from a lab

at my house." The accidental confession led to the recovery of a mini lab. According to CBI officials, the two brothers also confessed to having obtained the heroin they had in their possession from another lab which they declined to identify. Local police believe that the opium base is being obtained from Gazipur, 80 kilometres away, where opium is cultivated legally.

Heroin, once it is refined from morphine, depending upon the purity (according to one source it is 92 per cent pure) could easily be cut five or six times to 2 to 3 per cent concentration per dose, allowing a retail price on the streets in North America close to 10 times the local purchase price (Rs 100 per gram), reaching as high as Rs 1.25 lakh per kilo.

Second Seizure: Four days after the CBI discovered their heroin lab by accident Sub-Inspector D.P. Shukla, station officer of Sigra police post was tipped off that drugs were being hoarded at Nau Pura railway colony and moved in. Little did he know that he would end up with a full-fledged lab.

In the early hours of March 24 he caught Pradeep Kumar, 30, and his wife Iris,

27, unawares. The search led to the recovery of 39 grams of heroin and the seizure of a substantial amount of equipment. Said Shukla, "We found a heater along with 10 bottles of acetic anhydrite, the crucial

ingredient needed in converting morphine into heroin, a box of filters, ammonia solution, sodium carbonate and tartaric acid." The two subsequently produced at the sessions judge's court in Varanasi were let off on bail.

Said Shukla, "Both of them are now absconding. Iris according to our information has gone underground in Bombay." The Varanasi police did not realise how significant the haul was.

The discovery of the clandestine laboratories manufacturing heroin is not taken seriously enough by the enforcement agencies. The 1981 report of the International Narcotics Control Board had specified that during the course of 1981 India had emerged as a transit point in illicit trafficking. It is only a matter of time for India to become a source country. The discovery of the laboratories indicates that this is hideously imminent.

—ASOKA RAINA in Varanasi

CSO: 5300/5730

INDIA

BRIEFS

DELHI HEROIN SEIZURE--About 750 grams of heroin valued at Rs 10 lakhs in the international market was seized by the Central district police special staff following the arrest of Charanjit alias Charlie, a resident of Inderpuri on Thursday. During his interrogation, the suspect, a Delhi University graduate, reportedly told the police that he was being supplied the drug by a Bombay based man and was selling it mostly to foreigners in Delhi. The police said that the identity of his Bombay contact has been established. The narcotics wing of the Central Bureau of Investigations has also been informed of the suspect's arrest. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Apr 82 p 10]

BAREILLY DRUG ARRESTS--Bareilly, April 10 (PTI)--The local police claimed to have smashed an international gang of dope-peddlers following the arrest of two members of the gang here yesterday. According to the police contraband opium, morphine and heroin worth Rs six lakhs, stockpiled in a local manufacturing unit were also recovered following a clue given by the arrested persons. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Apr 82 p 4]

HASHISH SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--Bombay, April 20 (PTI)--Bombay Customs busted a conspiracy to smuggle a large quantity of hashish out of India with the arrest of a businessman, Satya Prakash Behl last week. The accused who was produced before a metropolitan magistrate was remanded to jail custody till 29 April. The customs officials told the court that the conspiracy came to light in a follow-up action taken by the Bombay Customs after the recent seizure of 10 kgs of hashish valued at Rs 90,000 at Palam Airport, Delhi. The hashish was concealed in an unmarked suitcase and destined for Geneva via Frankfurt. Two foreign nationals have already been arrested in this connection. The customs said enquiries made in this connection revealed that an elaborate conspiracy involving some Indians and foreigners had been hatched to smuggle large quantities of hashish out of India. It was also revealed that Satya Behl and his associates supplied the hashish seized at the Palam Airport and to the foreign nationals in Bombay and had arranged for its smuggling out of India, the court was informed. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Apr 82 p 4]

PALAM HEROIN HAUL--Customs authorities at Delhi airport seized 123 gms of contraband heroin worth millions of dollars from two Canadian passport-holders--Roland Joseph Aubin and Ovila Francois Riendeau--on Sunday, reports PTI. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate J.M. Malik on Thursday remanded them to judicial custody till 26 April. Reports said Aubin was found carrying a packet inside his right leg socks. On further search more packets containing heroin were recovered. He was then forced to defecate and six packets of heroin contained in condoms allegedly fell out of his rectum. He allegedly told the customs men that Ovila had asked him to carry the heroin delivered at Bombay, for which was assured 5,000 US dollars as payment and air fair and other expenses. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Apr 82 p 1]

CSO: 5300/7030

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO DEATH--Kuala Lumpur, Thurs--A businessman was sentenced to death by the high court here today for trafficking in 656.9 gms of heroin. Ng Teng Seng, 49, was found guilty of committing the offence in Lorong Bandar 22 at 7:45 pm on 23 March last year. Mr Justice B.T.H. Lee, in passing sentence, said: "The accused trafficked in human misery, degradation and destruction simply for financial gain, and as the evidence revealed, he stood to profit by something in the order of \$1-1/2 million if he had not been caught. I would be failing in my duty if I did not pass a sentence which expresses the public horror and condemnation of what the accused and others have done." [Excerpt] [BK070559 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Apr 82 p 7]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN PETALING JAYA--Klang, Fri--Selangor police seized 2,470 grammes (about 5 pounds) of heroin in Petaling Jaya yesterday. They also detained a 32-year-old suspect and a 17-year-old girl. The drugs seized could provide more than 500,000 "shots." Police believe the man is a local and international trafficker. Selangor CID Chief Acp Nih Soon Hock said the anti-drug section from the Petaling Jaya police got their break on Wednesday when they checked the 32-year-old suspect who was walking in the SS2 area at 3:45 pm and found three small packets of heroin on him. Subsequent investigations showed that he had international connections and was a wanted trafficker. Yesterday, a police party led by Asp Chan Cheng Mun raided a house in Section 17 and seized the 2,470 grammes of the drug in plastic bags. The raiding party also detained a girl in the house for questioning. Acp Nih complimented the PJ police on their success. [Text] [BK070559 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 May 82 p 8]

CSO: 5300/5733

THAILAND

HILLTRIBE ROLE IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC REPORTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 25 Feb 82 p 5

[Article by Chaiyawat Yonbiem: "The Problem From the Mountains"]

[Text] Opium, Who Is Clever In Thailand?

Looked at on a map, in the west, the area stretching from the north to Chumphon [in the south] is an area filled with high mountains, or the Mt Meru of India. Concerning this area, when this writer studied geography in secondary school 20 years ago, the instructor made us learn that this is an area known as the "wrinkle of the world."

The high mountains where the weather is cool and refreshing and where the air is so pure that doctors in former times sent people with tuberculosis to these mountains for treatment are located in the north from Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Nan south to Tak since this is the area in Thailand that is farthest from the equator.

This high northern area is the the home of other groups that we call hill tribes, or hill Thais as they are now referred to. These people are of Sino-Tibetan and Austonesian origins. These people are divided into various tribal groups that have chosen to live at various elevations in the mountains, from the Haw, who prefer to live above 5,000 feet above sea level to the Khamu and Karens, who live at elevations below 2,000 feet.

All of these hill tribe groups live in areas that are suited to the cultivation of poppy. However, of the approximately 20 tribal groups that live in the mountains of Thailand, only six are involved with opium in some way, either in cultivating [poppies], investing [in poppy cultivation], hiring themselves out or purchaisng and selling [opium]. The six groups are the Hmong, or Meo, Lisu, Lahu, Akha, Yao, Karen and Haw Chinese.

Of these six groups, in actuality, the three important groups that pose a serious problem for government officials in suppressing narcotics today are the Hmong, or Meo, Karen and Haw Chinese groups.

These days, it is the Meo who cultivate poppy and sell opium. The Karens hire themselves out and grow poppies for the Meo. And it is the Haw Chinese who transport the opium to the heroin refineries, whether the refineries of the "Khun Sa Company Ltd" or some other company, or to the middlemen.

The Meos are good fighters who have had much combat experience, especially in fighting the Chinese during the time the Meos still lived in southern Yunnan and fought to live their lives freely. Many were killed. The Meos want to be called Hmongs because this means "free people."

This long history of the Meo has resulted in their social life in the mountains changing to the point where the Meos have become the chief poppy growers. But one thing that has not changed is the Meos' love of living in the mountains.

And it is the very remoteness of these mountains that has been an important factor that has led various Thai governments to stipulate border security policies and implement various things for the Meos. Because the Meos are experts at mountain combat and they will fight for those on their side.

Another important thing that poses a problem in the mountains is that the Meo believe in the saying that the "water belongs to the fish, the sky to the birds and the mountains to the Meos."

Such a belief makes it difficult for the Meos to accept the fact that the vast area in the mountains that they have cleared for shifting cultivation, to the point where the river headwaters are almost dry during the dry season, does not belong to the Meos alone but is the joint treasure of Thais throughout the country.

It is thought that there are presently about 50,000 tribesmen in Thailand. But this figure may easily increase because Meo families like to have many children just as the other hill tribes do. On the average, each family has 8-10 members, with some families having as many as 15.

Most of the Meos now living in Thailand migrated from Laos. Some came from Burma. Those who live in the north are related to the White Meo in the southern part of China. Many migrated to Tang Kiea and northern Laos during the last century. Also, since Laos became communist, Meos have been murdered on a mass scale and so more and more Meos from Laos have come and joined those in Thailand.

The Liso are another tribe; they prefer to call themselves Lisu. Most of them live in Mae Hong Son. However, they are not a very large group. Almost all of them came from Burma; a few came from China.

The Yao are a group that is as old as the Meo. Their native homes are in Kweichow, Hunan and Kwangsi in China. After being greatly persecuted by the Chinese, they migrated to Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Thailand. But most of those who live in Thailand migrated from Muong Sing and Muong Luong Nam Tha in Hua Phan Thang Ha in Laos. They are spread over various areas in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Nan and Lampang.

The Yao will love you if you refer to them by the name "Mien" since this means "human" and they refer to themselves by this name.

Fortunately for solving the opium problem in the north, the Yao have played the smallest part in causing this problem. The word "fortunately" was used because there is a saying that, while the Yao firmly believe in spirits just as the other hill tribes do, they are not afraid of spirits because they believe that no matter how much influence the spirits have, they are more clever than the spirits.

Thus, Yao intermediaries [spirit doctors] play the role of liars who fool the spirits. Whoever is good at fooling the spirits is "popular" among the Yao.

What the Yao really believe in is the same as what present-day Thais believe in and that is the "person with money."

In Yao society, a wealthy person has great advantages and these advantages pass over into the next life too.

Because every Yao wants to gain the advantage over other Yaos in the next life, a spirit position in the next life can be purchased by making merit with large sums of money.

It is this belief that has exerted pressure on the Yaos to have a more secure economic position than any of the other hill tribes in hill tribe society, with the exception of the Haw Chinese.

The Lahu are another hill tribe group that grows some poppy. However, they do not grow much. The tribesmen from this group who live in Thailand belong to several subgroups such as the Black Lahu, the Red Lahu, the Chi Lahu and the Chele Lahu. They migrated from Burma and Laos. It is estimated that they number about 14,000 to 16,000. Most are Red Lahu.

It is believed that the word "Lahu," as this group is called, comes from the Shan word meaning "hunter" since this group is more skilled at hunting than are the other hill tribe groups.

The Ikha are a hill tribe group that originally lived in China. They migrated to Thailand almost 60 years ago. However, there are very few of them. Present figures are uncertain but it is estimated that they number approximately 6,000 to 7,000.

As for the Karens, it is thought that this is the largest hill tribe group in Thailand. They migrated from eastern Tibet and settled down in China 3,000 years ago. They were later driven out, and so they withdrew southwards into Burma and Thailand. As for the Karens in Thailand, the main reason that they came here was because they had political problems with Burma and Burma drove them out.

The Karens live everywhere, even in the plains, from Chiang Rai to Prachuap Khirikhan. But the largest number live in Chiang Mai. As for those in the north only, it is estimated that almost 200,000 Karens live in the area reaching from the foothills to the mountain peaks.

The Karens are farmers who settle down and grow crops here and there. And it is because of their skills as cultivators that some Karens have hired themselves out to grow poppies for other hill tribe groups, particularly the Meos since the Meos are not skilled at growing poppies and [when they do] more poppies die than do those that survive to blossom and produce sap that can be sold.

At first, the Karens who went to work were paid for their work in cash. But whether they were tricked or something, in more recent times, the Karens who grow poppy for the Meos have been paid in opium for their own use. Or, when they are paid in cash, they take this money and buy opium from their employers. And there has begun to be a problem with their growing poppies.

None of the five hill tribe groups discussed above is as important as the final group, that is, the Haw Chinese.

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CSO: 5300/5712

THAILAND

NUMBER OF ADDICTS RISES, MOST LIVE IN BANGKOK

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Mar 82 p 3

[Article: "Most Heroin Addicts Live In Bangkok"]

[Text] It has been revealed that the number of addicts who have come for rehabilitation has increased 36.79 percent over last year.

Mr Pricha Champarat, the chief of the Drug Addict Control Division, and Mr Chuchat Phunsiri, the director of the Rehabilitation Division of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, revealed on 3 March that the number of addicts who came to the ONCB rehabilitation clinics for treatment during the period October 1980 to September 1981 reached 43,469. Of these, 41,465, or 95 percent, were men; 2,004, or 4.18 percent, were women. This is an increase of 36.79 percent over last year.

Mr Pricha stated that 66.73 percent of these addicts live in Bangkok, 23 percent live in the Central Region, 5.17 percent live in the north, 3.9 percent live in the northeast and 1.2 percent live in the south. Most, 90.37 percent, are addicted to heroin; 4.95 percent are addicted to opium. Most become addicted because of a desire to try the drugs and because they were induced by friends. Most of the addicts are between the ages of 20 to 24, with 81.11 percent being below age 35. Also, 54.54 percent had jobs, 24.17 percent were unemployed, 16.42 percent were temporarily employed and 4.87 percent were students. Most have monthly incomes of between 1,500 to 1,900 baht.

Mr Pricha stated that he is very concerned about controlling drug addiction among youths, especially among those who are not in school, since there are no institutes that they can contact or receive help from. Such youths often induce those who are in school to become addicted too. Besides this, another important problem is that various sectors often feel that narcotics control is the concern of the ONCB. Actually, it is the concern of all sectors. In particular, parents have an important role. Also important are recreation, sports and physical exercise, which are hobbies that youths can engage in in order to keep them busy.

"Concerning rehabilitation, the worrisome problem is that 90 percent or more of those who come for rehabilitation fail to complete the process as stipulated. Concerning this matter, the ONCB is in the process of promulgating a law that will require them to complete the treatment. If a person fails to complete the process, he will be liable for punishment," stated Mr Pricha.

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THAILAND

DIFFICULTIES OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, OPIUM ESTIMATE NOTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 Mar 82 p 5

[Article by Chaiyawat Yonbiem: "The Problem In the Mountains"]

[Text] Substitute Crops

It is estimated that, at present, about 100-150 tons of opium are secretly produced each year in Thailand. While the production of some opium can be overlooked in order to maintain social contact between the government and the hill tribes that are still addicted to opium, this large figure on the amount of opium produced leads us to believe that part of this opium leaks out from the hill tribe villages in the form of goods that are sold.

The ONCB is still having problems in making surveys in order to destroy all the poppy fields, or to leave only enough for hill tribe consumption. This problem is a matter of the hill tribes "taking advantage" and of [implementing] the policy of providing money to replace poppy cultivation. But this policy has not worked. It has not stopped the hill tribes from cultivating poppy each year.

The interesting thing is that government officials in several sectors, especially the Watershed Management Division of the Forestry Department, have really tried to change the hill tribes' preference for growing poppy and get them to grow substitute crops instead, even though such crops require a heavier investment and a greater effort in finding markets than does opium.

Thus, we have seen cold-weather flowers for sale on the streets of Bangkok at rather high prices. And vegetables that are difficult to grow in the plains are on sale. In not too long, arabika coffee will be available for Thai coffee connoisseurs. It is better tasting and fresher than imported coffee.

The barren mountains are being afforested with fast-growing varieties of trees such as "two and three leaf" pine trees, or "kia" pine trees, tall varieties such as eucalyptus trees and even teak, which will be the main variety of tree in the mountains in the distant future.

The substitute crops program, which includes forestry too, is receiving much attention from foreign countries, both from the standpoint of providing additional financial support and tree seedlings and of making investments in the future.

At the very least, two companies in Australia and Holland have shown an interest in planting areas in pine trees in order to have timber to produce paper and to have wood to make furniture. The feasibility of this is presently under study in the northern mountain areas of Thailand.

Besides this, the hill tribes should be developed so that they are aware of the rules of the main society which they have joined. They must be provided education at various levels and given training and demonstrations in growing crops must be given.

The problems concerning these things rest with these people. Because it is very difficult to find good officials who have widespread knowledge in order to have them develop the hill tribesmen, who have languages and customs that are different from those of the people in the plains. And those officials who are working here are responsible for a wide area, there is a lack of equipment and there is no coordination of activities in the airconditioned offices of the departments and divisions, which frequently talk in generalities and send out regulations for carrying out the work in the barren areas of these officials.

A Great Loss of Morale

Carrying on development work in order to control the poppy cultivation of the hill tribes is not something that can be done for just 1 or 2 years. Rather, plans that give attention to the future must be made, with the goal being to control the poppy cultivation of the hill tribes, either through power or through kindness.

The most important thing is to keep additional Thai land from being planted in poppies by hill tribe groups that have recently entered the country. The problem is that Thai officials cannot monitor such groups that enter the country since the area is so remote.

Also, it is essential to have close coordination between the neighboring countries where poppies are grown. In particular, this is closely related to the national security policies, which frequently conflict concerning matters in the northern mountains.

In particular, in Burma, the Burmese government probably cannot fully suppress poppy cultivation.

The spread of poppies, from the standpoint of cultivation by the hill tribes and from the standpoint of trade in order to find a way to get [the opium] to the outside world, is thus something that Thailand cannot stop in Thailand.

It is said that Burma has an impressive policy against poppy cultivation and that Burma "suppresses" this more firmly than Thailand when it has a chance.

That is, the Burmese cut down the poppies and burn the fields without paying any compensation. Whoever protests too much may get hurt or even be killed.

Poppy suppression officials in Thailand have said that Burma's hatred stems from the vengefulness of the leaders of Burma.

That is, President Ne Win hinted that narcotics traffickers hoped to gain influence over him and so they tricked his son into becoming addicted to opium and heroin. Even now, it is not known whether he has been completely rehabilitated or not.

Opium is money, as has been repeated many times. Thus, suppression work must give attention to the importance of this aspect too. Because, it once turned out that an official who was formerly very capable in narcotics suppression became involved in the narcotics trade himself and has become a narcotics godfather. And he has used his financial influence gained from the narcotics trade to escape. To date, he has not been caught. Concerning this sensational case, the people in Chiang Mai still talk about this and they are sure that he will not be caught.

The narcotics suppression system of the government officials relies on "information," that is, information that is purchased from "secret agents." Officials admit that sometimes they encounter cases of "double agents" who provide them with incorrect information since the narcotics traffickers can pay them more.

Thus, financial expenditures in this matter are very great. In particular, rewards have been set at up to 45 percent of the value of the narcotics seized based on standards set by officials.

Officials have stated that, each month in the north, at least five to six people working as secret agents or who have been agents for government officials in seizing narcotics are killed for the reward.

The matter of secret agents is another important problem in the mountains. Agents must constantly be replaced and switched. When a person has accomplished his mission and received his reward, if he wants to stay alive, he must quickly leave the area. And he must stay away for many years. In some cases, the agent cannot return even after 10 years because of the large reward, which means that he was an informant in a major narcotics suppression case. In such cases, the agents must flee abroad.

All of this is only a short summary of what is happening in the intricate mountains in the north. There are things that are still problems and things that are not problems.

I spent several days at Huai Thung Cho and Chang Khien, which is one of hundreds of points in the north where the problems must be solved, problems that are different from those in the plains of Thailand.

11943
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THAILAND

THAI EMBASSY SAYS CHILDREN, NARCOTICS SOLD TO MALAYSIA

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 20 Mar 82 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Hundreds of Thai Children Kidnapped and Sold to Malaysia"]

[Text] It has been revealed that hundreds of Thai children have been kidnapped and sold to Malaysia. The embassy is concerned and has had to send them back. It has been revealed that narcotics have been smuggled across the border using various tricks.

On 19 March, a high-ranking official from the Thai embassy in Malaysia talked with MATICHON about the reports that Thai children have been kidnapped from Thailand and sold in Malaysia. He said that this is a problem that is occurring very frequently at present. To date, the embassy has received reports from Malaysian officials concerning several hundred cases and it has had to take responsibility for sending these children back so that the public welfare service in the southern provinces can look after them.

A news report stated that the kidnapping and sale of children can be divided into two types. The first is that children are kidnapped from their parents and sold to Malaysians of Chinese descent who do not have any children. The selling price is approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 [Malaysian] or 9,000 to 18,000 baht. The price of younger children is higher than that for older children. Sometimes, the buyers contact and buy from the parents directly without the consent of the provincial public welfare service. When such children are discovered by checkpoint officials, they are sent back to Thailand.

This high-ranking official also revealed that the smuggling of narcotics from Thailand into Malaysia is on the rise and various tricks are used. For example, the body of a child was stolen from the Yala provincial hospital, and narcotics were placed in the stomach. The corpse was then carried across the border. But Malaysian officials arrested the [trafficker]. Besides this, narcotics have been smuggled across by hiding them among other goods in trucks. Malaysian officials use dogs to search for drugs. But sometimes the drugs go undetected. For example, if the drugs are packed with fresh fish, the dogs cannot distinguish the smell. In addition to this, marihuana is brought in on fishing boats.

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CSO: 5300/5712

THAILAND

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS PRODUCING CHEMICALS SEIZED--Officials from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) have revealed that at approximately 1100 hours on 11 March, ONCB officials and customs officials from Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province, searched two vehicles, a black Dodge with license No 9K-6145, Bangkok, and a red Mitsubishi with license No N-0944, Chiang Mai, and found 172 liters of chemicals used to produce No 4 heroin. The chemicals were valued at 900,000 baht. From the investigation, the three suspects were identified as Master Sergeant Thongsuk Bunprasoet, age 50, who is assigned to the Research and Production Division, Defense Energy Department, Sergeant Thongkham Yotsaban, a driver who is assigned to the Research and Production Division, and Mr Pricha Roengyang, age 37, who lives at 87 Village 8 in Sung Commune, Fang District, Chiang Mai Province. All three confessed that they were taking these chemicals to a heroin refinery at Doi Lang, which is the base of the 93rd KMT Division. [Text] [Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 18 Mar 82 p 1] 11943

CSO: 5300/5712

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

FIVE DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Santa Marta--Five drug traffickers were arrested and 3 tons of pressed marihuana were seized today by narcotics agents in Cienaga. The traffickers are (Rafael Ruiz Ruiz), (Miguel Rodriguez), (William Ramirez Ruiz), (Hector Angarita Patino) and (Luis Pulol Laso). An outboard motor boat and several firearms were also seized. [PA290803 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Apr 82 PA]

CSO: 5300/2285

JAMAICA

ILLEGAL AIR STRIP BACK IN OPERATION, PAPER'S CHECK SHOWS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] St. George's Valley Airstrip in St. Elizabeth is back in business. This illegal airstrip was the scene of a dramatic seizure of a ganja plane from under a police guard which was fired on from land and the air in mid-September 1980. [photos not reproduced]

The Government of the day announced that the airstrip was secured by the Police and the JDF, and that an engineering unit of the J.D.F. had started demolition of the airstrip on September 17, 1980.

But these photographs show that the strip was back in use last week.

Friday, April 16, a GLEANER team saw three vehicles parked by the side of the strip which had only one end demolished (see pic at bottom). The rest of the strip, some 4000 feet long, was in perfect condition.

Middle pic shows one of three vehicles disappearing on the approach of the plane carrying the GLEANER team. The other two also dispersed.

The top pic shows a number of drums which were with the vehicles. Did the drums contain compressed ganja? And why did the assembled people disperse in their vehicles, if their business was legitimate?

CSO: 5300/7548

MEXICO

BRIEFS

LARGE MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Police seized 15 kilos of marihuana from two brothers, Benjamin and Victoriano Rosas Lopez, who together with Cesareo Castillo Cortes, also arrested, were selling the marihuana in Tlahuac. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Apr 82 p 10-D] 9015

CSO: 5300/2277

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POLICE COMMISSIONER DECRIES GROWING USE OF DRUGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] There are no glamour boys in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

This point was emphasised yesterday by Police Commissioner Randolph Burroughs as he spoke about the growing threat of the illegal cocaine trade, its effects and efforts being made to combat the general crime wave.

Mr. Burroughs, who said he was speaking also as a father, strongly advised young people to steer clear from activities relating to drug abuse which has a dangerous by product--crime.

Answering critics who charged that he was only concerned with the establishment of various squads--flying, tactical, etc. etc. he said yesterday:

"Some people say that these squads give a glamour boy image. I want the public to know that this is not the case at all. There are absolutely no glamour boys in the Police Service.

Changing Times

"The criminal element today is nothing compared with the past era. As the country became more affluent the lawless element has changed with the times and has become very sophisticated.

"To meet these people on equal terms--not just equal but one step ahead--we have to deal with them as the situation demands. Hence the formation of these squads. Heavy emphasis is being placed on drug related activities as it has been shown that most of these offences are tied up with the general crime scene."

Commissioner Burroughs explained that in order to satisfy their cravings for hard drugs, money for which cannot be easily found, persons resorted to hold-ups and other criminal acts to get the funds.

On the prevalent use of cocaine Mr. Burroughs said people were completely ignoring its dangerous consequences--even death when taken in large quantities. He said:

"Long ago it was used only by the middle and upper class, seeking kicks, but today it is used across the social barrier even though it is very expensive to purchase.

"The illegal use of cocaine and other hard drugs is related to the general crime picture and one cannot dismiss both as being irrelevant because they are inter-related."

Mr. Burroughs's concern was aroused following the arrest of six persons Saturday by policemen from the Flying and Narcotics Squads, headed by Sergeants Mervyn Cordner and Rudolph Leache.

They were charged with being in possession of a large amount of cocaine.

Another angle to the drug-crime syndrome, Mr. Burroughs said, was its trafficking.

"As far as we know cocaine is not produced here. It comes mainly from Latin American sources so there must be a trafficking network. It is common knowledge that people involved in the illicit drug trade do not stop at anything to ensure that the drug gets to the market.

CSO: 5300/7548

IRAN

BRIEFS

TEHRAN DRUG SEIZURE--The Tehran antidrug squad has seized 20.885 kg of opium and 2.764 kg of heroin from a number of smugglers. [GF110635 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 82 p 9 GF]

ARMS, TRANCEIVER DISCOVERIES--Quchan antidrug squad personnel arrested 'Ali Hasan Azadeh for possession of two trancesivers with a range of 12 kilometers. Pol-e Dokhtar revolution guards in six missions arrested eight hypocrites and discovered the following arms: 144 various types of light weapons, 13,432 rounds of ammunition, 14 Kalashnikov magazines, 13 G-3 magazines and a quantity of camping equipment. [GF100955 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 May 82 p 5 GF]

PROVINCIAL DRUG HAULS--Hamedan: Malayer antidrug squad personnel have discovered 28 rolls of opium in the possession of a local resident, 'Ali Mohammad Musa-vand, who was arrested for possession. Yasuj: brother members of the antidrug headquarters in Gachsaran discovered and destroyed 1 hectare [2.5 acres] of opium poppies last week. Minab: Islamic revolution guard corps personnel discovered 218 rolls of pure opium and a .22 Colt in the house of 'Abbas Soleymani in the village of Kharaji Rudan. Tehran: in the Iranian month beginning on 21 March, drug squad personnel in the cities of Tehran, Quchan, Torbat Heydari-ye and Sarab have discovered a total of 114.6 kg of opium and 11.7 kg of heroin in the possession of several narcotics gangs. [GF100955 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 May 82 p 5 GF]

MALAYER OPIUM SEIZURE--Members of Malayer Islamic Revolution Guard Corps have seized 8.760 kg of opium from two persons. [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 82 p 2 GF]

ANTI-DRUG MEASURES--In connection with the execution of 15 international drug smugglers, the Central News Unit reports that the public relations office of the Islamic public prosecutor's office, on behalf of Tehran's drug squad, has issued a statement, saying: As our Muslim combatants are fighting on various fronts in defense of their Islamic homeland, this office, in order to save young people from the frightening trap of addiction, has also risen to fight death dealers and, having identified them, condemns them to death in accordance with the verdicts issued by the Islamic Revolution Antidrug Courts. [Text] [LD041318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 82]

NAHAVAND NARCOTICS SEIZED--The public relations officer of the Anti-Drug Court told the KEYHAN correspondent that a band of smugglers was arrested in Nahavand district last week and 7.538 kg of rolled opium was recovered from them. [GF171516 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 82 p 2]

FEMALE SMUGGLER ARRESTED--A female passenger en route to the United States was arrested when 1.524 kg of opium was recovered from her baggage at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. She denied all knowledge of the contents of the package, which she said had been given to her by some friends for their relatives in the United States. [GF171516 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 82 p 2]

KARAJ OPIUM SEIZURE--During the past month officials of the Anti-Drug Squad of Karaj district recovered 3.155 kg of opium from traffickers, who were later handed over to the authorities. [GF171516 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 82 p 2]

TAYYEBAT DRUG FIND--According to a report from Mashhad, Tayyebat officials arrested a smuggler with 3.3 kg of heroin on his person. He was later handed over to the authorities. [GF021214 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Apr 82 p 5]

CSO: 5300/5394

SAUDI ARABIA

HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR DRUG SMUGGLING, PUSHING PROPOSED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 16 Feb 82 pp 6-8

[Article: "Report Based on Symposium Dealing With Drugs and Alcohol"]

[Text] The world today is engaged in a desperate struggle with drugs and alcohol, which have come to pose an enormous danger to the security and safety of societies. This danger also threatens to turn these societies into ruins after breaking family unity, dispersing family members and destroying all values and ideals that fight such malignant epidemics and diseases.

The discussions in today's symposium deal with drugs and alcohol and their social, economic and health effects and, consequently, their effect on society. We will deal in this symposium with the means of protection and cure and will outline the harmful effects of drugs so that we can fight them and wipe them out.

Participating with us in this symposium are Dr Hamad al-Suqayr, undersecretary in the Ministry of Health; Hamad al-Rushwadi, undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for customs affairs; and Lt Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami, assistant director general of security for operational affairs. They represent the government agencies concerned with drug control and with curtailing the dangers of drugs and preventing them from infiltrating society. AL-RIYAD is represented at the symposium by colleagues Muhammad al-Jahlan, the deputy chief editor, and editorial managers Nasir al-Qar'awi, Sultan al-Bazi'i, Sulayman al-'Usaymi and Husayn 'Ali Husayn.

The symposium started with a question addressed to Dr Hamad al-Suqayr on the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol to health and on the extent to which drugs affect those who use them.

Dr al-Suqayr: In my opinion, alcohol must be added to drugs to make the picture more complete. There is no doubt that in recent years, a big increase has been noticed in the number of people using these prohibited substances

(drugs and alcohol). There are, in fact, numerous reasons for this increase. During the debate and dialogue, the dangers of using these prohibited substances and their effect on users will become clear. As you know, these substances are proscribed and they have been proscribed by our Islamic religion simply because they affect the personal behavior and mental capabilities of those using them-- effects that become obvious when the substances are used for a long time by persons addicted to them. The effects of these substances are of two kinds: immediate and long-range. As for the immediate effects, the excessive use of these substances becomes evident in the conduct and behavior of the user. These effects appear in various forms, all of which result in family disintegration and in the user's failure to perform his work and his duties, be they religious, family or social. Other effects are seen in social problems and family quarrels and the third kind is seen in accidents and crimes.

In fact, drug addiction and alcoholism occur as a result of the progress and development being experienced by the country. But it is certain that the use of these prohibited substances is one of the causes of the problems arising in the security and health sectors. The real problems are numerous and, in my opinion, we can discuss each point separately so that the symposium will be positive and so that the reader can benefit from it. For these reasons, it is my opinion that we can discuss these points in detail, trying at the same time to underline to the ordinary citizen the dangers that these substances harbor for him, his family and his society. We can then discuss the means or methods that help combat and control drugs and alcohol. I cannot say that a final end can be put to drug and alcohol addiction. But at least their dangers can be reduced and the spread and proliferation of drug and alcohol use can be prevented. This is a prelude.

AL-RIYAD: Lt Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami, what, in your opinion, is the motive for drug and alcohol use and how can they be eliminated?

Lieutenant General al-Ma'lami: The motive for drug and alcohol use starts with the youth's awareness of his identity. When a youth becomes aware of his identity, he begins to rebel against the authority that his parents use to protect him. This rebellion is encouraged by the youth's older peers who, for example, may convince him to smoke a cigarette. When the youth smokes the cigarette, he feels that he has rebelled against society and against family rules and has, consequently, proven his identity and his manliness, whereas the fact is quite the opposite. When the youth rebels against the family, he submits to the will of a number of his peers who, naturally, are not concerned with his interest. Thus, by rebelling against the good elements in society, the youth succumbs to the bad and evil elements.

The second point is that some people have the illusion that drug use helps in many ways. Some students, for example, believe that drug use helps them keep awake and continue studying for a longer time. I don't exactly know the scientific effect of these drugs. Perhaps others are more knowledgeable in this regard. But the tangible reality is that students who use such pills to stay awake longer to continue their studies lose the most important element, namely, comprehension. When a student uses such pills, he loses his mental concentration and can no longer absorb what he is studying, even if he remains awake all night long. The next morning, the student feels tired and dizzy. Naturally, this condition affects his answers and his ability to express the answers he wants.

There are other reasons that bring people to use drugs and pills. Some drivers, for example, want to make more money by making several trips a day on the Hejaz highway between Mecca and Jiddah, on the Jiddah-al-Ta'if highway or to the eastern province. To stay awake to be able to make more money, the driver uses pills to help him do so and to remain alert. What happens is quite the opposite. Even though the driver's eyes may remain open, he becomes absent-minded and hazy. Consequently, he gets into and causes others to have serious accidents. I believe, God be thanked, that most drivers have become aware of this fact and have reduced their drug use.

A fourth reason for the use of drugs by some people is that they imagine that drugs given them physical strength or, to be clearer and more precise, make them more potent sexually, whereas what I have read and studied about drugs and alcohol says the opposite. The effect of drugs and alcohol on sex is negative, not positive. But it is possible that because the individual under the influence of drugs or alcohol cannot feel the harm or the effects, he imagines that he is (stronger). On the contrary, drugs and alcohol lead to negative results insofar as this aspect is concerned, both in the short run and in the long run.

Drug pushing is, naturally, motivated by one thing, namely, the desire for illicit profit. Some pushers don't even use the drugs that they try to push or smuggle and from which they make big profits. This is one of the motivations that I can recall at present. In any case, some of the other brothers may have further explanations regarding this point.

AL-RIYAD: Mr Hamad al-Rushwadi, by virtue of your position, what are the means of controlling this phenomenon or this sickness?

Al-Rushwadi: In fact, I started working in this agency in 1393 of the Hijra. In the early phase, the customs agency did not, naturally, encounter the problem of drug smuggling. The agency's role or message was primarily to collect money, i.e., collect customs fees. It seems to me that with the large number of foreigners coming into the country, a number estimated at thousands coming in daily through the air, sea and land points of entry, not to mention those coming in seasonally, such as people who come in during the pilgrimage season and who, as all know, exceed hundreds of thousands, as shown by the statistics published by the Ministry of Interior [we find that if we consider any airport, such as Jiddah, Riyadh or Dhahran airports, we find that the newcomers exceed hundreds of thousands daily. With the increasing numbers of incoming foreigners, whether by air or by land, we have actually begun to face, if we may use the expression, a drug invasion--if we use the phrase in the broad sense and include alcohol.

With the large number of incoming people and in evidence of the statistics we have on the drug volume, including pills, hashish and alcohol, we find that all the smugglers are non-Saudis and that Saudi smugglers are nonexistent.

AL-RIYAD: Is the Saudi smuggler nonexistent or is the percentage of Saudi smugglers small?

Al-Rushwadi: Compared to others, I can say that the Saudi smugglers do not number more than 10 percent, according to the statistics we have, excluding pushers, who are in a different category. We are talking of smugglers.

The customs agency is directly responsible for combatting smugglers. Our society is, as you know, a conservative and closely-knit Muslim society. We didn't know all this [drug use]. If we took any village or city in the past, we would have found that such substances did not exist. Moreover, we did not even know about them. But a large number of the incoming foreigners use these drugs in their countries. The motive for drug smuggling may be a material motive, as proven by the figures and investigations, or it may be aimed at invading our society and attempting to undermine it by smuggling drugs into it, pushing these drugs and spreading their use among the youth, the drivers and all social classes to cause the disintegration of the society. The methods of smuggling are varied and countless. This makes me want to try to give some examples of the ways to which smugglers have resorted to smuggle in their drugs. But God be thanked, and with the care of the Compassionate and the Merciful, with the encouragement and support of the state and with the cooperation of all the state agencies, the authorities concerned have been able to catch and apprehend the culprits. For example, we have seized hashish in drums, in the trunks, back seats and right rear doors of cars, in hollowed places in the front of cars, under car (ashtrays), in cardboard boxes, in figurines, in car air conditioners, in ventilation ducts and under car hoods. All these attempts have been foiled by the customs agencies. Most of the attempts have been made by land. We have also discovered drugs hidden in various other places in vehicles. We have discovered pills and morphine injections in vegetable cans and confectionary boxes, in vehicle gas tanks, in handkerchiefs tied to baskets installed on the right and left sides of truck cabs and in a secret compartment in a parrot cage. We have found alcohol hidden in places hollowed out in lumber shipments. We have discovered other examples of smuggling attempts, such as passports and residence cards hidden in secret compartments of briefcases and in shoes. We have discovered attempts to smuggle drugs in spare car tires, between the car battery and body, in the radio of a car coming from New York, in hollowed-out places in car floors, on top of cement for camouflage [as published] in iron pipes next to the containers, in pipes attached to the car roof and filled with hashish, in high heels, between layers of plywood, in refrigerators, in nylon, in a pillow, in censors, in secret cassette compartments, in a bag full of food, in dining table legs, in the front and rear shock absorbers of a car and in a telephone apparatus covered with marble. We wanted to cite these cases because they are unusual. As for the ordinary cases, they are countless. We seize quantities of drugs daily, but not necessarily commercial quantities. For example, when a customs official took out a cigarette from a cigarette pack, he found it filled with hashish. We have found drugs in a secret compartment of a gas tank, in a can hidden inside another can hidden in a cardboard box within yet another cardboard box and covered with roses for camouflage, in an air conditioner's fan, in a postal parcel, in the walls of a small ice box carried by a passenger, in cushions, in sofas, in books, in concrete, in gypsum and in gypsum blocks.

There are countless examples and we have discovered all of them easily. We know that it is not possible to cite all of them. However, customs officials, with the encouragement of the government and with the cooperation of the state agencies operating at the entry points, have been able, God be thanked, to

discover these smuggling attempts by land, sea and air and to foil the smugglers.

We Have Ability to Discover Criminals

AL-RIYAD: How have these quantities, small as they are, been discovered, since their being such small quantities may cause customs officials to overlook them?

Al-Rushwadi: Inspection, of course. We know that every passenger and every vehicle has to be inspected completely. We are very careful to do this and we cannot be lax in this regard.

AL-RIYAD: Is this the result of precision, of the inspection method or of something else?

Al-Rushwadi: We expect anything. Anticipation, caution and precision enable us to discover the drugs. A keen eye, in addition to experience, also helps us. We have the ability to discover any quantity, regardless of how small and how well hidden it is.

AL-RIYAD: You have cited the example of the cigarette pack. I don't think that anyone arriving, whether by land, sea or air, expects to be checked so thoroughly. How was the pack discovered?

Al-Rushwadi: The appearance of the criminal, to start with. What we mean is that we now have the experience and the ability. Lieutenant General Yahya no doubt has his experience in the field of crime. We have a proverb that says, "he who eats raw meat will have a stomachache," which means that we can discover him easily. Let me give you this example. I was once on a night inspection tour in Halat 'Ammar. A person was coming into the country by car. The car stopped and the officer looked it over carefully. The officer then approached the shift supervisor and told him: Leave this car to me, please. The shift supervisor then came to me and said: Please, come and hear what this officer wants. I said to the officer: What do you want? He answered: This passenger's movement is not normal. I suspect him. So they inspected the passenger thoroughly. What was the result?

They found that the walking stick he was holding was filled with hashish.

Naturally, experience is one way to discover smugglers.

It is my belief, and perhaps the brothers agree with me, that any smuggler and any person engaged in abnormal activity will inevitably display, regardless of how strong his self-control is, abnormal behavior or movements. The hiding places in cars have become known to us. We exchange information and we photograph them and send the photographs to all customs offices. They know the places and when the passenger displays any abnormal behavior, they search him. Sometimes, smugglers smuggle hashish with children.

Al-Ma'lami: The truth is that I didn't want brother Hamad to expose the means. However, I believe that he has not mentioned most of the means with which drugs

can be discovered because these are numerous. There are scientific means and material means and various other elements, in addition to inspection and careful observation. It serves no interest to explain them here. But I would like to say that no matter how clever the smuggler is and no matter how strongly he believes that he can smuggle in his own way, the customs men, with the experience they have gained, are cleverer than he is. In addition to intelligence, there is experience. All the tricks that the smuggler can imagine have been encountered by the customs officers. What has not been encountered by one officer has been encountered by another. As brother Hamad has already pointed out, there is an exchange of information. I believe that in some training courses, the customs officers are familiarized with the places, objects or methods that smugglers use in their activity. In addition to the information received at times about major smugglers and the surveillance to which they are subjected inside and outside the kingdom, without their being aware of it, there are the elements of natural intelligence and sensitivity. All these are factors that act in unison to uncover and arrest the smuggler.

Al-Rushwadi: For example, I will tell you that when any case is discovered in any customs office, be it a border customs office, port or airport customs office, and a smuggler is apprehended, the office takes immediate steps, sending a cable or a telex on the details of the case, whether it should be made known to all the kingdom's land, sea and air customs offices, the smuggler's name, the method of smuggling used, the quantity seized and the name of the officer making the seizure. There is a law and there are regulations that require the customs director to send within hours the details of a smuggling attempt to all customs offices. The General Customs Directorate is given a copy so that it can initiate procedures for conferring the rewards about which we will speak later.

Dangers of Drugs to Users

AL-RIYAD: The fact is that we wish to complete the scientific discussion of drugs. Could Dr Hamad define the extent of the danger of the various kinds of drugs?

Dr al-Suqayr: I believe that this is an important point that can explain some of the motivations noted by Lieutenant General Yahya.

Scientifically, drugs and alcoholic beverages are divided into groups. The effects produced by these groups explain why people use them.

The first group is called the depressants or sedatives, which include opium in its crude form, morphine and cocaine, all of which are extracted from the poppy plant. These substances are actually used as pain killers and morphine is still used legally and scientifically for this purpose. But for addicts, the purpose is different because morphine not only kills pain but generates a feeling of rest and relaxation through which a person forgets his pains and his problems. Included in this group of depressants are ordinary sedatives and sleeping pills. For example, valium and liberium are among the drugs that we say help to create a feeling of tranquillity. Sleeping pills are included in this group. There are various pills prescribed by doctors. But these pills

may be used to excess. This is what is happening now. We hear that everybody is using valium to excess. For example, many businessmen and high-ranking officials consider valium something that helps them to act wisely, calmly and with self-control. This group of drugs has its effects, meaning that they may at the outset suppress pain, relax a person and calm his emotions. But with time and increased dosage, the drugs produce a different effect, i.e., they act as depressants, producing effects ranging from slumber to unconsciousness.

Other Types: Stimulants

The other type of drugs is quite the opposite; they are called stimulants. There are various kinds of stimulants, including the cocaine shrub, which grows in South Africa. Cocaine is extracted from the shrub and is used as a stimulant. We add to this the pills that drivers use to gain strength and energy, as well as diet pills that stimulate the body and weaken the appetite. Many people use these pills, which are fundamentally stimulants. But people imagine that the pills reduce weight by weakening the appetite. They are stimulants and a person using them feels tense, depending on the dosage used. This type of drug also includes the so-called halucinogens (S.V.) which, God be thanked, we don't have. Few people use them here. These pills are used in the United States and other places. But naturally, there is a danger of these pills coming into our country in the future.

The fourth type includes hashish and marijuana, about which the brothers have talked. This is another type of drug. People use these drugs in imitation of others, as a result of what they hear about their being sexual stimulants or for relaxation and forgetting their problems. Then there is al-qat, which is a different type of drug even though it contains some of the ingredients of hashish. The last type is alcoholic drinks, the sixth type of drug. In many cases, two types of drugs are taken together, as when a person takes a depressant and a stimulant at the same time. In such cases, the effect is uncontrollable. What we mean is that a person may, for example, take a stimulant and then feel tense. So he looks for something else, imagining that using two drugs will produce the effects he wants. Or a person may take a sedative and an alcoholic drink with it. This is very dangerous. This is why, when a doctor prescribes a drug, he writes on the prescription instructions stating what not to take with the drug. One might ask what are the results of using stimulants and depressants together.

The result is that the user behaves in a manner that he could not imagine because the interaction and effects of these substances differ from person to person. They also differ in the same person, depending on whether the drugs are taken on a full stomach or not and on the person's psychological condition.

Statistics on Addiction and Addicts

Dr Hamad al-Suqayr, undersecretary in the Ministry of Health, adds: There is a statistical figure on those admitted to al-Ta'if hospital. It is a simple figure but it underlines to us the dangers we are facing and the problems we are experiencing. The latest statistical figure presented to the ministry from the mental diseases hospital in al-Ta'if, namely, the Shahhar Hospital,

on the emergency cases admitted to the hospital involve not addicts who stay home and spare others their evils, which most addicts do, but addicts who got into traffic accidents while under the influence of drugs and had to be admitted to the hospital for emergency care. I noticed in the statistical figure the presence of an important category (a category of particular interest to brother Lieutenant General Yahya), namely, the victims of alcohol and drug accidents. Last year, 1,941 of these cases were admitted to Shahhar Hospital, 143 of which were alcohol and drug cases, representing nearly seven percent of the cases admitted to the mental diseases hospital. These are cases suffering from mental instability and abnormality. Of the total number, 115 were Saudis. As for age, most of the cases, both Saudis and non-Saudis, ranged in age from 20 to 40 years. This period in a man's life is the period of vitality and youth. A total of 110 were between the ages of 20 and 40. Naturally, the percentages for other age groups are smaller. It was also found that the largest percentage consisted of drivers, who comprised 24 percent of the cases, and of unemployed, who formed the second largest percentage. The third largest group came from among unskilled workers.

Students Are Very Few

AL-RIYAD: What about students?

Al-Suqayr: There were only two students in the entire group. Skilled workers comprised nearly 5 percent of the group, unskilled workers nearly 18 percent and people engaged in private business 13 percent. The highest percentages were comprised of drivers and the unemployed.

Institution to Treat Addicts

AL-RIYAD: Has the Ministry of Health thought of establishing an institution to treat these cases, especially since they have begun to increase, whereas they were nonexistent or existed in very small numbers in the past?

Dr al-Suqayr: I agree with you that this is a normal and fundamental step that should have been taken some time ago. But we are now in the process of implementing it and, God willing, an institution will be opened very shortly to treat addicts.

In fact, it is my opinion that it is difficult to treat addicts. We must put an addict in an institution [Rehabilitation Center] that is not a hospital so that he does not feel that he is a patient, but at the same time we must not isolate him. Actually, the word institution is a very reasonable expression. We should call this place a convalescent home. This is the name generally agreed on, considering that the patient is moving from one phase to another to restore normalcy to his life. To create this climate for the addict, we are now taking positive steps to establish a project in Riyadh. This project should become a reality in the near future, even if we have to rent a place for the purpose. In every mental institutions being set up by the ministry, an addiction section will be set up, whether it is in the Riyadh Medical Complex, in the mental institution in al-Ta'if, which now has 300 beds excluding the 500 beds being added at present, in the Abha hospital or in other hospitals.

Every hospital will have a special section for addicts. In al-Ta'if, we have rented a home and turned it into a convalescent home. This home is detached from the hospital, because it serves a phase that follows the initial treatment phase. We have faced problems as a result of the location of the home and the disapproval of the neighborhood's residents. The way people feel about these mental convalescent homes is also a problem, considering that people feel about convalescents in mental homes the way they used to feel about convalescents in tuberculosis sanitariums. It is difficult to persuade neighboring residents. However, we have overcome this problem. A sanitarium [Rehabilitation Center] will be founded very shortly. The ministry is interested in this point and will include it in its future projects.

AL-Riyad: How can a patient go to a sanitarium when he lacks the personal desire and motive to try to overcome this sickness?

Al-Rushwadi: The method of treatment is based on treating the patient by giving him gradually reduced doses of the drug. I believe that this is the principle here. I acknowledge that there are those who will ask: How is it we give the addict what he buys from the market when we should be preventing him from taking drugs? Our answer is: It is better for the addict to get the drug in gradually reduced doses at the sanitarium [Rehabilitation Center] than to be denied it all at once. Naturally, this is an issue that requires courage and a decision by authorities other than the Ministry of Health. What we mean is that this decision is not a medical decision but one that depends on other agencies that can give the go-ahead signal first.

Dr al-Suqayr: I believe that sanitariums founded initially will be of two kinds: Those treating recidivist addicts already treated and released, as shown by the records, and those treating others who have not been arrested previously and who come for treatment voluntarily to get rid of their addiction. The proposed sanitarium or convalescent home is completely different from previous mental hospitals. At the outset, we may be scientifically compelled to administer to the addicts some drugs that they cannot give up abruptly. But the emphasis will be on the social and religious aspects and on persuading the addict. This means that a number of discussions must be held on the issue and on the effects of drugs so that certain specialists, sociologists and clergymen can be persuaded to inculcate this spirit.

It is my opinion that a drug addict is willing to give up eating and drinking, to abandon his family, to steal and to commit crime. This is what is happening in some countries. In many countries, addicts hold up people at gunpoint in the middle of the street and demand money to buy the dose of drug they need. These people are sick. How can such a person be treated? The problem must be approached scientifically and such an approach is available at addiction treatment centers.

Role of Security Agencies

AL-RIYAD: This question is addressed to Lt Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami: What is the security agencies' role in keeping away the ghost of fear from the addict so that he will come forward for treatment, considering that the addict is afraid

to acknowledge his addiction for fear of the punishment that follows the treatment? What is your opinion on this?

Al-Ma'lami: I would like to explain this point. I can say that insofar as the security policy is concerned, if an addict applies for treatment at official sanitariums or specialized hospitals of the Ministry of Health, then the security men will pursue him no further. On the contrary, we encourage treatment because the purpose is to combat drugs and to protect the citizen and the society and its members against drugs. I believe that whoever submits to treatment voluntarily responds to our goals. Consequently, we must open the opportunity to such an addict and must not pursue him. I believe that this policy is applied but I doubt that there are those who try to get treatment for the sake of treatment. What addicts want is to get at the treatment centers the drugs they can or cannot buy outside by pretending to seek treatment. In such a case, of course, the addict is cheating. This fact must be taken into consideration and evaluated. As for the person who actually comes for treatment, I say frankly that he is a victim and we must reexamine the issue on the basis that he is an innocent victim. It is true that the addict has made a mistake and committed a crime against himself. But in fact, he is the victim. The true criminal is the smuggler and the pusher who has introduced this disease into the country. They are the real criminals who must be punished most severely. As for the addict, he has committed a mistake and a misdemeanor and deserves to be punished. But the punishment must be gentle and designed to make him feel that his action is wrong. Meanwhile, the emphasis insofar as the addict is concerned should be more on treatment than on punishment.

Dr al-Suqayr: I would like to underline a point in order to eliminate some of the fears to which the brother lieutenant general has referred. Nobody can come to the hospital from the street and say "I am an addict" and be given a drug. There are scientific tests that can prove whether a person is an addict or not. Besides, a person seeking treatment for addiction must submit to a medical examination and to a period of mental and behavioral observation when the reaction of the addict becomes scientifically evident to the sanitarium [Rehabilitation Center]. No one can deceive the sanitarium. The applicant may resort to some tricks and abnormal movements. But the scientific tests, such as blood pressure, tests on the pupil of the eye and the pulse, can expose the tricks. It is well known that when a person becomes addicted to a drug, the effect of the drug becomes obvious within a certain period. If he stops taking the drug, the effect disappears after a time. For example, if a person is a diabetic and takes insulin, he develops certain characteristics. If he takes insulin in still bigger doses, other characteristics develop. If the sugar rate rises in the diabetic's blood, he might become unconscious. However, there are scientific tests that demonstrate everything. It is difficult to trust an addict's word. He may say: I have come for some morphine. We cannot say, here, take it and let him deceive us, because he may then make a tour of all the sanitariums [Rehabilitation Centers] and get all he wants. No, this cannot be done.

Penalty for Smuggling and Pursuit of Smugglers

AL-RIYAD: Mr Hamad al-Rushwadi, you have referred to some statistics on drug seizures made at the points of entry. I believe that the issue does not end with discovering the smuggler or the criminal. What are the penalties for smuggling and pushing?

Al-Rushudi: First, it is my opinion that we must focus on the causes of the problem. But if we agree that the danger comes from abroad and not from within--and I don't say this out of bias or out of partiality to the Saudi citizen because the figures, facts and statistics are indisputable [sentence as published]. As I have already said, our society is a conservative Islamic society and these diseases have been brought into it either for the purpose of destroying this society and its beliefs and of fighting society or for the purpose of profit. This is indisputable and both possibilities are likely. Perhaps the investigations conducted by the agencies concerned can shed light on this issue. The fact is that the customs agency has its role and then comes the role of the security agencies concerned.

The role of the customs agency at the land, sea and air points of entry is to inspect all passengers, means of transportation and goods to look for prohibited or banned substances, whether banned for social reasons, traditions, economic reasons, political reasons or health reasons.

In the customs agency, we carry out the inspection as a customs agency to make sure that no alcohol, pills, drugs, weapons or anti-religious materials, such as sex films and lewd magazines--all of which are banned--enter the country. We then come to another type of substance, namely, goods permitted to enter the country only in accordance with advance import permits, i.e., with the approval of the authorities concerned. For example, the Ministry of Health is concerned with medicines and the customs agency may not clear any medicines without the approval of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Agriculture's approval is needed for vegetables and fruits. The Ministry of Information is concerned with books and magazines and the Religious Interpretation and Propagation Authority is concerned with religious books and Koranic books. Each ministry has its special representatives. The customs agency conducts its inspections to look for any of these banned materials. If something is discovered, then the action depends on the material discovered. If it is something banned, then we tell the passenger bringing it: Go and get a permit from the pertinent authority. If the material is prohibited, whether for religious or health reasons--such as magazines which cause no physical harm, then the agency conducts its investigation with the passenger concerned, writes a report on the case signed by the passenger and confiscates the material. In the case of hashish, for example, the customs agency conducts an initial investigation with the smuggler and a report is written in the presence of representatives of the Drug Control Agency. Customs then hands over the smuggler and the hashish seized to the Drug Control Agency and levies on the smuggler a fine, depending on the quantity of hashish seized. The current fine is 1,000 riyals per kilogram of hashish, according to the customs regulations. I hope that the fine will be doubled, God willing. This fine is awarded to the customs officer or officers seizing the smuggled hashish, be they 1 or 10 officers, as an incentive. I am not exaggerating when I say that millions of riyals have been paid as incentive. If the smuggler cannot pay the fine, the state, represented in the customs agency, makes the payment to whoever makes the seizure, be he a customs officer, a drug control officer, a health official, a person working in AL-RIYAD or anybody. Such a person is paid the reward from a special account in the customs agency treasury if the smuggler cannot pay the fine. There are special committees to handle smuggling cases, to make speedy decisions on such cases and to avoid the transfer of smugglers from province to province.

There are 11 such committees in the various provinces of the kingdom. These committees are found in the Western Province, the Southern Province, al-Hathbara, Jizan, Halat 'Ammar, al-Hadithah, al-Ruqa'i, al-Khafaji, al-Dammam and Riyadh. All of these committees try smugglers, issue sentences and hand over smugglers to the drug control agencies. Then comes the role of the drug control agencies in punishing the smuggler.

The smuggler may use a truck to smuggle drugs, alcohol, pills or hashish valued at more than 1,000 riyals, perhaps 300,000 riyals or even 1 million riyals, which has happened. In such cases, the smuggled goods and the vehicle are confiscated and the smuggler has to pay the fine for the smuggled drugs. Eighty percent of the value of the smuggled goods is paid as an incentive to the officer making the seizure.

AL-RIYAD: What about the value of the goods? [As published]

Al-Rushwadi: Eighty percent of the value of the goods goes to the officer making the seizure, in cash. As for the vehicles, they enter the state treasury. As for goods, I have given you two examples involving cars belonging to German citizens that were confiscated by the customs authorities in al-Hadithah. Their value amounted to 600,000 riyals.

AL-RIYAD: The value of the goods or of the two cars?

AL-RUSHUDI: Thirty percent of the value of the two cars plus the value of the goods they carried amounted to 1 million riyals. The cars and goods were confiscated and the reward, amounting to 30 percent of the value of the two cars and 80 percent of the value of the goods, was paid to nearly 12 officers who made the seizure. Whoever makes a drug seizure, even if he is not a Saudi or a state employee, gets to collect the reward. The penalty according to the customs law is strict. Permit me to say that there is no law as strict as our law, and I am not exaggerating when I say this. Under our law, you confiscate the smuggler's vehicle and his goods and you fine him. The matter does not end there because we then hand over the smuggler to the drug control agencies to receive his punishment. This punishment in actuality should not be hindered.

AL-RIYAD: Despite the confiscation, the fines, the....?

Al-Rushwadi: Yes, because this punishment has not been adequate. We still find smuggling at the borders. When a vehicle is confiscated, the case is made known to hundreds of drivers (nearly 250-300 drivers) and the news reaches all the neighboring countries and even Europe. It is my opinion that the penalties applied by the customs agency according to its law, by the Ministry of Interior--imprisonment and other punishment about which I cannot talk because it is not within my jurisdiction--are not adequate. This is why I believe, and I am not speaking in the name of the customs agency here but speaking personally as a citizen [sentence as published]. I believe, and perhaps so does brother Yahya, that the smuggler and the pusher are the real criminals. I am no religious authority on this issue but I have discussed the matter with a Shari'a professor at Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud University and he believes that these people spread corruption on earth and must, therefore,

be sentenced to death. In my opinion, this is the solution for the smuggler and the pusher. As for the user, he is a victim. This is what I believe as far as penalties are concerned.

AL-RIYAD: We have heard so far about the financial and customs penalties. We would like to hear from Lt Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami about the security penalties.

Al-Ma'lami: The truth is that the penalty currently applied insofar as drug use is concerned is the penalty of a prison term of up to 2 years.

AL-RIYAD: As a minimum or a maximum?

Al-Ma'lami: The truth is that the law sought a 2-year prison term and then an explanation was received from the Council of Ministers stating that this is the maximum. There is still a question pending as to whether a shorter term can be applied. What happens at present is that the 2-year term is applied to a user.

AL-RIYAD: Even to a hashish user?

Al-Ma'lami: Even to the user of a single drug pill. One individual was caught with a single pill on his person, and God knows how it got to be on him, and he was still sentenced to a 2-year term on a decision by the minister of interior in accordance with the Council of Ministers decree that sets the penalty. Naturally, there is an inclination to make the penalty flexible, taking into consideration the quantity seized with a user, the individual's circumstances and other factors so that (the principle) of punishment may be applied accordingly within the context of Public Safety at large. The principle of punishment is established by law. Every culprit must receive a punishment fitting him personally, regardless of the limit set. I say that the present penalty for a user is a 2-year prison term, for a pusher a 5-year term and for a smuggler up to 15 years in jail. Regrettably, smuggling continues despite this long imprisonment. Imagine a person who is jailed for 15 years and whose property is confiscated, thus being first denied his money, which is the source of his income and, second, being isolated from society, from his country and his homeland, for 15 years, and yet you find more smugglers and more pushers. Here, I add my voice to brother Hamad's about considering a stricter punishment for pushers and for smugglers, especially because the smuggler brings in large quantities. Smugglers are often people with moral and financial influence who exploit others below them to do the smuggling. If we reach the big heads, they must be given stricter punishment because they are truly people who spread corruption on earth. I am not giving a legal [religious] interpretation here but just stating my opinion. These are the people who spread corruption on earth because there is nobody more corrupting than those who poison society, destroy the citizen and defy Islam, religion, the state and everything and ruin the mental capabilities of the innocent Muslim citizens.

Drug Rings and Their Dens Abroad

AL-RIYAD: Lieutenant General Yahya, regarding the arrest of pushers and smugglers, has this activity been linked to certain rings or groups or is the majority of the arrests confined to individuals? Generally, what is the role of the public security organs in enlightening the citizens as to the use of

drugs? It is possible that a person may start fooling with drugs abroad as a game and then bring them into the country with him and change from one person into a different person and turn into a drug pusher when he realizes the benefit? What is public security's role in fighting the spread of drugs through education? Have any rings with big internal and external connections actually been discovered? The second thing is: What is the role of enlightening the citizen as to their [drug rings] dangers? The newspapers and information media often discuss their dangers but I don't believe that such action has taken place at any time insofar as drugs are concerned [as published].

Al-Ma'lami: It is true that drug use begins at the outset as a pastime and then turns into a habit and then a sickness. Drug use begins as a pastime and a game and then becomes a habit that develops until the drugs become indispensable and the user turns into an addict, as they say. Drug use then becomes a disease. This is insofar as use is concerned. As for smuggling and pushing, there is no doubt that they are linked to certain rings. There are big heads and international gangs outside the kingdom engaged in drug smuggling and pushing. We cooperate and exchange information with Interpol and with all of the drug control agencies in the world. Anybody we catch here gets his punishment, of course. Those arrested abroad are also punished. But it seems to me that the methods of investigation and trial and the laws abroad provide strong protection to the main figures behind the smuggling and pushing operations considering that these figures are not directly engaged in the activity but exploit others to carry it out. The middleman is the one who always suffers. As for the main figures, they do not get caught because they remain behind the scenes, financing the trial defense or other expenses needed for the person arrested and for his family. We here are firm and strict in our sentences and no other considerations influence us. Anybody caught smuggling is punished regardless of who he is. Nobody escapes this punishment. Even users are punished. We now have in jail pushers and smugglers whom nobody would have expected to be involved in this work. In any case, this is what has happened. These people were caught redhanded and they--users, pushers and smugglers--are now serving their term in jail.

AL-RIYAD: The point we refer to concerns publicizing the punishment in the newspapers, as is done in cases of counterfeiting. Why isn't this done?

Al-Ma'lami: I believe that the crime of smuggling and pushing drugs is more serious and important than the crime of forgery and counterfeiting. Therefore, I am inclined to support publication of the penalties and of the names and photographs of smugglers and pushers to revile them on the one hand and to protect the citizens and enlighten them as to these people's crimes on the other hand. As to what is being currently done for the purpose of enlightenment, I believe that efforts are currently underway to draw up a complete plan for enlightenment as to the dangers of alcohol and drugs. The Ministry of Interior is engaged in these efforts. His Highness Prince Ahmad held a meeting with the public security men and a committee has been formed to formulate a general enlightenment, plan covering the health, social and economic dangers of drugs. I believe that the ministry will shortly begin carrying out its plan in the various information media. I would like to note that AL-RIYAD has taken the initiative by holding this symposium as a forerunner of the plan being currently prepared.

Examination of Employee Before Appointment

AL-Riyad: Dr Hamad, to what is it possible to coordinate between the Ministry of Health and all other establishments, be they government agencies, private companies or organizations or any other organizations, to make it impossible for a person to be employed until he undergoes complete tests, whether blood tests or otherwise, to uncover the early signs of addiction and, consequently, to contain them?

Dr al-Suqayr: I agree with you. This is very important in fighting this disease. There must be coordination with the circles concerned. Various circles must participate even in the committee formed to draw up the enlightenment plan concerning drug dangers and control. This is fundamental. Various circles must participate in the enlightenment effort so that we can influence the citizen and may make him aware of the dangers of drugs to his person and to his family.

Statistical Figures on Drugs

AL-RIYAD: The press is always interested in statistics. We want Lt Gen Yahya al-Ma'lami and Mr Hamad al-Rushudi to give us the statistics on the largest quantity of drugs or of banned substances seized inside the kingdom or at the kingdom's points of entry.

Al-Rushudi: The truth is that I did try to get this figure but there was not enough time. Frankly, I can say that pills have probably been seized in the millions, meaning that the total in 2 or 3 years amounts to millions. The quantities of hashish seized probably amount to hundreds of kilograms. As for alcohol, the quantities amount to tens of thousands of bottles. These are so small figures. In a period of 2-3 years, the quantities of alcohol seized amounted to thousands, not hundreds, of bottles, of hashish to hundreds of kilograms and of pills to millions, not to mention other seized materials, such as forged work permits, forged passports and other forged documents. We have accurate statistics prepared by the customs offices operating at the points of entry but I have not had enough time to gather them. So I am giving you approximate figures.

Smuggling Plans: Their Timing and Seasons

AL-RIYAD: Are there certain areas where and certain times when smugglers become active?

Al-Rushudi: Yes. Being in the customs agency, I can speak for the smuggling. As for drug pushing, Lieutenant General Yahya can answer that.

As far as smuggling is concerned, I can say that no less than 90 percent of the people engaged are non-Saudis. Permit me not to mention specific nationalities. However, these people come from various countries. As for the various types of smuggling, most of the hashish is smuggled by land. Alcohol is the substance smuggled in the biggest quantities, mostly by way of the ports. Pills are smuggled by way of the airports, especially Jiddah. Naturally, we have certain nationalities and specific countries, meaning that we

can now tell certain nationalities that smuggle this or that kind of drug from this or that country. The customs agency has developed such a keen eye and gained such experience that we can now tell that such and such countries specialize in hashish, this and that country specialize in alcohol and that and the other country specialize in magazines and films, for example. This is insofar as the points of entry are concerned.

As for the seasons, the smuggling of alcohol becomes active prior to the new year because the country is full of foreigners, as you know. Before Christmas and the new year, alcohol smuggling usually becomes active. Hashish and pill smuggling also becomes active at certain times. The smugglers try as hard as they can during the pilgrimage seasons because of the large numbers of pilgrims coming into the country. But the quantities seized indicate the sincere desire and efforts exerted to combat drug smuggling. There are numerous factors that help us discover smuggled drugs.

AL-RIYAD: Are there certain groups, such as professional merchants, workers or specific classes, who smuggle these substances?

Al-Rushwadi: Saudis rarely smuggle alcohol. Most alcohol smugglers are workers, clerks, engineers or technicians. Most hashish smugglers are drivers. (As soon as the consignment arrives, the smugglers--most of them foreigners--disguise as businessmen) [as published]. Pills are smuggled by ordinary people. Hashish is smuggled in small quantities not exceeding 5 kilograms per shipment. Heroin and cocaine are also smuggled.

Fine for Smuggling Drugs

AL-RIYAD: What is the fine for [smuggling] drugs?

Al-Rushudi: In accordance with the customs law, we now levy a fine of 1,000 riyals per kilogram of hashish. The law says that a smuggler may not be released from jail until he pays the fine, even if he is sentenced by the Ministry of Interior or by the provincial governments. Usually, no provincial government in the kingdom releases a smuggler, even if he has fully served his term, without the approval of the customs, meaning unless the customs agency is notified that the smuggler has paid the fine or that he is unable to pay it. Another system is applied for alcohol where a fine of 1,000 riyals is levied for every 12 bottles. The fine for pills ranges from one quarter riyal to 2 riyals per pill. All these fines are awarded to the officers making the seizures, regardless of the sum involved. I would be revealing no secret when I say that 3 months ago we paid nearly 1.1 million riyals to no more than 10 employees of one of the state agencies. Moreover, there are other fines that I need not mention. There are fines even for pornographic magazines and films and for weapons. On the instructions of His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the customs agency has a secret fund with a good sum of money from which to pay any customs officer who seizes any kind of prohibited or banned substances. The reward for such an officer ranges from 1,000 to 20,000 riyals paid from the secret fund. This is in addition to the regular fine that the officer collects as an earned right. Nobody can deny the officer this right. If the smuggler cannot pay the fine, the customs agency pays it to the officer from its own treasury. This secret fund is confined to the customs officers. What prevents paying a drug control officer, a public security officer or any other

official playing a role in the seizure of drugs a reward from this secret fund? As for the regular reward, it is not restricted to anybody and may be paid to any citizen or any person, even if he is not a citizen. Anybody who provides the customs agency with information on drugs gets paid 50 percent of the fine. This means that if the fine is 1 million riyals, the informer gets paid 500,000 riyals. Any worker, employee or person who seizes drugs or informs on drugs is paid a reward. Therefore, these are facts for which I must praise the minister of interior and the deputy minister of interior. As I have already pointed out, the minister of finance gives the customs officers rewards from the secret fund. The minister of interior and deputy minister of interior have also given incentive rewards to whomever has participated [in exposing] or informing on drug activities, including non-Saudis. This means that the door is open for anybody who provides information, leads to or seizes drugs.

Entrapment of Citizens

AL-RIYAD: We have an observation to make to Lieutenant General al-Ma'lami. At times, drugs are planted on drivers or passengers, while they are traveling on the highways, without their knowledge. What is the position of the public security organs in such cases, especially when the person planting the drugs is not in the kingdom and when he plants the drugs for smuggling or trading?

Al-Ma'lami: Contacts can be made by the criminal police with the country concerned and direct contacts can be made between countries. But naturally, a person with whom the drugs are sent will deny and will not acknowledge or confess. We cannot conduct an investigation in another country. If necessary, we ask the authorities of the country concerned to question the person alleged to have done the planting. I have a simple answer regarding the statistics that you have asked for. I have no statistical figure at present on the number of people arrested or on the quantities seized with them. Even if such a figure were available, it would have to go through certain steps before it was made public. Any statistics have to be published as part of an official statement. I can refer you to the statistical booklet issued by the Ministry of Interior where you can find the statistics on past years, as well as to the general statistics published by the Ministry of Finance where you can find the information you want for past years, for last year and even for the current year.

Coordination Between Security Agencies to Combat Smuggling

AL-RIYAD: Mr Hamad, how is coordination established between you and other countries, especially the Gulf states and neighboring countries, at the country's points of entry to combat the entry of drugs and alcohol to the area generally, considering that some international firms or rings have turned toward exploiting the area's conditions and to attempting to entrap its citizens?

Al-Rushwadi: As you have noted, the truth is that there are attempts to exploit the facilities and the large number of foreign workers in the Gulf states. As we said at the outset of the discussion, there is no doubt that certain groups infiltrate for a certain purpose. Let me stress again that I

believe that this purpose is to fight this society and our creed with these methods and through the dissemination of this destruction. This is my viewpoint, and I may be right or I may be wrong. But this is what I believe as a result of my experience in this field. There may be other reasons (material incentives). It is possible that there are individuals who monopolize and direct this smuggling activity. As for coordination and cooperation, they are actually good. There are contacts and exchanges of information. I hope that the [Gulf] Cooperation Council and the new treaty concluded will produce better results, God willing. The kingdom is, naturally, a member of the Customs Cooperation Council in Brussels, which includes more than 80 countries that exchange information on smugglers. This is very good, I may even say excellent, cooperation with the security agencies concerned of the Ministry of Interior. The border guards are, as you know, one of the agencies controlled by the Ministry of Interior. This agency is concerned with the borders and it is its responsibility to arrest whoever swerves from the (normal routes) and to arrest smugglers and hand them over to the customs agency to be tried and fined according to the customs law and to have their goods confiscated. Such persons are then handed back to the border guards to be tried for violating the regular routes. The guard then hands them over to the drug control agencies for punishment.

The coordination is very good. We receive full cooperation from the agencies of the Ministry of Interior in particular because they are concerned with the security aspect. There is also cooperation, coordination and information exchange insofar as the treatment of drug addiction is concerned. What I mean is that I am very pleased with this coordination and cooperation. I must say that insofar as the security agencies are concerned, beginning with brother Lt Gen 'Abdallah Al al-Shaykh and Yahya al-Ma'lami and ending with all the brothers whose responsibility and duty it is to also fight drugs, we receive cooperation not only from the director of drug control but also from the people on top, and unparalleled cooperation at that. But I hope and wish that stricter punishment will be meted out to deter whoever may think of smuggling.

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CSO: 5300/4713

SOUTH AFRICA

SENTENCING FOR DRUGS 'APPALLING' SAYS PROFESSOR

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 6 May 82 p 12

[Article by Marilyn Cohen]

[Text]

SENTENCE meted out in South Africa to people convicted of possessing or dealing in habit forming drugs were "appalling", the Wits Medical Students Conference on drug abuse was told yesterday.

Professor J D van der Vyver, head of the Law School at the University of the Witwatersrand said that the minimum sentences stipulated for drug offences were far too severe.

This was especially so when one considered that the onus was usually on the accused to prove that although he had in his possession more than, for example, 115g of dagga, he was not dealing in the drug.

"The phenomenon of minimum sentences (and excessive penalties) reflects a rigid and inflexible penal policy which is unsuited to enlightened community structures," he said.

Dilemma

The most basic dilemma of South Africa drug control, he added, was the failure of the system to come to terms with the impending conflict between punishment and reform.

Prof van der Vyver accused the South African justice system of seeming to be "exceedingly hesitant — not to say reluctant — to expose addicted persons to therapy in a rehabilitation centre."

Being dependent on alcohol or other dependence producing drugs was not in itself enough to secure admission to a rehabilitation centre, he said.

The addict must also be a danger to himself, his family or society at large and his detention in a rehabilitation centre would also have to be authorised by a magistrate.

Red tape

It could happen, however, that treatment for "what is perhaps the most disruptive malady of our time" may be denied an addicted person on account of "mere bureaucratic red tape".

Traders in dependence producing substances, who also happened to be addicted to drugs, were not given the chance of reform in rehabilitation centres.

This could be because of the assumption that the long term of compulsory imprisonment prescribed for them by law would provide adequate opportunities for the criminal to rehabilitate.

"That, of course, is utter rubbish. A prison cell is probably the least suited for purposes of rehabilitation."

CSO: 5300/5736

SOUTH AFRICA

NATION LAGGING IN BATTLE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE SAYS DE MIRANDA

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 5 May 82 p 12

[Article by Marilyn Cohen]

[Text] SOUTH Africa's ability to cope with drug abuse and drug-related problems was "most unsatisfactory" and very little, if anything, had been achieved on a national basis in terms of effective prevention.

This was said by the director and head of Clinical Services of the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (SANCA), Dr Sylvain de Miranda, at the opening of the Wits Medical Students' council conference on drug use and abuse.

South Africa urgently required a national preventive programme against drug abuse, he said.

This was because the country's available treatment facilities for drug-dependent patients were "grossly inadequate."

"With very few exceptions our general hospitals and psychiatric hospitals refuse to admit these patients."

"Most 'specialised' treatment centres will completely treat the alcohol-dependent, but are unable, unwilling or actually scared to treat the drug-dependent."

Dr De Miranda said.

He said most medical aid societies exclude the illness of the "chemical dependent" as a refundable illness, so that costly long-term treatment became unattainable to the majority of such patients.

In addition, the absence of national surveys and on-going epidemiological studies and evaluations hampered any meaningful planning of both treatment and prevention.

Over-the-counter drug abuse — the abuse of analgesics (pain killers), cough mixtures, sleeping tablets, tranquilisers and slimming tablets — would pose one of the more serious health threats to the nation in the next few decades.

Professor Robert Chariton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand and former chairman of the Medicines Control Council, said the abuse of drugs by doctors — prescribing the wrong drug, or too many — could be responsible for the growing popularity of homeopathy.

CSO: 5300/5735

FRANCE

NEW HEROIN VARIETY, 'DUMPING,' NEW PARIS MARKET REPORTED

NC080952 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 8 May 82

[Text] Paris, 8 May (AFP)--Street prices for heroin have slumped by half in parts of Paris and French police suspect an organisation of south east Asian refugees of "dumping" huge quantities of the drug from the "golden triangle" to seize control of the French market.

Police said drug pushers from south east Asia have been found offering the gram of heroin at less than 600 francs (about 100 dollars) while the usual rate is between 800 and 1,000 francs.

Also, a new variety of heroin, slightly pink in colour and granulated in texture has appeared on the market. Police said the "pink" heroin was seized last week from a group of Laotian and Cambodian refugees. The variety was first heard of last year in Valaysia but had never before been found in France.

Police said the drug was still being analysed but it appeared to be made up of 90 percent pure heroin similar to the "snow" once produced by the so-called "French connection" network in Marseilles, southern France, and later in Sicily.

Since the beginning of this year a new heroin market has grown up in a south eastern district of Paris where an estimated 15,000 refugees from Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos have been resettled.

Until recently the sale of heroin was concentrated in the immigrant neighbourhood of north east Paris where most of the traffic is controlled by north Africans.

For the first time, police said there was proof that Asian traffickers were no longer confining themselves to smuggling the opium production of the so-called "golden triangle"--the world's biggest opium growing area at the junction of the Burmese, Thai and Laotian borders.

French police said they could not say with certainty whether heroin from the golden triangle was flooding the French markets and causing prices to fall. But whereas heroin from Thailand was formerly only found in small quantities generally smuggled in by European tourists, they said Paris had now become a

regular staging post for "suitcase" smugglers from Singapore and Hong Kong transiting through Amsterdam or Lisbon.

Those who came through Lisbon were generally Asians from the Portuguese colony of Macao, police said.

However, France did not appear to have been affected by the arrival in Europe of huge quantities of Pakistani heroin destined mainly for Britain, French police said.

In Paris, the last major police swoop involving south east Asian heroin was on Christmas Eve when police seized 10 kilograms (22 lbs) of the drug and arrested 9 Hong Kong Chinese.

Medical experts here confirm that the number of drug addicts increased last year by 6.46 percent. They said addicts in the French capital apparently had no problem procuring their "fix."

With the fall in the price of heroin, experts feared that the number of addicts would increase further. Heroin already accounts for 35 percent of the 12,000 drug arrests last year. The year before they accounted for only 16 percent.

With prospects of an abundant opium harvest in the south east Asian poppy fields police have been preparing for the past 6 months for an upsurge in drug trafficking. Efforts are being made to train "special squads" of policemen of south east Asian origin to "infiltrate" the networks. But a police officer said that most of the men could no longer speak their mother tongue.

CSO: 5300/2286

GREECE

TRAFFICKERS IN INDIAN HASHISH ARRESTED IN ATHENS

Athens TA NEA in Greek 12 Apr 82 p 7

[Text] A five-member gang of narcotics traffickers had "connected" Sepolia with Bombay! The gang was busted by Athens Suburbs' Security and two-and-one-half kilos of hashish were seized. There may have been opium in the hashish since the hashish was very potent.

The gang's busting began with information obtained by the director of Athens Suburbs' Security, E. Vasilakis, and the chief of the Service for Prosecution of Public Crime, G. Kartsonakis. According to the information, large quantities of baked hashish from India were circulating on all the narcotics "markets" (Kypseli, Pangrati, Plaka, Peristeri, Sepolia, Liosia, Agia Varvara, Aigaleo, Glyfada, Kalamaki, Exarkheia, etc.), as well as in provincial towns. According to the same information, the hashish was brought from Bombay by a gang which used suitcases with false bottoms to carry it!

The gang began to be dismantled last Friday, 9 April. Athens Suburbs' Security police arrested: Ioannis Georg. Kyriakou, 30, unemployed; Konstandinos Sp. Athanasiou or Athanasopoulos, 25, street-vendor; Nikolaos Dion. Theodoritsis, 26, sailor; Georgios Kon. Belioulias, 29, taxi driver; and Evangelos Khr. Koumbardas, 30, unemployed.

E. Koumbardas, known as "Tzifis," is said to be the leader of the gang. At his house (9 Fories, Sepolia) in a special hiding place, two-and-one-half kilos of the finest quality hashish (called "Kashmir") were found. This was the remainder of a quantity of hashish which he is accused of bringing into the country about one month ago from Bombay in a suitcase with a false bottom. In addition, a checkbook with deposits totalling 800,000 drachmas was found in his house and confiscated. It was seized because it is believed that this money comes from narcotics trafficking.

"Tzifis" is an international narcotics trafficker; in 1978 he was arrested at the airport in Beirut with four kilos of "Boubari" hashish. He has made trips to Bombay where he bought hashish from Indian narcotics dealers. Athens Suburbs' Security has notified Interpol.

As the Gendarmery announced, on each of his trips, Evang. Koumbardas brought, in addition to the hashish, quantities of opium and heroin allegedly for his own use.

His cousin, Georgios Belioulias, is reported to be Koumbardas' direct collaborator; he traveled around in Belioulias' taxi to sell the hashish. G. Belioulias is accused of using the other arrested persons to sell the hashish in the "markets" in Athens and the suburbs. Quantities of hashish in special packaging for selling were found in the possession of G. Belioulias and the others.

Athens Suburbs' Security is continuing investigations to find out in which Greek cities the gang sold hashish, and also to identify the connections which it had with narcotics traffickers abroad, and it will notify Interpol.

9247

CSO: 5300/5393

GREECE

FRG POLICE OFFER TRAINED DOGS

Athens TA NEA in Greek 1 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] Two to three dogs specially trained to find narcotics are being offered, on a trial basis, by the German police to the Greek services for pursuit of narcotics. The dogs will be accompanied by a German policeman and will be installed temporarily at the Evros Gardens, which is one of the entry "gates" for narcotics into Greece.

This proposal was made by two senior German officers who have been in Athens since 30 March, as TA NEA exclusively reported. The Germans, who direct the largest services for pursuit of public crime and narcotics in their country, had a second meeting with their Greek colleagues on 31 March.

The Germans, with the authorization of their services, said that the German police are eager both to cooperate more closely and to equip the corresponding Greek police services with trained dogs and special machines to find narcotics, such as machines for telephotography, for photographing and transmitting fingerprints, etc. The German police think it is especially important to completely equip the Greek police and to give officers the best training in pursuit of narcotics, since our country is a crossroads for the movement of large quantities of narcotics from Turkey and Middle Eastern countries to central Europe.

9247

CSO: 5300/5393

NETHERLANDS

JUSTICE MINISTER REJECTS HIGHER SENTENCES FOR DEALERS

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 23 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] The Hague, 23 March--Minister De Ruiter (justice) is of the opinion that higher penalties for heroin dealing do not offer any solution to the question of combatting addiction. "The legal maximum penalties offer sufficient opportunities," De Ruiter told the Second Chamber yesterday.

But the minister is trying to station policemen in Pakistan and Turkey. On 1 April this year, a policeman is to be stationed on Curacao, after detective operations have already begun in Peru, Thailand and Malaysia.

Minister Gardeniers (public health) made it known during the discussion of rendering assistance to drug addicts that family doctors could play a bigger role in assisting addicts. Thus she took exception to the Staatstoezicht's [National Oversight Board] so-called methadone letter to the Ministry of Public Health in which the three chief inspectors made stiff demands on public health with respect to the actions of family doctors. Help should only be given in cooperation with other aid workers, and methadone should only be able to be prescribed in a liquid form.

Minister Gardeniers said yesterday that the letter "was absolutely necessary" last year, "because otherwise the case would have gotten out of hand." She reported that the appearance of methadone on the black market had a close relationship with "family doctors' overestimates" of what they could do to help with the problem.

In the special committee meeting held yesterday, Minister Gardeniers announced that the Amsterdam family doctors' association, along with the national government and the municipality, were taking a look at just which addicts could be treated by the family doctor. Gardeniers said that perhaps that could be done all over the country.

All of the Chamber Delegations that were involved in the discussions: CDA [Christian Democratic Appeal], PvdA [Labor Party], D'66 [Democrats of 1966], VVD [People's Party for Freedom and Democracy], PSP [Political Party of the Radicals], SGP [Political Reformed Party], GPV [Reformed Political Union] and RFP [RFP: Reformed Political Federation] passed a resolution urging

further scientific research because as yet little is known about addiction.

Another motion supported by all delegations calls for the government to take the initiative to cooperate with the municipalities in studying what difficulties are to be overcome in projects for the social recovery of addicts and former addicts.

6940

CSO: 5300/2265

NETHERLANDS

POLICE, DEALERS DISCUSS DRUG SCENE, ENFORCEMENT

Amsterdam VRIJ NEDERLAND in Dutch 27 Mar 82 pp 3, 8

[The last of a series of six articles in VRIJ NEDERLAND by Piet Piryns and Kees Schaezman on "Addiction in the Netherlands," the names of the dealers have been changed in this article.]

[Text] Big money is earned in heroin dealing. Dealers are eager to take on the image of a sort of Robin Hood (they claim they would give you the shirt off their backs) but an annual income of 700,000 guilders clear is no exception.

And the chance of capture? That is not too bad. From time to time, small dealers are arrested, but the real big shots, the so-called kilo men, scarcely run any risk. You have to be crazy if you go out and rob a jeweler any more, they say at narcotics brigade, for in-fighting drug dealing, the law (and the secret services, and extreme rightwing organizations) get in your way.

Chief Inspector H. A. Jansen of the narcotics brigade says resignedly, "If you ring the doorbell and say, 'Rotterdam Municipal Police,' you hear the toilets flushing. Therefore, the thing to do is to break down the door and get in immediately with everything. That is how bad it is."

Commissioner J. A. Blaauw of the central intelligence unit agrees with him: "As a rule, then you still find the stuff all over the floor. The powders, the gram scales; sometimes pistols, the money. It is a well-known picture, everything is in the trash can or in the garden. Naturally, it does not belong to anyone."

Chief Inspector Jansen: "It takes time to build a case against drug dealing. You cannot simply break in somewhere."

Blaauw and Jansen are getting tired of the too-well-known accusation, which was made once again by the prominent statesman W. Drees, Sr., at the beginning of this year in the HOLLANDS MAANDEBLAD: "We read from time to time that a big package of drugs has been seized, so some effort has been made. However, drugs always become available on the market again and you hear little about anything being done against the dealers. They must not be hard beings to find. The addicts always know how to find them. Why not the police?"

The problem is that the police do know how to find the dealers, but frequently cannot prove anything about them.

Commissioner Blaauw: "When I read that the production in the Golden Triangle this year is 600 tons of opium, I face that with fear and trembling. That will make 60 tons of heroin, enough to poison all of Europe. And still that stuff is going to have to find a market."

Jansen: "What we are now seizing is practically exclusively Turkish and Pakistani. Every Turk who comes from the eastern part of Turkey can make contacts there and bring something in with him. When you look at the traffic on the roads--they all go on vacation once a year, some twice--then naturally it looks like a line of ants going and coming. Only 10 percent of them, or even 1 percent, among all of them, who say: 'I'm going to earn a little on the side.'"

Blaauw continues this litany: "Naturally, our borders are hardly borders any more. Belgium, we do not even have to talk about that. That is open. The German border, too, does not mean very much. And then the Dutch harbors; 30,000 ships per year. It is looking for a needle in a haystack." Just after that, he continues: "People often act as though there were someone, as there is on the market on Wall Street, who sets the course. That is a fable, the trade is not in one man's hands. In 1977, we once seized a big package of 126 kilograms. That did not have any effect at all on the price. It is estimated that we seize 10 percent; that is a high estimate. If you make an estimate of Rotterdam, there are about 2,000 addicts there, who use an average of half a gram per day. Then you come out with 365 kilograms per year. Jansen's yield is 20 to 25 kilograms per year. Nationwide, the percentage that is intercepted is even lower."

The Rotterdam narcotics brigade numbers 20 men. Nationwide, there are not as many as 100 policemen directly involved in investigating narcotics, according to Blaauw's and Jansen's estimates.

Blaauw: "To put it in fire brigade terms, you are busy keeping the surrounding properties wet, and the rest is doomed to burn up. You have to be crazy to attack a jeweler, while, if you are talking about heroin, you can usually put the goods in your inside pocket, and then you have a fortune in your pocket." Those who are caught are primarily the small dealers; the visible part of the drug trade: addicts who sell dope in order to pay for their own use, and often a rather luxurious life. Jansen: "That is true, that we are only interfering with the small fry. But if you add up all of those small fry, then you come up with sales of just say 400 kilograms of heroin per year. The local trade, 24 hours a day, that goes on all year long, and you can exercise a real influence there, much more than on the organizations that operate from abroad."

Flower Power

Sander is an Amsterdam dealer. He explains, "Look, every user is a dealer in principle. Because, I meet people who use, too. If I can make something out of that, I will not leave it alone."

And he tells the story of his life.

The first time he used was during the time of flower power and the hippies, the callousness of the scene. And then, in the early 1970's, the beginning of his career as a dealer: "Why do you take that up? Frequently it is an accident. Earlier, I had done all of the usual: cars, checks. I had gone down twice for that, you cannot keep that up for long. I had a few clients, Americans, to whom I sold speed once a month. I earned enough by that to live on. But all at once they did not come back. Then I began to sell pep to foreigners. Slowly but surely I expanded. The first years it was poverty, but I was reasonably satisfied. When you begin, your contacts are nothing special. It takes a while before you get a name, a reputation. People do not accept you right away; it is important that you deliver quality."

Like other dealers to whom we talk, Sander sketches a picture of himself as a kind of Robin Hood of the scene. "I do not steal; I do not take advantage of anyone. I have weeks that I do make something; I live in relative luxury, but I treat the people like people and I do not pretend to myself that I am better than anyone else. I always have to remind myself of that song by Bob Dylan: 'If you live outside the law, you have to be honest.'"

He is reticent about his actual earnings.

"Profit? Oh, I give so much away. I have to earn 1,500 guilders per week for my own horse. And for buys, I have to have 2,000 guilders per week." Later in the talk, Sander says he sells about 15 grams of speed a day for 75 guilders per gram. ("That is expensive, but I do not cut it, I only deliver quality.") That is a turnover of 1,125 guilders per day. That is really a modest amount in that milieu. That is because Sander does not sell any heroin. In that line, you earn more, but the risks are higher there. A small heroin dealer we spoke to is less reticent about his turnover and profit.

"I sell a good 50 grams per day. That is a turnover of about 10,000 guilders, then, but a disturbingly large part of that goes back out. If the dealer takes a shot, then he puts out a little for everyone. I am satisfied if I get to keep a quarter of that 10,000 as profit." That, then, is an annual income of 750,000 guilders clear, including 2 months' vacation and 5 days off.

Why should addicts who do not have enough money for their own habit have to run so many risks by breaking into autos and prostituting themselves if the money is to be had simply by raking it in? Sander provides the explanation: "Not everyone is cut out for dealing. For example, you first and foremost have to be capable of keeping money aside for your buys. That is something 99 out of 100 addicts cannot do. As a dealer, you have to have a certain mentality, you are a sort of gardener." And he reveals the golden rules he has established for himself: "You cannot be too obvious, you cannot be singled out as a crook: no flashy clothes, no gold rings with jewels. And besides that, you must not create a circle of parasites around you, people who say you are really too much. Look, the temptation is there. The dealer is God. People who have a bag of stuff handy can do almost anything they want, because people who need the stuff will do just anything for it if need be. Besides that I do not deal at home. Normal people are visited perhaps three times a

day; a dealer is visited 20 times. That stands out; that is too much; you will get locked up for that for sure. The neighbors do not like that. Special circumstances, foreign deals, I do not go in for them. You have to be able to be satisfied. I have seen them, those dealers who had to have everything. Now they are locked up. I learned from them; that way I can avoid 90 percent of the danger. There will always be an element of chance. Simply bad luck. That is a 10-percent chance. It is a kind of game of chess, I always try to be one, sometimes two moves ahead. I keep asking myself why people get locked up. Usually it is greed. You have these small heroin dealers who sell for somebody else: that is a frightful picture, the metamorphosis from bootlickers to macho men. Really, there are very few people who can keep on doing that work, they always mess it up themselves. I have been doing it for 6 years now and I have worked my way up in that time so that now I get my dope practically first hand. For there is always a problem: how many people are there in between, and how much do they cut?

Super Deluxe

The connection, that is vitally important to the dealer. Sander: "You never turn them in, that is cutting your own throat. Your connection, that determines whether you get dope, and what kind of dope you get."

Robert, a middle-sized heroin dealer, confirms Sander's story: "It took me quite a while before I made contact with serious Turks. Twice I have gotten a kilogram directly from Turkey. That was super deluxe, then I could just see how much is stolen by the middlemen. That dope from Turkey was really 80 percent pure, while what we get here may be 50 percent. Every possible thing is mixed with it: Manitol, a baby laxative. Normally you cannot get that in big quantities, so a trade has grown up in it. There is a shop in Amsterdam where you can get a kilogram of it for 800 guilders. I am glad that now I have a good direct contact, because if you sell garbage, they come looking for you for it."

Robert gives some insight into the price structure in the drug sector: "If I go to a Turk, I pay, let us say, 60,000 guilders for a kilogram of heroin; for 100 grams you pay 9,000 guilders and for 10 grams 1,500 guilders." A user who buys by the gram pays 200 guilders.

The more a gram seller can buy at a time, the higher his profits, then. When buying by the kilogram (which is quite an exception for a small dealer) the profit would be 140,000 guilders. In the event of buying 100 grams (purchase price 9,000 guilders, sales 20,000 guilders) the profit is 11,000 guilders.

Robert: "The closer you are to the source, the less risk you run. If I buy 100 grams from someone, then that person only has to deal with one person, with me. But if I sell in packs of one gram, then I have to deal with 100 people. Besides that, a junkie who betrays me can pick right up with the next guy to buy a small bag, but if you buy by the pound and you betray someone, then you will never get in again. Then you are out of your source of income."

There are an estimated 20,000 heroin addicts in the Netherlands. It is generally assumed that an addict uses an average of half a gram per day, and that is a very conservative estimate. If we accept those figures and those quantities, 10 kilograms of heroin are used per day in the Netherlands. Annually that is 3,650 kilograms.

Once again: that is an extremely conservative estimate.

In the long run, nearly all heroin is sold by the gram: most junkies are not able to buy it wholesale. That brings the total annual turnover in the Netherlands to 730 million guilders. At the kilogram price, that same quantity of heroin represents not quite 220 million guilders. That means that the middlemen earn more than 500 guilders per year.

By comparison, Lucas Bols has annual sales of 821 million guilders, but in that branch the profit margins are certainly appreciably smaller.

Commissioner Blaauw becomes a little discouraged by that. "When you see how much money changes hands in Rotterdam alone for heroin, that comes down to nearly a quarter of the whole police budget. You can figure out what you are up against. Or, as the professor says, temporary displacement of capital." Blaauw says, in a way that shows that he has already said it several times before: "It is like mopping with the spigot open."

Chief Inspector Jansen: "And then we cannot even pay overtime, because of the retrenchment. I am not saying that we will be corrupt tomorrow, but a detective who just steps inside somewhere and finds 200,000 guilders in cash, or who catches a big, fat 60,000 guilder Mercedes...not one time, but every time you go after a syndicate. Then you are in money up to your ears. That is not just in drugs, but in gambling, too, as well as in the case of the big pimps. There you open a suitcase and the money falls out. Then I think it is asking a little too much to say: You must combat these problems, but do not ask us for any money to do it with."

Commissioner Blaauw curbs his chief inspector a little: "When we say 'retrenchment,' our incomes have to decline; I do not want to make the impression that the danger of corruption is increased by that at all; that is primarily a question of mentality. After all, our salary has never been comparable with what goes on in the criminal world. But things really are different from what they were 25 years ago. Then, too, as a policeman you had an outstandingly poor salary, but then there was no question of hundreds of thousands of guilders. It once happened that when I was a young policeman, in South Rotterdam we caught a guy for stealing some copper. On the way to the station, that man said to us: 'If you let me go, there are 25 guilders in it for the two of you.' Just joking, then, we said: 'That would have to be at least 100,000 guilders.' I would never dare to say that any more, for I am afraid that the next day the internal affairs unit [Rijksrecherche] would come to the door and say: 'You asked for 100,000 guilders!'"

Jansen: "Let me put it this way: you become vulnerable."

[Question] Do the narcotics fighters never feel that they are beat policemen on service bicycles who are chasing bankrobbers in a Porsche?

Commissioner Blaauw: "Certainly, but I am convinced that in the city you get through faster on a bicycle than in a Porsche. But seriously now, it is not simple. We work on two fronts: on the level of the local dealers, but also on the level of the kilo men, the international events. Rotterdam undoubtedly functions as a distribution center, among other things, it is a transshipment port for Washington.

On the local level, you can exert a direct influence, much more than on the organizations that operate from abroad. We try to make the retail trade as difficult as possible: a policy of discouragement. Closing the cafes where heroin is traded, that hurts. I often compare it to a sweet potato stand. If you have a sweet potato stand next to a junior high school, then you can be sure that 80 percent of the children will be eating sweet potatoes. If you move it three kilometers further up, then you only have the ones who really like them. You have to suppress the availability of the junk. Then let those who really need it hunt all over the city to find something, but not to be approached themselves here on the Kruiskade by people offering, 'Buy smak?'"

And the wholesalers, the kilo men? Blaauw has outspoken ideas about them. He rejects infiltration of trade routes: "In order to infiltrate, you have to take on the color of the environment. You cannot do that without breaking the law, and then you are an imitation criminal. In Belgium, they say: 'You cannot play the whore and remain a virgin.'" Neither does Blaauw expect much good to come from the Netherlands penal system: "When it finally comes to a verdict, and they are sentenced to 6 or 7 years, you can still ask yourself how much of that will remain." Blaauw asks for increasing the maximum penalty for dealing from 12 years to life, but even more, he would like to see the dealers attacked financially. "You must make it absolutely unattractive even to sell one gram of heroin. A guy who does 1 to 3 years in the jug and thinks, 'When I get out, at least I have a few hundred thousand guilders laid away,' that is what you have to prevent. Make it unattractive, then. On the one hand, by making the chance of arrest, and on the other by cleaning out the people you arrest so frightfully that the next day they have to run around passing the hat."

The commissioner would like to see a reverse burden of proof in cases of demonstrable dealing in drugs: that is, that the criminal himself would have to prove that he had earned his possessions legally. Blaauw: "When you catch a guy with a few kilograms of heroin, and later at his home you find a few hundred thousand guilders, then I say that he earned that money through the drug trade. And if you roll up an organization and you have evidence against the top man, then he would have to prove the same thing, even if he did not have even one gram of heroin in his pocket. Quite a few people raise their eyebrows when I announce this position, but I would like to point out that taxes do just this. Al Capone was finally pulled in because of taxes."

Finally, Commissioner Blaauw would like to see the principle of universality incorporated into the law, too: "If a Belgian in Belgium sets up a heroin deal for the Netherlands, the Dutch authorities cannot do anything to him,

even when he is in our country. On the basis of the universality principle, it would have to become possible for a West German who set up a deal in Turkey for smuggling drugs into France to be prosecuted in the Netherlands if he came into the country. Now we cannot do anything to a Turkish dealer who comes into the country to reconnoiter the market."

Gerard, a Rotterdam dealer: "All those police, all those jails, really: that must cost millions. What I do not understand is why they do not make it all legal. Free handouts. The people are glad to see me as a dealer, that is not what I am talking about. Let me put it this way: I find it to be a fine line of work, but then again, I have to deal in order to pay for my own habit. I smoke heroin, and that way you use a lot, about 1,000 guilders' worth a day. If I did not have to pay for that, I would rather work in a cafe, I have papers for that. My own cafe, why, I could earn my keep very well on that. And possibly in the gambling world, I can always make a little money there."

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UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLED IN BATS--London, 4 May (AFP)--Four kilos of heroin were seized by customs and excise officers at a warehouse in East London, police announced here today. The drugs were found hidden inside a consignment of cricket bats from Pakistan. Seven people were tonight helping police with inquiries. [Text] [NC042229 Paris AFP in English 2139 GMT 4 May 82]

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