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STATINTL

Black viewpoint

'The Choice' links drug traffic to CIA

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The relationship between even "successful" blacks and their government is appalling, whether one views it through the government's eyes or those of black people.

With the U.S. government spying on black leaders whether they be Nixon supporters or not, and as moderate as Roy Wilkins or Dr. Ralph Abernathy, creeping paranoia is one result. Ask any black man or woman under 30 "Who killed Malcolm X?" and the reply will invariably be "The CIA" (Central Intelligence Agency)

Sam Yette's book, "The Choice" strongly raises the possibility of Anglo-American genocide here and abroad and more and more black people have begun looking closer now, rather than laughing at such notions among black intellectuals. Many in the inner city believe strongly that, contrary to newspaper headlines of recent vintage which proclaimed blacks were "in control" of local drugs powerful whites have to have ultimate control, since blacks do not control U.S. borders, ports of entry the U.S. Customs department, nor the transportation industry.

AND IF HARPER and Row has its way, this idea may get added credence among growing numbers of Americans. The New York publishing firm is releasing a book on heroin and opium traffic in

Southeast Asia, which strongly implicates CIA involvement in the traffic itself, with the CIA strongly involved, also, in attempts to make sure the book doesn't get published.

Another "Pentagon Papers" fiasco? Perhaps, but "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" already is interesting reading for the CIA's general counsel, Lawrence Houston. Houston was so interested that he obtained a copy of the work two weeks ago, then later penned a letter asking Harper and Row not to publish the book. Now, what does the all-powerful CIA have to hide?

AFTER PORING over the CIA "critique" of the book, Harper and Row let it be known they would proceed with release of the book as planned. The CIA harps that "No responsible publishing firm would print" the book. Researcher Alfred McCoy, author of the book, has scored CIA agents for "harassment" of the publishers and contends that he's been included in such tactics as the target of "visits, phone calls and letters."

According to McCoy, the CIA could only criticize "Two per cent of the manuscript". The book documents the movement of opium from the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia with the use of CIA operatives and equipment. McCoy said that, even with the CIA criticism of his work, they admit that a CIA agent was involved in heroin production.

McCOY WENT on to say that the agency admitted that one of its mercenary army commanders, General Chao La, had kept a heroin laboratory in Northwest Thailand between 1966 and 1971. All this according to McCoy, with the full knowledge—and admission—of CIA officials. Strong charges that bear explaining? You bet, and the fact that the CIA now reports that General La's heroin lab was destroyed last year does not mitigate the seriousness of such charges as those raised in McCoy's book.

At Eccentric press time, the book ought to be in area bookstores. But if blacks are increasingly wondering how expendable

they are, the ranks of those "just short" of being white radicals are swelling, too, as confidence in the American government receives an unhealthy "downer" from these and other observations and revelations. The CIA actually came out and said that "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" would "do a disservice in the fight against narcotics trafficking in Southeast Asia."

A BLACK MAN on a street corner who had been talking with a white youth, recently summed up, I suppose much of the black view when he said: "If you had a race of people that you really didn't want to be totally free and wished to destroy them, wouldn't YOU use some form of chemical genocide as heroin? Where else but in America can you find people robbing and killing to purchase their own suicide?"

To which the white youth, supposedly radical, added: "Yes, and when you look at this in the context of the U.S. holdout in signing the U.N. genocide agreement, the hysterical detention of over 10,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II, and the current level of dope available despite all the busts the government keeps announcing you KNOW something's awfully wrong." Perhaps.

IT IS HARD to believe that a government rich and powerful enough to beat the Russians to the moon, a country so technologically advanced that is can readily transfer part of its litter problem to that part of the universe, cannot find the necessary funds, technology or personnel to crack down on the International drug traffic. Who will we believe?

Despite the immensity of the American public relations and propaganda machine, a government led by people who admit that they have lied to the American public before, now has a hard time ahead in clearing the air on this one. Further, although there is evidence that SOME media barons were intimidated by Spiro Agnew's repeated attacks on news media, some journalists and broadcasters have not slowed their work at all in ferreting out and questioning our government's real role in this and other issues.

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