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The controversial book the CIA sought to defuse...

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATE

# The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia

"A SERIOUS, SOBER, HEADLINE-SHUNNING STUDY... IT IS SO FILLED WITH INFORMATION THAT IT WILL

TAKE A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN MERE DISLIKE OF ITS CONTENTS TO DEMOLISH IT."—*The New York Times*

By Alfred W. McCoy with Cathleen B. Read and Leonard P. Adams II

FROM A REVIEW BY John Barkham FOR THE *Saturday Review Syndicate*

"AMERICA is in the grip of a devastating heroin epidemic which leaves no city or suburb untouched, and which also runs rampant through every American military installation both here and abroad. And the plague is spreading..."

With these opening words Alfred W. McCoy sounds an alarm which rises to a frightening crescendo in a book steeped in controversy even before publication. McCoy and his associates flatly assert that the "Golden Triangle" where Laos, Thailand and Burma meet is a gigantic seedbed for addictive drugs to supply the rich American market and that knowingly or otherwise American authorities including the CIA are involved in the traffic. For its part the CIA, departing from custom, asked to see proofs of the book before publication and thereafter vigorously denied implication. On the contrary, it asserted through a spokesman, it was actively engaged in fighting the importation of drugs into the United States.

Since the book is now before us, each reader can decide for himself. Its documentation is impressive, and in this reviewer's opinion, McCoy has made out at least a *prima facie* case for American indifference to, if not actual involvement in, the heavy narcotics traffic from Southeast Asia to the United States...

If we are to believe McCoy, American diplomatic and military response has been a combination of embarrassment and apathy — "embarrassment because they are all aware to some degree, even though they will not admit it, that elements of the Vietnamese government are pushing heroin to American GIs, apathy because most of them feel that anybody who uses heroin deserves what he gets." ...This is a serious charge and mere denials from high quarters cannot dispel it.

"Thoroughly researched, carefully annotated, and specific in its accusations. [McCoy's] book is a monumental piece of scholarship [and] a fascinating tale of mercenary armies, lost battalions, commando raids on Communist China, and wild mountain tribesmen led by hard-drinking American adventurers who sometimes pay cash bounties for enemy ears. It is right out of *Terry and the Pirates*, and it is all more or less true." —*National Observer*

37 photographs • 11 maps • 464 pages including 63 pages of bibliographical notes • Glossary • Index

**[Publisher's list price: \$10.95]**

**PRICE TO MEMBERS: \$8.50**

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