



**National
Foreign
Assessment
Center**

22nd Secret



International Narcotics Biweekly Review

12 October 1977

DOJ, DOS Review
Completed.

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PS SNIN 77-021

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INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS BIWEEKLY REVIEW

12 October 1977

CONTENTS

USSR: Drug Abuse Rise in the Asiatic Republics . . . 1



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DENMARK: Enforcement Difficulties Hamper
Drug Control Effort 7

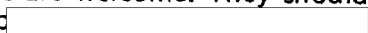
NOTEWORTHY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

- 1. Pakistan. 9
- 2. Colombia. 10

BRIEFS. 12

INTERESTING READING 15

Note: As a result of a reorganization, effective 11 October 1977, intelligence publications formerly issued by the Directorate of Intelligence and by the National Intelligence Officers are now being issued by the National Foreign Assessment Center. Publication covers and titles have been adjusted to reflect this change. This publication was formerly titled *International Narcotics Developments*.

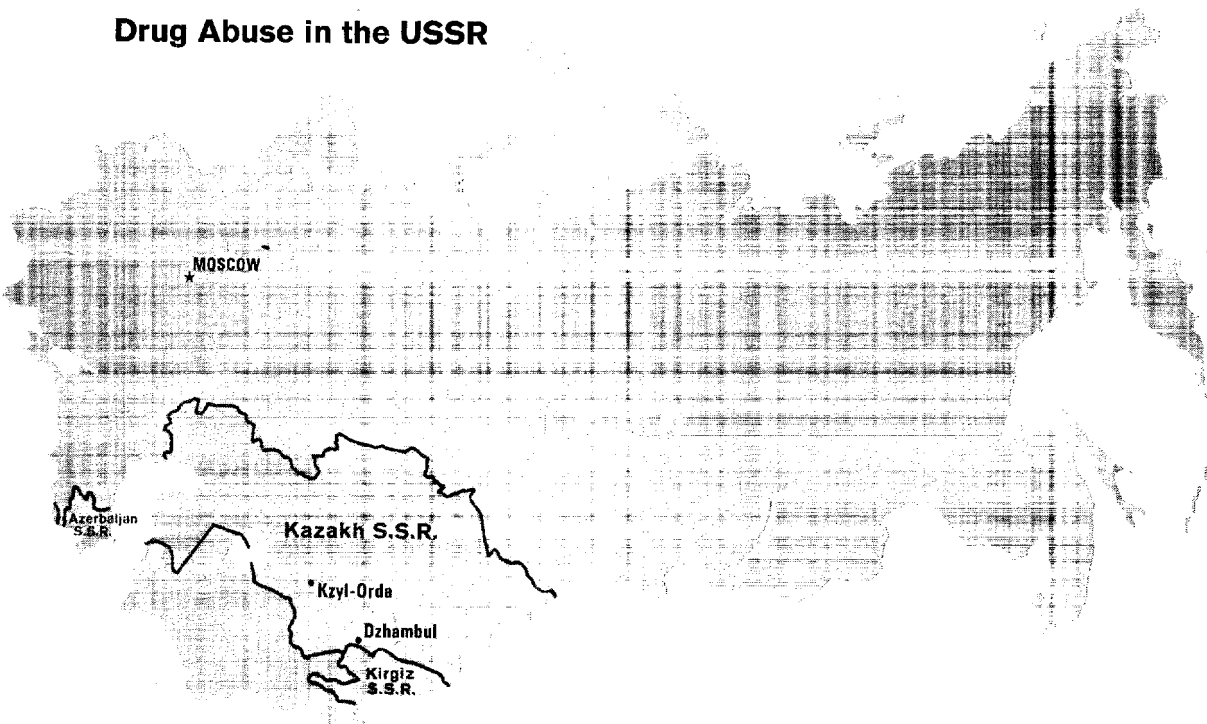
This publication is prepared by analysts in the National Foreign Assessment Center for specialists in the Washington community who are interested in international narcotics matters. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles or to 

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PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

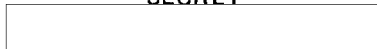
Drug Abuse in the USSR



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USSR: Drug Abuse Rise in the Asiatic Republics

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[redacted] an increasing drug abuse problem among Soviet youth, particularly in the Kazakh and Azerbaijan Republics. [redacted]

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[redacted] the use of drugs (*plon* in Russian slang) has reached alarming levels in the past five years.

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Marijuana (*anasha*) and hashish are evidently the most prevalent drugs and are used by as many as three quarters of all adolescents in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Their popularity is reflected in rising prices--for example, a marijuana cigarette which cost 10 kopeks in 1965 sold for one ruble in 1977.* The towns of Kzyl-Orda and Dzhabul, both in Kazakhstan, are primary sources of the drugs. Dzhabul in particular is located near the opium producing and distributing areas of the Kirgiz Republic.

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Opium and codeine are also mentioned as widely used narcotics. [redacted] the oft-heard rumor about opium smuggling across the Sino-Soviet border into Kazakhstan. Azerbaijan, a producer of poppies for both oil and opium gum, is also reported to be an important source of illegal opium. Diversion of large amounts of legally grown opium in both Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan is apparently common, despite supposedly tight security around opium fields.

Hospital stocks are said to be the major source of codeine, sold on the black market by hospital employees as a lucrative source of income. Morphine is also stolen from hospital and pharmacy supplies, but its cost to users is high (street price is about five rubles for a small vial), and its use is not common. The extent of heroin, barbiturate, and amphetamine abuse is not known.

*100 kopeks = 1 ruble = \$0.90 (1965), \$1.43 (1977) (official rate)

PS SNIN 77-021
13 October 1977

SECRET

SECRET

The widespread use of narcotics in the USSR prompted the passage in 1973 of a series of laws against drug peddling and use. The penalty is now a maximum of five years' imprisonment for first possession and 10 for the second offense, while drug peddling carries an automatic sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and confiscation of all private property. Habitual users may be imprisoned for 10 years. Additional armed guards were posted around opium fields, but they reportedly succumbed quickly to the opportunity for extra income. [redacted] none of these measures has made a dent in the ranks of Soviet drug users. [redacted]

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PS SNIN 77-021
13 October 1977

SECRET

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DENMARK: Enforcement Difficulties Hamper Drug Control Effort

Denmark's role as a "clearing-house" for international drug trafficking is increasing. Sixty to 70 percent of Scandinavia's illicit drugs are routed through Copenhagen, the gateway between Nordic and Continental Europe. The city's accessibility and inadequate drug control effort have made it a popular transit point for drugs destined for other areas as well.

Denmark does not produce narcotics nor are Danish citizens responsible for introducing most of the illicit drugs to the country. Heroin enters Denmark from Southeast Asia through tightly controlled Chinese organizations which recruit Westerners as couriers. Pakistan is the source of most morphine entering Denmark, and Pakistani guest workers are relied upon for its transportation. Hashish originates in several Middle Eastern countries and is carried by tourists (often students) and laborers.

Efforts to control the movement of illegal drugs are frustrated by legal constraints on the Danish police, the free flow of uninspected tourist traffic across Danish borders, obsolete police practices, and a lack of cooperation among government agencies. Police efforts to infiltrate drug rings have been permitted only since 1976 because it was feared that the practice would lead to violations of individual privacy. Similar constraints limit cooperation between police and social welfare authorities who are charged with treating drug addiction problems.

Some rivalry exists between the small Narcotics Police organization which is privy to DEA and INTERPOL intelligence on drug matters, and Customs, which has the manpower to combat drug flow through the country's airports and border posts. The Justice Ministry has been hesitant to authorize adequate rewards for information leading to drug arrests, and only recently have police been given a "flash roll" to lure vendors into drug deals.

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

Curiously, there has been little public support for a comprehensive campaign against drug problems. Drug usage seems to be regarded as a personal matter that should remain outside the government's purview. Danes are much more inclined to support expensive rehabilitation programs than enforcement efforts which require government agents to become involved in the "dirty" end of the drug business. There is also some fear that a strict enforcement policy would curtail tourism which is of great economic importance to Denmark.

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PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

NOTEWORTHY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

(Editor's Note: These items, produced for another CIA publication, do not deal specifically with the international narcotics situation. They are included here, however, because they concern developing political situations that could impact on the international narcotics control effort.)

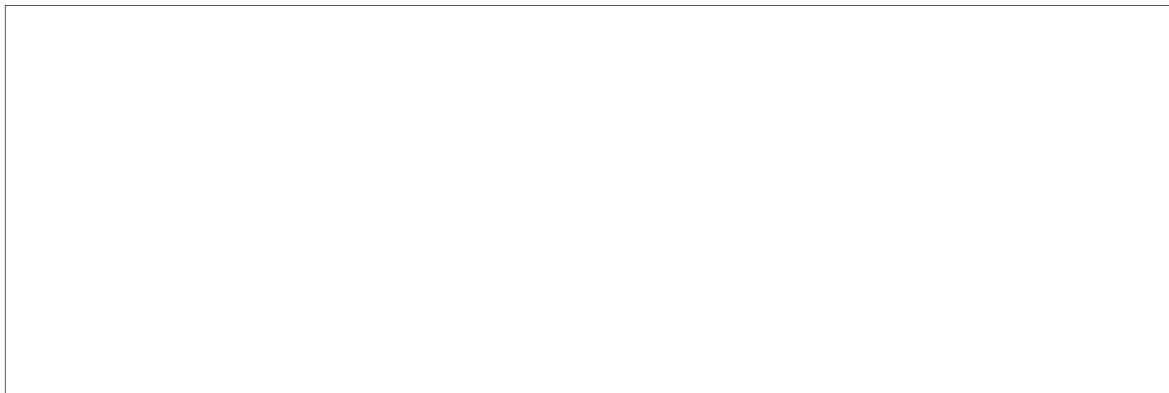


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PAKISTAN: Election Postponement

Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia-ul-Haq's decision, announced 1 October, to postpone Pakistan's election apparently resulted from the need for time to solve several political problems. The military government still seems to regard itself as transitional, although its actions continue to move it in the direction of permanent rule.

Zia said that if the election were held as scheduled on 18 October, a new crisis could ensue. He is concerned both that widespread violence could erupt and that the nine-party Pakistan National Alliance opposing former Prime Minister Bhutto would be unable to form a stable government, which could open the way for Bhutto's return to power.



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PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

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In the past, Zia has expressed doubts about the Alliance's ability to govern. In his speech announcing the postponement, he accused both the Alliance and Bhutto's party of failing to produce a program and of indulging in "provocative statements." [redacted]

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Zia may plan to release Abdul Wali Khan, who was jailed by Bhutto on charges of plotting the secession of Pakistan's two westernmost provinces. Wali is a more charismatic figure than the present Alliance leaders, but his return to active politics might well increase strains within the Alliance.

The military leaders have not established a new date for the election, but there is some speculation it will be held in March. Zia has acknowledged that the task of returning Pakistan to democracy is more difficult than he expected when he seized power in July. It might be as difficult in March. [redacted]

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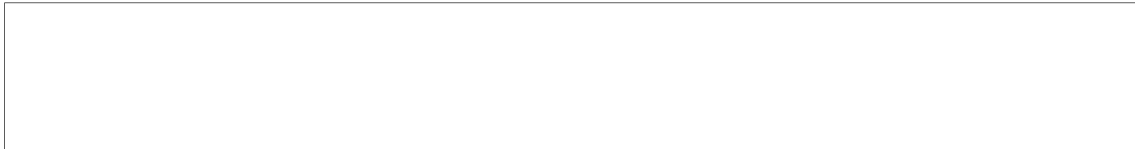
COLOMBIA: President Lopez Reshuffles Cabinet

The government's handling of the labor strike in Colombia last month has resulted in further factionalism within the ruling Liberal Party and precipitated a crisis in the President's cabinet. As a result of the strike, Lopez asked for the resignations of Rafael Pardo Buelvas and Abdon Espinosa Valderrama, Ministers of Government and Finance, respectively. Their departures triggered the resignations of the remaining cabinet members, leaving Lopez free to reorganize his administration and put his government back on an even keel.

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

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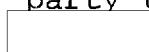
Pardo's ouster resulted from his public criticism of party officials who failed to support the administration during the recent labor crisis. His comments embarrassed Lopez and further divided the Liberal Party at a time when pre-election solidarity is of great importance.

Thus far Lopez has made four new appointments to his cabinet: Minister of Government Alfredo Araujo Grau, Finance Minister Alfonso Palacio Rudas, Minister of Mines and Energy Eduardo Gaitan Duran, and Agriculture Minister Joaquin Vanin Tello. On balance the changes may well have strengthened the administration. The new appointees have better political bases than the previous incumbents, and they appear to be more highly regarded by other Liberal and Conservative party officials than were the former ministers.

The appointments change what in effect is Lopez' ministerial economic team. This change, coupled with the President's dissatisfaction with previous fiscal policies, may indicate a gradual relaxation of the hard, anti-inflation line espoused by Espinosa. That policy, bitterly opposed by the country's working class which has been hard hit by the rising cost of living, provoked the united opposition of the labor confederations that culminated in the violent general strike on 14 September.

Although the general work stoppage lasted only one day, sporadic strikes by some industrial workers, teachers, and others are still under way. There have been rumors that unless the government agrees to labor's demands, the unions will call another general strike. Labor and government, however, both want to avoid another potentially disastrous confrontation in the streets. Prospects seem likely, therefore, that a minimum wage increase acceptable to both sides may be forthcoming.

Lopez has only 10 months left in which to solve the worsening social and political problems gripping the country, and he would like to end his term on a positive note and at the same time enhance the prospects for his party to remain in power.



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PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

BRIEFS

COLOMBIA: There have been some reports in recent weeks that Mexican opium poppy growers have been working with Colombian traffickers to begin cultivation of opium poppies in Colombia. Late last month opium poppy field spotting-missions were flown in the Buga Valley, the area reportedly under cultivation. A DEA pilot, flying one of the US helicopters recently given to Colombia as part of a bilateral drug control program, covered both the valley and the surrounding mountainous areas. The pilot, who has experience spotting poppy fields in Mexico, reported that no fields were discovered in the areas he investigated. Other surveys of different areas are planned. [REDACTED]

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LATIN AMERICA: Dr. Nelson Diaz Pomar, the Attorney General of Peru, recently approached the US Embassy in Lima for possible US support for a proposed sub-regional conference of Latin American Attorneys General on narcotics matters. According to Diaz, the meeting would constitute a continuation of the Sixth Interamerican Conference of Attorneys General held in Quito last month. Diaz proposes that representatives of the US, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Peru reconvene and attempt to develop draft extradition agreements among the participating countries specifically to cover narcotics violators. The conference would also consider other means of regional cooperation on narcotics including drafting a model drug law for Latin American countries. [REDACTED]

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BOLIVIA: Officials in Washington recently asked the US Embassy in La Paz for its opinion regarding the feasibility of conducting research on coca crop eradication in Bolivia. Although Bolivian officials have expressed an interest in working out bilateral drug control measures with the US, the US Embassy reported that a crop eradication survey would not be in the best interest of developing further drug control cooperation. A host of political and economic factors in Bolivia will make even a crop substitution

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

SECRET

program difficult; proposals for crop eradication are likely to be regarded with extreme misgivings and distrust by Bolivian officials and campesinos alike. [redacted]

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AFGHANISTAN: High-level Afghan officials, including Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, Chairman of the Joint Commission on Afghan Narcotics Matters, and the Minister of Planning have assured US and UN representatives in Kabul that they will support the proposed UN feasibility survey for an opium poppy eradication program in the upper Helmand Valley. The Minister of Planning has also promised to secure the assistance of other key Afghan officials such as the Minister of Water and Power. Maroofi has suggested that the Joint Commission meet next month with the UN representative responsible for the proposed survey to exchange views on the project.

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THAILAND: Police in southern Thailand have seized over three-quarters of a ton of opium aboard a southbound train. The police believe that the opium was being shipped clandestinely to new heroin factories or laboratories located near the Malaysian border. The opium seizure apparently was the largest ever made in southern Thailand. Thai narcotics agents claim that drug traffickers in recent months have begun processing raw opium into heroin because of heavy police pressure in the northern growing areas. The opium, packed in boxes, was being shipped to a Thai national at an address some 420 miles south of Bangkok and only 50 miles north of the Malaysian border.

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PARAGUAY: The Paraguayan Senate, on 6 October, approved and sent back to the Executive Branch of the government the South American Drug Agreement on Narcotics and Psychotropic drugs. This agreement, which was signed at the international conference in Buenos Aires on 27 April 1973, entered into force on 26 March this year--30 days after ratification by the Argentine Government, the fourth ratification as provided by the agreement. The action taken by the

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

SECRET

Paraguayan Senate was one of the last steps in Paraguay's ratification procedure; it still has to go through the technical procedure of presidential signature and promulgation. Final action is expected within the next two weeks. [redacted]

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AUSTRALIA: The Prime Minister announced in Parliament on 5 October that arrangements have been made to establish a "National Royal Commission on Drugs." The National Commission will be headed by a justice from the Queensland Supreme Court and is expected to begin functioning soon although no timetable has yet been announced. The formation of the National Commission, which follows in the wake of the recent creation of two state-level "royal commissions," reflects the growing concern in Australia over its drug abuse problem. National attention became focused on the worsening problem following the disappearance and presumed murder of a prominent New South Wales citizen who had assumed a leading role in organizing public support for stronger enforcement of antinarcotics laws in the New South Wales region. The role of organized crime in the narcotics problem has become an increasing public concern in Australia. [redacted]

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PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

INTERESTING READING

Heroin Seized From International Smuggling Network (INDIA)
--TNDD,* No. L/7389, 27 September 1977, p. 12.
(According to the Central Delhi Police Superintendent, the heroin came from the Golden Triangle area and was smuggled into India through Nepal.)

Heroin Bigger Threat Than Dissidence (NEW ZEALAND)--TNDD,
No. L/7389, pp. 26-28. ("...New Zealand is progressively coming under the grip of an international drug trade that, in the case of heroin...can be traced back to political groups and sources in Southeast Asia.")

Little Chance of Tracing Currency to Drugs (NEW ZEALAND)
--TNDD, No. L/7389, pp. 29-30. (Large sums of money are being taken out of New Zealand and exchanged at foreign banks...[but] because the sources of the currency can be traced only as far as the foreign bank from which it was sent, persons who have exchanged big sums...for foreign currency have escaped detection.")

La Victoria Traffickers Reclaim Cocaine After Bust (COLOMBIA)--TNDD, No. L/7389, pp. 93-101. (A veteran of the Korean War, a soldier in the Colombian Army decorated by the government for actions in defense of public order...inflicted the biggest insult on Colombian authorities in the history of the battle against cocaine traffickers.... [He recovered] 150 pounds of cocaine that the [authorities] had confiscated from him at the biggest laboratory ever found in [Colombia].")

25X1

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

SECRET

- Causes of Increasing Drug Addiction Analyzed (MEXICO)*--TNDD, No. L/7389, pp. 111-116. ("The problem of the use of drugs among young people is unfortunately increasing every day....This life of constant change, the overpopulation...and especially the increasing lack of communication among family members, along with other factors, may produce an insecure individual...who...may turn to drugs.")
- Drug Addiction Problem Said Reappearing (LEBANON)*--TNDD, No. L/7389, pp. 146-152. (A Lebanese mental health official sees the resurgence of drug addiction as a result of the civil war.)
- Hard Drug Traffic Led by Europe (SWEDEN)*--TNDD, No. L/7389, p. 164. ("Europe has overtaken America as the biggest market for illicit hard drugs, with seizures by police more than doubling over the past 18 months.")
- Growth of Heroin Traffic Noted (UNITED KINGDOM)*--TNDD, No. L/7389, pp. 166-169. (Jayne Harris, a 25-year-old heiress, was thought to have spent most of a \$120,000 inheritance on drugs before she died of her addiction.... She started by sniffing cocaine at a party when she was 15...her tragedy dramatically highlights the growing problem of heroin trafficking in Britain....")
- Narcotics Smuggling, Seizure Operations Reported (SYRIA)*--TNDD, No. L/7398, 30 September 1977, pp. 51-68. (The phenomenon of taking drugs is a social problem which is threatening parts of the Arab homeland and a possible danger that may threaten the other portions of Arab society....")
- Investigation of Drug Seizure Reveals Concealment Procedures (SWEDEN)*--TNDD, No. L/7398, pp. 61-64. (Cookie cans.)

PS SNIN 77-021
12 October 1977

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