

U. S. Drug Reports Diver

By MICHAEL SATCHELL
Star-News Staff Writer

While secret intelligence reports over the past 18 months have presented a gloomy assessment of America's worldwide efforts to hamper international narcotics trafficking, the White House and the Justice Department have carefully fostered the opposite image — that the government was making significant gains in the fight against opium, heroin and cocaine smuggling.

In speeches and press releases, officials heralded Turkey's agreement to halt opium poppy production, the increased cooperation with foreign governments and record seizures of narcotics as hard evidence that the battle was well on its way to being won.

Dr. Jerome Jaffe, special consultant to the president on narcotics, and John E. Ingersoll, head of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, called them "major breakthroughs" and "milestones in the cooperative effort with foreign governments."

Thursday, the government released a report entitled "World Opium Survey, 1972" that reflected in part what intelligence networks had been saying for months.

But while the report acknowledged that things were not as rosy as pictured earlier, it still glossed over most of the facts and conclusions contained in Central Intelligence Agency and BNDD summaries that suggest the United States has only touched the tip of the world narcotics problem.

These summaries, stamped "Secret, No Foreign Dissemination," survey narcotics production and smuggling throughout Asia, Europe, Central and South America.

They detail widespread complicity by officials in several countries, suggest "extra-legal" actions the United States could consider, emphasize that the Turkish agreement will have little effect on the U.S. heroin problem, note that Vietnam war requirements have hampered the narcotics fight, and conclude that the massive effort by the United States and other nations has had little real permanent effect on the international narcotics trade.

Among the major points in the summaries:

- Prohibiting the growth of opium poppies in Turkey is no guarantee against illegal cultivation, which has been around 100 tons a year.

- The Turkish agreement will have minimal impact on well established European smuggling pipelines that will easily switch from Turkey to Yugoslavia, Persia and Afghanistan for opium supplies.

- "Extra-legal actions such as flooding markets with harmless or aggravating heroin substitutes to destroy the trade's credibility, destruction of narcotics factories by hiring criminal or non-official elements, pay-offs of corrupted officials as an income substitute, and defoliation, are highly problematical, but should not be rejected out of hand."

- The trade cannot flourish without corrupt civil servants and police in key positions. In the "Bulgarian Customs Game" for example, government officials sell to French traffickers opium that Bulgarian customs officials have confiscated from smugglers. The smugglers often pay small fines and can even buy back their own narcotics seized earlier.

- Despite increased narcotics seizures, no critical shortage has been observed on the illicit market.

- The probability of eliminating the trade in cocaine — currently the fastest growing hard narcotic used in the United States — is nil.

The CIA and BNDD intelligence summaries spell out in vivid detail the enormous problems facing the United States in trying to curtail the highly organized and immensely profitable international narcotics trade.

Illicit opium production, for example, is estimated at something between 1,200 and 1,400 tons each year. To produce enough heroin to satisfy American addicts and users, only 40 tons of opium are required.

Turkish opium was furnishing about 80 percent of the heroin destined for the United States with the remainder being produced in a small amount from the Golden Triangle area of Laos-Thailand-Burma.

The CIA reports state that in Burma, the most important nation in the Golden Triangle and which produces about 460 tons of opium annually, the United States is virtually impotent in its enforcement opportunities.

"Opportunities to exert influence are extremely limited," the reports say. "Lack of U.S. leverage suggests the best hope lies with the United Nations. Burmese customs and military officials are reported in collusion with smugglers."

In neighboring Thailand, the reports state, "officials of the Royal Thai Army and Customs at the several checkpoints along the route to Bangkok are usually bribed and 'protection' fees prepaid by the smuggling syndicate or by the driver at the checkpoints."

In the Vientiane to Hong Kong pipeline, the CIA summaries report, "most of it is probably smuggled aboard military or commercial air flights including Royal Air Laos and Air Vietnam, often

by or in collusion with the crew."

In recent years, the Golden Triangle area has begun to produce finished heroin products for shipment rather than simply raw opium or morphine base from which the heroin is made.

"The technology of refining opium into heroin is no more complex than making bootleg whisky in the United States," a CIA report says, countering the popular image of complicated heroin "laboratories."

Pressure in Europe is creating shifts in smuggling patterns with West Germany emerging as a major narcotics storage and staging area with Munich, Frankfurt and Hamburg the principal centers.

The role of Bulgaria in recent years has "increased tremendously" and the Communist nation is used as safe haven from which major narcotics operations are directed.

"Sofia has been described as the new center for directing narcotics and arms trafficking between western Europe and the Near East," the reports state. "French and United Kingdom officials have also voiced their belief that Bulgarian government officials may be actively involved in selling seized Turkish narcotics to French traffickers."

As South America emerges as an important transshipment point for narcotics entering the United States, there are indications of increased production of opium poppies in some Latin countries including the Columbia-Ecuador border and Costa Rica.

Cuban exiles and Puerto Rican nationals are playing key roles in the trade and production is switching from marijuana to the more profitable cocaine and heroin.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Thai Opium Bonfire Mostly Fodder

By Jack Anderson

With enormous fanfare last March, the Thai government announced it had burned 26 tons of opium. The pyre was hailed in Washington and Bangkok as evidence that Thailand at last was getting serious about cutting off the flow of heroin to the U.S.

"This quantity of opium if refined into heroin," crowed the State Department to Congress, "could have supplied one-half the U.S. market for one year." The value of the opium fed to the bonfire was estimated in the hundreds of millions.

Now, the CIA and other federal agencies have quietly informed Washington that something besides opium went up in that bonfire. The real story is that Thailand and, indirectly the U.S., were horn-swoggled into believing that 26 tons of opium were burned, when, in fact, most of it was cheap fodder.

The tale of duplicity begins in November, 1971, when the drug-smuggling remnants of Nationalist Chinese troops along the Thai-Burma-Laos border heard the Thai govern-

ment wanted to buy up some opium for a public demonstration.

The aging Nationalist generals weren't born yesterday. Having lived by their wits for 20 years, they saw an opportunity to make a killing.

Instead of loading raw opium, they pushed 100 mules with fodder, other plant matter, chemicals, and about 20 per cent opium.

The caravans made their way down from the remote border areas of Kachin and Shan to the northern drug center of Chiang Mai where the burning was to take place.

As one mule after another was unburdened, the Thais paid off the Chinese—in part, probably, with U.S. aid funds. In all, the cagy dope peddlers passed off five tons of opium as 26 tons and pocketed more than \$2 million from the fantastic hoax.

Either through corruption or stupidity, the Thai officials failed to test the huge mounds of "opium" before they soaked it with gasoline and put it to the torch.

Only as the smell of burning molasses wafted through Chiang Mai did the Thais suspect they had been had. Then,

it was too late to do anything but cover up their goof.

And cover up they did. They hastily recruited gangs of workers to bury the "hundreds of millions of dollars" worth of fodder and opium ashes.

Lives Lost

Two years ago, we reported that thousands of American lives could have been saved in Vietnam if the Army had developed adequate head and body armor.

The brass hats began a furious search for an answer to our charges but found the position, in the words of one general, "too weak to merit a rebuttal."

Disturbed over our disclosures, Sen. Charles Mc. Mathias (R-Md.), requested a General Accounting Office investigation. The GAO report, not yet released to the public, backs us up completely.

Citing a "preliminary analysis" of 2,703 Army and 627 Marine casualties, the report declares that "the Army's nylon vest did not significantly reduce casualties or deaths" and that "the helmet, used by both the Army and Marine Corps, gives marginal reduction of death from fragments but ap-

parently no reduction in casualties."

Not only did the armor provide insufficient protection, we reported originally, but many lives had been lost because the GIs hadn't been trained to wear their battle gear.

Military authorities, in response, steadfastly insisted the helmet and vest were regularly worn. But the GAO, basing its conclusion on the Army's own research, said:

"If the Army vest was worn, about a 40 per cent decrease in wounds in protected areas could be anticipated against all fragmentation weapons and about a 55 per cent decrease against the M-26 hand grenade..."

"Under identical heat, humidity, wind and cloud-cover conditions, the Marine Corps use of vests averaged 73.7 per cent while Army usage averaged only 16.1 per cent.

"We believe the Army's low use of the vest in Vietnam relates to a lack of training and emphasis on using it during combat. In contrast, the Marine Corps does use the vest in training and puts emphasis on its use during combat."

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Coming: A Ton of Trouble

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG
Star Staff Writer

A ton of 96 percent pure Southeast Asian heroin — enough to satisfy more than one-tenth of all American dope addicts for a year — is headed this way as fast as its Chinese owners can gear up their smuggling apparatus to get it out of Asia.

This No. 4 or injectable heroin originally was destined for American troops in Vietnam.

First of Two Articles

But the withdrawal of the troops has left the narcotics smugglers literally holding the bag — in fact, thousands of hermetically sealed bags of heroin.

Presence of the vast oversupply of heroin was disclosed by John Warner, chief of the strategic intelligence office of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

He said it's still "upcountry" — in the "golden triangle" of the opium trade, where Laos, Thailand and Burma meet. What BNDD hopes to accomplish with intelligence from the Central Intelligence Agency and Thai and Laotian police is to "interdict" or block the movement of the heroin down the line to where it can be shipped to the United States.

"With the withdrawal of our troops and the stricter military controls to locate heroin users," Warner said, "the market for No. 4 heroin dwindled. In the tri-border area, the price has dropped to \$750 a kilo, which is just their break-even point.

"We speculate that some of this heroin is going to find its way to the Western world. Some of it already is being seized in the major United States ports — New York, Miami, San Francisco and Seattle."

Right now, Warner said, there's a sizable oversupply of No. 4 heroin — equivalent to the best out of Marseilles. It's been stockpiled for lack of buyers.

The heroin traffickers, he said, had expected the United States to remain in Southeast Asia for the next quarter of a century. The troop pullout caught them off guard.

"We have pictures showing how they have doubled the plant capacity of their heroin laboratories," Warner said. "They're still producing because they have chemists under contract, but they're trying to sell practically at cost while they try to link up with American and European buyers. We know heroin is still in the pipeline."

The Chinese dominating this traffic are the overseas Chinese, motivated by profit rather than ideology. Warner rejected the oft-expressed theory that the Chinese Communists

are seeking world domination by making the young people of the West slaves to narcotics.

The intelligence chief said Peking officials can claim little influence over the border provinces where opium is the principal and usually only money crop. The tribesmen who grow the opium, he explained, live on both the Chinese and Burmese sides of the border and ignore the central governments of both countries.

Instead, they deal with the various insurgent forces who war with each other to gain control of the area. Opium, in effect, pays for these tribal wars.

The farmers sell the raw opium to the insurgent forces whose leaders differ little from the old Chinese warlords.

Those leaders process the opium into morphine base or into No. 3 smoking heroin or No. 4 heroin. They safeguard it, escorting the shipments from remote areas and transport the finished product to distribution networks in Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

Pay With Weapons

The overseas Chinese pay for the heroin principally with guns the warring insurgent forces need to keep going.

One factor leading to increased production in the "golden triangle," Warner said, was the introduction of hermetically sealed packs which made it possible to keep No. 4 heroin from deteriorating.

Production of No. 4 heroin goes back to about 1967. With the increased military presence in Vietnam, Warner said, many of the laboratory operators saw an expanding market for the new product.

Up to then, most of the 750 tons of opium produced annually in the "golden triangle" was consumed by addicts in the area in the form of smoking opium or No. 3 smoking heroin, which addicts put on a pipe or in a bowl, heated and

then inhaled through or sucked the smoke through a straw.

When Chinese traffickers started selling No. 4 heroin to American troops, Warner said, they told them it was cocaine — and was not addictive.

The bottom has dropped out of their business just at the time when farmers produced a bumper crop of opium, in March and April.

"The traffickers are still buying this year's opium crop," Warner said, "but we don't know their plans for producing No. 4 heroin. We assume they will produce some but will adjust to the market. We know the price is moving up a little as they see the end of their tremendous oversupply and start gearing up again.

"The Chinese entrepreneurs, however, are not going to overextend themselves now that the troops are no longer there to make it easy for them. They don't like to take chances. They don't like to deal with people they don't know and they don't like to deal with Caucasians."

Forces Stiffened

Being aware of that attitude and concerned about that ton of heroin pointed in this direction, BNDD Director John E. Ingersoll has announced that BNDD is going to increase its forces in the Philippines. Here's his reasoning:

The Philippines are on the route of the traffic moving from Southeast Asia to the United States. Most Filipinos speak English and have good contacts in the United States. They have close commercial ties with the Chinese and language ties with Latin America. They could well emerge as the middlemen of the traffic.

Latin American ties are relevant because Latin America has been the transshipment point for heroin shipped from Europe to the United States.

Despite some testimony on Capitol Hill that much of the massive flow of heroin moving through Latin America on its way to the United States



Jack Anderson Smugglers Using Thai Connection

DESPITE furious denials by the Thai government, evidence is mounting that members of Thailand's 16-man ruling council have been corrupted by international dope smugglers.

As far away as this oriental intrigue is, it directly affects the alarming rise of crime on America's streets where addicts rob, house-break and shoplift to feed their gnawing heroin habits.

Reports from the Central Intelligence Agency, and the State, Justice and Defense departments, all agree that more and more heroin is pouring into the United States from Thailand, one of America's closest allies.

"Historically, this area has not been an important source of opium-based narcotics for the U.S. market. This is no longer the case," bluntly states a classified CIA report now in our hands.

Buttressing the CIA are other U.S. intelligence sources who allege that at least two of the 16-man Thai National Executive Council protect dope smugglers.

The official U.S. sources also describe in detail heroin trade involvement of a top Bangkok police commander, a former parliamentarian, a Thai border patrol major and a colonel in a northern Thai army division.

The police official, say the sources, is owner of a well-known Bangkok massage parlor-brothel where heroin is readily available from employees. Run by a woman friend of the police official—who himself maintains an office in the building—the bordello is called "The Smack Parlor" by its American patrons. "Smack" is slang for heroin.

While this and other dope hangouts have long operated openly under the noses of Thailand's rulers, the lucrative up-country opium trade has been changing dramatically since this January.

Crude morphine base from the Thai-Burma-Laos border is no longer processed almost exclusively in the laboratories of Bangkok.

Instead, Royal Laotian Air Force fliers and a few pilots of the CIA-run Air America now airlift much of the morphine to warehouses in the "Golden Triangle" along Thailand's northern border.

The warehouses are dutifully protected by corrupt senior officials of the Royal Thai Army and the Thai border patrol who take a cut of the profits.

When the warehouses are bulging with illicit morphine base, chemists from Taiwan fly in, the sources say. They are ceremoniously welcomed by remnants of the old Nationalist Chinese divisions driven from Red China and now living off the land in Thailand.

No longer under Taiwan's control, the Nationalist veterans now support themselves in the dope trade. The Chinese chemists work night and day for 30 days, earning as high as \$10,000 for converting the morphine base to pure heroin.

Then the Royal Laotian Air Force and an occasional Air America pilot, who pretends he is unaware of his cargo, ferry out the newly processed white powder. This time it goes to distribution points in Bangkok, Vientiane and other Southeast Asian cities.

From there, it is transhipped to the United States. American intelligence officers are even fearful some may get aboard Air Force KC-135 tanker planes which fly directly to the United States from Thailand. The planes or crews are rarely checked properly by U.S. customs.

In Hong Kong, an important trans-shipment point, British officials are also seething over the corruption of the Thai government officials. Some proof of this dismay is contained in a cautious, classified cable from David Osborn, American consul in Hong Kong, to Secretary of State William Rogers.

Dated March 27, the cable urges secrecy, then confides: "Hong Kong narcotics officials have long-standing belief that Thai officials have

been involved in drug traffic for some years."

Yet, despite all this evidence of official Thai corruption, the United States continues to supply Thailand with millions in American arms. And the Thai government smugly dismisses this column's documented reports of heroin in high Thai places as "slandorous accusations."

FOR A welcome change, the government is going to get some return from one of its administrative trills. White House photographer Ollie Atkins accompanied President Nixon to Red China and helped put together a book called "The President's Trip to China." Atkins' share, instead of going into his pocket, will go to the federal treasury along with a check from his publisher for the pictures. Another Atkins book, "Eye on Nixon," will provide royalties to the American Red Cross.

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STATINTL

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Brezhnev Assures Kissinger on Ties

By Jack Anderson

Kremlin czar Leonid Brezhnev used tough language to impress upon Henry Kissinger in Moscow that Russia will continue to support North Vietnam.

But Brezhnev assured the President's peripatetic foreign policy adviser that the Vietnam war need not stand in the way of better Soviet-American relations.

The conversations continued, off and on, for four days. Sources privy to the secret details tell us Brezhnev was furious over U.S. suggestions that the Soviets had equipped Hanoi for an invasion of South Vietnam.

President Nixon himself served an oblique warning upon the Kremlin that "great powers cannot avoid the responsibility for the use of arms by those to whom they give them."

Brezhnev offered no apologies for furnishing Hanoi with the T-54 tanks, heavy artillery and other sophisticated weapons that have shown up on the fighting fronts. The North Vietnamese have used these heavy arms to spearhead their new offensive.

Brezhnev not only acknowledged that Soviet military shipments to Hanoi have been increased, but he made it

plain he would risk alienating the U.S. before abandoning North Vietnam.

He suggested that a Vietnam settlement can still be negotiated. However, there was no Soviet offer to soften Hanoi's terms. Brezhnev and Kissinger merely agreed that the two superpowers shouldn't let the Vietnam war disrupt their efforts to seek a Soviet-American detente.

Back at the White House, Kissinger apparently has persuaded the President not to let the Vietnam fighting jeopardize relations with the Russians. Nixon's first reaction after the new North Vietnamese offensive was to hit back. He said privately that he wasn't going to permit the U.S. to be pushed around.

But the original hard U.S. line, at least so far as Russia is concerned, has now been softened.

Answer to Thailand

The government of Thailand has accused us of "slandrous accusations" for reporting how prominent Thais help to hustle heroin to U.S. markets.

Through its embassy in Washington, Thailand angrily charged that our recent column on the Thai drug trade was based "merely on hearsay."

In fact, our report was

based upon a thorough field investigation by American narcotics and intelligence agents. The Central Intelligence Agency has published five reports dealing wholly or in part with the Thai dope trade. These reports, classified "Confidential" and "Secret," substantiate our charges.

The Thais claim, for example, that they "began an intensive campaign against dangerous drugs more than ten years ago." They say the Bangkok government has taken "effective measures" against drugs. A program to get hill tribesmen to stop growing opium, they add, has "met with success."

These statements are flatly contradicted by the five CIA documents, dated from October, 1970 to October, 1971.

Far from showing progress in the last ten years, Thailand and its two neighbors, Burma and Laos, have "evolved in the past ten years from a major center for the growing and production of intermediate narcotics products to a major center for producing finished heroin."

As for the alleged success in preventing tribesmen from growing opium, the CIA states: "Government measures to curtail the growth of the opium poppy among the hill

tribes in . . . Thailand have been ineffective."

Thai law authorities, whom the government claims have cracked down on the drug traffic, are actually in cahoots with the smugglers.

Declares the CIA: "Officials of the RTA (Royal Thai Army), the BPP (Thai border police) and Customs at the several checkpoints on the route to Bangkok are usually bribed . . ."

There are, says the CIA, a multitude of civilian and military officials in Burma, Laos and Thailand "who take their cut to ensure safe passage of the opium . . ."

The CIA operatives, unlike the Thai authorities, have carefully pinpointed poppy fields, distribution points, processing centers and smuggling routes in Thailand.

Concludes the CIA: "Opium or morphine base is delivered to laboratories in Bangkok for further refinement into morphine or heroin . . . Most of the refined produce is then smuggled aboard Hong Kong-bound vessels—either Thai merchant ships at the Cho Phraya River docks in Bangkok or Thai deep sea trawlers.

"Such craft may then deposit the illicit cargo on one of the several hundred small islands ringing Hong Kong for later retrieval by a Hong Kong junk."

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The Wrong Diggings

✓ THE INTERNAL squabbles of august scientific bodies are rarely of much interest to the general public, but the recent uproar within the American Anthropological Association is an exception. When Margaret Mead gets booed by her colleagues — it happened at the AAA convention last week — the issue must be an important one, indeed.

The problem is familiar — government support and control of scientific efforts. Research is a costly proposition, and most scientists are eager to mine the rich lode of federal grants available to anyone who can link his pet project, however remotely, to the national interest. At the same time, nevertheless, the scientific community remains suspicious of the heavy hand of government in its affairs, especially if data or discoveries are being used for questionable ends.

✓ Anthropologists are accusing other anthropologists of feeding information gleaned in research on the hill tribes of Thailand to the CIA and Department of Defense, for use in the Southeast Asia war. It seems that in between scholarly explorations of the

Khmu and Yao, certain tidbits, such as the locations of forest trails and gathering spots, are finding their way into such unlikely places as diagrams for low-level bombing runs.

Young anthropologists jeered Miss Mead because she reported to the AAA that her special committee found nothing unethical about the motives of the research in Thailand. The facts seem to argue otherwise. It is certainly no secret that many scientists, including anthropologists, are on CIA and defense payrolls, doing pacification, counter-insurgency and resettlement work.

✓ We tend to agree with those anthropologists who contend that their business is studying man, and not meddling in the relations of governments and their subjects. Money should not be regarded as tainted simply because it comes from the government — even the most scrupulous scientist is not going that far. But it would seem only prudent for the ethical researcher to reel in the strings attached to his federal grant, just to be sure that there is no napalm or cloak and dagger at the other end.

26 JUN 1971

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Nixon Documents Revealed

CIA Advised in '69
U.S. Could Pull Out

This story is derived entirely from information distributed by United Press International and Associated Press.

The Chicago Sun-Times says just as it is at least for another in an article today that the generation. Nixon administration was told by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1969 that it could immediately withdraw from Vietnam and "all of Southeast Asia would remain just as it is at least for another generation."

In another article based on material from secret government documents, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch said yesterday that former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara told President Johnson privately in 1966 that military escalation in North and South Vietnam was not having the desired effect and reported he saw "no reasonable way to bring the war to an end soon."

The Sun-Times, in a copyrighted story in Saturday's editions, says the CIA told Mr. Nixon at the beginning of his administration that withdrawal would result in the immediate loss of Laos.

The newspaper quotes a CIA advisory to the President as saying, Prince "Sihanouk would preserve Cambodia by a straddling effort. All of Southeast Asia would remain

"Thailand, in particular, would continue to maintain close relations with the U.S. and would seek additional support. Simultaneously, Thailand would make overtures and move toward China and the Soviet Union. It would simply take aid from both sides to preserve its independence."

"North Vietnam would consume itself in Laos and South Vietnam. Only Laos would definitely follow into the Communist orbit."

The CIA totally rejected "the so-called domino theory on which U.S. policy was based in the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations," the Sun-Times says, and followed a position consistent with a long line of estimates dating back to the original involvement in Vietnam in 1954.

STATINTL

C. I. A. Identifies 21 Asian Opium

By FELIX DELAIR Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 5—

United States intelligence agents have identified at least 21 opium refineries in the border area of Burma, Laos, and Thailand that provide a constant flow of heroin to American troops in South Vietnam.

Operated and protected in Burma and Thailand by insurgent armies and their leaders and in Laos by elements of the royal Laotian armed forces, the refining and distributing have been until white heroin rated 96 per cent pure is turning up in Pacific coast cities of the United States as well as in Saigon.

The Burma-Laos-Thailand border area, known as the "Golden Triangle," normally accounts for about 700 tons of opium annually, or about half the world's illicit production. Burma is the largest producer in the region, accounting for about 400 tons.

But a recent analysis by the Central Intelligence Agency suggests that production is expanding in the area, and there are indications that this year's output may reach 1,000 tons.

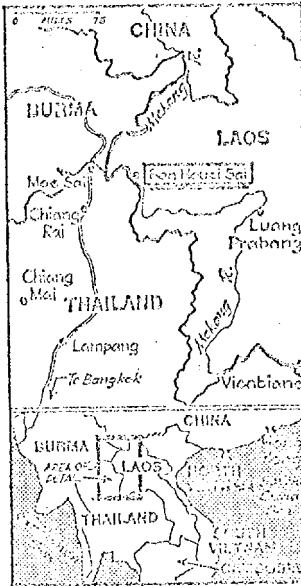
More High-Grade Heroin

The C.I.A. analysis made these major points about recent trends in the illicit narcotics business in Southeast Asia:

Refineries in Laos and Thailand that used to produce only refined opium, morphine base and No. 3, heroin for smoking are now converting most of their opium supplies to No. 4, or 96 per cent pure white heroin. The change "appears to be due to the sudden increase in demand by a large and relatively affluent market in South Vietnam."

"Most of the narcotics buyers in the tri-border area are ethnic Chinese who pool their purchases, but no large syndicate appears to be involved. The opium, morphine base and heroin purchased in this area eventually finds its way to Bangkok, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, where additional processing may take place before delivery to Saigon, Hong Kong and other international markets."

A "considerable quantity" of raw opium and morphine base from northeast Burma and Thailand was smuggled into Bangkok and sent from there to Hong Kong in fishing trawlers from Jan. 1



The New York Times June 6, 1971

Opium products from the surrounding area, known as the 'Golden Triangle,' are said to be shipped through Ban Houei Sai.

...rying one to three tons of opium and quantities of morphine base, "one trawler a day moves to the vicinity of the Chinese Communist-controlled Lema Islands—15 miles from Hong Kong—where the goods are loaded into Hong Kong junks."

Opium and derivatives move through Laos and are transferred from the Mekong River refineries by river craft and vehicles to Ban Houei Sai, further downstream on the Mekong in Laos, and are transported from there to Luang Prabang or Vientiane. A considerable portion of the Laotian-produced narcotics is smuggled into Saigon.

"An increased demand for No. 4 heroin also appears to be reflected in the steady rise in the price. For example, in mid-April, 1971, the price in the Tachilek [Burma] area for a kilo of No. 4 heroin was reported to be \$1,780, as compared with \$1,240 in September, 1970." A kilogram is 2.2 pounds.

"The reported increasing incidence of heroin addiction among U.S. servicemen in Vietnam and recent intelligence indicating that heroin traffic between Southeast Asia and the United States may also be increasing suggest that Southeast Asia is growing in importance as a producer of heroin."

U.S. Policy Criticized

This growth has been aided, according to one Congressional authority, by the lack—until recently—of a firm United States policy on heroin in Southeast Asia. The United States—which provides billions of dollars in military and economic foreign aid to Laos, Thailand and Cambodia—has directed its efforts intercepting the traffic at the Saigon end of the line rather than to stamping out production at the source, Representative Robert H. Steele, Republican of Connecticut, said today. Mr. Steele is the principal

author of a recent report estimating the numbers of heroin addicts among American servicemen in South Vietnam at 25,000 to 30,000.

"Vietnam unquestionably proves that the availability of narcotics breeds users," he said. "Until we dry up the sources, we haven't got a prayer of combatting the problem."

While much of the opium producing and refining takes place in areas of Burma, Laos and Thailand now controlled by insurgents, narcotics enforcement officials say that a continuous flow of the drugs through government-controlled areas cannot be sustained without the involvement of corrupt officials.

The same view was expressed earlier in the week by John E. Ingersoll, director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, in testimony before the House Select Committee on Crime.

He said that middle-level government officials and military men throughout Southeast Asia were deeply involved in the traffic in opium, the product from which morphine and heroin is refined.

Routes and Refineries Named

The analysis by the Central Intelligence Agency pinpointed major areas of cultivation, refineries and routes used in the traffic.

Northeast Burma was identified as the largest producer and processor of raw opium in the border area. The study said that Burma's 14 refineries, located in the Tachilek area, last year converted 30 tons of raw opium into refined opium, morphine base and heroin.

"The opium harvested in

Shan, Wa and Kokang area is picked by caravans that are put together by the major insurgent leaders in these areas," the C.I.A. study said. "The caravans, which can include up to 600 horses and donkeys and 300 to 400 men, take the opium on the southeasterly journey to the processing plants that lie along the Mekong River in the Tachilek-Mae Sai, Thailand-Ban Houei Sai, Laos area."

The analysis said that caravans carrying more than 16 metric tons had been reported. A metric ton is about 2,200 pounds.

7 Important Refineries

Of the 21 refineries identified in the three countries, seven were described in the report as capable of processing raw opium to the heroin stage. "The most important are located in the areas around Tachilek, Burma; Ban Houei Sai and Nam Keung in Laos, and Mae Salong in Thailand," it said.

"The best known, if not largest of these refineries is the one at Ban Houei Sai, Laos, near Ban Houei Sai, which is believed capable of processing some 100 kilos of raw opium per day," the report said.

The opium and derivatives crossing Thailand from Burma enroute to Bangkok was traced in the paper as moving out of such Northern Thai towns as Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Lampang and Tak "by various modes of ground and water transport."

"The opium is packed by the growers and traded to itinerant Chinese merchants who transport it to major collection points, particularly around Lashio and Ken Tung," the study said.