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JPRS L/8336

14 March 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(FOUO 11/79)



WORLD

WIDE



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BURMA

BRIEFS

YOUTH, WOMAN JAILED FOR POSSESSION--Mandalay, 17 Feb--Mandalay Northeast township court No 1 with U Khin Maung as chairman and Daw Win Kyi and U Tun Sein as members today found Ma Shosi, 32, daughter of U Sholu of Lashio, guilty as charged under Section 6.B [of the Narcotic Drugs Law] and sentenced her to 10 years imprisonment. The case was brought to trial after Subinspector U Thet Shay of Mandalay police station No 8 and ward council members found a packet of heroin and a cigarette tin containing heroin from defendant Ma Shosi on 16 December 1977. The same township court No 1 today sentenced Maung Pho Gyawt, 22, of Maymyo's Hawgon ward, to 7 years imprisonment after the defendant was also found guilty under Section 6.B. The case was that on 31 December 1976, Corporal U Aye Maung of Mandalay police station No 8 and ward council members seized 10 packets of heroin, each worth 10 kyats, from Maung Pho Gyawt. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 22 Feb 79 p 6 BK]

CSO: 5300

INDIA

EDITORIAL WARNS AGAINST INDIA BECOMING TOO TOLERANT OF DRUGS

Delhi SUNDAY STANDARD in English 18 Feb 79 p 6 BK

[Editorial: "Drug Traffic"]

[Text] During the sixties and early seventies the media wrote extensively about the drug traffic that threatened to route itself through India. Then having run the subject to the ground, everyone forgot all about it. In these last five years of public ennui, drugs like marijuana, heroin, cocaine and charas in our larger cities have become openly available. It requires no more effort or subterfuge than purchasing a packet of cigarettes. They are no longer an amusing novelty but a danger. And the student faculty as well as the urbane Indian are providing an adequate market for the wholesale dealers in the East to seriously reconsider India as both a potential selling area as well as a major stopover point for raw opium on its way to Europe and the Americas.

It is equally likely that with our casual attitude to the invasion of hard drugs, we will soon be a serious port of call for the Poppy Kings of the Far East. Young boys and girls smoke charas with impunity in Delhi and Bombay, on campus and off. Private pot parties in elite circles are no longer eyebrow-raising exceptions. It is happening, today, in front of our noses, to our children. Large consignments of contraband drugs are caught by Customs regularly, coming in and going out. The massive hippie population we give refuge to are prime carriers for the unscrupulous narcotic magnates. Despite such obvious indications, nobody is perturbed.

If things go on in this ridiculously tolerant manner, it is a question of time before India replaces Nepal as the Asian Connection. Our relatively unpoliced coastline and mountains are ideal escape routes for traffickers. Must we wait for things to get out of hand before we tackle the problems.

Today, in Bombay, any street urchin will tell you when a new consignment hits the market. Immediately the prices go down. Tomorrow, it is your children who will be hooked on the habit and by then it will be too late. The drugs are here on our streets already. We either come down hard immediately or suffer the proliferation in the future.

And that is one trip we must not take.

CSO: 5300

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MALAYSIA

FOUR CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Mar 79 p 5 BK

[Excerpt] Alor Star, Wed.--A former Central Narcotics Bureau officer told the High Court today he saw a man placing a paper bag--which was later found to contain 10 plastic packets of heroin--on top of a chicken coop during a drug raid on a house.

"I introduced myself and told the man not to run away," Insp. Mohamed Amin bin Abdul Samat, said.

He added that he drew out his pistol when he saw the man attempting to run away.

Insp. Mohamed Amin was testifying against lorry driver Teoh Kai Seong, 32, and three others, including two women, on separate charges of trafficking in heroin.

'Inadmissible'

Teoh, defended by Mr Karpal Singh and Mr P.S. Gill, is charged with trafficking in 1.862 kilogrammes of heroin at a house in Sungei Petani on July 24, 1976. Labourer Yeoh Cheng Poh, 35, Lim Sun Kim, 64, and Ng Cha Nya, 67, are charged together with trafficking in 1.862 kilogrammes of heroin on the same day and place.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

DRUGS BOUND FOR AUSTRALIA FOUND IN STEREO SET

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Feb 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Alor Star, Sun.--The High Court heard today how Customs officers at the Changloon checkpoint found 10,416 grammes of ganja hidden in a stereo tuner and a cassette deck belonging to an Australian tourist.

Superintendent of Customs Mohamed Yusuf bin Che Long of the Bukit Kayu Hitam Customs office said the drugs were discovered after the two sets were opened.

The drugs, in 49 packets wrapped in plastic, were hidden in the sets and believed to have been intended to be taken to Australia.

Encik Mohamed Yusuf was testifying against baker Ross Anthony Cribb, 21, who is charged with trafficking in ganja on Jan. 26 last year.

Encik Mohamed Yusuf said Customs officer Mohamed Noor bin Bahari brought Cribb to him and expressed his suspicion about the two sets.

'Surprised'

Mohamed Noor had earlier been instructed to examine the sets before issuing receipts for the payment of deposits required for dutiable goods on transit to Malaysia.

The sets were weighed and each weighed 12 kilogrammes. However, the attached catalogue listed the weight of the stereo tuner as 5.7 kilogrammes and the cassette deck as 6.1 kilogrammes.

Because of the discrepancy, Encik Mohamed Yusuf said he asked Cribb what was inside the sets and he replied there was nothing.

He said he then told Cribb he had to open up the sets as they suspected there was something in them.

Opening the stereo tuner, Encik Mohamed Yusuf said, he found a plastic wrapping of 25 small plastic packets containing green herbal materials believed to be ganja.

Another 24 similar packets were found wrapped in plastic, inside the cassette deck.

"Cribb seemed surprised and was muttering to himself," he said, when DPP Encik Abdul Malik bin Haji Ishak asked about Cribb's reaction to the find.

The trial is before Justice Datuk Syed Agil Barakbah. Cribb is being defended by Mr K. H. Choe assisted by Mr James Ponniah.

The hearing continues tomorrow.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

FISHERMEN HELD ON DRUG CHARGE ORDERED TO MAKE DEFENSE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Feb 79 0 p BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues.--The High Court today ordered three fishermen to make their defence on a drug trafficking charge involving 6.31 lb. of heroin.

H'ng Ah Bah, 27, Teo Ah Bah, 26, and Ong Sui Kim, 27, will make their respective defence tomorrow. They were jointly charged with committing the offence at Nanyang Hotel in Jalan Sultan here on Oct. 10, 1976.

The order by Mr. Justice Harun Hashim was made after their respective counsel had submitted "a no case to answer."

H'ng is represented by Mr. Karpal Singh, Teo by Mr. R. Rajasingam and Ong by Mr. Jag-Jit Singh. DPP Encik Mohamed Yassin Ibrahim appeared for the prosecution.

Dismantled

At a previous hearing, ASP M. Ramalingam of the Narcotic Branch, Selangor CID Headquarters told the court that he recovered 10 packets plastic packets containing heroin hidden in two separate stacks of wooden trays, when he raided a room at the hotel.

He recovered another two plastic packets from a suitcase which he dismantled at his office after arresting the three men.

Earlier, under cross-examination by Mr. Jag-Jit Singh, ASP Ramalingam said that he arrested the three men after failing to locate a man by the name of Ng Go Gah.

He said Ng was mentioned to him by Ong and is believed to be involved in an international drug distribution.

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKING WARDEN JAILED--A 28-year old prison warden, (Hussein Bin Ahmad), was sentenced to 6 years' jail and ordered to be given six strokes of the cane for trafficking in 1.85 grams of heroin at the Queenstown Remand Prison last month. He was also sentenced for 1 year for possession of the drug. His sentences will run concurrently. Hussein pleaded guilty to both offences. [Text] [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 79 BK]

DRUG OFFENSE--Alor Star, Tues.--Satay-seller Adek Truna bin Sukiman, 21, was yesterday sentenced by the Sessions court to five years' jail and ordered to receive five strokes of the rotan for possession of 5.41 grammes of heroin. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Feb 79 p 15 BK]

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN, BRITON ARRESTED--Police arrested two foreign nationals who had in their possession 1,246 grains of hashish in the Hikkaduwa tourist resort last week. The police Narcotics Bureau reported the arrest of an Australian on Monday in Hikkaduwa, who had with him 775 grains of Hashish, valued at Rs. 2,300. Previously a UK national had been taken into custody for possessing 221 grains of hashish and 250 grains of hashish oil. Narcotics Bureau sources pointed out that since hashish was not made locally it must have been smuggled in to Sri Lanka from another country. [Colombo SUN in English 14 Feb 79 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

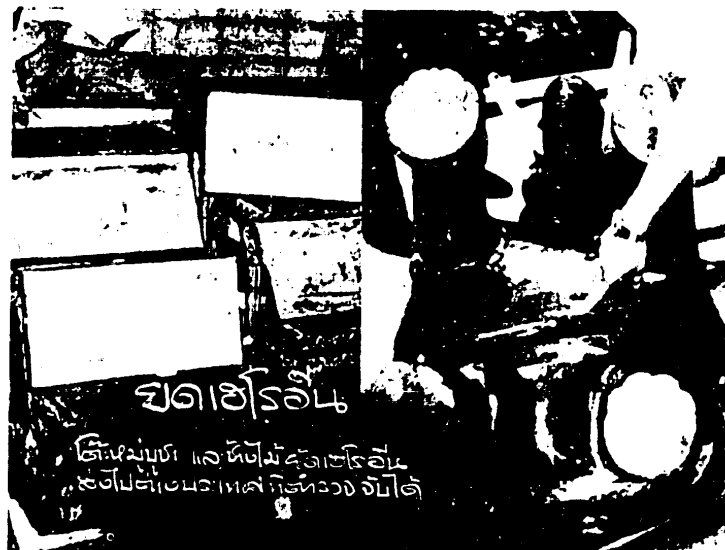
HEROIN FOUND IN ALTAR

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 15 Feb 79 p 8 BK

[Text] Crime Suppression police yesterday searched a warehouse in Hua Mark area and discovered two kilogrammes of No 4 heroin pending smuggling out of the country to France.

Police said the drug was neatly packed in a set of altar at the warehouse of the Boonma Moving Company which handles the packing of goods for shipment to other countries.

Police are hunting for the owner of the drug which was reportedly sent here from Chiang Mai.



Worshipping table set and a wooden elephant stuffed with heroin for shipment abroad which were seized by police. [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 15 Feb 79 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

POLICEMEN GET 40 YEARS ON DRUG CHARGE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Feb 79 p 3 BK

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister General Bunchai Bamrungphong, acting on behalf of the premier, yesterday exercised his absolute powers under Article 200 by sentencing a police officer and his subordinate to 40 years' imprisonment each for possessing heroin for sale.

A third accomplice, a civilian identified only as Louis, was sentenced in absentia to 30 years' imprisonment. The fourth accomplice, Pol Mst-Sgt Kittti Naicharun attached to Ayutthaya District Police Station, was found not guilty and released.

The order imposing heavy jail terms on the two policemen--Pol Lt Bunsup Aphasak and Pol Mst-Sgt Sa-at Sinun, both attached to Ayutthaya District Police Station--cited that they deserved heavy penalty to set an example to other policemen and because they were law enforcers, but broke the law themselves.

According to reports, Pol Lt Bunsup, Pol Mst-Sgt Sa-at and Louis who is still at large met with narcotics agents in front of Hotel 32 on Suthisan Road last 17 November trying to sell 2.04 kilogrammes of heroin chloride to undercover agents for 165,000 baht.

As the three men were counting money after a deal was made, the agents gave a signal for the other plainclothes cops laying in wait to make the arrest. Bunsup and Sa-at were apprehended on the spot, but Louis managed to escape.

The six bags of heroin contained in a suitcase were confiscated.

During police interrogation, Pol Lt Bunsup denied any involvement in the narcotics racket. He said he was hunting a person in Ayutthaya when he met Pol Mst-Sgt Kittti who carried a suitcase whose contents he wanted to sell in Bangkok. The suitcase was later found to contain the heroin.



Police Lieutenant Bunsup Aphasat (left) and Police Sgt Sa-at Sinun have been sentenced to 40 years imprisonment each under article 200 of the Constitution. [Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 15 Feb 79 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

4.5 TONS OF MARIHUANA SEIZED, DESTINED FOR SEATTLE

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 2 Mar 79 pp 1, 8 BK

[Text] Highway police seized more than 4.5 tons of marijuana--estimated to be worth around 46 million baht in overseas black market--from an Express Transport Organization truck in Rayong Wednesday.

The truck driver, Suriya Phayung, 42, was also arrested and handed over to the Crime Suppression Police Division in Bangkok.

Acting on a tip-off, Commissioner of the Central Investigating Bureau Pol Lt Gen Kitti Seribut radioed Pol Col Chaiwat Chiradamrong, Deputy Commander of the Highway Police Division, to intercept four ETO transport truck suspected of carrying large amount of marijuana which would leave Don Muang airport for Rayong.

However, a soldier with the rank of lieutenant colonel, riding in a Volkswagen which led the convoy resisted a search at a checkpoint in Chonburi.

As it turned out there was only one truck left when it was finally halted by highway police at a checkpoint on Rayong-Baan Koi Highway in Rayong.

A total of 4,542 kilogrammes of dry marijuana contained in 280 aluminum boxes were discovered on the truck.

The driver was quoted as telling the police that he had been assigned to transport the goods from Don Muang to Sattahip Deepsea Port without the knowledge that they were in fact marijuana.

All the 280 aluminum boxes bore labels saying that they contained dry shrimps destined for the Fish and Oyster Company in Seattle, Washington.

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THAILAND

RAID NETS ANOTHER MARIHUANA BONANZA

Bangkok POST in English 24 Feb 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Another 900 kilos of stick marijuana bound for the United States was uncovered in Chon Buri's Si Racha District when Customs officials and Crime Suppression Division police searched the house of a woman suspect who was arrested Thursday with 1,674 kilos of marijuana.

The drug is worth 9.4 million baht in New York streets.

Police said the new haul of drug belongs to the same clandestine group which attempted Thursday to ship out 26 crates of stick marijuana worth 26.7 million baht in street value in New York or about 1 million baht at street prices in Bangkok.

The drug was discovered when a combined Customs-CSD team raided the Si Racha house early yesterday morning.

The accused, Mrs Boonying, disclaimed any knowledge of the drug but said that she had been hired by an American tourist named Johannes V. Madsen to ship the crates to Broadway, New York and knew nothing about their contents.

Believing the group was using its Si Racha hideout to pack the drugs into crates for shipment, the authorities rushed to 42/100 Village 4, Bangphra yesterday morning.

No one was present when the officials made the raid.

The drug found is worth 540,000 baht at street prices in Bangkok or 9.4 million baht in New York.

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THAILAND

FARMERS GROW 'POT' ON THE SLY

Bangkok POST in English 25 Feb 79 p 3 BK

[Text] Phetchaburi--Farmers in this province are still growing marijuana clandestinely in addition to regular maize and rice crops in order to boost their income, Deputy Superintendent of Phetchaburi police Pol Lt-Col Vichit Kouyphet disclosed yesterday.

He said that after the marijuana is harvested, it is smuggled into the provincial capital concealed under other farm produce, thus making it difficult for the authorities to detect the drugs. The marijuana here fetches about 50 baht per kilo, which is considered a good income compared to other crops.

He said marijuana is secretly grown in hilly areas in Tambon Song Pi Nong and Tambon Kaen Kracharn of Tha Yang District; Tambon Nongyapong, Tambon Kladnua and Tambon Kladtqi of Yapong Subdistrict.

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THAILAND

'HIPPIES' NABBED FOR DRUGS

Bangkok POST in English 25 Feb 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Phuket--Seven hippie-type foreigners were arrested Friday on the well-known Rawai beach in this resort town and charged with possession of small amounts of marijuana and heroin, police reported yesterday.

Two of the seven were charged with possession of heroin while the rest were held for possessing marijuana, police said.

The nationalities of the seven Westerners were unknown. They are being detailed at the Muang District police station.

Chief of Phuket police, Col Somchit Wangnoi, ordered the arrest after receiving a number of reports that the hippies were using the drugs and walking naked on the beach.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIANS ARRESTED--Three Australian tourists were arrested last night at the Reno Hotel on Kasemsan Soi 1, in front of the National Stadium on a charge of possessing 105 grammes of high grade No 4 heroin, police reported. The trio were identified as Mrs Janice Ann Hunter, Mr S. Hodex and Mr Michael Kinner. They are being detained at Pathumwan police station for further investigation. The report said a narcotic suppression police team headed by Pol Lt Somlertrit Wattanaviboon raided the room of the trio at 7.30 p.m. and made a thorough check until about 9 p.m. [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 9 Feb 79 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

COCAINE SEIZURE NEAR MONTREAL REPORTED

Montreal LA PRESSE in French 31 Jan 79 p A 6

/Text/ A kilogram of cocaine seized in Carlo Arena's resident on Sunday night in Saint Leonard, proved to be 99 percent pure in one test and 97 percent in another.

The above was reported yesterday afternoon by a police-officer of the RCMP /Royal Canadian Mounted Police/ who had conducted the raid at 9118 Rue Chambelle, where both Charles Rodriguez, a former "real estate salesman," who had been sentenced to 4 years in the penitentiary for the Lakeland Corporation affair, and Fernando di Carlo, a 26-year old man, were apprehended, the latter having tried to escape when the police broke into the premises.

The result of the analysis conducted by the federal chemists showed that the value of the drug confiscated climbed to almost one-half million dollars, while at first it had been valued at \$375,000.

Testifying in front of Judge Joseph Tarasofsky during the inquiry regarding bail for the three men, Sergeant Elie of the RCMP reported that at the time precision scales and some substances used ordinarily to "cut" the cocaine when it is pure, were found in the lavatory of Arena's residence.

Enfalac, medicinal glucose and lactose, as well as plastic bags were found. Many firearms and ammunition were also discovered in another room.

Interrogated by the prosecutor the police officer stated that in view of the purity of the drug which was found, these men were probably the highest ranking in their organization, and possibly, were even the importers themselves.

Under cross-examination, the defendants' attorney tried to prove that since both his clients had not resisted the police officers and had even voluntarily answered their questions, the attitude of the third defendant did not necessarily indicate any complicity as he may have easily panicked due to the manner in which the combined squads of the RCMP and the CUM (Montreal Urban Community) had raided that residence.

In view of the lateness of the hour, the counsels' speeches were adjourned to today's date. However, as of yesterday, the defense is ready to furnish a real estate bond in an amount of \$25,000 and \$50,000 for the release of the three defendants until their trial.

7993
CSO: 5300

CANADA

INDIAN MILLIONAIRE SENTENCED FOR DRUG TRAFFIC

Brussels LE PEUPLE in French 15 Jan 79 p 4

Text An Indian millionaire, Gurdev Singh Sangha, was sentenced to 14 years in jail and a half-million dollar fine by a Toronto court for having imported more than 500 kg of hashish into Canada.

The defendant who had been extradited from Belgium had pleaded guilty. According to the indictment he headed an international drug traffic network with activities extending from India to Europe and North America.

A most unusual man, Shanga, 49 years old, had been sentenced in 1968 to 5 years in prison in Great Britain, for trafficking in narcotics. He served 3 years of his sentence, during which time he obtained a doctorate in laser technology.

According to the evidence presented before the court in Toronto, Sangha had teams in India who "passed" the hashish in Canada, confederates in Great Britain for its sale, and still others in Europe and Canada to collect the cash and deposit it in Swiss banks.

This Indian millionaire's assets were frozen by the Swiss authorities at Canada's request as they had discovered that Sangha invested his illegal income in gold, silver, savings and treasury bonds, and even in Hydro-Ontario, a most respectable crown company.

A millionaire in dollars, thanks to this lucrative traffic, Sangha took minimum risks and directed his operations from the Netherlands which has not signed an extradition treaty with Canada.

However, a year ago he made a mistake by driving through Belgium on his way to the Netherlands. Arrested, Sangha lost an appeal to the Belgian courts and was extradited to Canada.

The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) stated that he had smuggled into Canada more than half a ton of hashish with a retail sales value of \$4 million.

7993
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BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

DRUGS FOUND IN PLANE CRASH--A light plane crashed last night into a house near (South Beach). The plane was apparently on a drug run from Colombia in South America to Homestead, Florida. The men have been identified as Americans from Homestead. Reports say that the men were returning to Homestead from Colombia when the plane nose-dived into the 90,000 dollar split-level home. Police say the pilot could have been attempting a landing in order to refuel. The bodies will undergo autopsies before being released. Police have in their custody 16 sacks of highly scented marijuana and other drugs. The drugs are valued at nearly half million dollars. [Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Feb 79 FL]

CSO: 5300

BELIZE

BRIEFS

HEROIN INTERCEPT IN BELIZE--A man who arrived in Belize last Saturday by private plane and who wanted to fly immediately to Caye Caulker has been detained by city police and charged with carrying nearly two pounds of heroin worth close to half a million dollars on the drug market. Twenty-five year old Ermano Traverso, an Italian, arrived from Costa Rica aboard a small chartered aircraft shortly after 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon and made inquiries about an immediate flight to Caye Caulker. During the routine search of his baggage customs officials came across little ampoule bottles of liquid and capsules containing a white powder, which he described as "medicine." In court yesterday chief government analyst Mr Douglas Fairweather stated firmly that the white powder was heroin. Tests run on a sample of white powder supplied to him by the police proved to be dicetyl morphine--one of the most deadly of habit forming drugs. [Excerpt] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 4 Mar 79 p 1 FL]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

FORMER DAS OFFICIAL LOPEZ OYUELA ARRESTED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Jan 79 p 6-A

[Text] Tony Lopez Oyuela, a former judge and former chief of the Judicial Police of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), was arrested yesterday because of his alleged connections with the M-19 [19 April Movement].

The arrest, which shook the country, took place around noon on Wednesday as he left his office, which is located a short distance from the Phoenix Building [Edificio Fenix], an apartment house which yesterday was the object of a thorough search by military investigators.

Lopez Oyuela was for many years a legal officer with the armed forces, but more recently he had been a practicing attorney, particularly in the field of criminal law. He maintained his old friendship with Rafael Arteaga Caicedo and his wife, Esther Moron de Arteaga, the couple who owned the house with the tunnel. He was engaged to Mrs Moron de Arteaga in Girardot before her marriage.

Career

Tony Lopez Oyuela, a native of Tolima, is well known in Bogota, especially since General Matallana, on becoming director general of DAS, appointed him chief of the Judicial Police of that agency.

The official had a rather notorious career there until he suddenly broke with the then head of the organization, Gen Jose Joaquin Matallana.

Before joining DAS, Lopez Oyuela appeared often before the Supreme Court of Justice in exequatur claims [demands de inexecutable], none of which had a favorable outcome. He also worked for some Bogota newspapers, specifically our colleague EL ESPECTADOR.

Appointed Judge

The real reason for Lopez Oyuela's leaving DAS has not been ascertained. It is certain that he broke very abruptly with General Matallana and offered his resignation, which was accepted immediately.

At that time the country was under the first state of siege of the Lopez Michelsen administration, and as the military penal justice system was clogged with cases, the government decided to create, temporarily, a new court in the High Military Tribunal, which is the highest military court. Lopez Oyuela was appointed then to one of the temporary judgeships and remained in the post until the state of siege was lifted and his job, therefore, was ended.

Practices Legal Profession

After that Tony Lopez Oyuela devoted himself to his legal profession, and his most outstanding performance was his representation in the civil courts of the murderer of labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado, who was kidnaped and executed by the M-19. Through this civil case he received an appointment to the CTC [Colombian Confederation of Workers] on the recommendation of Teresa Valencia, who was one of the secretaries of the confederation and a very good friend of Tony Lopez Oyuela himself.

Today it is recalled that Lopez Oyuela's behavior, at least in appearance, gave rise to some embarrassment. This was when the justice department, which also suspected Teresa Valencia in the Jose Raquel Mercado tragedy, issued a warrant for Maria Victoria Marin do Gomez. She was represented by Cesar Montoya Ocampo, the expert in criminal law, who appealed her arrest, an action which was immediately supported by the CTC counsel, Lopez Oyuela.

Drug Trafficking

Another of Lopez Oyuela's recent actions, viewed with equal amazement, was that of acting as defense counsel for syndicates of one of the drug trafficking mafias. This is surprising, not because there was any legal impediment, but rather another, strictly moral, one, since Lopez Oyuela, as chief of the DAS Judicial Police, had been sent officially to the United States to receive special instruction in the fight against the narcotics traffic.

Cotenant with Arteaga

The evidence concerning his possible connections with the M-19, which led to the arrest of the former military judge and DAS police chief, is not known in detail.

It has only been possible to confirm two facts which indicate that it was not just a simple friendship and a professional relationship which existed between Tony Lopez Oyuela and the Arteaga Moron couple, but something more intimate and secret.

One is that Rafael Arteaga was a cotenant of the professional offices which Lopez Oyuela maintains at 401 Korkidi Building, on 12th Street between Highways 5 and 6.

That fact fits in with another of special significance: some of the Arteaga Moron couple's mail was sent to Lopez Oyuela's office and from there was delivered to the addressees. However, the couple who undertook to construct a tunnel to bring weapons out of the North Canton maintained their central offices of "Produmedicos" in full operation, as well as their post office box. Therefore, the mail which arrived for them at Lopez Oyuela's office must have been sent by persons who were privately instructed to do so.

To the foregoing must be added the arrest of Elena Isaac, another woman allegedly involved with the M-19, about whom we will report elsewhere in this same edition.

Yesterday Tony Lopez Oyuela was placed in custody of the 106th Judge of Military Penal Instruction, who will hear his statement at the end of this week or the beginning of next. Former court judge and attorney Humberto Barrera Dominguez, whose offices are next door to those of Lopez Oyuela, yesterday informed the military judge that he would assist his colleague at the hearing.

It must be added that Lopez Oyuela also appeared in the case of Alberto Santofimio Botero and others, since he represented Olimpo Cardenas, lover of the invalid girlfriend of the former president of the House, who has been arrested and incarcerated.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TWO AMERICAN TRAFFICKERS 'DISAPPEAR' FROM CIENAGA JAIL

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Jan 79 p 16-A

[Article by Walter P. Martinez P.]

[Text] Santa Marta, 14 Jan--Two American drug traffickers arrested by the army last 18 December on the "Caribu" ranch in the banana district with a planeload of marihuana have disappeared from the Cienaga municipal jail under strange circumstances.

The traffickers are Braley Joseph Mayluck and Robbin Pittock, crew of a DC-3, American registration N-788 X, who had taken on a load of marihuana and were all fueled up and ready for takeoff.

The Americans were surprised by a patrol from the Cordoba Battalion of Santa Marta, who seized them after they had already loaded the plane with 4,300 pounds of the "grass," valued at more than 12 million pesos.

The action took place on a clandestine strip on the "Caribu" ranch in the Guamachito region, in the jurisdiction of Cienaga, and during the military operation three vehicles were also impounded: a tank truck which supplied fuel for the DC-3, a Ranger van and a Dodge Power Wagon.

The two Americans were taken to the Cienga jail, from which they disappeared last night.

According to reports, the narcotics traffickers fled without any violence, since not even the locks or latches of their cells were damaged.

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COLOMBIA

COCAINE LABORATORY EXPLODES, FIVE INJURED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jan 79 p 14-C

[Text] Five persons have been seriously hurt in the explosion of a sophisticated cocaine laboratory.

One of the most technically perfect of the cocaine laboratories found to date exploded on 14 January in the municipality of Pacho, Cundinamarca, according to reports given this paper by official sources.

All indications are that the five injured persons were involved in the millionaire laboratory, and for this reason they are under heavy police guard in the hospital there.

The injured, who were taken immediately to the hospital, suffered severe burns all over their bodies and faces and are totally disfigured. Three adults, a youth and a child have been placed in intensive care in an attempt to save their lives and ease their pain.

According to the physician on duty, the wounded were identified as Julio Restrepo, 30 years of age; Tiberio Bocanegra, 28, whose condition is the most serious; a Mr Rojas, 24; a youth named Ovalle, 19, and the boy, Victor Gabino Roldan, 14.

All suffered first, second and third degree burns.

Authorities from the Departmental Police and the Division of Narcotics are investigating the laboratory, considered one of the biggest in terms of its capacity for processing the drug.

Unofficial reports say the explosion occurred when a motor used to run the costly equipment was started and emitted sparks which then ignited a tank of gas used as fuel.

The residence where the clandestine laboratory was installed was owned by Omar Bocanegra and was completely destroyed.

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COLOMBIA

COCAINE 'MULE' DIES AT BARRANQUILLA EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Jan 79 p 9-A

[Text] Barranquilla. A young Colombian woman traveling on Avianca flight 0052, which covers the Bogota-Barranquilla-New York route, died when several tiny packets of cocaine she had swallowed burst, and she became intoxicated.

The young woman was identified as Myriam Angarita de Casas, about 27 years of age, who left Bogota bound for New York with a stopover in Barranquilla. According to police, the young woman appears to have been one of the so-called "mules" in the narcotics traffic, and her job was to carry about 1 kilo of high-quality cocaine to New York City.

An autopsy was performed by the medical examiner of the municipal cemetery, who found in her digestive tract, between the stomach and esophagus, several very small packages of cocaine, which burst for reasons unknown, causing the death by intoxication of the young passenger.

Moments before the plane landed on the runway of "Ernesto Cortissoz" airport here, the young woman became violently ill and was taken to the Clinica del Caribe where she died later in spite of the efforts of the medical staff.

Police here have begun inquiries into the case in order to find possible contacts of the unfortunate young woman, as well as those responsible for her death, i.e., the persons who gave her the drug.

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COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS TRADE WEAPONS FOR MARIHUANA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jan 79 p 6-A

[Article by Jose Cervantes]

[Text] Barranquilla, 12 Jan--A Cuban and a "gringo" were to exchange weapons for marihuana with Colombians at a clandestine airport on La Guajira Peninsula.

The Cuban, Pedro Otoniel Pena, and the "gringo," Michael Lee Carrell, who were captured aboard a DC-3 on a rural road near Maracaibo last Tuesday, confessed to this intention.

The pair of traffickers also confessed that aboard the plane they were transporting a giant arsenal.

The captured traffickers did not say whether the exchange of weapons for marihuana would take place with people connected with Colombian urban guerrillas.

The arsenal which Pena and Carrell were trying to bring into Colombia consisted of 60 Magnum-44 revolvers, 12 M-1 rifles, 100 boxes of ammunition, 30 fragmentation grenades and other smaller firearms.

Pena and Carrell confessed to the authorities of Maracaibo, Venezuela, that when a mechanical failure was registered aboard the DC-3 they were flying to Guajira they threw a large quantity of weapons and ammunition into Maracaibo Lake, but some weapons remained aboard. This indicated to the Venezuelan National Guard and the secret police of that country that weapons were being taken to Colombia.

Venezuelan detectives were able to recover aboard the DC-3 with U.S. registry some M-1 rifles, grenades and Magnum-44 revolvers.

Capture

The capture of the DC-3 and its two crewmen occurred Tuesday on a rural, little-traveled road of Zulia State, near Maracaibo.

The DC-3, whose registration was not given to EL TIEMPO's reporter from Maracaibo by telephone, suffered from overheating of one of its engines when it was flying over a portion of the lake.

The plane took off from a clandestine airport in southern Florida for another clandestine airport in La Guajira.

It made a short refueling stop on one of the islands located off the Venezuelan coast, where a connection of the international gang of traffickers in weapons and drugs supplied the fuel.

According to the confession of Pena and Carrell, this is an almost obligatory stopover for all the "marimberos" planes which fly from the United States to La Guajira to load the grass.

For unknown reasons, after refueling and starting the flight the DC-3 began losing altitude because of the overheating of one of its engines.

Carrell quickly maneuvered over the lake while Pena was throwing the weapons into the water.

Later they made an emergency landing on a deserted road a few kilometers from the Zulia capital. Authorities appeared, and the two traffickers tried to bribe the National Guard members, but they failed to do so and were arrested and forced to confess.

Landing Strip Maps

Aboard the plane the Venezuelan authorities found a map indicating at least 20 clandestine air strips in La Guajira.

Carrell and Pensa said that they were going to exchange a shipment of weapons for one of marihuana at one of these clandestine airports.

They added that they had carried out this type of exchange before without any difficulty.

Venezuelan police confirmed from Maracaibo that all the seats on the plane had been removed to facilitate the loading of more packages of marihuana.

Also aboard, the police discovered modern radio communications equipment, the maps, and weapons which the two men were unable to throw into the water, as well as many dollars.

As usual in these cases, the two crewmen of the "marimbero" plane had no identification papers.

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COLOMBIA

COCAINE WITH 'NEW PROCESS' RAIDED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Jan 79 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Text] The regional antinarcotics team of the Attorney General's Office delegated to the Judicial Police, with headquarters in Barranquilla, yesterday struck a serious blow against drug trafficking gangs when they located in that city a cocaine processing laboratory and seized over 74 lbs of the alkaloid ready for illegal exportation.

Four Captured

Reports received in Bogota indicate that the laboratory was discovered in house number 85-93, 52-A Avenue, "Alto Prado" section of the capital of Atlantico Department [Barranquilla], and that during the operation three men and one woman were arrested.

Powder and Tablets

It was learned that during the raid the members of the antinarcotics team-- who acted in cooperation with units of the F-2 of the police department of Atlantico--seized 74 lbs and 480 ounces of very pure cocaine and 573 tablets or pills of the same product.

The occupant of the residence, who was identified as Jose de Jesus Gomez Lopez, was arrested together with his wife and two other individuals who were apparently engaged in processing the alkaloid.

Dollars and Pesos

At the same location the antinarcotics team seized \$5,000 and 25,700 pesos in cash, which apparently came from one of the cocaine sales to international traffickers.

The successful operation carried out by the regional antinarcotics team of the Attorney General's Office delegated to the Judicial Police, with the valuable assistance of the F-2, is of special importance, because this is the first time that a laboratory of this kind has been discovered in Barranquilla.

New System

It should also be pointed out that the raid made it possible to discover a new system being used by the drug traffickers in their desire to deceive the authorities. The system consists of solidifying the cocaine into tablets to make traffic in it less noticeable not only within the country but also abroad.

It was also learned that the investigators seized two automobiles, one of them a Dodge Dart, license plates AM-1568.

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COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS, PLANE, VEHICLES SEIZED IN BOLIVAR

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Jan 79 p 21-A

[Text] A small plane and two automobiles were seized and six persons who allegedly were members of a drug traffickers gang operating in Bolivar Department were arrested by the authorities.

The announcement was made by the governor of that section of the country, Elvira Faccio de Espinosa, who said that the operation was carried out in Calamar municipality, where there is an airport of the same name.

During the operation a small HK-1017 plane and two Ranger station wagons were seized.

The arrested persons were identified as Julio Jimenez Rosado, Mario Feliciano Lopez, Gabriel Martinez Camacho, William Daby, Walter Franklin and Amilcar Rafael Armero.

It was reported that two of the arrested persons are U.S. nationals.

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COLOMBIA

DAS RAIDS LARGE COCA PLANTATION

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jan 79 p 13-A

[Text] Members of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Judicial Police Division discovered, at a site, in Meta Department, a coca plantation of 3,573 plants, that is to say, bushes whose leaves constitute the raw material for producing cocaine.

The significant discovery took place last Monday in the "Guacamayas or La Venadita" strip, Puerto Lleras jurisdiction, on land belonging to the "Gorgona" farm.

Near the plantation the DAS agents found a cocaine paste processing laboratory which was operating from some straw huts. The finding of this laboratory is especially significant in the official struggle against narcotics production and trafficking.

According to the participants in the operation, the 3,573 plants which constituted the plantation had been exploited twice before, that is to say, the narcotics traffickers were going to harvest the leaves for the third time.

Two persons whose identities remained undisclosed were detained. As far as the plantation is concerned, it was destroyed.

It is worth noting that this is the first time that officials have detected a coca plantation in the eastern plains [Llanos Orientales] of the size of the one found in the jurisdiction of Puerto Lleras, a fact which indicates that drug traffickers have decided to make use of those lands to raise their crops and keep away from the Colombian southwest regions where production of the bush has been traditional.



The photograph shows the size attained by the 3,573 coca plants which constituted the plantation discovered in Puerto Lleras, Meta, by the DAS Judicial Police Division. It is the first time that a coca crop of this size has been found in the plains. As is known, the bush's leaves are the raw material for producing cocaine.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA SEIZED, NO ARRESTS IN MAGDALENA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 6 Jan 79 p 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Ulilo Acevedo Silva]

[Text] Santa Marta, 5 Jan--Special antinarcotics units of the Magdalena DAS [Administrative Department of Security] confiscated 14,000 kg of marihuana in the Magdalena Department today during a special operation near La Gran Via, a road leading to the Sierra Nevada in Santa Marta.

The seizure of the 14,000 kg of the drug resulted from several investigative steps implemented by the Magdalena DAS which culminated in the confiscation of 201 packages of marihuana already pressed and ready for export.

No Arrests

The secret organization's sectional chief, Capt Policarpo Garrido Alvarez (ret), told EL ESPECTADOR that no one was arrested during the action against the narcotics traffickers: apparently the presence of the marihuana-confiscating patrol was detected.

It was revealed that the marihuana was found about 500 meters from the La Gran Via jurisdiction highway in the sector leading to the Sierra Nevada.

The 14,000 kg of the drug were incinerated at the confiscation site in the presence of the military and judicial officials of this section of the country.

The smuggled drugs seized by the DAS in Magdalena are worth about 15 million Colombian pesos on the black market.

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C:O: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA ENTERS PRISON IN 'TRIPLEX'

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 79 p 13-A

[Text] Thanks to the shrewdness of several of the Model Prison's outside guards, it was possible, yesterday afternoon, to confiscate more than 70 pounds of marihuana, which someone tried to introduce into the prison by an otherwise ingenious method.

The events took place at 1530 when two persons showed up at the outside guard post carrying three sheets of plywood [triplex] in a small truck and requesting that these be delivered to one of the inmates who work in the prison's carpentry workshop.

Discovery

Suspecting that this was one of the many tricks used by drug traffickers to introduce narcotics in the prisons, guard members broke the thickest of the sheets first and discovered that the inside layers had been cut out to form a series of secret compartments which were stuffed with pressed marihuana.

In the three hollow sheets whose outside layers had been perfectly glued back, a total of more than 70 pounds of the grass were found which, according to the management of the prison, would have brought its owners a huge amount of money since a minute portion of the product is worth 10 pesos.

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COLOMBIA

COCAINE, AIRCRAFT SEIZED NEAR CALAMAR

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jan p 9-A

[Article by Narciso Castro]

[Text] Cartagena, 10--One light aircraft, two late model cars and six persons were captured last night at an old airport near Calamar on the Magdalena River and 504 cocaine pills were found in one of the vehicles.

Without official confirmation, it happened that when the key positions were taken to speed up the operation, other persons aboard a third car were able to escape.

The light aircraft, it has been learned, carries Colombian registration plates and the two vans are Ford Rangers, one with plates PK-33-94 and the other one with free transit. In a hidden nook of the cabin of one of the vans, the detectives found a polyethylene bag with 504 cocaine pills.

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G:O: 5300

COLOMBIA

NEARLY PURE COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 79 p 13-A

[Text] The Institute of Forensic Medicine has just reported to the local offices of the Judicial Police on the degree of purity of some of the cocaine lots which were seized during the last days of December and the early part of this year at Eldorado International Airport. The cocaine weighed nearly 97 kg.

According to that report, the 51 kg of the alkaloid seized on 28 December from Ruben Dario Velez Arboleda, when he got off a Lufthansa plane coming from Lima, was 99 percent pure.

The 20.42 kg confiscated on 20 December from Jose Pablo Enrique Castellanos were 100 percent pure, a fact which makes the cocaine much more valuable and desirable to the narcotics traffickers. Castellanos brought the cocaine in a suitcase and was arrested by local Judicial Police agents at Eldorado Airport at the moment of his arrival from the Peruvian capital on an Aerolineas Argentinas plane.

The 23 kg 119 grams of cocaine discovered in a suitcase which arrived in Bogota from Lima on 22 December were also found to be 100 percent pure. Nobody claimed the suitcase apparently because the interested party realized there was danger of being arrested.

The last confiscation took place on 7 January and a woman, Maria Norma Castro Castano, was captured, 505 grams of 100 percent pure cocaine was found in her possession. A union worker, she has been living in Los Angeles for a long time and was on her way there on an airplane which departed from Lima.

Other Confiscations:

Laboratory reports are pending in the case of 2,188 grams seized from a woman, Stella Concepcion Rebelo Casado, who on 26 December arrived in Bogota in another Lufthansa airplane, carrying the alkaloid in a girdle next to her body; and the case of the 120 grams hidden among giftwrapped packages which were found in the possession of Rosmira Zuzluaga.

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COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATED--A shipment of cocaine that was confiscated yesterday by customs officers near the municipality of Aguachica was on its way to a cocaine processing laboratory in Bogota. The cocaine was camouflaged in oil drums, had a high grade in purity and has been valued at 50 million pesos. The drums were being transported in a car driven by a man identified as Juan Cuellar, who has been arrested. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Mar 79 PA]

COCAINE SHIPMENT SEIZED--Officers of the Administrative Department of Security in Bucaramanga confiscated a shipment of high-grade cocaine valued at over 7 million pesos as it was being transported in a vehicle on the road to the sea. The cocaine weighed 77 kg. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA]

COCAINE CONFISCATION--Bogota, 6 Mar (AFP)--Police reported the confiscation of 887 grams of cocaine at Eldorado airport today. The cocaine was found hidden in the suitcases of Carlos Arturo Moreno Giraldo and Anna Cetina Gonzalez who were taking the drug to Panama and from there to the United States. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1310 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

COLONEL CHARGED ON DRUGS--Guayaquil, Ecuador, 3 Mar (EFE)--Ecuadorean Army Col Luis Alfredo Santillan has been identified as an accomplice in an international drug trafficking gang operating in this country. The information was revealed here today, Saturday, in a report presented by the investigations department attached to the U.S. Consulate. The document presented to the district attorney handling the trial adds information on the relations between seven men on trial here and a drug trafficking gang operating in Colombia and Venezuela. The report also contains an exhaustive biography and criminal record of the Colombian and Ecuadorean gangsters, their couriers, contacts and suppliers of raw material. Colonel Santillan serves with the Constitucion del Oro Battalion stationed in a province bordering on Peru. In the document he is charged with transporting drugs in a military jeep from this province to Guayaquil. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0304 GMT 3 Mar 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

REVIEW OF BOOK 'PROSTITUTION AND DRUGS'

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Jan 79 p 3

[Review of book "Prostitucion y Drogas" by Lourdes Romero A. and Ana Maria Quintanilla, Trillas publishers, 192pp]

[Text] This exploratory study concerning the phenomenon of prostitution and its relation to drug use is based on research carried out by members of the Mexican Center for Drug Dependency Studies, working in conjunction with the director of the Mexican Institute of Social Studies. The research was in turn based on a questionnaire-interview given to a group of 27 prostitutes living in 4 Mexican states.

The findings, presented here in a theoretical framework encompassing sociological as well as psychological factors, were obtained as a result of a methodology which took into account the criteria for selecting the cities and towns studied, the description of instruments and indicators employed in the compilation of facts, the training of the interviewers, the detention of the prostitutes and the processing and analysis of the information obtained.

The authors of this book present interpretive hypotheses concerning the causes which led to the adoption of prostitution as a way of life and to the habitual use of drugs.

The valuable conclusions, grouped in a special chapter, point out the typology of each case according to its different stages of advancement and its manifest psychological characteristics, as well as the general features of prostitution and its connections with drug use.

The work also contains an ample bibliography and presents, in appendices, an interpretation of five different types of prostitution.

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CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

COCAINE HAUL--Merida, Mexico, 2 Mar (AFP)--The police seized 7 kg of cocaine here today and arrested Peruvian Guillermo Negron Valdes and U.S. citizen Dolores Ada Ruiz de Castilla. The traffickers had hidden the cocaine in a large lamp. They were traveling with Castilla's 8-year-old son and were supposed to deliver the cocaine in Los Angeles, the United States. The police became suspicious when they noticed that the lamp was unusually heavy. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0352 GMT 3 Mar 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

COLUMNIST VIEWS EFFECTS OF U.S. LEGALIZATION OF MARIHUANA

Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Feb 79 p 4-A PA

[Mario Augusto Rodriguez column: "The Right to Marihuana"]

[Text] Legalization

I have referred several times to the experience I had when I visited a government office in San Francisco, California, involved in the narcotics problem. A doctor who worked there told me that he believed marihuana would be legalized very soon in the United States. He explained that legal efforts in this regard were being undertaken in some states. He added that in his opinion the consumption of many substances that are more dangerous and harmful than marihuana is already legal. He said that he believes that marijuana users are victims of abuses and unjust violations. He also commented on the "high quality" of marihuana produced in Panama. It is smuggled to the United States and sold at a very high price to consumers who know it as "Panama red." For that doctor, a U.S. official and drug expert, it is only a question of time before the consumption of marihuana--widely accepted at all levels of U.S. society--is officially accepted as are tobacco and liquor.

Before the Court

Now I read in the newspapers that a U.S. Federal Court is studying a demand for annulling the law which makes consumption of marihuana illegal. Marihuana opponents argue that its consumption harms the respiratory system, affects the heart, and provokes dangerous situations of violence and irresponsibility. But the defenders of marihuana maintain that those arguments have not been proved, adding that the restrictive law has not reduced the consumption of the weed. Instead, there is a constant increase of consumption throughout the country. The statistics--which might be faulted for their lack of scope--indicate that there are 16 million habitual users, 43 million occasional users and many more who sporadically smoke marihuana. The statistics also note that, out of the half million persons who are annually arrested for smoking marihuana, 80 percent are poor persons who do not have the means for [legal] defense while many millions of wealthy persons, including those in high political, intellectual, economic and social positions, continue to smoke the weed without being bothered by the authorities.

Interest

Aside from the public debate on the risks of marihuana, for Panama and other Latin American countries there is another very different interest in marihuana; if the use of marihuana is legalized in the United States, its importance would not be based on its criminal connotation. Therefore, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and other countries where marihuana could be planted on a large scale could also legalize, if not its consumption, its cultivation, processing and export. For example, Panama could dedicate certain areas to the cultivation of "Panama red" for export to the United States. In this way, our countries could obtain foreign exchange and open new sources of jobs, reducing the deficit in their balance of payments by exporting marihuana to the United States. We get many drugs as harmful or more harmful than marihuana from that country. If they believe that the weed is not harmful and authorize its use, it would not be illegal or immoral to supply it.

CSO: 5300

PERU

COCAINE RING POSING AS HANDICRAFTS EXPORTERS UNCOVERED

Lima EXPRESSO in Spanish 19 Jan 79 p 9

[Text] Two agencies engaged in the export of handicrafts served as a front for the activities of a powerful international gang of drug dealers, directed from Colombia by a Peruvian lawyer. The gang made millions with its contraband drugs.

The criminal organization was broken up by the Peruvian Investigative Police, according to information provided yesterday in the course of a press conference with the Director of the Peruvian Illegal Drug Traffic Department (DINTID) Inspector Major Francisco Abanto Arias.

The gang leader, Roberto Arrospide Valencia has fled and is in Colombia. The Peruvian authorities have requested his extradition, according to the Investigative Police Chief.

It was stated that the bogus exporting agencies operated under the names of "EXOP" and "Los Angeles" and worked hand in glove with an employee of one of the immigration sectors, who facilitated examination and shipments of the drugs at the airport customs unit.

It was alleged that when the men were arrested, a total of 132 kgs of basic cocaine paste was taken with them. The contraband was valued at 84 million soles, and, in addition, they had with them 24 million soles in Peruvian currency and 35 thousand dollars. A station wagon, a truck, three pistols, two revolvers and a rifle were also confiscated.

The clue leading to the arrests was provided by a Colombian, Enrique Parra Caytan (aged 27), detained with two Peruvians at the Jorge Chavez International Airport.

Other members of the gang are: Jorge Luis Armebianchi Moreno, Gladys Ramos Portanova, Carlos Palma Garay, Juan Panessi Damiani, José Frias Yesca, Dante Camusso Hidalgo, the two lastnamed being customs employees.



Jorge Parra C.



Gregorio Basso H.

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CSO: 5300

URUGUAY

DRAFT LAW ON DRUGS SENT TO COUNCIL OF STATE

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 23 Jan 79 p 6

[Text] The executive yesterday presented for the consideration of the Council of State a message and draft bill proposing approval of the South American Agreement on Drugs and Psychotropics signed on 27 April 1973 in Buenos Aires.

The main point considered at the conference in the neighboring capital was the problem of improper use of drugs, and it was agreed that the permanent and solidary attention of all South American nations was required, because its risks and harm affected all members of the Latin American system.

The agreement--according to the message sent to the legislative body--tries to coordinate the necessary measures so as to reach close cooperation and exchange in the fight against improper use of drugs and psychotropics. Stress was placed on control of illegal traffic, cooperation between national security organizations, coordination of penal and civil rules, uniformity of administrative provisions which control distribution, prevention of drug addiction, treatment, rehabilitation and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The measures proposed in the above-mentioned agreement would be implemented by means of establishing in each country an entity in charge of coordinating and centralizing, on the national level, everything related to improper use of drugs and psychotropics. In addition, it is established that yearly meetings of a technical nature will be held, as well as consultations and exchange of information allowing permanent contacts among the various national coordinating organizations.

There is also a plan for intensive education of the community by methods suitable to the problems of each country.

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CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Caracas, 2 Mar (EFE)--The Judicial Technical Police today captured Jose Juan Palma Liendo, a 28-year-old Venezuelan, and Demostenes Castillo Gonzalez, a Colombian, and seized drugs valued at approximately \$350,000 from them. The drugs included cocaine, marihuana and "mandrax," a hallucinogen. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT 3 Mar 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

EGYPT

HASHISH GROWERS ARRESTED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 8 Feb 79 p 2

[Text] Ninety-two people, accused of cultivating 183,000 hashish bushes in two villages near the Minia/Assiut border, were arrested recently, informed sources at the Ministry of the Interior said yesterday.

These arrests were among the results of a comprehensive 4-day police raid over the two governorates. About 800 machine guns and rifles were seized as well as about 17,000 run-away criminals, who were hiding in and around the area.

Major General Zaki Padr, Director of the General Security Department led the raids with 2,500 policemen of the Central Security Force who were later joined by 1,000 local police from the two governorates.

The police troops boarded boats and crossed to the East Bank of the Nile during the night. They began raids on El Meimaria and El Houta villages at the crack of dawn.

Water-Tight

Police used the most up to date long-range weapons to form a water-tight circle around the villages.

In El Houta village, Assiut, about 150,000 opium plants were discovered as well as 6,570 hashish plants scattered over 6 feddans. All the growers have been arrested, except 26 who were out of the village at the time of the raids. Police are now tailing them.

In El Meimaria village, about 23,000 opium bushes were found growing in-- 4 feddans. These 7 opium cultivators were also arrested.

A report on the raid was later submitted to Mr. Nabawi Ismail, Minister of the Interior.--GSS

CSO: 5300

MADAGASCAR

RASOANAIVO PAPER DETAILS PROPERTIES OF KHAT

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 7, 8 Feb 79

[Article: "All About 'Khat,' the Herb of Dreams"]

[7 Feb 79, pp 1, 2]

[Text] Very recently, Mr Rasoanaivo Philippe, who holds a Doctorat d'Etat in chemistry, is chief lecturer, chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the National Center for Pharmaceutical Research and winner of the scientific prize on the 75th anniversary of the Malagasy Academy, has delivered a very interesting speech on "Khat, the Sweet Drug" to the Academy, of which he was recently elected a corresponding member. The cultivation and consumption of khat are increasing in Madagascar, and last November the drug was the subject of an international conference in Antananarivo under the auspices of the Narcotics Bureau of the United Nations. The following is the text of his speech.

As recently as last November we had the privilege of receiving experts from various countries of Africa, Europe and America to sum up present knowledge of the botanics and chemistry of khat and to make plans for research that might solve pending problems. The various meetings were held in closed session, and you were able to find out through the newspapers and radio only in brief what was discussed here. Thus, it would be interesting to give you more information now about the botanical and chemical data on khat and the socio-medical consequences of its use.

Botanical Data

Khat probably originated in Ethiopia. It grows in various regions of West Africa and in the southern part of the Arabian peninsula. About 1947 it was introduced by Arabs into the northern part of Madagascar, where it is widely grown. According to where it is grown, this plant takes the form sometimes of a bush 1-3 meters high and sometimes of a tree that can reach 20 meters in height. Its generic name is *Catha edulis*, of the Celastraceae family. Most botanists are of the opinion that the genus *Catha* is represented by a single species, *Catha edulis*. The genus is, therefore, monotypical, but it does present numerous varieties. Growing in the wild, khat has remarkable facility of ecological adaptation: it grows at altitudes of 2-3,000 meters and can also be cultivated in coastal regions. The plant thrives in different climatic conditions and on the most varied kinds of terrain, from light and sandy soil to heavy, black loam. In Faritany d'Antsiranana, for example, large plantations exist at the seashore and in the Ambanja basin as well as in high zones like Joffreville. As a result, it is not surprising to find

a broad spectrum of morphological and probably chemical variations in the plant not only in the wild but also under cultivation. This botanical peculiarity of khat has caused its cultivation to spread swiftly, and the extent and geographical limits of its natural habitat are not known at present. In every region where khat is grown, there seem to be two dominant varieties, known as "white khat" and "red khat." This distinction is due to the fact that the color of the stem and veins varies from green to red.

Holy Drug

The psychotropic properties of khat have been known for a long time. The young leaves and the ends of the fresh branches are chewed for stimulant effects. In regions where it is consumed, khat must always be chewed in two or three days after harvesting because the stimulant effects decrease rapidly after this brief time and disappear rather quickly.

Other properties have also been attributed to this drug, but, aside from anorexic qualities, the other effects are subject to contradiction. In some regions, like Madagascar, it is reputed to be an aphrodisiac, while among the Arabs it is considered a holy drug that aids abstinence. Cases of aggressive behavior have been noted among some addicts; however, according to other information, it soothes passion and anger and thus favors harmony in social relationships.

[8 Feb 79, p 2]

[Text] Khat is taken in groups, generally after a hearty meal. While chewing the young shoots, the consumers drink a lot of water or Coca Cola; alcoholic beverages are very much the exception. They smoke a lot and eat little; they sit up all night talking incessantly. The enjoyable atmosphere of these meetings and the feelings of well-being that they get from chewing khat incite the revelers to seek this gemuetlichkeit, this conviviality. This makes it imperative for them to obtain their necessary ration of khat often to the detriment of such vital needs as food. The use of khat thus means a loss of financial resources for users who are already rather poor and the gradual loss of their working capacity. A package of khat costs more than 500 FMG [Malagasy francs], but the price can double in times of scarcity. According to one article, the inhabitants of Djibouti bought more than \$3 million worth of khat in 1966; you can see how much it is costing a population that is already poverty-stricken and undernourished. It is undeniable that the malnutrition that results often causes emaciation, tuberculosis and anemia.

Two Phases

Clinical observations have been published on khat intoxication. According to some observations, the effects of the drug are felt in two distinct phases.

The first, or tonic phase lasts about 6 hours. The first 2 hours are marked by hilarity, excitation, stimulation of the memory and facility of speech. For the next 4 hours, the user feels a kind of well-being and is subject to

illusions: he thinks he is lucid, and his physical and sexual stamina seem to be increased.

The second, or depressive phase lasts longer. It probably corresponds to the exhaustion following the period of excitement. It is characterized by insomnia, anorexia and a slight depression syndrome. After the period of insomnia comes a deep, restful and often quite prolonged period of sleep.

The great difference between these two phases might explain the contradictions that have been noted in sexual behavior. The effects of the drug are felt essentially on the cardiovascular system, and the genital and digestive functions.

The classic cardiovascular effect is an impression of increased circulation and hot flashes that appear at the beginning of intoxication. But the most important fact is unstable blood pressure and poor adaptation to work, which causes cerebral hemorrhages in subjects predisposed to them.

Effects on the digestive system are quite variable. Generally, the following have been observed:

- dryness in the membranes of the mouth with strong thirst and an imperative need to drink abundantly;
- delayed anorexia.

Two States

Very often noted are intestinal upset and abdominal discomfort ranging from constipation, in most cases, to diarrhetic syndromes.

In the genital dysfunctions that have been observed, sexual impotence is the most frequent. It is characterized by difficulty or impossibility of erection or ejaculation.

Analysis of the psychic manifestation of khat intoxication enables us to establish two main clinical types:

1. The excitomaniacal type of crisis, which is most frequent among younger people. It goes with a passing exaltation of mood and of cerebral activity. This excitement is often accompanied by aggressiveness.
2. The deficitary state that is typical of older intoxicated subjects: it is characterized by a subtle loss of contact with reality concerning previous professional or political occupations or sexual prowess. A morbid lack of will power and impractical behavior are very marked.

The various troubles caused by khat addiction have brought the United Nations Narcotics Commission to examine this problem since 1956. Finally, in 1973, a resolution was adopted to undertake extensive research, especially into

identifying the active substances in khat and their pharmacological properties in order to clarify otherwise inexplicable ambiguities.

The chemical study of khat began in 1887. The early work was intended especially to isolate the basic elements presumed to be stimulants. In 1901, a compound was isolated and called cathine 1; it was identified as nor-pseudoephedrine 30 years later.

For many years it was thought that this compound was the only active element in khat.

Recent studies made by the Narcotics Laboratory of the United Nations have cast doubt upon this hypothesis. Alkaloids of very high molecular mass have also been isolated.

Tannins

They are polyester-type alkaloids with a very complex structure. You have here the complete structure of one of them, named Catheduline-4, which was very recently determined. It is formed from this sesquiterpenic polyol in which the OH groups are esterized by various acids: acetic acid, nicotinic acid, and trimethyl ether of gallic acid.

Besides these basic constituents, essential oils--tannins, flavonoids and amino acids--have been found in khat.

Nonetheless, the results obtained before 1973 were confused and contradictory and did not allow of any valid conclusions. In particular, they cannot rationally explain why psychotropic activity occurs only when khat is taken fresh while all the isolated compounds are stable.

Through the work of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, another compound closely related to cathine has been isolated from the leaves of fresh khat that have been previously lyophilized.

It is cathinone, a very unstable compound that decomposes readily in the presence of light and oxygen to yield, through dimerization, 3, 6-dimethyl, 2, 5-diphenyl pyragia and, by oxydative desamination, 1-phenyl 1, 2-propanedione. There may be a relationship between the activity of fresh khat and the instability of cathinone.

It was recently synthesized for evaluation by various pharmacological tests.

The Young Shoots

Cathinone and cathine constitute, along with norephedrine, the three compounds of the phenylalkylamine type so far isolated in khat. Their chemical relationship to the amphetamine series explains certain physiological properties of the drug.

Cathinone exists mainly in the young shoots, while cathine and norephedrine are localized in the older leaves. This has led the National Center for Pharmaceutical Research, at the conference of experts in Antananarivo, to propose this biosynthetic outline to explain their interconversion.

This biosynthetic process is thought to have a direct relationship to the aging of the leaves.

Particular attention has also been paid recently to the chemical study of the polyester alkaloids in khat. Some 15 have been isolated so far and the structures of some of them have been found. However, so far as I know, nothing has yet been published on their pharmacological activity.

The other compounds of khat, especially tannins and polyphenols, have not been studied thoroughly. Several articles, however, mention that khat extracts stripped of their nitrates are still as toxic as the whole plant. It is probable, for example, that the presence of tannin in appreciable quantities causes the frequent digestive complications among users. It would be worthwhile to study these compounds.

Steps to be Taken

This has been an outline of the present botanical, chemical and socio-medical knowledge of khat.

It is undeniable that use of this drug may cause deleterious consequences to both the individual and those around him. Some Arab countries have already passed laws against it, and the drug is listed under category B in France, and has been since 1956.

The United Nations Narcotics Commission has also concerned itself with this problem, and a considerable effort has been made by their laboratory since 1973 to improve our chemical knowledge of this drug. But chemical research is not yet complete, and one of the recommendations of the latest conference of experts encourages countries where khat is grown to continue the work undertaken by the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory. Thus, the CNRP [National Center for Pharmaceutical Research] is undertaking its present work on khat.

Finally, serious pharmacological studies of the chemical constituents of this drug ought to be undertaken to resolve any contradiction concerning the properties attributed to it. The WHO [World Health Organization] is presently working on this problem.

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CSO: 5300

MAURITIUS

ANTI-DRUG DRIVE REPORTED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 6

[Article: "Encouraging Initiatives"; passages in slantlines are emphasized in the text]

[Text] An "anti-drug committee" launches a poster campaign in Port Louis. The Better Movies Movement gathers 52,000 signatures in favor of forbidding porno films.

/Public opinion is finally beginning to react to the unprecedented escalation of drugs, especially opium "shooting," which has killed many people on Mauritius. Anti-drug committees are organizing in many places at all levels: in private businesses, unions, clubs, socio-cultural organizations, etc. in order to discourage the use of the drug and to return addicts to society. Two different anti-drug committees that are active mainly at the port and in Port-Louis have formed a single, more solid organization to pool their efforts against this scourge. As a part of their public education campaign, the top leaders of this committee, among whom are officials of the Association of Port Employers and representatives of the Port Louis Harbour and Dock Workers Union (PLHDWU), are meeting with Police Commissioner M. A. Rajarai today to ask him to take the steps necessary to discourage "shooting up" on Mauritius./

In their interview with the police commissioner, the leaders of the "anti-drug committee" will demand that the vice squad be reorganized and that the police do their job more seriously. According to Mr Michel Gerard Nina, a Port-Louis city councilman and secretary of the PLHDWU and spokesman for the committee, the police will be requested to show more severity towards pushers /"before Mauritian youth becomes a generation of addicts."/

The members of the committee came to the conclusion, after a thorough study, that the main causes of this drug escalation are unemployment and the lack of leisure time activities in poor neighborhoods, where the number of addicts is often highest. Thus, a whole series of proposals will be recommended to the authorities in order to stop these evils that are eating away at Mauritian society.

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CSO: 5300

SWITZERLAND

BRIEFS

SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKING--sda--The district court at Aarau has sentenced three Turks and a Swiss to prison terms of between 2 1/2 and 4 years. The four men belonged to an organization that had smuggled 50 kg of hashish, valued at more than 150,000 francs, into Switzerland. The Swiss confessed; in contrast, the Turks tried to mitigate or deny their crimes. The prosecuting authority for Aargau demonstrated that Turkish officials are obviously not inclined to prevent "the massive export of drugs into Western countries." The four defendants were on a low level of the drug trade hierarchy. The head of the Swiss drug organization, Yilmaz Gokmez, has vanished without a trace and is being sought internationally. Among other things, it was claimed by the defense that because of the frequent change of ownership of the hot goods only the profit in each case, not the total proceeds, should be the determining factor in setting the amount of punishment. But the court followed the proposals of the prosecuting authority, according to which the Swiss is to give the state 176,000 francs and the Turks 151,000, 140,000 and 112,000 francs. Probably the state will only be able to obtain certificates of loss instead of these amounts. The three Turks were also banned from the country for periods of between 8 and 10 years. [Text] [Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 28/29 Jan 79 p 1] 2245

DRUG DEATHS--ma--There are already two drug deaths to mourn in the new year: a 27-year-old mechanic and a waitress of the same age independently of each other injected themselves with lethal doses of heroin at the beginning of January. Both have been a part of the Zurich drug scene for several years. On 8 January the mechanic was found dead in his attic room in Zurich Zone 11. Together with an addict who lived in the same house, on the previous night he had injected himself with heroin which came from a break-in into a drug store in the same city zone. When his comrade had a look around at 0300, he found the mechanic lying on the floor groaning. Immediate life-saving measures were useless, and the emergency doctor who was summoned could do nothing but confirm the death of the addict. The 27-year-old mechanic had been injecting since 1973. The young man's personality structure has been so changed by his dependence on drugs that he no longer had any human contacts and had lived in complete isolation in his attic. Only a day after the death of the mechanic, a waitress was found dead in her

room in Zone 2. Her arm was tied with twine, and revealed several needle marks; the right hand of the dead woman was clutching a one-way hypodermic. The dead woman had first come into contact with the police in 1975 because of violations of the narcotics law; however, she had been taking drugs since 1972. In spite of two sentences, withdrawal cures and voluntary stays in a psychiatric clinic, the young woman had never been able to free herself from the addiction. In Zurich's Zone 2 a 20-year-old draftsman and a 24-year-old mechanic--both Austrians--who had appeared some time before on the drug scene here, were arrested recently. The investigation by the narcotics division of the Zurich city police finally showed that the duo had traveled from Zurich to Amsterdam four times and from there had smuggled about 60 grams of heroin into Switzerland. The two are not drug addicts themselves and were selling the hot goods. According to their own statement, they claimed to have "earned" a total of about 19,000 francs. [Text] [Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 18 Jan 79 p 23] 2245

DEALER SENTENCED--sda--The criminal court in Basel has sentenced a 26-year-old Italian to 3 years of prison because of theft and qualified violation of the narcotics law. The Italian, who has previous related convictions, was stopped in the train from Brussels to Milan in Basel because his description had been given as a result of the theft of a blanket from a hotel room in Basel. In the investigation the officers noticed the numerous needle holes in his arms; this indication of drug use led them to a more careful investigation, in which they found 75 grams of heroin. The Italian admitted that he had bought heroin in Brussels as an assignment from and in company with an older wholesale dealer from Milan and tried to smuggle it over the border. The Italian explained the fact that he did not give away his employer when he was stopped by a fear of reprisals against his wife, since this wholesale dealer is a southern Italian and a Mafioso. [Text] [Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 31 Jan 79 p 5] 2245

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