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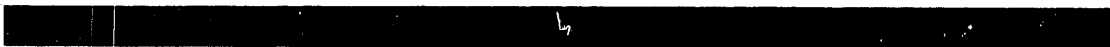
JPRS L/8433

2 May 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(FOUO 19/79)



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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

REHABILITATION CENTER--An historical farmhouse near Campbelltown, owned by the State Government, is to be used as a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. The James McGrath Foundation is to lease the 1830's house from the State Government for a nominal rent for 20 years. After a period of treatment at the farm, addicts will go to the foundation's rehabilitation centre at nearby Minto. The centre has 80 residents, who have either volunteered for treatment or been referred by the NSW Health Commission, the Parole and Probation Service or the Department of Youth and Community Services. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 17 Mar 79 p 6]

THEFT FROM PHARMACY--A man and a woman with sawn-off shotguns stole drugs and about \$1,000 from a chemist shop in Bayswater Road, Kings Cross, yesterday. The couple entered the Diplomat Pharmacy about 1:50 a.m. and demanded money and drugs from the pharmacist, Mr. Michael Lynch. The woman was described as being about 45 years old, 152.cm (5 ft) tall and with a small scar under her right eye. The man was between 25 and 28 years old, 167.5 cm (5 ft 6 in) tall and of medium build. He was wearing a tan T-shirt. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Mar 79 p 8]

HEROIN FOUND BURIED--A man convicted of possessing heroin found buried in his backyard was sentenced yesterday to three years' jail. Judge Somerville said the heroin would have a street value of \$31,600 if sold in capsule form. Lance Christopher McMillan, 24, a musical equipment hire operator, of Rosella Street, Murrumbidgee, was found guilty by a County Court jury of having at Murrumbidgee, on January 1, 1977, possessed a quantity of heroin reasonably suspected of having been imported. McMillan had earlier pleaded not guilty to the charge. Judge Somerville said narcotics agents found the heroin in two bags buried in McMillan's backyard. He said 79.1 grams of white powder contained 29 grams of pure heroin. [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 20 Mar 79 p 4]

MARIHUANA SMUGGLER JAILED--Sydney: A 27-year-old New Zealand woman was gaoled for three years yesterday for importing cannabis into Australia. Linda Louise Herrick, of Gottenham Street, Glebe, and formerly of Westport, New Zealand, pleaded guilty to a charge of importing 4.5kg of cannabis in the form of buddha sticks into Australa last October 27. In the District Criminal Court, Judge Thorley said that Linda Herrick was arrested when she flew into Sydney from Noumea. The drug was inside the lining of a suitcase and she was paid \$5000 to bring it in. Judge Thorley said the sentence would date from March 8. He set a non-parole period of 12 months. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Mar 79 p 45]

HEROIN CHARGE--Mark Raymond Hinchcliffe, 24, unemployed, of Forrest Street, Cottesloe, was remanded in East Perth Court on 20 March on a charge of importing heroin and another charge of possessing the drug. Hinchcliffe had been arrested at Perth Airport on 18 March. Remand was until 28 March. Hinchcliffe was granted bail of \$5000. [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 20 Mar 79 p 13]

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INDONESIA

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED--Jakarta, 9 Apr (AFP)--Three kilograms of high-grade opium apparently ready for peddling were seized in a police raid in Polmas some 150 miles from Ujungpandang, South Sulawesi, from a man named Hs last week, ANTARA News Agency reported today. The latest seizure followed a previous bagging of 6 kilograms of opium by police in adjacent Majene Regency in a combined police-customs operation toward the end of last month. The man in whose possession the earlier catch was found had indicated to police that the opium was part of a 21-kilogram consignment believed to have originated from Tawao, Sabah, East Malaysia. A police spokesman in Ujungpandang said that South Sulawesi may have been made a base link in a narcotic distribution chain by an apparently well-organized syndicate. [Jakarta ANTARA in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 79 BK]

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JAPAN

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--Tokyo, 18 Apr KYODO--Narcotic investigators said Wednesday they had arrested Koji Kita, an ex-member of the one-time popular vocal quartet "Four Leaves," and a gangster for violation of stimulant drug control law. The Health and Welfare Ministry's Kanto-Shinetsu regional narcotic investigators office arrested Kita, whose real name is Koji Matsushita, 30, of Minato Ward, Tokyo, when he was found carrying a 0.2 gram sack of amphetamine last Thursday. The investigators said Kita confessed that he had bought a sack containing 0.4 gram of amphetamine for 20,000 yen from Nobuo Mitsui in a car parked at a gas station in Minato Ward in the early morning last Thursday. Kita's confession led to the arrest of Mitsui, 35, a leading member of the underworld gang Sumiyoshi-Rengo's Nippon Seinensha, of Minato Ward. The investigators quoted Kita as saying that he had spent 15 million yen to buy about 300 grams of amphetamine since around autumn of 1975. The two were turned over to the public prosecutor's office. The investigators also believe Kita, who became acquainted with Mitsui at a nightclub in Roppongi, in mid-March had bought drugs from Mitsui on several occasions. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 18 Apr 79 OW]

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PAKISTAN

ANTISMUGGLING SQUAD SEIZES 94 BAGS OF OPIUM

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 79 p 4

[Text] The Anti-smuggling Squad under the leadership of Syed Saadullah Shah seized 94 bags of opium in a surprise raid on a wagon on RCD Highway between Nushki and Mal on March 19, says a Government handout issued yesterday (Tuesday).

The seized opium worth rupees one crore weighed about 705 kilograms including the cost of the vehicle seized.

The driver and the cleaner of vehicle have been arrested and further investigations are proceeding.



The staff of the Anti-smuggling Squad
with the contraband opium seized near
Nushki on RCD Highway.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

THREE ARRESTED IN PESHAWAR RAID--PESHAWAR, March 31--The Peshawar Police has seized 25 maunds of charas, 25 air conditioners and other stationary worth about rupees one and half crores, in a pre-dawn operation on the Peshawar-Kohat road today. Police sources said that the seizure was made from a Karachi bound truck near village Badaber, about eight miles from Peshawar. The other seized goods included 14 bags of biri leaf, 34 bags of tobacco, 50,000 yards of foreign cloth and about 12,000 foreign-made 'dopattas.' Three occupants of the truck including its driver have been arrested. It is reported that a special police picquet near village Badaber made the haul from a truck, coming from Bata towards Peshawar, for onward transportation to Karachi. The truck No.PRA 3628 was plying without number plate. The truck has been impounded. The contraband charas, in 62 small bags, air conditioners and cloth, were concealed under the tobacco and biri leaf bags. The arrested persons are Mohammed Khan driver, Gulber Khan and Bahader Sher.--APP [Text] [Karachi THE SUN in English 1 Apr 79 p 2]

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PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

MANILA COP NAMED IN DRUGS RAP--Charges of illegal possession, distribution and administration of prohibited drugs were filed yesterday against a Manila policeman with the Manila court of first instance. Accused of violation of provisions of R.A. 6425 was Pat Ruben Macaroyo, a member of the anti-organized crime task force of Precinct 6 of the Western Police District, Metropolitan Police Force. Bail of P 15,000 was recommended for the patrolman's provisional release by investigating Assistant Fiscal Cesario L. del Rosario.--Macaroyo was also accused earlier of the theft of a camera worth P 5,500 belonging to American tourist, Liza Suzanne Stindrager, 22. His bail was fixed at P 1,750. In the dope pushing case, the Manila policeman was alleged to have in his possession in the month of February and for sometime prior thereto heroin which he administered to Celestina Sanchez, 14. He was also accused of having distributed marijuana to tourists, through Sanchez. --In her testimony, both before the Manila court of first instance in the theft case against her and before the fiscal's office, Sanchez claimed it was Macaroyo who drugged and induced her to distribute marijuana leaves to tourists for purposes of extortion. Sanchez, together with Enrique de Lara, 29, was earlier accused of the theft of Stindrager's camera, but the American tourist cleared both accused of the charge and instead accused Macaroyo as principal by inducement. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 79 p 1]

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SOUTH KOREA

BRIEFS

DRUG NETWORK CRACKED--Seoul (Hapdong-Kyodo)--Anti-drug police squads have cracked a large-scale drug network suspected of having smuggled to Japan about 4,000 million won (1,600 million yen) worth of stimulants called "philopon" since last year, police said. An official police report said the ring with its drug processing plant in Chungju, north Chongchong Province, had employed a Korean resident in Japan as a courier in drug traffic to Japan. The courier, identified as Chang Chong Hwan, whose address in Japan was unknown, had fled and was being sought by Korean police which rounded up seven persons belonging to the underground apparatus, including the ring leader Kim Dong Hoon, 43, of Pusan. The police have confiscated four kilograms of manufactured drugs and 30 kilograms of unprocessed drug materials from them, reports said. [Text] [Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 7 Apr 79 p 12]

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CANADA

QUEBEC DRUG RAID RESULTS IN HEROIN, COCAINE CHARGES

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 30 Mar 79 p 10

[Text]

MONTREAL (CP) — Thirty-five people, 19 men and 16 women, were arraigned in sessions court Thursday on narcotics charges following a series of RCMP raids at private homes early Wednesday.

Most were charged with possession or trafficking in heroin, while two were accused of handling cocaine. All pleaded not guilty to the charges and opted for trial by jury.

Preliminary hearings for some accused were set for today, but most were put off until next week at the request of their counsel. Six were granted bail Thursday and the other bail hearings were set for today.

Three men picked up in the same series of raids and two others arrested later in the Eastern Townships also pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking. They are to appear for a bail hearing today in Sherbrooke, Que.

Police said they believed the three arrested in Montreal had connections with a trafficking operation in the Sherbrooke area.

A spokesman said two RCMP undercover agents drove with the three men to Lennoxville, where they made a telephone order for 14 grams of pure heroin for \$5,000.

The meeting place for the exchange was in a motel room, the spokesman said. At a pre-arranged time, police broke into the room, arrested two men and seized the heroin.

The Montreal raids followed an eight-month investigation in which agents bought \$100,000 worth of heroin. Inspector J.G.L. Favreau of the RCMP narcotics section said the drug will be scarce in Montreal for the next month because of the operation.

Most of the heroin came from the Far East and Mexico, the spokesman said.

In a separate case, RCMP agents discovered a drug laboratory Thursday in Rawdon, Que., 65 kilometres north of Montreal, and seized 10 pounds of pure methamphetamine, known as speed, worth about \$700,000 on the street.

A police spokesman said a man and a woman, aged 50 and 24, originally from Toronto, were arrested in that raid. Both are to be arraigned today in sessions court in Joliette, Que.

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CANADA

BRIEFS

LSD SEIZURE--The Toronto-based drug squad of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has seized 9,600 doses of LSD, valued at about \$28,800, after intercepting three people boarding a rented light aircraft at Buttonville Airport. An RCMP spokesman said yesterday the haul, which also included small quantities of MDA and hashish, came after a police probe into the transportation of drugs between Toronto and Pembroke. A 33-year-old Pembroke area man has been charged with possession of LSD for the purpose of trafficking, possession of MDA and possession of hashish. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 22 Mar 79 p 10]

HEROIN CONSPIRACY SENTENCES--Welland (CP)--Four Niagara Falls men involved in a heroin ring in 1976 were sentenced in Ontario Supreme Court yesterday for conspiracy to traffic in heroin. Dennis Richard Peck, 25, and John Widema, 25, each were sentenced to 16 months in reformatory by Mr. Justice Frank Callaghan, who described the two as "street-level pushers." Fortunata Caliguiri, 46, and Thomas Eugene Agretto, 35, who were described as messengers in the trafficking ring, each were sentenced to six months in reformatory. All four had pleaded guilty on March 5. Judge Callaghan said the ring appeared to be run by Pasquale Rocco, 50, and Natale Mastroianni, 36, both of whom returned to Italy and did not appear for their trial. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 23 Mar 79 p 9]

MARIHUANA CHARGES--Victoria (CP)--A drug conspiracy trial was told Wednesday that a member of an Acapulco yacht club in Mexico provided the vessel which transported 13.5 tons of marijuana to British Columbia last summer. Nilo Batista, an unindicted co-conspirator, was named as receiving more than \$100,000 as his rental fee from various individuals in testimony by Arthur Richard Vandiver, special agent of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Vandiver also testified that he paid Batista \$3,000 from the DEA for expenses. Accused of conspiracy to import marijuana, importing marijuana and possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking are Garth Clarence Vincent Joseph Sexton, 27, of Vancouver, Ronald Cecil Spurrell, 31, of Surrey, B.C., Frederick Charles Scott, 28, of Vancouver, Frank Piersanti, 28, of Montreal and John Mobley Doss, 25, of Dillon, Colo., formerly of Newfoundland. Fourteen persons

named but not charged in the incident are Batista, Maurice Pereira, Neil Maxwell Kennedy, Terrance Gerard Trainor, Kevin Gerard Gushue, Robert Sherman Miller, Gordon Barlow Tait, Frederick MacKintosh Tait, Allen Valenti, Patrick Joseph Murphy, Edwin Floyd Terry, also known as Philip Stanley Ward, Melville Douglas Balfour, Jillian Penney and Vicki Hann.
[Text] [Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 5 Apr 79 p 16]

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ARGENTINA

EIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN RAIDS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Mar 79 p 6

[Text] The National Directorate of Police has announced that eight persons involved in the possession and illegal transportation into the country of drugs have been arrested in several actions in border security zones in the provinces of Misiones, Salta and Jujuy.

The report adds that 25 kilograms of coca leaves, valued at 3,810,000 pesos, and 40 grams of chopped marihuana were confiscated.

Squadron 21 La Quiaca was manning the border stations of Ojo de Agua and La Penitencia, 150 meters from the Argentine-Bolivian international border, when it surprised several groups of persons in a drug transaction. Although they succeeded in fleeing to the neighboring country, the group left behind 120 kilograms of coca leaves.

Oran Squadron

Squadron 20 Oran was checking automobile and railway cargo in the border areas under its jurisdiction, as well as in Tartagal, Embarcacion and Pocitos, when it arrested six persons--four women and two men--from whom they seized 135 kilograms of coca leaves.

Eldorado

Squadron 10 Eldorado, while checking passenger cars along with agents of the Iguazu section, arrested Aldo Luis Panuela and Carlos Alberto Mazzatelli, both Argentines and unmarried, residents of El Palomar in Buenos Aires Province, who had hidden in their clothing envelopes containing 40 grams of chopped marihuana from Brazil.

Inspection Tour

The national director of police has returned by air to the capital city after an inspection tour of Santa Cruz Province. First he visited the 16th Group, headquartered in Rio Gallegos, where he was informed of the action taken by the force in the border security zone under the jurisdiction of the aforementioned Patagonian province.

Later he inspected Squadrons 42 Lago Argentino, with headquarters in Calafate, and 43 Rio Turbio, both dependencies of the Group, where he made a thorough inspection of specific functions.

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BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT--The Interpol department of the National Investigation Directorate has seized 5 kilograms of cocaine sulphate at a house at 1379 Palos Blancos Street, and arrested Teresa Herrera, Amalia Bernal Vasquez, and Romer Elin Mostajo, all Bolivian citizens; and Carmen Cecilia Rodriguez Zangger, a Colombian citizen who was the head of the dismantled ring. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 79 p 2 PY]

COCAINE RING BROKEN--The Bolivian and U.S. narcotics divisions have broken up an international drug ring operating between Santa Cruz, Bolivia and New York. The ring leaders, (Susan Torres) and (Francesco Gomez Machado), U.S. citizens, and (Winston Vazquez), Bolivian, have been arrested. Forty women couriers, all foreigners, have been arrested in Bolivia and the United States. The ring began to operate in October 1977 and it sent approximately 350 kg of cocaine from Santa Cruz to New York at a monthly average of 20 kg. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 79 PY]

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BRAZIL

OAB CASSATES LAWYER/COLONEL FOR DEFENSE OF U.S. TRAFFICKERS

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Mar 79 p 20

[Text] Lt Col Zairo Lara Filho, who as an attorney defended seven American citizens accused of drug trafficking, had his membership in the OAB [Brazilian Bar Association] canceled yesterday "for exercising an activity incompatible with the legal profession--namely, that of commander of the 13th battalion of the Military Police [PM]."

The meeting which decided the cancellation of the PM officer's membership was presided over by Attorney Cesar Goncalves Pereira and Counselor Joao Batista Louzada Camara served as trial relator. At the time of the denunciation Colonel Lara Filho said only that "the case should be handled directly by the OAB and myself."

Prison

On 28 December 1978 at the Rio de Janeiro International Airport, agents of the Federal Police and the Federal Revenue Service arrested seven Americans who had just landed from a 24-B Lear jet. They had a suitcase containing 17.7 kg of pure cocaine which was scheduled for delivery to the United States. The plane was chartered by the group from Executive Aviation Services, Long Beach, and made stops in Acapulco, San Jose, Puerto Rico, Guayaquil, Tegucigalpa, Callao, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and, lastly, Rio de Janeiro.

The suitcase containing the drug was seized immediately and the occupants of the plane were taken to the Rio Regional Superintendency of the Federal Police, who identified them as: Esther Romo Andoor, professor; Harvey Allen Misbin, the plane's copilot; martha Amaya Baca, doctor; Robert Joseph Ramirez, engineer; George Antony Cruz, businessman; Daniel William Glover, pilot; and Joyce Anita Wainright.

Sentencing

The accused were tried in the middle of January in the fourth court of the Department of Federal Justice by Judge Ariosto Resende Rocha, who sentenced

only businessman George Antony Cruz who had confessed that it was his merchandise which was seized on the plane and who had exonerated the others from any and all responsibility for the drug. George was sentenced to 5 years in prison.

Accumulation of Activities

To defend the Americans, the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro engaged the services of a team of lawyers headed by Lara Filho, who for several days acted in the defense of the accused, even giving interviews about the plight of his clients. The newspapers disclosed that he was also a lieutenant colonel of the PM and commander of the 13th battalion, headquartered at Praca Tiradentes.

In becoming aware of this fact through the newspapers, Attorney Haddock Lobo, president of the Rio de Janeiro Regional Section of the OAB, stated on 11 January that Colonel Lara Filho, commander of the 13th PM Battalion and defense attorney for the seven Americans arrested with cocaine in their possession, "can have his license revoked or be dismissed from his official responsibility for having violated Article 84 of Law No 4215 which prohibits the carrying out of any other function simultaneously with that of attorney, as of April 1963."

Yesterday the Rio de Janeiro Regional Section of the OAB issued the following official note:

"In a meeting presided over by Attorney Cesar Goncalves Pereira and held today (yesterday), the OAB canceled the membership of Lt Col Zairo Lara Filho for exercising an activity which is incompatible with legal practice--namely, that of commander of the 13th PM Battalion. Counselor Joao Batista Louzada Camara acted as trial relator."

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BRAZIL

DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN RIO, SAO PAULO SEEK SUPPORT

Rio Treatment League Campaign

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Mar 79 p 27

[Text] "Give a brick for the construction of our hospital," is the appeal of the National League for the Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts, an institution providing free treatment for drug addicts. With the launching of the Brick Campaign yesterday, the league hopes to move the public officials and arouse the interest of the community in the drug problem.

Although no public official had appeared at the launching of the campaign, Dr Gerson Hallais, the league president, seemed quite pleased with the telegram sent by future Vice President Aureliano Chaves and also with the promise made by future Secretary of Justice Erasmo Martins Pedro to aid the organization.

Promises

The site of the construction of the hospital, a pioneer of its type in our country, has not yet been determined, although the state government has offered land in Nova Friburgo which, according to Dr Hallais, would require the removal of 70 slum-dwelling families. Two other pieces of land are at the disposal of the organization: one offered by the federal government on the Rio-Teresopolis highway and the other, with 123,000 square meters in the municipality of Mage, donated by a private individual.

According to the president of the league, about 300 young addicts are seeking the services of the organization each month to receive the treatment which will bring about total rehabilitation, if the patient is not mentally deficient. Brick donations exclusively may be delivered to the league's headquarters, Rua Pedro de Carvalho, 329 in Meier.

Sao Paulo Center May Close

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Feb 79 p 6

[Text] Sao Paulo--Already in debt in the amount of 1 million cruzeiros, the Nosso Lar Human Relations Center, which has rehabilitated 65 percent of the 1,000 drug addicts treated up to now, has its work of 5 years threatened by lack of government support. This is evidenced by the uncertainty of the renewal of the agreement with the Sao Paulo Secretariat of Social Welfare.

In denouncing the small amount of aid given by the government, Batista Franco Rodrigues, founder of the center, recalls that in his area of 6 alqueires "drug addicts live as they would in society, treated by doctors and psychologists." Drugs are given only in extreme cases but always under intensive occupational therapy.

Nosso Lar

In the opinion of Rodrigues--who claims to know the problem of drug addicts for having been one himself as a youth--Nosso Lar, established in April 1974, is radically different from a hospital: "I believe that one who has been rehabilitated becomes a standard bearer against that vice and here we are rehabilitating youth.

"With the Medici government's legislation on drugs," he goes on to say, "I felt inspired and, based on my personal experience, decided to establish a community center different from hospitals. I went to the United States, obtained firsthand information on modern methods of treatment and then bought the land (on Raposo Tavares Highway 30 km from the capital) to construct the center."

With accounts in arrears totaling 977,730 cruzeiros up to this past December, Nosso Lar has as the basis of its financial assistance an agreement with the Secretariat of Social Welfare providing for a payment of 208 cruzeiros per bed per day and the center has the capacity to treat 150 patients.

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BRAZIL

BRIEFS

ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO PRISON--Attorney Itacir Alberto Vescovi Faini and Ione Neves Barbosa, who were arrested in Leblon on 2 February accused of drug trafficking, were sentenced yesterday in the 23d Criminal Court to 4 years of imprisonment each. Judge Sergio Cavalieri Filho also imposed a fine of 500 cruzeiros on her and a fine of 12,000 cruzeiros on the attorney. Both were arrested by agents of the Narcotics Delegation who received the tip (anonymous) that drug trafficking was going on at Apartment 302, Rua Artur Araripe 77. That is the residence of the couple, Jair Borges de Oliveira and Denise Correa Pinto, who are awaiting sentencing. The agents seized 889 grams of compressed marihuana and 132 grams of cocaine. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Mar 79 p 16] 8568

MARIHUANA, COCAINE PAPER SEIZED--Three kilos of compressed marihuana, 300 cigarettes containing that weed, two precision scales and a roll of vegetal paper for wrapping cocaine were found yesterday by soldiers of the 5th PM Battalion in a bathtub buried at the edge of a cliff in Morro da Providencia, a site known as the Passion Pit. The police, who did not explain how they came to the spot in question, stated that the material allegedly belonged to trafficker Joao da Manha, competitor of the bandit Sebastiao Correa dos Santos, known as Tainha. The drug was handed over to the 2d Police Delegation and from there to the Institute of Criminology. There were no arrests. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Mar 79 p 22] 8568

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Belem--Yesterday the Federal Police handed over the four foreigners who made up a gang of cocaine traffickers, but they did not disclose the quantity of drugs seized. The traffickers are: Romeo Kowlessar, Dharrandan Singh and Michael Batson (Guyanese) and an Englishman, Ronnie Ramnabind. According to the police, this is the first time that federal agents have found an indication of cocaine in Belem. They take this to mean that the Para capital is on the drug route and that there is cocaine scattered around the city. The four were arrested on the basis of tips given by neighbors who saw a lot of movement in the house in which the foreigners were living. The police disclosed that the cocaine seized in Belem was white in color and was divided into curlpaper packages which would be sold at prices varying from 500 to 1,000 cruzeiros each.

According to the agents, the cocaine entered the country via the Roraima Mountain territory. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Feb 79 p 7] 8568

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN RIO--The Federal Police announced yesterday the arrest of drug traffickers Milton Roberto da Silva, known as Miltao, and Ariovaldo Contesini, both cited as narcotics suppliers, in Rodolfo Dantas, Riachuelo and Henrique Valadares streets. The two were discovered as a result of the arrest a few days ago of Camilo Malicio Filho after an exchange of gunfire on the Rio-Niteroi bridge. Camilo, who has already served 11 years of imprisonment at Ilha Grande, is also accused of stealing cars to exchange for drugs in Paraguay. The drug was kept in a house in Sao Goncalo. Upon being arrested Camilo was carrying 80 packages of cocaine in the car--a Fiat RZ 1810. One of his bodyguards--Evandro da Silva Junior--was also arrested. The Federal Police also disclosed the arrest of a Turk, Tuffir Samoul, and of Nilo Fernando Antunes de Magalhaes. Tuffir, who claims to be an addict, is to be expelled from the country. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 79 p 16] 8568

JUDGE DENIES TEMPORARY RELEASE--Judge Sergio Cavalieri Filho of the 23d Criminal Court denied temporary release yesterday to Attorney Itaci Alberto Faini and Ione Neves Barbosa, accused of drug trafficking. Monday, Attorney Jair Leite Pereira will enter a plea of habeas corpus in Alcada Court on behalf of Faini, who is being held at Ponto Zero. Faini and Ione were arrested on 2 February in the apartment of Denise Correa Pinto together with Jair Borges de Oliveira, who admitted being the owner of the 889 grams of cocaine and 132 grams of marihuana seized; he also confessed to being an addict for 10 years. The four accused already gave their prior defense and Monday the trial will go before the judge to set a date for sentencing. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Feb 79 p 15] 8568

PM PROMOTES ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN--The 5th Military PM Battalion is conducting a daily campaign at Morro da Providencia--the largest drug distribution center in Rio; its objective is to warn the residents about the danger of drugs and the need to combat them. Pamphlets are dropped by helicopter throughout the area or distributed personally by the military police in their daily raids to locate the lookout and distribution points of marihuana and cocaine. The pamphlet states: "Help us to help you. Join in fighting drugs. Do not let a trafficker take over your child. Get in touch with us by telephoning: 243-6637, 243-0725, 243-0131 or 243-0462. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Feb 79 p 21] 8568

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COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA LEGALIZATION DISCUSSED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Mar 79 p 5-A

[Article by Enrique Santos Calderon: "Legalize marihuana--more users"]

[Text] Drug traffic, with its increasingly multimillionaire and uncontrollable dimensions, keeps growing parallel to the speed with which the defiant power of the Colombian mafia keeps increasing (the murders, over the last several days, of a customs director and a Samaria council member who was a mafioso). Proposals to legalize the cultivation and export of marihuana--as the only efficient way to alleviate, domestically, a problem whose real control is beyond the Colombian government--have been increasing to a no less significant degree.

We have already too many findings which agree along these lines so that we are not dealing here with some kind of odd way of thinking. In addition to the already known argument by coffee industry leader Leonidas Londono, the chorus of opinions in favor of this measure keeps growing all the time. In recent weeks these opinions have been joined by commentators in the liberal press (see, for example, EL TIEMPO, 12 February) labor union organs, such as EMISOR AGROPECUARIO--the sounding board of the cotton growers in Cesar--and even some outstanding former leaders in the fight against narcotics, such as General Matallana, Ret., who, during his term of office as director of DAS [Administrative Department of Security], led the fight against the mafia and marihuana and cocaine traffic. General Matallana in a recent report in ALTERNATIVA (No 199) revealed that he recommended that "the government take over control, production, and sale (of marihuana) to those countries that want to consume it" as the "only realistic and worthwhile alternative which would work against the domestic and international mafia because it would deprive it of this business."

Although the government emphatically ruled out any steps in that direction and continues its tough fight against drugs, using the two helicopters which the United States gave for this purpose, the truth is that the economic dynamics of this phenomenon imposed semi-legalization in many areas involving this operation, while in other areas the authorities simply prefer to look the other way (assuming they do not actively participate in this business in the first place).

A short time ago it was announced that electrification plans for Cesar had been financed partly with the millions in fines imposed upon traffickers by the government. In the neighboring Department of Magdalena, governor Humberto Sinnin Herazo stated that the landing strips used to transport marihuana have been authorized by Civil Aviation (one of whose top administrators, Col Osiris Maldonado, had also been eliminated by the mafia); at the same time it was announced with regret that 27 million pesos, deriving from penalties applied to traffickers, could not be turned over to the departmental treasury due to legal obstacles.

And so it goes on. The examples are endless and they only confirm that economic and social realities prevail over decrees and moralizing intentions. This is true above all when they are dictated from outside by the country where the problem originates and where legalization of consumption is progressing with giant strides. General Matallana in the above-mentioned report alluded to the rather odd double standard in United States legislation which punishes the act of dealing in marihuana while it increasingly authorizes its possession and consumption.

Every new report coming in from the United States speaks for itself. The reaction of the Gringo /Yankee/ leaders of TIME to the above-mentioned report on "the Colombian Connection" is highly symptomatic; three out of every four questioned by the magazine use all kinds of economic and cultural arguments to advocate the free consumption of marihuana and cocaine. "You have to legalize marihuana. We are thinking of the advantages of a new market in terms of taxes, the reduction of our foreign trade deficit (by cultivating and consuming domestic harvests), and the end of all of the corruption and violence deriving from imported drugs," one reader from Illinois argued emphatically.

In its next edition, this same magazine, the most prestigious in the United States, revealed that the cocaine business has even been extended to the Chicago Stock Exchange where several brokers and financial agents were arrested on charges of carrying out transactions with this product during ordinary stock exchange sessions.

The conservative weekly magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT in February, published an extensive report on the traffic and consumption of illicit stimulants in the United States, reproduced by EL TIEMPO under the title "Nobody for Drugs," containing some highly revealing data. Let us review some of them: between 1972 and 1977, marihuana consumption increased 100 percent among young people and 70 percent among adults while cocaine consumption went up 125 percent among young people and 92 percent among adults. There are eleven states that dropped penalties for the possession of marihuana. It is estimated that, during 1978, the value of illegal transactions involving drugs fluctuated between \$35 and \$45 billion, a figure comparable to the business volume of General Motors or Exxon. Furthermore, 20 percent of the population of the United States (43 million) have tried marihuana and in the month of January alone, 16 million people

were smoking it. Along with this consumption increase, we have witnessed the growth of a flourishing accessory industry handling a volume of \$350 million per year, already constituting an organized pressure group. "During the parties given by young professional men in the cities, cocaine is often as frequent as drinking."

Facts such as these show how far the drug culture has gone in the United States, to such an extent that President Carter's son admitted in public that he smokes marihuana and that it was announced that quite a few White House officials also consume it, along with cocaine, "for recreation." The government of that country therefore had to coexist with the problem within its borders while it seeks to wipe out this scourge in the producing countries. And, as we have stated so many times in this column, that is not where the trouble lies. On the contrary, the more consumption increases in the United States, the more attractive does this business become, the more powerful do the mafias, which control it, get, and the more ground does the thesis gain to the effect that the state should take over its production and export (or that the operation should be handed over to private capital, which would be in keeping with the nature of the Colombian state).

One of the central arguments against this thesis holds that, so long as the United States does not do the same thing, it would be necessary to sell it contraband, with all of the reprisals which this could imply by the big neighbor to the north. But, in terms of strict equity, Colombia does not have to have so many scruples on this score so long as we are daily flooded from the United States with all kinds of contraband products, while that country's government does not care too much how they get out, who buys those products, and where they arrive. This involves not just "clean" products which contribute to the ruination of our domestic commerce, but also chemical articles, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, etc., which have been expressly banded because they are harmful to health. But they continue to manufacture this stuff for export to those countries while the Yankee authorities do not feel that this involves them at all.

The legalization of marihuana undoubtedly involves obstacles of many different kinds. But it is difficult to imagine a situation more paradoxical than the present one for a country which, such as Colombia, can see how corruption and the mafia keep growing without restraint in the shadows of an illegal business. And this is happening not only in spite of the measures taken by the government to combat this business but it is also the cause of those measures. The very height of irony is that the more marihuana and cocaine are confiscated, the higher is their value on the market, the more profitable does the business become, the more small manufacturers are ruined and the stronger becomes the big mafia which can take any blow and which goes on spreading its ever greater monopoly power over all phases of cultivation, transportation, and sales. The powerlessness of the government in controlling the vital areas of a phenomenon such as this one is another reflection of the paradoxes of underdevelopment--and dependence.

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COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA LEGALIZATION DEBATE CONTINUES

ANIF Proposes Legalization

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Mar 79 p 1-A, 8-C

[Text] Yesterday in Bogota, attorneys, economists, diplomats, government officials and business leaders began a wideranging debate on the issue of marihuana and its economic and social implications.

The discussion opened when the president of the National Association of Financial Institutions (ANIF), Ernesto Samper, proposed the creation of a Colombian-American commission "to study, without apprehensions, the possible legalization of the traffic."

"Colombia should take a look at such a legalization, with an eye towards regulation, as a serious alternative to a crackdown, while weighing, of course, all of the negative and positive elements involved," Samper Pizano asserted at the opening ceremony of ANIF's annual symposium.

Samper Pizano gave a rough outline of the current situation to an audience of almost 300 persons in the Santander Room at the Hilton Hotel. Also in attendance were the nation's attorney general, Guillermo Gonzalez Charry, and U.S. Ambassador Diego Acencio.

No one, however, voiced any comments on Samper Pizano's basic ideas, as the symposium does not conclude until today.

The ANIF president disclosed a number of points in a study done by his association and COLDATOS [expansion unknown] and said that last year the government would have taken in an extra 6 billion pesos if marihuana had been legal.

He backed his theory by pointing out that because of the drop in coffee prices, Colombia will take in \$650 million dollars less in foreign exchange and that today we are faced with the dilemma of having to import \$420 million in fuel in 1979.

He said that the more severe the crackdown, the more expensive the product becomes and the more pesos go to the fat cats. Moreover, the traffickers are now trying to find clients in Colombia.

He disclosed that according to the study close to 4.6 billion pesos are paid out in bribes each year. More than 10,000 growers, 30,000 families and 150,000 persons live off this activity.

The crackdown is costing Colombia 5 billion a year, and Samper wondered whether it was fair or ethical for the country to spend that amount of money to crack down on 180 persons when "millions of Colombians lack a roof over their heads, basic services and schools."

The major points of his speech were:

An ANIF and COLDATOS poll of 8,800 persons in our main cities showed that 85 percent of them did not know individuals who smoked marihuana; however, 70 percent said that they knew it was smoked most among groups of friends in local neighborhoods, schools and universities. Ninety-five percent regarded it as just as harmful or more harmful than alcohol, and 80 percent asserted that marihuana is used more in Colombia today than 5 years ago. In other words, no one admitted even indirect links with marihuans, but almost two-thirds knew how much it was smoked, where, by whom and with what potential consequences.

The taboo against marihuana has prevented scientific research, among many other things. Research into its medicinal properties, its psychological and physiological side effects and its growing and marketing conditions are topics as avoided as marihuana itself in the areas where it is grown.

The slogan "Death to Marihuana" that has taken hold today has precluded the construction of pilot plants in Colombia, such as the enormous unit that exists in the state of Mississippi and that is doing research into the therapeutic properties of the plant. Everything seems to indicate that the Colombian mind has also become a large snow-covered sierra, besieged and hounded by helicopters, ships and planes, and chided every time it has dared to think that marihuana is anything less than the diabolical weed smoked by post-war Hollywood actors and anything more than a simple panacea to numb the nerves of young people towards the vision of new world in which man has programmed everything, even the moment when his presence will no longer be necessary.

The Social Structure of Marihuana Production

Thus, it is a healthy idea to discard some of the veils of mystery and enter the nebulous and confined world of marihuana, which can no longer be considered an incidental crop pushed by adventurers interested in getting rich overnight. An entire social structure has grown up around

marihuana production, and we cannot afford to disregard it just like that. More than 10,000 growers and close to 30,000 families live directly off it.

Over time, the social relations involved in marihuana growing have become more sophisticated and, curiously, evolved into a sort of system running parallel to the rest of the country's social fabric. The growers, categorized according to their size or the degree of their ties to the land (tenants or sharecroppers), have refined their cultivation techniques, in many cases by assimilating foreign technology transferred directly by their U.S. "partners." In the Santa Marta mountain range a Spanish-language booklet, prepared in Florida and concerned with the rudiments of marihuana growing, used to be circulated. Some copies of it are still to be found in the region, a sad reminder of the times when teachers from the north taught us how to corrupt the youth of their country.

The ANIF study that you will become familiar with also found that the small farmers are grouping together in union cells, with their own leaders, in order to increase their meager share in the business. In an even more tentative analysis, we found that as measures have become more drastic, intermediate- and large-scale growers have appeared who have concentrated the lands and have access to institutional credit sources, including commercial banks, as well as agronomists and agricultural engineers in their service. In a clear-cut process of industrial integration, the large-scale producers and marketers have begun to control their own landing strips and shipping points, to establish direct contacts with U.S. partners and to buy up the industries that manufacture the packaging. But the Colombian Connection goes this far and only this far, and it is here that the more profitable Colombian-U.S. linkup begins. The powerful networks of U.S. traffickers are still the commercial and financial brains behind this operation, and they take 80 percent of the profits, leaving us 20 percent of the pie and 100 percent of the bad image.

The measures aimed at curtailing the activity have focused mainly on the destruction of the small- and intermediate-size plots. This approach, in our opinion, derives from a misconception of the laws of causality that govern the economics of marihuana. On the face of things, we might certainly think that the root of the evil is to be found in the crop itself. But looking deeper, where is the root of the root of the evil, when it is the high profit ratios of the traffickers that increase as prices rise because marihuana is being destroyed? On this point we must be as explicit as we are sincere: as long as the crackdown continues to focus on the crop and the destruction of plots, prices will continue to rise for each pound of marihuana sold on the market, the pockets of the fat cats involved in the business will bulge further, and all the armies in the world won't be able to do away with the problem.

No, gentlemen, the case of marihuana can no longer be viewed as one of policing or bringing to trial the small-time operator. More than 150,000 persons, including growers, small-scale middlemen and more or less permanent employees, along with the members of their families, live off marihuana today, and their share in the activity's end profits, although small, is still far removed from what they would be earning if they were involved in other farm work.

Many of these growers are most likely aware or sense that what they are doing is illegal, but in light of the economic and social conditions of subsistence in which they are living, in other words, what they are doing and for how much they are doing it, might it not be legitimate?

As long as the profit motive remains unchanged, in other words, as long as the middleman profits, the destruction of crops will control the phenomenon in one place but accelerate the malignancy in other regions. Over time, the growing area in the sierra, although it still accounts for at least 60 percent of area on which marihuana is grown, has gradually given way to the eastern plains, especially Arauca and Vichada, the valleys of the Sinu and Atrato rivers, Uraba, the Darien region and other coffee-growing areas of the Andes. As marihuana destruction intensifies in these areas, the crops will thrive elsewhere, until the map of Colombia looks like a quiltwork of marihuana plantations.

Our Worsening Image

At this point I cannot resist the temptation to analyze the other cost that we are forced to pay because of marihuana: the marked deterioration of our image. The "face of a Colombian" has, in many of the world's airports, become a passport of shame that triggers warning lights at guard posts or prompts drug users to automatically ask a Colombian for marihuana, just as they ask a Hawaiian for pineapples or a Frenchman for cheese. Perhaps because marihuana is illegal and its consequences exaggerated in the press, Colombia is now famous overseas not only for the 300,000 persons who died as a result of violence but for a sinister gang of Mafiosi who, according to certain publications, are seeking to corrupt innocent American boy scouts. Former president Alberto Lleras quite properly asserted in a recent article that this "dubious honor of drugging, poisoning and corrupting millions of Americans is on the way to all the files, all of the specialized computers and all of the sources of information about our country and Latin America, and it will continue to be utilized for the next few years or more whenever anyone wants to find out what is happening in Colombia."

The air of mystery that surrounds the world of marihuana is, among other things, a fertile field for the imagination of foreign newsmen who arrive, listen to a jumble of fables and rumors and then leave to write

frenetic feature articles and stories, interspersing conspiracies with street urchins, and drug operations using diabolical paraphernalia with innocent flights in light planes over the beautiful beaches of Tayrona Park. Many of these articles are dotted with figures taken from thin air. For example, a few weeks ago an article appeared in TIME that stated that Colombia was reportedly producing enough marihuana annually to last the United States 200 years at its current levels of consumption.

But someone has to tell the public overseas that there is more than marihuana here in Colombia, that there are businesses, professionals and social security institutions. Hopefully we will not have to wait until the entire world believes that we are awash in a sea of marihuana before the emergence of a single, solitary factory is regarded as major news, and people then say: there is industry in Colombia in addition to marihuana.

U.S. Consumption

The fact is, the problem is ceasing to be one in the United States. Fifteen years ago, five out of every 100 persons said they knew someone who smoked marihuana; today, 70 out of 100 say so without fear. Perhaps because some of them have been to the Annual Oregon State Fair, where prizes and medals are awarded for the taste, quality or fragrance of various kinds of marihuana.

Millions of Americans, whom we are said to be corrupting, spend 360 billion pesos a year on their daily ration of marihuana cigars. Eleven states of the union: Oregon, Alaska, Maine, Ohio, Colorado, California, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina and Nebraska, which account for one-third of the U.S. population, have decriminalized marihuana, which is no longer a felony but merely a misdemeanor, like a parking violation.

The Economics of Marihuana

It is a mystery to no one that the Colombian economy is faced with a complex outlook that could lead to a slowdown in activity in 1979 and symptoms of a recession the year after. The drop in coffee prices will mean \$650 million less in foreign exchange this year compared to last. It is hard to believe that this falloff can be offset by higher non-traditional exports or by the services account, which is at a virtual standstill today. Moreover, as President Turbay Ayala so aptly pointed out, now that the euphoria of the coffee bonanza has passed, we find ourselves up against a distressing energy crisis, due to the shortage and high price of fuels, which we will be importing \$420 million of in 1979. A few months from now the Colombian economy will be calling distressfully for more fresh reserves to carry forward its social public works

programs, to pay for its infrastructure investments and to finance the development of its industries. And there will not be any. This is another reason to take another look at fairer treatment for the marihuana economy.

About \$1.4 billion dollars entered Colombia last year from marihuana sales. We ought to take a look at the breakdown of that income to restate the issue of marihuana's effects on the economy in general.

In Billions of Colombian Pesos

a) Producers (10,000 persons)	5.04
b) Landing strip owners (70 persons)	3.36
c) Owners of shipping sites (12 persons)	1.12
d) Exporters using planes (70 persons)	27.44
e) Exporters using ships (12 persons)	19.04

Even if we assume that all of our major tourism receipts had been marihuana dollars, or cannabis dollars to use the scientific name, only \$265 million of the aforementioned \$1.4 billion could have entered the economy. What about the rest? It flowed in to strengthen the so-called underground economy, a parallel economy that is hampering the true Colombian economy, fueling inflation, boosting the cost of housing, taking respectable corporations by storm and, what is most serious, opening the doors of a new morality, the morality of the golden calf, according to which prices are more important than values.

If marihuana had been legal and even assuming that legalization would have exerted strong downward pressures on prices and markets (which, if I am not mistaken, is the aim of the current crackdown campaign), the government would have taken in nearly 6 billion pesos in direct and indirect taxes this year, a bit less than what it is costing it to stamp out the activity. Colombia needs the pesos that it is not receiving because marihuana has not been legalized, as well as the pesos that it is eagerly spending to avoid legalizing it and to stamp it out. This is an irrefutable economic truth, not a value judgment.

Repression and Corruption

Each nation, gentlemen, has its own history, and each history has its own moral moments. What is the moral moment that we are experiencing in

Colombia because of marihuana? In an indirect way there can be no doubt that the already studied underground economy is creating methods of tax evasion, black markets and sources of irregular money circulation in a desperate attempt to "launder" the money produced by the underground sale of the weed, and that all of these courses of conduct can be regarded as damaging to the ethics of a society. As far as direct effects are concerned, the marihuana economy and the repressive way of dealing with it are giving rise to forms of institutional corruption in judges, the forces of public order and the peasant farm population tied in mass complicity to the trafficking and growing of marihuana. The ANIF study estimates that 4.6 billion are paid out annually in bribes in Colombia, tempting sums for policemen who earn less than 3,000, lieutenants who make 7,600, colonels 12,000 or judges a scant 15,000 a month. The question that we have asked ourselves repeatedly is: What is going to happen when these so-called "shipping commissions" make the traffic too expensive? Will the middlemen quietly move into another activity? The survey that we were able to do in the sierra showed us that most of the population is armed and that the large-scale middlemen are acquiring semi-heavy weapons, such as machine guns. What are they going to do with those weapons when they are cornered? Perhaps they will lay the groundwork for a guerrilla war.

We are spending enormous amounts of money on the repression, not counting what we lack and what we are asking for. Is it just or ethical for a country to spend more than 5 billion a year to control 180 persons, while millions of Colombians lack a roof over their heads, hospital services, classrooms? A cable from the efficient United States International Communication Agency has referred to the concern that exists in the United States over decreased purchases of military weapons by Latin American countries. Specifically, it cites a statement by the assistant secretary of state for security aid, Lucy Wilson, to the effect that of all the countries on the continent, only Colombia has submitted a major aid request to buy arms worth \$12.7 million dollars, close to 500 million pesos. This represents 42 percent of all the requests filed. How many of these weapons will be used to crack down on marihuana? We do not know, but we ought to, in order to round out the cost picture of what now looks to be an uncalculated and impulsive campaign.

As far as I am concerned, I think that I have gone to overly great lengths to demonstrate that the country ought to take a look at legalizing marihuana instead of repressing it as a serious alternative for regulation, weighing, of course, all of the positive and negative elements involved in such a move, as there are in all of life's decisions. Legalization does not mean no controls over marihuana but rather, placing its cultivation, sale and consumption within the framework of the laws and regulations that govern our economy, our society and our state. To propose such legislation unilaterally, without the United States, would be nothing more than a stubborn child's boast. Here, before the

legitimate representatives of the two governments, we have seriously presented these studies, concerns and roundtables, in short, this entire symposium, so that some thought be given to the creation of a committee consisting of representatives from the two nations to study, free from apprehensions, the legalization of marihuana and to submit recommendations tailored to the reality of production in Colombia and to the certainty of consumption in the United States.

Yet, even if none of this were possible, we would feel more than satisfied about our endeavor to call this meeting, if at its close national and international public opinion were able, with the timidity of a person just opening his eyes to the light, to talk about the issue of marihuana, not the problem of marihuana.

Scope of the Traffic Described

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 19 Mar 79 p 8-A

[Text] The study done by the Economic Research Department of the ANIF, which was specially prepared for the symposium that ended last Friday at the Bogota Hilton Hotel, deals with the "social and economic implications of marihuana production in Colombia."

We have selected and reproduced some of the main sections of the 26-page study.

After determining the largest zone of influence of the marihuana infrastructure in Colombia, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (where, according to the study, 60 percent of the country's total production and 85 percent of the marketing are concentrated, along with 90 percent of exports), five main sections are presented: an examination of the area and a determination of its borders; the process of growing marihuana; an analysis of marihuana marketing in the mountains; the impact of marihuana operations on the mountain region and remarks on the effects of the activity on the development and dynamics of the country's economy.

The study's initial figures concern the area of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, which covers a total of 1.2 million hectares with a population of 100,000. There are two major population groups: the tenant farmers (most of whom are involved in the marihuana business) and the Indians, who are generally excluded from the activity and number 15,000.

In addition, the zone is located in three departments: 40 percent in Magdalena, 30 percent in La Guajira and 30 percent in Cesar. Marihuana is grown here on 19,000 hectares; plots nationwide cover a maximum of 30,000 hectares.

4.8 Billion a Year

According to the investigation, the regions where marihuana is currently being grown are: the Atlantic coast, Bolivar, the Sinu River Valley, the Gulf of Uraba, the Atrato River Valley, the Darien highlands, Arauca, Vichada, Santanderes, Cundinamarca, Tolima, the coffee-growing areas and other tracts in Cauca, Huila, Narino, Amazonas and Vaupes.

After listing all of these figures, ANIF states that nationwide production totals 15,000 tons a year, at an average price to the producer of 160 pesos a pound; in other words, the country's annual output of marihuana is valued at close to 4.8 billion pesos.

According to the ANIF study, there are 6,000 small-scale growers in the Sierra Nevada who account for 50 or 70 percent of production in their fields. "The growers are independent, inasmuch as they can generally do what they want with their production and negotiate the sale of their crop to their best advantage," the study notes.

Moreover, "marihuana is usually grown along with other farm crops (corn, yucca). After a number of crops, they tend to 'set up' their farm or cattle ranch and depend less and less exclusively on marihuana."

Thus, some 12,500 wage earners work in the marihuana fields of the sierra; in other words, "some 19,000 families in the mountains live directly off the production phase of marihuana, and 30,000 families nationwide."

Another point that the ANIF study emphasizes concerns the daily wages in these zones compared to the rest of the country. "Daily wages exceed 300 pesos, which is considerably more than in traditional farm activities. The average daily wage in Colombia, in a hot climate and without board, is 127 pesos."

In a comparison of coffee and marihuana production costs the study states that in the marihuana industry "profits total 101,000 pesos per hectare, while for coffee they are 42,500 pesos per hectare, in other words almost 2.5 times more in the case of marihuana."

The 6,000 growers in the sierra take in a total yearly income of 2.4 billion pesos, 594 million in wages and 1.806 billion in profits. The 12,500 wage earners receive 33,000 pesos each per year and work 3 to 6 months. The total income of the wage earning group per crop is 406 million pesos.

A Business of Tons and Millions

The study furnishes additional figures and data: 95 percent of the marihuana grown in the country is exported, 85 percent of it to the United States and the remaining 15 percent to South and Central America, the Caribbean, Canada and, recently, Europe.

Estimates are that 20 percent of the weed is lost due to dehydration, unmarketable residues and storage, that another 15 percent is confiscated in this country, while an additional 10 percent is seized in the United States and another 5 percent in other countries.

Nevertheless, the aggregate value of Colombian marihuana exports is close to \$1.4 billion dollars (54 billion pesos a year). The U.S. marihuana market receives 60 percent of its supplies from Colombia, and 30 percent from Mexico (the second leading exporter), with the remaining 10 percent coming from the United States itself, Jamaica and Hawaii.

Estimates are that some 500 planes are being used to transport marihuana, mainly to North America. The study calculates that some 100 ships are in permanent service between Colombia and the United States for this purpose.

The ANIF study lists the individuals involved in the marihuana business as follows: growers' middleman, second middleman (the one who shows up), the owner of the landing strip (with teams of workers and collaborators), the owner of the loading platform, the owner of the farm near the loading site (with teams of experts), the exporters and the large-scale marketers, who go either by air or by sea. In the sierra there are 1,200 first middlemen, 70 landing strip owners, 12 loading platform owners, some 70 "air" exporters and 12 "sea" exporters. The entire operation requires 5,750 flights and 164 sea crossings a year to ship the marihuana out of the region.

At this point the study offers new figures on the people involved in the marketing phase, in which the sierra growers employ 5,000 persons a year. Thus, 6,000 families are directly dependent on this phase for their subsistence in the sierra, the nationwide figure being 7,000. If we lump together the production, growing and marketing stages, 40,000 Colombian families live off marihuana.

In addition to the above figures, the ANIF study has determined that the first middleman buys a pound of marihuana from the grower for 160 pesos and that in the final transaction the air exporter buys it for 260 pesos and sells it to the American importer for 2,400 pesos, while the sea exporter buys it at the same price and sells it for 3,400 pesos.

With regard to income distribution, the growers receive only 8 percent, while the dealers take in the remaining 92 percent. In national terms, Colombia receives only 20 percent of the total income from the activity, and the United States gets the other 80 percent.

Another conclusion of the wideranging ANIF study is that marihuana operations generate some 25,000 jobs a year in the region and that over time social organizations have been set up ranging from community

associations among small-scale growers and unions to profit-sharing arrangements between the tenant and the owner of the land.

Social Impact

As far as social implications are concerned, ANIF states that "clearly unfavorable signs can be seen: pressures on Indian minorities who have been dislodged from their lands; the immorality and corruption that the marihuana trade has caused...and also the manifestations of violence that accompany this activity, the atmosphere of mistrust and fear that prevails among people, robberies and other incidents."

The study notes that considerable amounts of weapons have entered the country as a form of payment to growers and dealers. The ANIF also points to the de facto legitimacy that social groups have accorded the marihuana business, the acceptance of the "Mafiosi" in the country's social fabric, the marihuana income that enters the nation's production activities and the introduction of the most sophisticated consumer items into social groups, with the dual impact of fueling inflation and eroding the income of less privileged groups.

In connection with ecological damage in the sierra, the study asserts that the process of deforestation has sped up and that soil deterioration and erosion have increased. It calls attention to possible alterations in "the region's macroclimate since the mountain zone acts as the main ecological regulator of a vast area."

With regard to the impact of the marihuana trade on the Sierra Nevada region, the study cites the following final points: higher domestic consumption of the barbiturate Methaqualude, the microtoxins that are produced during storage and that are passed on to smokers because of the lack of quality control and the various effects of the incoming foreign exchange from marihuana sales.

8743
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

ANTIDRUGS PACT SIGNED WITH ECUADOR

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Mar 79 p 5-B

[Text] Quito 2 (UPI)--This afternoon the foreign ministers of Colombia and Ecuador, Diego Uribe Vargas and Jose Ayala Laso, signed a joint declaration, an agreement for Amazon cooperation, and an administrative agreement to cooperate in the prevention, control and repression of traffic and illegal use of narcotics and psychotogenic substances.

The joint declaration reaffirms the need for collective measures to stop the arms race in the Americas. It also emphasizes rights of sovereignty over their respective segments of the geostationary synchronic orbit and calls for coordinated efforts with other equatorial countries to protect these rights.

They mention there must be greater movement towards frontier integration, and for this purpose an evaluation of the work of the standing committee on economic integration will be conducted.

They also express support for Latin American integration, particularly in the Andean subregion.

The preamble of the Amazon cooperation agreement notes that "cooperation and the development of common programs will make it easier to preserve and make optimum use of the vast resources in the border Amazon areas."

Among the stipulations of the agreement are the following:

--Formation of a joint committee to study and coordinate programs of common interest.

--Preliminary studies to set up regular pilot navigation services on the Putumayo and San Miguel rivers, involving the operation of vessels belonging to both parties.

--Studies to improve navigable conditions on the two rivers.

--Coordination between the ministries of health of both countries for reciprocal medical care in the frontier areas.

--Joint communication services.

--Adoption of measures to help the indigenous communities and to further the preservation of their cultures.

9268
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

PROMETEO ASKS MORE HELP FOR ADDICTS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 79 p 12-C

Text Total lack of concern and indifference on the part of the government toward drug addicts was denounced by the organization for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, PROMETEO; the organization added that very little money is being allocated for prevention while much is being used for repression of the problem.

These charges were made by members of the board of directors of PROMETEO during a press conference in Andiaros, attended by director Maria Isabel de Lince, board chairman Alfonso Gomez Zuleta, and Guillermo Correal Sanin, a psychoanalyst.

"It has been more important for Colombia and the government to have a good image with respect to the United States in the fight against the drug market rather than to help our own addicted use," the participants asserted.

According to Decree 1188 of 1973, the National Narcotics Council must turn over 30 percent of the money for the sale of vehicles, aircraft, laboratories, and houses seized by the authorities from drug traffickers, for agencies involved in education, treatment, and social orientation in the field of drugs.

"But in reality, the lady director of PROMETEO maintained, "That money is used more for repression and coercion on the drug market heading for the United States and Europe, rather than in prevention and education campaigns. One might almost say that Colombia is more interested in the foreign drug addict than our own drug-dependent youths."

Maria Isabel de Lince explained that her agency gets an average of 70 cases per day of parents, brothers, and friends of young drug addicts who come for help but who, in view of the deficit of 1.2 million pesos, which PROMETEO is struggling with at this time, have to be turned away, while their requests for treatment must be rejected. She said that her agency's efforts are limited by economics and by the lack of government aid.

Psychoanalyst Dr Guillermo Correal Sanin noted that medical backwardness in the treatment of drug addicts is lamentable and he attributed this to the unexpected form in which the problem confronted Colombian medicine.

"In the matter of rehabilitation, the government does not have a single institute; nor is there any agency to help people who are dependent on drugs and the same is true of therapeutic treatment; these activities are intermingled with the general functions of the hospitals," Correal Sanin said.

Regarding Colombian experience in the matter of drug addicts, Dr Correal maintained that drugs are a symptom of other problems, "something that has come to be a life-style, a fad and an expression of youth rebellion is now identified with young people in our land who lack love, opportunity for studies, and chances for jobs."

Regarding the roots of drug addiction in Colombia, the director of PROMETEO, Maria Isabel de Lince, explained that the only statistics which have been prepared on the institutional level in Colombia on drug dependence indicate that 72.77 percent of the young addicts believe that their family relations are altered and that there is a lack of harmony there.

"The most difficult age is adolescence," she said, "and that is also the most dangerous time for the start of drug use; about 45 percent of the young people who today are in college have already tried drugs; most of them began out of simple curiosity or pressures from the group they belong to."

As far as family responsibility toward the adolescent is concerned, Dr Sanin Correal stated that the lack of love, the crisis of authority, and family disintegration are the big social problems which lead to the use of drugs, as a symptom. "Who says that being an adolescent is bad?" Dr Correal asked. "A youth at that age seeks models, somebody to imitate, somebody with whom he can identify; but if we tell our child that he should not smoke marihuana while we ourselves hold a glass of whiskey in our hand--how can the father's authority work?"

"In the matter of love," Maria Isabel explained, "the problems which the young person has in school or at home do not matter; the important thing is that he gets love and answers to his questions the moment he needs them most so that something that began as simple curiosity will not turn him into an addict."

With respect to the treatment given by PROMETEO, there is one common cause in all cases: lack of education on the part of the parents.

Correal Sanin explained how the lack of education on the part of the parents, plus the entire drug infrastructure, which is antiethical, can lead to the industrialization of this vice: "Marihuana not only has a significance in terms of mental health but also because it generates vagrancy and vices."

"Along with marihuana," the doctor maintained, "we get promiscuity, smuggling, the use of boys as drug couriers, and libertinism--vices which come out during gatherings where marihuana is used."

PROMETEO board chairman Alfonso Gomez Zuleta urged the entire national community to be aware of the drug problem among the younger generation and stressed the need for having private enterprise provide economic support for agencies such as "PROMETEO" in Bogota, "Caminos" in Cali, and the "Union Against Drug Addiction" in Barranquilla.

"A new system of support for drug addicts has been promoted in the enterprises. They are asked to provide a wage of 5,000 pesos per month for the purpose of helping the drug addict and the family. We hope that our request will produce an echo because all of us Colombians are responsible for this younger generation which is on the wrong track," Gomez Zuleta maintained.

5058
CSO:5300

COLOMBIA

REIGN OF TERROR IN BARRANQUILLA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Mar 79 p 1-A, 3-A

[Signed by Jose Cervantes Angulo]

[Text] Barranquilla 2--This city of more than a million inhabitants, once an oasis of peace and calm away from the political violence prevalent in the interior 20 years ago, is now a frightened city, one that has lost its innocence.

The worst thing that could have happened to this city was to have allowed the mafias of smugglers and drug traffickers to settle here. Every city in the world makes mistakes. Barranquilla's worst mistake was allowing the mafia to set itself up in its warm-hearted welcoming midst. The people of Barranquilla, a carefree, happy and pleasant lot, turned their back on reality and worried more about Junior [the children] carnival, the bridge over the Magdalena River, the zoo and other places that give the city its good image, and ignored the mafia and their outright, dangerous penetration of a community that deserved something better.

Barranquilla is the empire of impunity. Here the municipal controller Napoleon Fernandez and his wife were killed and nothing happened. The director of taxes, Rafael Rubio Pupo, was murdered, and nothing happened. They murdered the seventh criminal court judge, Jose Maria Amaris Tatis, and nothing happened. And now they have wiped out the administrator of customs, Rodrigo Rodriguez Pacheco, and undoubtedly nothing will be done about it.

Napoleon Fernandez, the controller, was killed when he started to denounce irregularities in the Public Utilities Company, the disgrace of Barranquilla's public administration.

They killed Rafael Rubio Pupo, the director of taxes, when he discovered the embezzlement of more than 400 million pesos in the treasurer's office of Barranquilla.

The reasons for the deaths of the city criminal judge and the director of customs are still hidden but no one in this city fails to realize that all the threads of these murders come from a single skein, the mafia.

Squad of Death

Almost before the people of Barranquilla had realized what was happening, a "death squad" was set up here composed of paid killers instructed to shoot anyone interfering with the godfathers of the smuggling and drug traffic. The pay ranges between 10,000 and 100,000 pesos per crime depending on the position of the victim. Here in Barranquilla when someone wants to get rid of somebody else and does not want to reveal his involvement or awaken suspicions, he hires the killers directly or through an intermediary and pays them cash in advance.

The only thing the person has to do is pay up, hand over a picture of the victim and that's the end of it, he gets rid of an enemy.

Everyone knows who the paid killers are. Their names are mentioned with terror, panic and even in a tone approaching respect. They live in luxury hotels or apartments paid for by the mafia, go to the best restaurants and sleep with the most beautiful women in the city. Their style is impeccable if not perfect. After studying a victim's habits for a week, they wait for him outside his home or office, shoot him a couple of times, and it's all over.

Era of Terror

A good share of the blame for Barranquilla's living in the midst of anguish and anxiety is the marihuana bonanza. A fearful caste of traffickers and smugglers has moved into luxurious mansions which look more like small forts than homes. As the people watch them surrounded by their armies of bodyguards and armed killers, they complain, more rightly so as each day goes by, that their prosperity goes unpunished and protected by official fear [garble] a prestigious political leader of the city was forced to kneel down by members of the mafia and apologize for not yielding to them in a central city street.

Many citizens have been threatened with magnum and submachine guns for failing to yield to the 'rangers.' And there have been many victims run over by these savages.

The Mafia Lawyers

The mafia, with its control over millions of pesos in this city, has managed to form a team of well-known criminal lawyers who see to it that the gangsters are released when they fall into the hands of the authorities. It is these lawyers who also arrange for the release and return of ships, planes and crews. Generally identified in Barranquilla, these lawyers have an endless source of wealth in the mafia.

'They Buy Everybody

The mafia buys everybody off--authorities, witnesses to crimes, jailers, police, detectives and public officials. Anyone who opposes them is done away with or ruined. Judges do not dare pass sentence because of threats of death to themselves and their families, and so no member of the mafia has yet been sentenced in this city.

A Final Word

The city is afraid. The people get edgy everytime the tires of the 'rangers' squeal over the pavements or they start target practice on the city streets. People have witnessed the killings but no one dares talk. A few hours later they would be dead. It hurts to say so but the city is in the hands of gangsters. Somewhere its calm has been lost and the authorities are helpless to combat organized crime.

Barranquilla must wake up. Its leaders should stop their intriguing, their plans to pile up easy, exorbitant wealth, and their empirebuilding and get together in an effort to fight against crime.

In an editorial in EL HERALDO, the city's most influential daily, Juan B. Fernandez Renowitzky asked, "Who will be the victim today?" At the same time, Dr Francisco Posada de la Pena, writing in the daily EL CARIBE, called for joint civic action to fight against organized crime and attempt to bring back the peace that has been lost.

9268
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

WAR ON DRUGS STEPPED UP

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Mar 79 p 3-A

[Text] The official campaign conducted on the Atlantic coast between 23 February and 2 March 1979 against the drug traffic yielded the seizure of more than a thousand packages of marihuana, three planes and three vehicles.

According to a report from the Defense Ministry, troopers from the Cartagena battalion seized 550 packages of marihuana, a .44 cal. rifle, a 9 mm pistol, and an F-100 truck on 23 February on the Abra road, at km 30 between Riohacha and Cuestecitas.

The same day three arrests were made in Riohacha and a Renault 12 bearing license JT-5900 was seized along with a .45 cal. pistol.

On 24 February, troopers from the Cordoba battalion arrested three people in La Tagua and confiscated 325 packages of marihuana from them.

At the Monteria airport troopers from the Junin battalion captured an American-licensed Cessna and its pilot, Barry Cooper Smith, who was carrying a map on which several clandestine runways were marked.

Troopers from the Air Force's Rondon group confiscated 86 packages of marihuana in an inlet on 26 February on the road from Cuestecitas to Hato Nuevo.

In the general area of Amaine, troopers from the Rondon Air group confiscated an F-350 truck and 22 packages of marihuana. At La Tagua, troopers from the Cordoba battalion seized 13 packages of marihuana.

On 1 March in Pueblo Viejo, a municipality of Cienaga, an American airplane, registry No N-2058, that had crashed into the ocean was found. Inside it was the body of one of the plane's pilots. The plane had hit high tension wires as it was searching for a clandestine runway in Cienaga after the international airport at Barranquilla had authorized it to land there.

At La Tagua the army seized two and a half bundles of marihuana seeds and on the Santa Marta-Riohacho highway, near the place called Camarones, an American N-58D2 plane was found. Its crew members managed to get away from the troopers from the Cordoba battalion. The airplane had run out of gas.

9268
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'MAFIA' CHIEF MANJARRES KILLED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Mar 79 p 1-A, 6-A

[Text] Rafael Aron Manjarres, AKA "Maracas," one of the most feared god-fathers of the narcotics traffic mafia, was shot and killed Thursday night in Santa Marta. An 8-year-old girl, Claudia de la Rosa, was wounded in the leg.

Aron Manjarres had himself elected a titular member of the city council of Santa Marta for the 1978-80 term in the last elections. He was killed when he was visiting his deputy, Alberto de la Rosa, in Gaira a few kilometers outside the city. The killing took place at Calle 16, No 13-01 in Gaira, a few blocks from a home owned by the victim who also lived in that district. According to police reports, Maracas had gone to visit his deputy on the council, Alberto de la Rosa, during the evening and at about 2230 hours three individuals, their faces whitened with cornstarch and pretending to be drunk, entered the house in a friendly manner and after saying hello, took out automatic weapons and began firing right and left.

The attackers, using pistols and magnum, fired more than 20 times. Ten bullets hit Aron Manjarres who died immediately when his skull was destroyed. The little girl, Claudia de la Rosa, was hit in the leg during the shooting but her condition is not serious. According to the official version, the gunmen fled in a car that was waiting nearby.

Without a Bodyguard

According to early reports, the well-known murder victim did not have his usual bodyguards with him. They almost never left him. It is not known why he was alone; presumably he got careless because he was in his own district and perhaps thought he was safe.

Barely 2 months ago one of his constant companions was also shot and killed, when he was standing in front of a tire shop.

Amassed a Fortune

Rafael Aron Manjarres, born in Riohacha and 41 when he died had lived in Santa Marta from the time he was very young, and had gone to live in Gaira where he built a mansion worth several million pesos.

With the fabulous fortune he amassed from the drug traffic, he had the hobby of owning the latest model, most luxurious cars, especially sports cars. It was said he changed cars the way anyone else changes his shirt.

Before he got into the drug traffic, Aron Manjarres had been a police inspector several times in this city. He left that to get into drugs and distinguished himself as one of the boldest and most feared traffickers of all. Several deaths were attributed to him, which it was never possible to confirm.

He was also very fond of automatic weapons, particularly expensive pistols and the notorious Magnum. He was arrested several times for possession of arms that were for the exclusive use of the military.

One of the most dramatic episodes in Aron Manjarres' active life was the kidnapping of his daughter, Sandra Patricia Aron Duran in early September 1977.

The kidnapping of Sandra Patricia caused a sensation nationwide and the kidnapers demanded 50 million pesos for her return. A week later, however, she was returned safe and sound and the kidnapers were captured. The ostensible head of the band was a Lebanese.

"Maracas" was one of those who arranged for the rescue of the kidnap victim. A few minutes before her release, the daughter of the Lebanese was kidnapped. She [Sandra Patricia] was found a few hours later.

Blame for the second kidnapping was attributed to Maracas and his gang who apparently believed in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

The wake for Rafael Aron Manjarres was held in the city council chambers and he was buried in the afternoon.

9268
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS' AIRPLANES SEIZED, ARRESTS MADE

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 8

[Text] Two aircraft used in the drug traffic were recently seized by authorities engaged in combating the gangs which are operating along the Colombian Atlantic Coast.

The operation resulted in the seizure of drugs valued at 16 million pesos, and three individuals, two Americans and one Colombian, were arrested.

The initial version given by officials of the town of Jaguecito on the Magdalena River indicated that a plane had crashlanded seriously injuring the three occupants. The plane came from Miami and was again taking off for its point of origin.

Inside the plane were 10 packages of marihuana and several kilograms of cocaine. The names of those arrested, all seriously injured, could not be ascertained, as they had to be taken immediately to emergency centers.

Again yesterday, an abandoned plane was discovered--this time in Guajira; it appears that it crashlanded for lack of fuel. All its occupants abandoned the plane, whose license number was N-58-DZ; the plane was taken immediately to the Riohacha Military Base and placed at the disposal of the Colombian Air Force.

Colombian authorities have recently dealt heavy blows to drug-traffic gangs to the extent that, this month alone, they have seized drugs valued at more than 100 million pesos and arrested more than 20 persons.

Yesterday, the office of the Judicial Attorney General reported the seizure of more than 800 grams of cocaine at the Eldorado International Airport of Bogota and the arrest of four persons. The drug was hidden in the shoulder straps of handbags and in belts.

8568
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE LABORATORY RAIDED

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Mar 79 p 8

Text A well-equipped cocaine laboratory was discovered by National Police units assigned to the Department of Santander, in the township of Capitanejo; at the same time it was possible to capture two individuals who were turned over to the respective authorities.

Uniformed police officers discovered the laboratory, which contained everything needed for the processing of the alkaloid on the basis of confessions made by some persons who had been caught recently.

This illicit business was located on the "Trasnochador" estate, in the township of Capitanejo; two citizens, who were identified as Maria Reyes Godoy and Eliseo Godoy were taken by surprise in the establishment; at the moment of their capture, they were processing a large quantity of coca leaves. The residence also contained 100 packages containing leaves from which the valuable hallucinogen is extracted, along with several pouches of cocaine which, according to the information source, were ready for sale.

The two persons apprehended were turned over to the general judge Judge who tries criminal and civil cases/ in the town of Capitanejo, who had already initiated the respective investigations. The discovery of the modern laboratory took place during the early hours yesterday morning after an operation had been set up in an effort to discover the illicit business.

The identity of the person arrested--who provided the leads enabling the authorities to discover the laboratory--was not disclosed by members of the National Police who indicated that the equipment confiscated may come to as much as 20 million pesos.

The two individuals who were inside the home, where the business was being operated, did not offer any resistance since the officers took them by surprise.

5058
CSO:5300

COLOMBIA

LABORATORY RAIDED IN CAUCA DEPARTMENT

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Mar 79 p 3

[Text] A new blow was dealt yesterday morning to drug-traffic gangs operating in western Colombia by members of the police force of Cauca Department, who discovered a modern laboratory for the processing of cocaine and captured three persons who were in the building housing the illicit trade.

According to information issued by the press department of the National Police Directorate, the operation was carried out on Casablanca Road in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Almaguer. In raiding the residence owned by Cristobal Jimenez, the police found a modern laboratory containing all necessary equipment for producing cocaine.

Three individuals were captured during the operation, one being the owner of the building in which the laboratory was maintained and the other two answering to the names of Neftali and Nestor Gomez; all three were taken to Almaguer and handed over to the proper authorities.

In addition to the processing equipment, 100 arrobas of coca leaves were found in the dwelling ready to be converted into the highly valued alkaloid. According to information received by this newspaper, the individuals taken captive yesterday had been denounced by other members of the criminal organization, who had fallen into the hands of the authorities and, after intense questioning, had revealed the identity of those arrested on Casablanca Road.

According to official estimates, the value of the laboratory might come to as much as 30 million pesos. The individuals seized were placed, together with those arrested, at the disposal of the judge of the municipality of Almaguer, who initiated the pertinent investigation.

The laboratory had been in operation for about 3 months and its employees had been charged with the distribution and processing of all the alkaloid sold throughout most of Cauca Department.

8568
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE LAB RAIDED IN BOGOTA, TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Mar 79 p 9-A

[Text] In carrying out an operation which began last Tuesday evening and ended yesterday, members of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] discovered a modern and complete laboratory for processing cocaine and captured 11 persons belonging to a powerful gang of drug traffickers.

They Were "Working"

The laboratory was discovered at 16-72 19-A St, Santa Fe precinct, and some of the traffickers were caught in the act of processing the alkaloid, 2 kg of which had already been marked for distribution to the market.

In addition to an abundance of equipment for processing cocaine, the secret agents seized 10 kg of coca paste, the raw material used in producing the dangerous drug.

Movie-type Pursuit

During the raid some of the drug traffickers succeeded in firing a number of shots but, seeing they could not win, decided to give themselves up; others attempted to escape over the roofs of neighboring houses, where they had to be forced down by the detectives after a spectacular pursuit which lasted more than 2 hours.

Second Raid

During the operation the agents also raided apartment 302 of building No 16-59 on 19th St, located in front of the house in which the laboratory was operating, and here other members of the gang were captured.

More Captures

As previously stated, the operation carried out by the DAS lasted until yesterday afternoon, and it resulted in the capture of three more men and

one woman, who came to the laboratory unaware that their cronies had been apprehended and that several secret agents were in the house waiting for them.

Identities

Although 11 persons altogether were captured, only the following names were released pending a search for other members of the criminal organization: Juan Jose Munoz, Blanca Ines Castillo Chaves, Fabio Barreneche Acero, Jaime Cesar Sandoval, Henry Sanabria Pacheco, Libardo Silva Rojas and Jair Gerardo Bernal Cuestas.

In connection with the capture of the drug traffickers and the seizure of the laboratory equipment, the 2 kg of cocaine and the 10 kg of coca paste, the corresponding trial was conducted by the Judicial Police in the presence of a representative of the Office of the Attorney General Delegate.

8568
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCA PLANTATION DESTROYED--Bucaramanga, 8 March, by Jairo Saravia. The Office of the Attorney General of the Nation and the Police struck the hardest blow ever to the drug-trafficking mafias when they discovered 15 hectares planted with coca, estimated at a value of 500 millions. This blow was struck at an estate located in the township of Capitanejo, on the border of the Departments of Santander and Boyaca; 30 peasants were arrested. The operation was directed by Col Omar Franco, CO of F2 in this department. The crop area was discovered on the "San Joaquin" ranch, in the township of Capitanejo, which borders on the township of Ricaurte. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 79 p 8-A] 5058

DIPEC DRUG SEIZURES DESCRIBED--Drugs worth more than 546 million pesos were confiscated by the narcotics detachment of DIPEC [expansion unknown] this year; the unit also managed to arrest 69 men and 8 women who were caught by surprise while they were taking care of the marihuana plantations or while they were in possession of large quantities of cocaine. The operations, totalling 42, were carried out in various places throughout the nation by members of the armed establishment. During January and February of this year, detachment F2 of the police carried out the following operations throughout the country: 22 men and 4 women were arrested and 477 kilograms of cocaine, worth 313 million pesos were found on them; 11 laboratories for processing the alkaloid were discovered and 22 men and 3 women were arrested there; officers also confiscated components for the production of the hallucinogen, worth more than 2.5 million pesos. The members of the narcotics group of the HQ of F2 confiscated 11,853 kilograms of marihuana worth much more than 23 million pesos. In the course of the raids, during which the drugs were confiscated, the officers also arrested 17 men and 1 woman. Concerning marihuana crops, the authorities spotted five huge plantations with an approximate output of 103,000 kilograms; one of the plantations consisted of more than 2,000 shrubs estimated at a figure of 750,000 pesos. The members of the narcotics group also managed to arrest six persons who were growing this plant. Overall, 42 raids were carried out, leading to the capture of a total of 69 men and 8 women, the confiscation of marihuana and cocaine as well as processing laboratories for the above-mentioned alkaloid --all in all worth more than 546,000 pesos. As reported, the results were excellent thanks to the hard work done by the personnel of the National Police throughout the country. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Mar 79 p 12] 5058

GOVERNORS' AUTHORITY VOIDED--The Colombian Supreme Court declared a few moments ago the nullity of Decree 402 of 1979 granting the governors special powers to destroy illegal landing strips used for marihuana smuggling. The value of marihuana seized by Colombian authorities during the past 6 months has been set at 270 billion pesos, a high-ranking government official said in reporting on the struggle against drug traffickers. La Guajira Governor Rafael Iguaran said that since the beginning of this administration there have been 187 murders in La Guajira and not a single arrest has been made. He directly accused the military and police authorities of neglect. The governor charged that corruption had eroded all government forces sent to control the drug trafficking mafia. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA]

TRAFFICKERS' PLANE SEIZED--Santa Marta, 5 March--Two Americans and one Colombian were injured when the plane in which they were flying and which was loaded with hallucinogenic drugs crashlanded in Remolino jurisdiction. Information received indicates that the aircraft mishap occurred today in the locality known as "Jagueicito," in the vicinity of Remolino, a town located in the so-called river province, in Magdalena Department. The plane was carrying at least 1 million capsules which, it appears, it had taken on at some of the clandestine landing strips located in those areas. The drug traffickers were taken to the hospital in Barranquilla. The plane was identified as a twin-engine craft, and it had suffered considerable damage in landing on a pasture field in "Jagueicito." The drugs being smuggled were said to be worth as much as 25 million pesos. Another American plane landed in the vicinity of Riohacha and its occupants abandoned it and disappeared. This plane is an Aerocommander with license No N-58 DZ; it landed on a large beach near Camarones a few meters from the main highway of Caribe, which connects Guajira with Magdalena Department. The twin-engine plane is white and red and apparently made an emergency landing due to lack of fuel, according to experts in this field. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Mar 79 p 8-A] 8568

BUCARAMANGA COCAINE SEIZURE--Bucaramanga, 5 March--Members of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) seized a tractor trailer which was transporting 267 kg of raw material for producing cocaine; the shipment was valued at 100 million pesos on international markets. Local officials told EL TIEMPO that the seizure took place in the vicinity of the municipality of San Alberto in Cesar, when the vehicle had left Bogota headed for the Atlantic Coast. Juan Cuellar, the truck driver, was also apprehended and he, together with the vehicle and drug shipment, were brought to this city. The 267 kg of cocaine were contained in drums in the form of cheeses. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Mar 79 p 9-A] 8568

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

SOLDIER INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 79 p 14

[Text] The judge from the Seventh Penal District of Guyas, Dr Marco Mantillo Murillo, referred to the District Superior Court of Justice the trial of a group of drug dealers who operated on an international level and from whom paste cocaine worth 4 million sucres was confiscated. The case was transferred to enable the Court to settle a dispute between the judge of the Seventh Penal District of Guyas and the judge from the Fourth Penal District of Machala where a suit for the same offense had also been initiated; the Guyas judge had conducted a preliminary hearing of the same case.

Lt Col Luis Alfredo Santillan, from the battalion "Constitution" quartered in Huaquillas, El Oro Province, appears seriously implicated in the case. He is accused of driving a military jeep to carry a drug dealer, Hernan Cueva Pinzon, with a shipment of cocaine. The officer presumably received over 100,000 sucres paid by Galo Canessa Barrera, the established chief of drug dealers, who is called "The Godfather." He has a long record of drug dealing offenses, including abroad where he served a partial sentence.

Jurisdiction

Defendant Cueva advised the judge of the Fourth Penal District of El Oro that he had been arrested within the jurisdiction of the El Oro Province and therefore his regular judge should be the one who has jurisdiction in the El Oro Province. As for the other defendant, Lt Col Santillan, he petitioned the Guyas judge to prohibit the drug dealing trial from proceeding further.

The case presents many peculiarities, such as, for example, the fact that all the defendants, including Lt Col Santillan, deny participation in the offense under investigation, pointing out that the impounded money--240,000 sucres--was for legal commercial transactions. There is also the fact that the prosecutor in the

case was opposed to the suit being sent to the El Oro Court to settle the dispute, considering that the judge of the Seventh District has the authority to continue the action. In another connection, the department for the fight against drug addiction released a report attributed to the U.S. consulate and relating the operations of the gang.

6857
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

DEFENSE SECRETARY COMMENTS ON 'OPERATION CONDOR' RESULTS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 18 Mar 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] Gen Felix Galvan Lopez, secretary of national defense, gave assurance here yesterday that, as a result of the action taken by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the Mexican Army, the cultivation and trafficking of drugs has declined between 85 and 90 percent, "a percentage which by no means applies to the international black markets."

The head of national defense gave an exclusive interview to EL SOL DE SINALOA a few minutes before his departure for Mexico City, following a quick working tour of Sinaloa, during which he was accompanied by Gen Rodolfo Perez Gonzalez, commander of the Ninth Military Zone.

Galvan Lopez declared that, because of the success achieved in "Operation Condor," officials "from abroad (he did not specify which nation) will be coming to learn about the systems used to combat the drug traffic. It is possible that they will be here sometime next week but (as he said) I do not yet know from which country those officials will come."

He then claimed that, based on the positive results achieved in Zone 06 with "Operation Condor": "We have managed to reduce the drug market between 85 and 90 percent, to the point where the United States Government is also interested in learning about the implementation of the campaign that we are running against drugs."

Upon being asked about the plane crash which occurred a few days ago in the Sinaloa mountains, in which two soldiers and a lieutenant from the Mexican Army were killed, the secretary of national defense said that the members of the military had never tortured the pilot: "It was simply that, upon arriving at Santiago de los Caballeros, in the municipality of Badiraguato, the aircraft began to experience mechanical failure, and eventually crashed. The pilot's action was not premeditated, and it was found that he was, indeed, a notorious drug trafficker who, furthermore, was enroute to that location to pick up 4 kilograms of pure gum."

This theory was backed by General Perez Gonzalez, who added that several members of the army had been killed by the drug traffickers in that location.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Galvan Lopez announced that a personnel shift in this military zone is imminent, after they have served for 6 months in that post; but he did not disclose when the transfer would take place.

Finally, he said that his visit to Sinaloa was mainly for the purpose of personally observing the treatment received by the troops, "something that I do every weekend, when I tour the military zones in each state, and the locations which are regarded as troublesome."

Yesterday afternoon, the head of national defense returned to Mexico City, after his brief tour of the state.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

RING OF TRAFFICKERS, COUNTERFEITERS CAPTURED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 8 Mar 79 p 4

[Text] Mexico City, 7 March--A ring of drug traffickers operating in Guatemala, the United States, Peru and Mexico, which was attempting to bring counterfeit dollars into circulation, was broken up by agents of the Judicial Police under orders from Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, when they captured seven individuals.

Erick Rafael Julio Cesar and James Mendoza Quandt, Francisco Urbina Morales, Jesus Heliodoro Gomez Serna, Victoria Castellanos Martinez de Urbina and Ingeborg Quandt de Mendoza are in the lockup of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic undergoing close questioning about their activities.

According to the investigation made by the federal agents who succeeded in capturing the drug traffickers and counterfeiters, the latter's bills were made in South America, and their circulation was planned in Mexico.

The arrest of the criminals took place in a downtown hotel on Reforma Avenue in this city, as well as in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Tapachula, Chiapas.

The individuals in custody operated as follows: They arranged the purchase-sale transaction for cocaine in Peru; then planned its shipment to Guatemala; it was subsequently brought into our country through Tapachula; and was taken from there to the United States Second Comdr Rodolfo Castano Arambula, since he had a tip that a transaction involving the purchase and sale of cocaine was being arranged, ordered strict surveillance of the hotel where the drug traffickers had been discovered.

When the criminals had been spotted and the activities in which they were engaged were learned, they were arrested with nearly 1 kilogram of pure cocaine; and, when the room in which they were staying was searched, eight bundles of \$50 and \$100 bills were discovered.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

RURAL POLICEMAN SHOT BY POPPY GROWERS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 27 Mar 79

[Text] The commander of the rural defense detachment from the settlement of Villa Angel Flores was seriously wounded in a shoot-out after the police, as a result of information provided to them, approached a plot on which poppy plantations had been detected.

Eleodoro Garcia Zavala is the name of the commander who, with his subordinates, Juvencio Aispuro Beltran, Guadalupe Soto Saucedo and Lorenzo Monzon Medina, drove in a 1972 Ford pickup truck without license plates to the site where they had been told there was a poppy plantation, which they discovered after an intensive search. But, as soon as they got out of the vehicle, they were met by gunfire from high-powered weapons. The rural police immediately returned the attack; and Commander Garcia Zavala was felled by the first shots, while his comrades managed to save their lives by taking shelter behind the truck, and drove off the attackers.

It was announced, though briefly, at the State Judicial Police headquarters that, a few days ago, the same members of the rural police had located and destroyed another poppy plantation within that same jurisdiction, and on that occasion did not succeed in capturing anyone. Last night, they left with the same intention of performing that job; but they encountered the men who were apparently waiting for them; because as soon as they got out of the patrol car in which they were riding, they were met with heavy gunfire in which the commander was seriously wounded.

It was also said that, at that time, the buds were being "scored" to extract the liquid, or "gum," and several individuals were apparently keeping watch. They were the ones who observed the movements of the patrol vehicle which was approaching the site like any private car; but, upon noticing the police maneuvers, they decided to open fire immediately, apparently to prevent the capture of the "scorers," and thus give them sufficient time to escape.

Comdr Eleodoro Garcia Zavala, seriously injured, was taken from that location, between Zapotillo and Constituyentes in the township of Villa Angel Flores, directly to Guamuchil, where a Red Cross ambulance took him to this town to be examined for several gunshot wounds in the thoracic area, some of which penetrated it, seriously jeopardizing the policeman's life.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED--At dawn yesterday, there was a confrontation between agents of the Federal Judicial Police and a group of drug traffickers in a wooded area of Huasteca, San Luis Potosi, in which three of the latter were killed and five individuals involved in the drug traffic were arrested. A total of 965 kilograms of marihuana, a rifle and five pistols were seized from them. The federal investigators had arrived at the "El Refugio" farm in the municipality of El Venado, San Luis Potosi, where they discovered 71 burlap bags containing 870 kilograms of packed marihuana. They arrested Higinio Arriaga Hernandez, who was armed with a 16 caliber shotgun. At dawn, 2 kilometers from the farm, they were intercepted by four individuals, three on horseback and the other on foot, who shouted at them, "you won't take anything from here!" and began firing. During the gun-battle, the federal police killed three of the attackers, and the fourth one managed to escape into the dense woods. The police retrieved from the site a rifle, two pistols and two horses, which they placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry together with the bodies of the deceased. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 9 Mar 79 p 4] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The Federal Judicial Police are on the trail of the drug traffickers who were supplying heroin to taxi-driver Jesus Gradillas Cruz and his accomplice, Victor Duarte Orduna, who were arrested by agents under orders from Comdr Jose de Jesus Gerardo Serrano. Several packages containing pure heroin of the best quality were confiscated from them. It was claimed that the two suppliers have been fully indentified, but their names were not released so as not to interfere with the investigation; since they are expected to be apprehended by the federal authorities at any moment. According to the agency of the Federal Public Ministry, the suppliers were selling the heroin to Gradillas for \$80 per gram; and he subsequently resold it in nightclubs in the red-light district for \$100 per gram. Both of the arrested men were placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry agent, Humberto Garcia de Alba. Gradillas is charged with possession and purchase-sale of heroin, while Duarte Orduno is accused of concealment; because he, as driver of the taxi owned by the former, was driving him to all the sites of the transactions, mainly in the red-light district, knowing that drug sales were being made. It was noted that the pair would certainly be remanded to the second district judge, Cayetano Hernandez Valencia. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 4] 2909

TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED, DRUGS DESTROYED--Mexico City, 11 March--During the past 4 days the Federal Judicial Police captured 42 drug traffickers during the course of 24 operations conducted as part of the program to combat drug trafficking. They confiscated heroin, marihuana, toxic pills, hashish, weapons and vehicles from them. Also, over the weekend, they located and destroyed 1,091 poppy plantations and 53 marihuana plantations in various sections of the states of Sinaloa, Guerrero and Zacatecas. Likewise participating in the Federal Judicial Police action were forces from the Mexican Army, and both state and municipal authorities, according to an announcement made by Samuel Alva Leyva, deputy assistant prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and coordinator of the campaign against the drug traffic. They seized 266 kilograms of marihuana, 5 grams of heroin, 1,179 toxic pills, 2 kilograms of poppy seed, 26 kilograms of marihuana seed, 12 pieces of hashish, 11 firearms, four automobiles, six dynamite charges, eight blasting caps and two scales. The Federal Judicial Police captured Crescencio Chavez Zuniga with several marihuana cigarettes and six toxic capsules in his possession. An hour later, they also caught Americo de la Fuente Alvarez, with 300 grams of marihuana in the form of joints which he was carrying inside of the spare tire of his Chevrolet with license plates 372-YHE. The latter individual served as a supplier. The air services of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic spotted a clandestine landing strip in the vicinity of the town of Puebla. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 12 Mar 79 p 4] 2909

COURT SECRETARY AMONG TRAFFICKERS--Acapulco, Guerrero, 6 March--The secretary of the lower court, Manuel Casarubias J., jockey Ricardo Villa Tornez and four other individuals were arrested by the police for drug trafficking. The arrests occurred in the Hueso district, where about 50 Federal and State Judicial Police agents apprehended them at the residence located at 50-B Margarita Maza de Juarez Street. Half a kilogram of gum, a product derived from poppies, 1 kilogram of marihuana, decks of cards and weapons were found in their possession. The other individuals who were arrested are Alejandro de la Cruz, Ricardo Padilla Garcia, Manuel Ugarte Solis and Miguel Angel Garcia Villa. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 4] 2909

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--During the last 72 hours the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic has apprehended 42 drug traffickers, seized marihuana, heroin, cocaine, toxic tablets and poppy seeds and marihuana seeds valued at more than 10 million pesos and confiscated four automobiles and arms of various calibers which were used by the gangsters. In addition, it discovered and closed down a landing strip which was used by U.S. planes to load drugs. These actions took place in the states of Tamaulipas, Sonora, Baja California, Guanajuato, Coahuila, Colima, Jalisco, Puebla, Guerrero, Sinaloa, Zacatecas, State of Mexico and the Federal District. The arrested persons range from planters to large distributors of the drug in the United States. All were placed at the disposition of the Federal Public Ministry on the presumption of responsibility for crimes against the public health. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Mar 79 p 26-A] 9204

MENDIOLA: BETTER EQUIPMENT--When he disclosed that during the last 9 days three confrontations between drug traffickers and federal agents have taken place Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, director of the Judicial Police, stated that to check the attacks of national and international bands of gangsters better equipment will be supplied to the unit; in addition, they will have the support of troops. Mendiola Cerecero explained that concerning the authorities' fight against drug traffickers, the traffickers attack police and soldiers with impunity; however, he stated that the casualties have been in the ranks of the drug traffickers. He mentioned that yesterday in Durango, when federal agents stationed there went to carry out an order to arrest Elpidio Estrada Guerrero, a well-known drug trafficker, they were greeted with gunfire from three persons. After taking cover so as to return fire, the federal agents arrested Elpidio Estrada but first wounded two of his accomplices and killed a third. Fidel Pacheco Morales died and Adrian Vlarado Martinez and Jesus Pacheco Morales were wounded. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 26-A] 9204

THREE DRUG TRAFFICKERS DEAD--In a shootout in San Luis Potosi between federal agents and drug traffickers, three of the gangsters were killed while attempting to free five of their comrades who had been arrested. The shootout took place 2 kilometers from El Refugio Ranch in the municipality of El Venado, San Luis Potosi. Federal agents had come there to arrest two drug traffickers who were concealing 870 kilograms of marihuana. The agents reported to the Federal Judicial Police [PJF] Headquarters that they had been underway for about 3 minutes when six fully armed persons on horseback intercepted them and after firing at them several times warned them to release the prisoners if they wanted to stay alive. The police took cover and repelled the attack. Three of the traffickers were shot down and the rest fled. The investigators began their investigation in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, with the capture of Pedro Segundo Palomo who had bought and sold marihuana there for transport to the United States. Segundo Palomo, interrogated as to who supplied him with the drug, revealed that in San Luis Potosi, at El Pozo Ranch, municipality of Villa Cuadaupe, two of his relatives, Manuel and Francisco Segundo Rodriguez, had 95 kilograms of marihuana which they were going to use as a sample for a large order. Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero and Gen Joaguin Figueroa Luna, director and assistant director of the PJF, respectively, coordinated their agents by shortwave telephone so that they would go out and find the Segundo Rodriguez brothers. When arrested, the brothers reported that Higinio and Asuncion Arriga Hernandez were at another ranch of El Venado municipality, San Luis Potosi, and had in their possession 870 kilograms of marihuana which they were going to send to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and from there to the United States. The police continued the search and also arrested the two Arriga Hernandez. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR 7 Mar 79 in Spanish p 26-A] 9204

MARIHUANA SAMPLES MAILED--A well-organized narcotics ring which works out of Oaxaca uses the Mexican postal service to send samples of unprocessed marihuana and marihuana in powder form. The discovery was made yesterday at the main international post office at Pantaco by a supervisor who immediately contacted the Federal Judicial Police. Jaime Exparza Cortina, an agent of the Federal Public Ministry of the 2nd board of the Attorney General's Office, took official cognizance of the facts yesterday at 1000 hours at the office of Ismael Medina Ocana, chief of office No 1 of the international mails of the Mechanized Postal Customs Office located on Ceylan No 648, Pantaco. Medina Ocana said that as packages were being arranged one of them fell and when the protective wrapping paper broke, the marihuana, which came from Oaxaca in five similar packages, was exposed. The five packages were viewed by EL SOL DE MEXICO. They bore stamps issued by the official postal service and official seals with customs permit numbers. Strangely, although the return addresses were filled out in Oaxaca they were made out in various names with addresses in California, United States of America, and the packages were addressed to different people in California. What is involved in marihuana in powder form and unprocessed marihuana. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 15 Mar 79 p 10-A] 9204

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--The Finance and Treasury Ministry's Narcotics Bureau arrested an American drug trafficker at Tocumen International Airport on Sunday. Denis (Whitferd Jordan) from North Carolina was arrested as he tried to enter the country with half a pound of cocaine valued at approximately 30,000 balboas. He was coming from Bogota, Colombia. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Apr 79 PA] The narcotics section of the Finance and Treasury Ministry arrested Denis Wilfred Jordon of North Carolina for carrying half a pound of cocaine valued at approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 in his shoes. He arrived aboard a Braniff flight from Bogota. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Apr 79 p 32 PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER'S ARREST--Lima, 13 Apr (AFP)--The police today arrested 30-year-old Victor Luis Torres as he tried to board an airplane for Bogota with a suitcase filled with 17.5 kg of basic cocaine paste. The police reported that so far this year it has confiscated approximately 500 kg of basic cocaine paste and 19 kg of cocaine hydrochlorate at the Jorge Chavez Airport. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0151 GMT 14 Apr 79 PA]

COCAINE PASTE SEIZED--Lima, 16 Apr (LATIN)--According to police sources, the police seized almost 20 kg of basic cocaine paste valued at approximately \$75,000 as it was about to be illegally shipped aboard a commercial plane to Cali. The drug was hidden in a suitcase and was discovered by an official of the Jorge Chavez International Airport who was conducting a routine check of the luggage that was being loaded in the plane. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0255 GMT 17 Apr 79 PA]

DRUG ARREST--Lima, 20 Apr (EFE)--The Peruvian police have arrested three drug traffickers and confiscated 43 kilos of basic cocaine paste worth \$292,000 after chasing the traffickers' motorboat along the Huallaga River. Two of those arrested, identified as Ramon Pena and Honorio Daza, are Colombian citizens. The police have reported that the Huallaga River has become a channel for transporting drugs to Brazil and Colombia. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0837 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Lima, 21 Apr (EFE)--The police have arrested members of a cocaine traffickers gang which had processed 500 kg of basic cocaine paste during the past 8 months. The gang was composed of eight Peruvians and Colombians but three were able to escape when the police raided their installation in a Lima neighborhood. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2236 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS SEIZED

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Mar 79 p D-24

[Text] The Narcotics Squad of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] has announced the seizure of a kilo of cocaine from two supposed traffickers. The announcement was made by inspector Vicente Silva Palomo who said the prisoners handed over to court jurisdiction in Reten de Catia were Jose Juan Palma Linedo, 36, and Demostenes Enrique Castillo Gonzalez, 26.

According to the inspector, they were arrested in a Dodge pickup, license ACW 572, in which the kilo of cocaine was found in two plastic bags.

In a later search of an office used as a front, located between Termopilas and Hornito in La Pastora, 46 tubes of cocaine ready for distribution were seized, plus Mandrax tablets and film cartridge containers filled with marihuana.

The PTJ placed a value of one million bolivars on the materials confiscated.

Palma Liendo, according to the police, has a past record for the same crime; Castillo Gonzalez, a Colombian, was carrying a transit document and when arrested said he was an industrial mechanic. They were turned over to Interpol for possible request of bond from Bogota.

9268
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

SEIZURE OF COLUMBIAN DRUGS--Members of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] searched a residence in the suburb of Las Brisas in Barquisimeto, impounding a large quantity of drugs valued at over 500,000 bolivares and they are looking for its presumed distributor, identified as Jose Concepcion Pina who was not in the house at the time of the search. The operation was carried out by means of a court-ordered police search, upon confidential information on these illegal activities indicted by the PTJ. It was learned that during the operation the PTJ impounded 29 cakes of marihuana and 4,524 tablets of mandrax which were apparently brought in from the neighboring country of Colombia. The detectives also found a large quantity of contraband dry goods and a car used by Pina for his deliveries. The local PTJ hopes to succeed in arresting the suspected Jose Concepcion Pina accused of being the distributor of the drugs impounded at his residence on Calle 53, Vereda 8 of the Las Brisas suburb, west of the City. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Mar 79 p D-21] 6857

SENTENCE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS--Dr Ramon Lara Aparte, judge of the Second Superior Penal District, sentenced Orfelina Garcia de Ramirez to 2 years in prison for complicity in drug trafficking. The defendant had been sentenced to a 4-year term in the 20th Criminal Court of First Instance after it had been proved that she was in possession of a suitcase containing cocaine and she admitted thinking of taking the drug to Miami. The defendant's confession, the police records of the arresting officers and the opening of the suitcase in criminal court in the presence of a public prosecutor leading to the discovery of the drug proved that the woman was involved in drug trafficking. However, the arguments of the defense counsel, Dr Claudio Gorsira, together with the good conduct of the defendant prior to the offense, influenced the Court of First Instance to impose a minimum sentence. It also applied in Second Instance, but, the confirmed complicity of the defendant determined the commuting of the minimum sentence to a midway term of 2 years in prison. [Text] [Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 21 Mar 79 p 26] 6857

CSO: 5300

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Rabat--Early this morning the special court of justice in Rabat pronounced its sentences in the case in which 78 people were accused, including 39 in absentia, of smuggling and trafficking in narcotics and bribery. The trial had lasted for 80 days. The court sentenced 57 people, including high-ranking officers in the Royal Gendarmerie, to prison sentences varying from 1 month to 10 years and assessed fines of between 1,000 and 10,000 dirhams. Twenty-five of these were sentenced in absentia. The court acquitted 19 defendants. It also sentenced former assembly deputy Idbib to 5 years in prison and fined him 5,000 dirhams. The court also sentenced 14 foreigners in absentia to 10 years in prison and fined them 10,000 dirhams. The foreigners include two Spaniards, three Britons, one Frenchman, one German, three Americans, one Swede, one Australian and one Colombian. [numbers as received] [Text] [Rabat MAP in Arabic 1040 GMT 13 Apr 79 LD]

CSO: 5300

ITALY

YOUNG SOCIALISTS PROPOSE FREE HEROIN

Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 4/5 Mar 79 p 5

[Interview with Enrico Boselli, national secretary of the FGSI [Italian Socialist Youth Federation, by Carlo Rivolta, of LA REPUBBLICA; date and place not given.]

[Text] Enrico Boselli talks about the FGSI law. Young socialists propose free heroin for dope addicts.

Rome--In the course of a little more than 3 years, the Italian drug law has proved to be completely inadequate in the matter of countering the new danger, heroin. The result of patient compromises and reticence, the law of December 1975 allows judges ample possibility for interpretation. Thus, possession of a gram of hashish in Milan is not punished; in Bari, it leads to jail. The main problem continues to be the dramatic one of black market heroin. Today, among young people--but the problem pertains not only to them--the heroin problem is foremost in political discussion.

Young communists, in CITTA FUTURA, opened the discussion. Radio Popolare, in Milan, is fighting for depenalization for the possession of heroin. Young socialists are preparing a parliamentary bill to provide for free availability of this drug to drug addicts, as has been the case for years in Great Britain and as occurs in some American states.

Enrico Boselli, national secretary of the FGSI, maintains that the socialist proposal (very realistically judged "a difficult fight, in view of the political situation") can contribute to solving the problem. "We are not advocating liberalization. Instead, we are speaking of legal, controlled allotment through the system of public and health organizations that already exists and that can be further developed."

[Carlo Rivolta] "What induced you to formulate this bill?"

[Enrico Boselli] "We started substantially from one reflection: the fact that there is no sign that the distribution of hard drugs--heroin most of all--is diminishing. On the contrary, in the past few months, the trend has been precisely that of an expanding market. To be specific and to counter the figures of the minister of Health, who dangerously underestimates the matter, six young drug addicts have died in the past 30 days--an average of more than one death per week."

[Carlo Rivolta] "Well, then?"

[Enrico Boselli] Today, by means of a law, it would be possible to limit the dangers that result from hard drugs. The political point of view of our work in this field is that the "reflux" will be defeated not only through an added capacity for initiative on the part of the workers' forces of the Left, but also by the initiative of young people with respect to facing specific and dramatic problems. Heroin is one of these and it is senseless to maintain the moralistic attitude of limiting oneself to standard petitions."

[Carlo Rivolta] "And have you contacted other youth organizations regarding this matter?"

[Enrico Boselli] "Up to now no dialog has been started. But there are positive signs; for example, in the FGCI internal debate, unthinkable up to a year ago. It is another matter when young people come together, as in the case of free radio broadcasts."

[Carlo Rivolta] "What are the objectives of an anti-heroin law?"

[Enrico Boselli] "The first is to strike against the black market, which cannot be wiped out solely through police initiatives. Then the terrible interrelationship of consumer and pusher, which to a great extent is at the root of the drug circuit, could be restricted. Another goal is to limit the vast spreading of this kind of criminality on the part of young people--a criminality that prospers as a result of the need of drug addicts for more and more money to satisfy their ever-increasing dependence on the drug. And finally there is the objective of curbing the succession of deaths that result both from over doses and the cutting of doses."

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ITALY

TWO EGYPTIAN PUSHERS ARRESTED

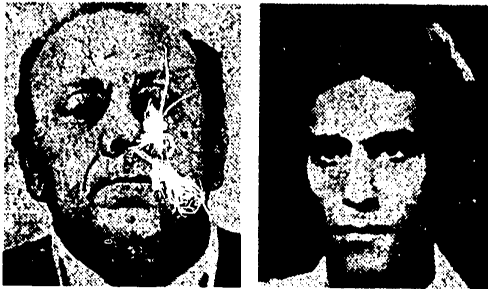
Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 16 Mar 79 p 18

[Excerpts] A race track gambler by day, a drug pusher by night, Luigi Albertario, 51 years old, of Via Zoagli 5 was arrested yesterday by the narcotics squad. The police confiscated 50 grams of heroin from his "500" about 10 grams of amphetamine from his home.

As he was about to carry out an operation, the trafficker (who is an assiduous frequenter of racetracks) was stopped near his home. The policemen found 50 grams of "brown sugar" and of Turkish heroin in his possession. The drug was hidden under the gearshift box and in the "pockets" of the doors of his "500." And, finally, in via Zoagli, the 10 grams were confiscated.

When this search was completed, the same narcotics squad policemen arrested two known heroin pushers who were operating in the area of corso Lodi. They are 26-year old 'Abd al-Masih Majdi and Muhammad Nabil Zaki, both Egyptian citizens, staying at the public dormitory on via Orties and in a small hotel in the suburbs.

Suspected for some time of pushing hard drugs, the two were trailed to a bar on piazzale Medaglie d'Oro and then stopped. They had on their persons about 100 grams of pure heroin, valued at almost 18 million lire. If the drug had been sold at retail, it would however have yielded a total profit of about 70-80 million.



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ITALY

COURT ORDER TO HOSPITALIZE DRUG ADDICT

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 18 Mar 79 p 14

[Excerpt from article by Augusto Pozzoli] For the first time the court has intervened to unblock the situation. To hospitalize a drug addict, an order from a judge is necessary.

The resistance of hospitals with regard to admitting drug addicts was overcome by the authorities. For the first time, a judge intervened and ordered the hospitalization of a youth who, notwithstanding the intervention of the police for an entire morning, was not able to find an available hospital bed. The order came from Livia Pomodoro, examining judge at the police court of Milan, in behalf of Ariberto L., 21 years old, a resident of Corvetto and a user of heroin for 4 years.

Some days ago, Ariberto could no longer go on. He had come to the point of wanting to fight against his state of slavery and, not knowing where to turn for help, went to the Porta Romana police station, to Marshal Ennio Gregolin, who in the past had stopped him several times to check on his movements.

"We have by now become the last resort for many of these unfortunate young people," said the deputy officer, "but we can do very little for them. Ariberto asked me if I could help to have him admitted to a hospital for treatment. He seemed sincere; wanted to give up; and could no longer go on living that way. So I began to telephone several hospitals; but as soon as I said that it was a question of a drug addict, there was an immediate excuse to say no to me. I also got in touch with an assistant district attorney, who told me to use his name and to apply to the management of the San Carlo hospital. But this attempt also failed. And thus it went, in the presence of the boy, during the entire morning."

Marshal Gregolin, however, did not give up. The next day the case of Ariberto L. was on the desk of Judge Livia Pomodoro who, in the name of the law, had to protect the right of the unfortunate youth.

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This is the text of the order with which the judge overcame the resistance of city hospitals in the matter of attending to drug addicts: "Having considered that Ariberto needs urgent medical treatment, in accordance with articles 99 and 100 of law 22, December 1975, n. 685 provides that he be hospitalized in San Carlo hospital for whatever period is necessary."

Thus, the bed that up to the day before was not available, became available on the order of the judge. Ariberto is in a private room and his detoxification treatment has been started. The youth is hospitalized in the same hospital where last Saturday the Anti-Drug Addiction Committee had organized a demonstration, at the end of which a delegation had asked permission to discuss the matter with those in charge of the unit and to ask for a guarantee of hospitalization for drug addicts.

The communique that was issued at the end of the demonstration reads as follows: "The hospital's answer was clear right from the beginning. We were received by a big array of policemen who prevented us from entering. Finally, some representatives succeeded in talking to the only official who was present, the doctor on duty. But to the request for hospital beds, we were given the answer: 'for drug addicts, not even one bed.'" The hospitalization of Ariberto L. took place only because the judge ordered it.

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ITALY

URUGUAYAN DRUG DEALER CAPTURED IN ROME

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 17 Feb 1979 p 13

[Text] A dangerous Uruguayan criminal, who in recent years had risen to the international level, was captured in Rome, according to information received yesterday by Interpols' National Central Bureau.

Apprehended was Irio Adan Quintana Miralles, who was born 3 July 1939 and has a long criminal record both in Uruguay and in Europe. This dangerous individual, apart from his vile trafficking in prostitution, which extended from South America to Europe, was found guilty several times of possession and sale of narcotics.

According to information received officially late yesterday afternoon, Quintana Miralles, 42 years of age, known in his world as El Fiolo Adan, was arrested by Rome police and found to be in possession of false identification and a certain unspecified amount of cocaine. At this moment Quintana Miralles' case is in the Italian courts, and while he is awaiting trial Interpol has contacted Uruguay and other countries in the area--in addition to Spain and France--asking for background material so as to obtain better information on the criminal.

The shady pimp and drug pusher began his criminal "career" on November 195 [illegible text, probably 1956] when he was arraigned on charges of homicide. Then 8 years later, on 21 April 1962, he was jailed for assault and battery. The same year, on 29 October, he was arrested for illegal possession of firearms, and on 19 January 1964 for attempted robbery.

After a period of apparent inactivity, he was arraigned for robbery on 30 March 1968, and finally on 18 November 1969 for attempted homicide. He is presently being sought by Uruguayan police, as well as Spanish and Italian authorities, who are pressing an intense search.

It should be pointed out that in 1974 Quintana was connected with the murder of a woman who had been taken from South American to "work" in Europe. The incident occurred in Barcelona, and the victim was identified as Nelida Justina Signer. Quintana was sought by Italian police from 31

July 1976 until 5 February 1977 when he was arrested in Genoa for trafficking in cocaine and importation of illegal aliens.

Quintana continued his activities after obtaining his freedom, even to the point of joining the notorious Capocasale gang, whose prostitution ring extended from Rio de la Plata to the avid European continent. (Capocasale was recently arrested in Spain, yet again.)

In February, 1977, the last time anyone had heard of Quintana, he was arrested in Rome in possession of cocaine and several false passports. Arrested with him were one man and two women who, once arraigned, spent time in Italian prisons.

In May, 1974, Quintana Miralles was shot at close range by several members of a rival gang when he appeared on the streets of Rome riding in a late model car. He was struck by six bullets and critically wounded but was able to survive because of his physical strength.

Quintana was also sought in June, 1976, following the death of an Argentine pimp, who was found dead in a river on the outskirts of Rome. In their insane fury they had cut off his hands and torn out his tongue, as well as shot him.

Clues led authorities to another Uruguayan, Heber Cardozo Rivero, and finally to Quintana, who quickly fled. Assuming that the Italian police had forgotten him, he returned to Italy but was arrested shortly thereafter. It seems that after leaving jail he did not leave the country and, not having altered his intentions in the least, was again captured with drugs in his possession.

9077
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ITALY

DRUG SQUAD MAKES ARRESTS IN TWO NARCOTICS CASES

Rome IL TEMPO in Italian 27 Jan 79 p 6

[Excerpt] Two antinarcotics operations were carried out successfully by Doctor Di Gennaro of the drug squad, with the collaboration of Sergeants Maio and Pizzuto. Two pushers have been arrested and 300 grams of pure heroin seized.

The first operation had its beginnings in the arrest of three Egyptians by the Danish police and the discovery in Copenhagen of an illicit drug traffic originating in Thailand and directed toward Rome. Investigation of one of the three arrested Egyptians, Zohdy Salet, led to Clara Vitaloni, 35, residing at Via Felice Grossi Gondi 95 in Rome.

The police searched the woman's apartment and found 180 grams of pure heroin sewn into the shoulder pads of coats. And so, Clara Vitalone, "smuggler" for an international organization, was handcuffed.

The second of the operations carried out by the drug squad also throws the spotlight on Thailand. It was discovered that Enzo Valeri, 25, residing at Via del Pignoto 3, frequently traveled to that country. Unsuspectedly, the police tailed him and, sensing drugs, moved in. In his home they found a passport showing Thai entry and exit stamps, and evidence that the young man had brought in 1200 grams of pure heroin.

It was now a matter of discovering his outlet, which led them to a little villa located in the neighborhood of Valle Martella in Zagarolo, owned by Valeri. There, the police seized 110 grams of pure heroin, other "cutting" ingredients, a precision scale, and 1.5 million lire in cash. Enzo Valeri was arrested on charges not only of importation and possession but also of sale of narcotics, and the investigation continues in an effort to discover Valeri's accomplices.

Four other drug pushers--of hashish this time--have been arrested in Torpignataro by the men of the judiciary police squad of the first police district; Sandro Alessandri, 26, residing at Via Bartolomeo Peristrello 20,

manager of the bar at Via della Marranella 121; Savino Giordano, 24, residing at Via Cencelli 59; Luigi Santafede, 29, residing at Via Pavoni 59; and Roberto Rutigliano, 30, residing at Via Pavoni 92. Roberto Moscatelli, 29, residing at Via Angilotti 13, was also arrested on charges of possession of weapons of war and receiving of stolen goods. During the search of his home, police found a Beretta Model 92, 9 mm Parabellum pistol that had been stolen last October from the home of a noncommissioned officer of the PS [Corps of Public Security Guards].

9399
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ITALY

DRUG SQUAD SEIZES 2.382 KILOGRAMS OF PURE HEROIN

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 19 Feb 79 p 10

[Excerpt] Agents of the drug squad's Section 3 have seized 2.382 kilograms of pure heroin worth a total of 12 billion lire, in an operation which has led to the arrest of four persons and the incrimination of nine others, and which is still in progress. The investigation, which was being organized by Assistant District Attorney Emilio Alessandrini before he was killed by a Front line commando in the Viale Umbria ambush, went into action a few months ago when the magistrature opened an inquiry aimed at determining the uses being made of the monies obtained through kidnappings.

The police have actually succeeded now in establishing that part of the proceeds from kidnappings by Mafia bands have been and continue being used to buy large quantities of drugs on the Oriental and European markets to be retailed in Italy.

Francesco Milone, 31, born in Latiano in the province of Brindisi, residing at Via Martinetti 29; [Milan]; his wife, Caterina Brugnani, 26; Giuseppe Giannetti, 36, born in Canosa, Puglia, residing at Via Brunelleschi 4 in Corsico; and Luigi Fiorentino, 35, residing at Via Camozzi 30 [Milan] have been jailed so far in this operation, charged with possession and sale of narcotics, possession of firearms and explosives, and receiving of stolen goods.



Francesco Milone



Caterina Brugnani

9399
CSO: 5300

ITALY

NEAPOLITAN HASHISH GANG DESTROYED

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 13 Feb 79 p 5

[Text] Naples--Peddling hashish in Naples did not pay. So some 15 Neapolitans started following the Sixth Fleet on its various rounds of Mediterranean ports--from Naples to Palermo, from Taranto to Trieste--to supply their "devoted clientele," acquired in the Parthenopean city, with precious hashish. Finally, however, the "movements" of these "drug-peddling camp followers" aroused the suspicions of the police and the carabinieri, who succeeded in laying hands, between Naples and Palermo, on nine members of the band, and in identifying three other persons.

The police operation started last November when Antonio Bisaccia was arrested in Naples and 18 kilos of narcotics were confiscated from the home of one of his relatives. But this did not halt the peddling of hashish. The investigations moved to Palermo. There, upon indications from the Neapolitan investigators, the forces of order of the Sicilian capital began tailing certain Neapolitan characters suspected of peddling hashish to American military personnel. After stakeouts and inquiries, the carabinieri moved in and nabbed Antonio Frattini, Gaetano Cerrato and Antonio Palladino.

But two Neapolitans succeeded in escaping, and so the investigation moved back again to Naples, where, yesterday, the flying squad nabbed six other persons who had taken part in the setting up of the original distribution system: Giulia Sceral, who had replaced Antonio Bisaccia as head of the gang; Fiorina Stria, 26, (who had the job of approaching customers); Francesco Tomi; Vincenzo Leopoldo; Antonio Martello; and Salvatore Quintano.

9399
CSO: 5300

ITALY

ROME DRUG, PROSTITUTION DEALERS ARRESTED

Milan IL GIORNALE NUOVO in Italian 4 Feb 79 p 7

[Excerpts] Rome, 3 February--"From producer to consumer" could be the trade slogan of the band of drug pushers that operated in the peripheral quarter of Centocelle. The gang, in fact, engaged, by means of "couriers," in the direct purchase and importation of pure heroin from Thailand, and, in Rome, "cut" the drug, packaged it in doses, then distributed it to a network of small peddlers. Along with this activity, the organization also exploited prostitution, recruiting the girls from among teenaged addicts who did not have money to pay for the "merchandise."

The arrests began on 7 January with Vincenza Manzo, 21, and Spartaco Tras-Trasciotti, 25, both drug retailers, who landed in prison. It appears that, under questioning by Judge Infelisi, they confirmed suspicions regarding three persons: the brothers Giacomo and Lorenzo Rizzieri, 25 and 23 respectively, and Enzo Canapini, 36, alias "Zimbetto." Telephone intercepts enabled the police to identify these as the managing staff of the organization that obtained its supplies of heroin through Maria Fiamma Brignola, 23, who was being frequently sent to Bangkok with a male friend.

The police operation was concluded during the past few days with the capture of the rest of the band: Lorenzo Rizzieri was arrested at his home on Via delle Palme, where he had 9 grams of heroin hidden; his brother Giacomo, who had taken refuge in a villa in Cerveteri, was taken by surprise in that locality; Canapini was visited by police at his home in Centocello, where they found, in addition to a small quantity of the drug, the documentation of the operation contained in ledgers in which the expenditures and revenues were diligently entered.

The last to end up in prison was Maria Grazia Brignola, in whose home, on Via Bixio, there were 7 grams of heroin and the receipts for expenses incurred on two trips to Thailand.

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ITALY

BRIEFS

MILAN DRUG ARRESTS--Following a month of investigations, agents of the 4th section of the drug squad, led by Doctor Macri, intercepted a cocaine traffic operation at Porta Ticinese and arrested two pushers: Umberto Vena, 45, of Via De Santis 50 and Anna Luigia Longo, 38, of Via degli Apuli 4. The couple had a one-room apartment on the 5th floor of a building at Via Gian Giacomo Mora 8, in the neighborhood of the columns of San Lorenzo, in the Carrobbio section, from which they dispatched the drug to the addicts. In the apartment, the agents confiscated 44 grams of cocaine (being sold at 40,000 lire per gram), along with scales for weighing, syringes and waxed paper for packaging the "doses." [Text] [Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 15 Jan 79 p 8] 9399

MODENA-VERONA DRUG RING--Modena--A vast antinarcotics operation has opened with the seizure in Ancona of a large trailer-truck loaded with one and a half tons of hashish worth 7 billion lire. The facts are now well known: Last Saturday, a ferry entered the port of Ancona carrying on board a large trailer-truck loaded with yarns, automobile replacement parts and textiles. The vehicle, owned by "Selamogu," a Turkish automotive transport company, passed through normal customs inspection in good order. However, a little dog in the antinarcotics service, together with its customs agency trainer, discovered, hidden within the cargo, 1,700 kilograms of narcotics. The Turkish driver of the vehicle, Ahmet Abali, 56, of Istanbul, was placed under arrest. With help from Interpol it was determined that "Selamogu," headquartered in Ankara, dispatched around Europe, at regular intervals, as many as 80 huge trailer-trucks, which traveled from Turkey into Greece, then to Italy by ocean ferry, then, after stops in Modena and Verona (the headquarters of the two Italian subsidiaries), to the capitals of the northern countries. The discovery of the load at Ancona opened the way for a series of operations. Obviously, the first of these took place in Modena and Verona, where, at the "Selamogu" offices, customs agents proceeded to arrest at least six other persons who may be connected, in various capacities, with what appears to be the most gigantic drug ring ever discovered in Italy. [Excerpts] [Rome L'UNITA in Italian 6 Feb 79 p 5] 9399

ARREST OF TWO COURIERS--The hiding place for the drug was not original, but it was a record amount. Together they had heroin worth a billion in their intestines--770 grams of pure heroin which, if cut 80 percent and resold at retail, would have yielded precisely 1,000 million. The two traffickers, both Neapolitans, were arrested yesterday morning at Fiumicino airport. They had just landed from a flight from Bangkok. They were Giovanni Albanese, 27 years old, and Antonio Lombardi, 23 years old. After being arrested and forced to expel the little plastic bags that contained the heroin, they were taken to Regina Coeli. A very small amount of the drug had been found in a tiny hiding place inside the heel of a shoe of one of the two men. But this was just a diversionary trick. The two were counting on the matter ending with those few grams of heroin, at worst. But a more and careful search, conducted with the added cooperation of a doctor, foiled their plan. In the end, the two confessed everything. They had not eaten for 2 days in order to leave enough room in their intestines for the small bags of heroin, inserted through the rectum. Albanese had nine heroin pellets wrapped in plastic in his intestines; Lombardi, five. Among other things, they both risked their lives. If one of the small bags had opened, they would have died in a short space of time. The 770 grams of heroin that they tried to bring to Italy would have yielded about 50,000 doses of the drug. [Excerpt] [Rome PAESE SERA in Italian 17 Mar 79 p 12] 8255

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TURKEY

BRIEFS

NEW NARCOTICS BRANCH DIRECTOR--Korkut Onder, who for 2 years has been chief of the homicide desk in the Istanbul Security Directorate, was recently appointed director of the Narcotics Branch in that directorate. Onder began his career in the Istanbul Security Directorate as a police officer 17 years ago. He served as a team chief, head of the robbery desk, assistant director to the Tourism Bureau, chief of the homicide desk and Bakirkoy security chief. [Text] [Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 19 Mar 79 p 3]

CSO: 4907

UNITED KINGDOM

ALLEGED PLOT TO SMUGGLE COCAINE IN WINE BOTTLES REVEALED

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 27 Mar 79 p 19

[Text] A plot to smuggle large quantities of cocaine in wine bottles into Britain was alleged yesterday when 13 people appeared in court.

Part of the operation was to import it from South America by what Mr Nigel Mylne, prosecuting, described as an "ingenious conspiracy."

He said that the cocaine was flown into Europe in wine bottles carried by a courier, who would pass them to another courier, usually returning to Britain by ferry.

"He would not have a South American stamp on his passport and, as far as Customs were concerned, might have been a day-tripper."

The cocaine, he said, was dissolved in a hydrochloric acid solution to disguise the distinctive white colouring. At its destination the acid was evaporated, leaving the reconstituted cocaine as powder. "They then had an easily marketable and very valuable drug."

Facing committal proceedings at Havant, Hants, are:

Brian Crump, 27, of London Road, Waterlooville, Hants; Kevern Davies, 39, Fifth Street, Portsmouth; David Ellis, 30, Chapel Lane, Swanage; Carol Rawding, 30, Mitchell Road, Havant; Trevor Scattergood, 24, The Crescent, Hayling Island; Stephen Simmonds, 38, Clarence Gardens, Shanklin; Geoffrey Speak, 34, Park Road, Swanage; Sarah van Leeson, 25, Stonebarrow Lane, Charminster, Dorset; Stephen West, 27, Ireland Way, Waterlooville; Diane Jeram, 28, same address; Kenneth Ford, 43, Lowe Lane, Bembridge; Peter Williams, 29, The Ridgeway, Acton; and Graham Wood, 26, Garsons Road, Southbourne, Sussex.

Mr Mylne said that police had been watching the defendants for months. They swooped after Scattergood [sic], a courier, missed a rendezvous with his "day-tripper," Kenneth Ford, in Paris, he said. Scattergood had to risk bringing his four bottles through Heathrow, where he was arrested.

Mr Mylne said that the bottles contained well over a kilo of cocaine worth 250,000 pounds.

Before being caught, said Mr Mylne, they had smuggled in cocaine worth thousands of pounds in the same way.

"We are unable to say where it went. There has been a wall of silence."

Simmons was described as the brains who bought the chemical and provided details of how to use them for his man in South America, Ellis.

Mr Mylne said that the other part of the operation involved smuggling cannabis into Britain from Europe.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

DRUGS LAB RAID--Scotland Yard Drugs Squad officers yesterday found a drugs factory in a flat in the North Finchley area. The flat contained a room set up as a laboratory to produce amphetamine sulphate. Police took away nearly half a hundredweight of materials, which they believe would have made sufficient quantity of the drug to be worth about 250,000 pounds when sold on the streets. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Mar 79 p 19]

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END