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**15 AUGUST 1979**

**(FOUO 34/79)**

**IOUS DRUGS**

**1 OF 1**

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JPRS L/8620

15 August 1979

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 34/79)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT  
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 34/79)

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AUSTRALIA

DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL NARCOTICS BUREAU RESIGNS

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 3 Jun 79 p 2

[Text]

CANBERRA, Sat. — Australia's top drug fighter resigned here yesterday in a scandal involving criminal use of a Customs Department computer that kept track of suspected local and international drug runners.

Customs Minister Wal Fife said Harvey Bates, 45, director of the Federal Narcotics Bureau, resigned because he opposed an outside probe into allegations that a narcotics agent fed information from the computer to an international drug ring.

#### Allegations

The scandal has been linked to the murder two weeks ago of a young couple, once involved in drug running, who made the allegations to police one year ago.

Mr Fife said the couple told police a heroin ring paid the agent A\$25,000 (M\$61,500) for access to the computer and A\$1,000 a time for

each piece of information.

The Customs Department computer, which is linked to all capital cities, records passenger movements in and out of Australia including details of suspected drug smugglers.

The young couple who first revealed the scandal, David and Isobel Wilson, both in their twenties, were found murdered in a shallow grave near Melbourne.

#### Surveillance

The agent, who had access to the computer, was able to tell the drug ring which of its couriers were under surveillance.

There were also suggestions that when couriers became known to the narcotics bureau the drug ring killed them.

Mr. Fife was told of the allegations only last Monday and he immediately ordered an investigation by a special police team. Mr. Fife did not consult Bates about the inquiry. — Reuter.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT TOLD NEW DRUG OFFICERS NEEDED

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 7 Jun 79 p 1

[Text]

**THE police drug squad urgently needed 200 more undercover officers, Dr. Lockwood (Lib., Toowoomba North) told State Parliament yesterday.**

He said the squad was getting nowhere in its investigations because its officers were too well known.

When officers entered a place where drugs might be circulating, the word was spread quickly that "they're here". Dr. Lockwood said young people who could mix easily in the drug scene needed to be recruited by the squad.

He said he agreed with Teen Challenge director (the Rev. Charles Ringma) that there were 2000 regular heroin users in Brisbane.

"There has been a rapid increase in the use of this highly dangerous

drug, and effective drug squads are needed on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane," he said.

**Clog**

Dr. Lockwood said it cost between \$50,000 and \$80,000 a year to support a heroin addiction, so addicts had to turn to crime.

He said the heads of a large drug organisation were ensuring that small drug users were often caught, to overwork police and clog the system.

Young couriers were picked up by customs officers tipped off by the organisation, he said.

GSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

CRIMINOLOGIST: CRIMINALS LIE OVER DRUGS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 9 Jun 79 p 5

[By Lindsay Murdoch]

[Text]

Victorian criminals are claiming to be heroin addicts to get sympathy, according to a leading criminologist.

Mr. David Biles, the assistant Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology in Canberra, said many criminals are telling courts they committed offences to support their drug habits.

"But in fact they are not getting easier treatment through the system," Mr. Biles said.

"Their jail classification is affected by any alleged involvement with hard drugs."

Mr. Biles said it has been a long-time belief that a convicted person would benefit if his or her drug image is boosted.

"They think they have a chance to be sent to a drug referral centre or the like," he said.

No accurate statistics on drug-related crimes are available.

"But people in the business often feel there is an exaggeration of drug-related crime," Mr. Biles said.

"Of course, the number of chemist and doctor surgery robberies indicates many offenders are desperate for drugs alone.

"I've seen young, fit footballer types who claim they committed an offence to support their habits.

"There is no way they would be as fit as they were if they had been using heroin for a couple of years."

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AUSTRALIA

DRUG SYNDICATE SUSPECTED OF MURDERING SECOND COUPLE

Pair Alleged To Be Couriers

Melbourne THE AGE in English 12 Jun 79 pp 1, 4

[By Lindsay Murdoch]

[Text] Homicide detectives believe a multi-million dollar drug syndicate murdered a second New Zealand couple in Melbourne.

The couple were friends of Douglas and Isabel Wilson, who were shot dead and buried at Rye over Easter.

Police have been told that Gregory Paul Ollard, 28, and his fiancée Julie Diane Theilman, 22, disappeared after a row Ollard had with syndicate bosses in Melbourne in late 1977.

Police believe the syndicate ordered the couple's execution because they were addicted to drugs.

Detectives have been told that syndicate leaders made the decision after Miss Theilman sent police to a Melbourne hotel in November 1977.

They have been told that Ollard and syndicate bosses were in a room in the hotel. The bosses fled after being tipped off that police were coming.

The couple, believed to have been couriers for the syndicate, have not been seen since.

Auckland sources say one of the syndicate bosses claimed last year that Ollard and Theilman had been paid \$87,000 and given two false passports so they could disappear.

But the head of the Melbourne homicide squad, Detective Chief Inspector Paul Delianis, said yesterday evidence suggested the couple were murdered and their bodies hidden.

"They vanished from the face of the earth," he said.

An internal NSW police investigation is believed to have started following claims made by Ollard's sister, Mrs. Charmaine Hawira, according to Auckland sources.

Mrs. Hawira has told police of information given to her by a close associate of her brother in Queensland, including a claim that money was paid in 1977 for drug charges against Ollard to be dropped.

### More murders

The investigation could not be confirmed in Sydney last night.

The Melbourne homicide squad on Sunday flew Mrs. Hawira, 33, from Auckland to Melbourne for interviews about her brother.

The Auckland sources said Mrs. Hawira told New Zealand police 12 months ago about the drug syndicate and fears for her brother.

Inspector Delianis said yesterday New Zealand police gave his office information about Ollard and Theilman's disappearance after the Wilsons were identified in May.

He said investigators had no evidence to suggest the drug syndicate has ceased operations. More murders may have been committed.

"But it is pretty likely the syndicate has gone to ground following publicity," Inspector Delianis said.

Mrs. Hawira has told detectives that her brother would get word to her that he was alive, no matter where he was.

She has said that because of this, and what she was told during a three-week visit to Australia this year, she is convinced her brother has been murdered.

Mrs. Hawira has been reported in New Zealand as saying that she would reveal evidence about her brother's killer if his body was found.

Inspector Delianis said: "We believe the people involved in the Wilson mur-

ders were directly or indirectly involved in the disappearance of Ollard and his girlfriend."

One of two men, whose descriptions were distributed after the Wilsons were identified, was reported to have been in the hotel room in November, 1977. Police have declined to name him.

They have said they want to interview the two men about the Wilson murders.

The organisers of the drug syndicate operating from Singapore to Fiji to Australia are also believed to have been in the hotel room.

Police are protecting Mrs. Hawira in Melbourne. Auckland sources say she has had threats since she has spoken publicly about the syndicate.

Inspector Dellanis said the fact that Mrs. Hawira has come forward with information put her in danger.

Homicide detectives last week heard tapes of an interview Mrs. Hawira gave to an Auckland radio reporter, Les Thompson.

It is believed that after hearing the tapes it was decided to fly her to Melbourne.

Auckland sources say Ollard and Theilman were expected to return to New Zealand to become engaged in December, 1977.

They said the couple had been couriers for the syndicate and were usually on the move. The Wilsons are also believed to have been couriers.

Inspector Dellanis said it appeared Ollard had a high spending life, and was well known in the Sydney pop world.

Inspector Dellanis said Ollard had prior convictions in New Zealand and Ballina, NSW.

He offered police protection to anybody who had information about the syndicate.

Claims that information from a Federal Bureau of Narcotics computer was leaked to a drug syndicate has led to an inquiry by the head of the Victoria Police Crime Department, Assistant Commissioner Rod Hall.

The Wilsons were reported to have first told police about the leak 12 months ago.

The inquiry was announced by the Minister for Customs and Excise, Mr. Fife.

The head of the Narcotics Bureau, Mr. Harvey Bates, resigned after the Government announced the inquiry, but later withdrew his resignation after talks with Mr. Fife.

Police have also linked the syndicate with the murder of a man at Port Macquarie.

### New Zealand a 'Stepping Stone'

Melbourne THE AGE in English 13 Jun 79 p 15

[Text]

By LINDSAY MURDOCH

Senior Victorian police blame inaction by the Australian and New Zealand Governments for the "Kiwi connection" in the local drug scene.

They say tighter customs checks should be made.

The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr. MacKellar, and New Zealand's Immigration Minister, Mr. Bolger, met in Canberra in April and discussed the problem of criminals travelling freely across the Tasman.

Both were said to be aware of the need to monitor criminal movements, but decided against changing travel arrangements.

Couriers from multi-million dollar drug syndicates are using

New Zealand as a stepping stone to and from Australia.

A former narcotics agent said yesterday: "By entering Australia from New Zealand the drug couriers avoid the tighter surveillance checks on other international passengers and goods."

"From New Zealand travel is safer to and from South-East Asia where the drugs are tight."

"It is ridiculous. Criminals with long records can freely enter Australia."

Some of Victoria's senior police believe the freedom of travel between the two countries has allowed drug smuggling to mushroom. (Australians and New Zealanders do not need passports to cross the Tasman.)

Drug syndicates are known to be able to get false passports. But police say that a requirement for passports would at least

slow the travel of syndicate couriers.

New Zealand drug smugglers' involvement in Australia would not have surfaced had it not been for the discovery of the bodies of New Zealanders Douglas and Isabel Wilson in a grave at Rye on May 18.

It was not until the bodies were identified two days later that Melbourne homicide detectives learnt from New Zealand that another couple might have been murdered in Victoria.

Messages were sent across the Tasman about the disappearance in late 1977 of Gregory Paul Ollard and his fiance Julie Diane Theilman after a reported row in Melbourne with bosses of the syndicate blamed for murdering the Wilsons.

Ollard's sister, Mrs. Charmaine Hawira, told New Zealand police about fears for her brother 12 months ago. Despite threats, she has been prepared to speak publicly about the syndicate.

Mrs. Hawira's claims have been backed up by the Melbourne homicide squad.

Melbourne detectives have released drawings and descriptions of two men they want to question about the Wilson murders.

Detectives believe the same men are directly or indirectly involved with the disappearance of Ollard and Theilman.

Sources in New Zealand have been able to put names to the drawings.

The wife of one of the men has even told a New Zealand newspaper that she recognised her husband from one drawing.

He is a 30-year-old car salesman with a prison record. But his wife says she can prove he was in Auckland when the Wilsons were murdered.

The other man is 34 and has faced charges involving heroin. He was last seen in Auckland about two months ago, and is said to have had plastic surgery since.

Auckland sources say both men are now in Sydney.

Six gangs are said to be still operating in New Zealand, now the centre of South Pacific trafficking.

The leaders are ruthless professionals who now hold the respect of the Australian criminals they once feared.

Auckland detectives investigating the drug gangs have had their lives threatened.

"Contracts" have been put out on two drug squad men. Each contract is said to be worth \$50,000, and police protection has been provided for the officers and their families.

The syndicates are well armed and well organised.

One is alleged to have used a magazine publishing company as a "front" for its illicit activities. The magazine gave ample excuse for frequent overseas travel.

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AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND'S RECORD HEROIN HAUL MADE AT BRISBANE AIRPORT

Result of Undercover Work

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 15 Jun 79 p 1

[Text] A Brisbane Drug Squad detective worked undercover for 12 months to crack a gang which may have smuggled more than \$1 million worth of heroin into Queensland.

Seven Brisbane people were detained and questioned about the gang's activities after a man carrying 650 grams of heroin was arrested at Eagle Farm airport yesterday morning.

When broken down it would have had street value between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

The Drug Squad head (Inspector Terry Ferguson) said the heroin was number three rock grade (about 52 per cent pure heroin).

Inspector Ferguson said the drug ring may have used various runners to smuggle similar amounts of heroin into Brisbane in the last 12 months.

He said the ring apparently was one of the biggest operating in Queensland. Yesterday's haul was the largest heroin seizure in the State.

**Dossiers**

The Drug Squad began to close in on the gang about three months ago when its undercover agent provided dossiers on several people.

The squad believes two men left Brisbane last week and went to a South-East Asian country, where they bought heroin for between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The two men then went to Singapore where they boarded a Qantas flight to Darwin and Brisbane.

Federal Narcotics agents watched the aircraft land in Darwin yesterday and kept two men under surveillance.

The flight landed at Eagle Farm airport about 9.30 a.m.

Customs officers and Federal Narcotics agents approached two men and took them to a security room.

Inspector Ferguson said one of the men, in his mid-20s, had three small plastic bags taped to the inside of one of his legs.

The three bags contained 650 grams of heroin, Inspector Ferguson said.

The men were taken to Criminal Investigation Branch offices in Make-rston Street for questioning.

Late yesterday morning detectives raided several houses in Brisbane suburbs. They detained five people.

Inspector Ferguson said it was possible more people could be questioned.

Five men and two women are expected to appear in the Magistrate's Court this morning on 21 charges.

### Seven Suspects Arraigned

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 16-17 Jun 79 p 9

[Text] Seven people, including two women, appeared in Brisbane Magistrates Court on Friday on charges involving the alleged smuggling of heroin with a resale value estimated at \$500,000.

The 21 drug-related charges follow the arrest of two men at Brisbane International Airport on Thursday.

The defendants' ages range from 18 to 28.

In addition, one of the women is charged with false pretences in connection with a \$4000 loan from the Commonwealth Bank and one of the men is charged with rape.

They are: Paul Canham, 24, panel beater, of Greenslopes, Brisbane, four counts of dealing with import of a prohibited material and cultivation of a prohibited plant; John Robert Capper, 28, unemployed, four charges relating to importation and possession of drugs for sale; Roslyn Bright, 23, shop assistant, of Coopers Plains, four charges relating to possession, sale and import of drugs and one of false pretences; Stephen John Briskey, 28, laborer, of Rocklea, one charge related to import of narcotics and one charge of rape; Christopher Lotinga, 21, unemployed, of Bardon, three charges relating to import and possession of heroin; Janice May Quinn, 21, pensioner, of Sunnybank, two charges of possession and import of heroin; Christopher John Hunt, 18, apprentice hairdresser, of Spring Hill, one charge of conspiring to import heroin and two of possessing cannabis and utensils with which to smoke it.

Bail was refused on all charges and no pleas were taken.

The court was told it would be alleged that Roslyn Bright contributed \$5000 toward the purchase of heroin in South-East Asia.

She had borrowed \$4000 from the Commonwealth Bank at Woodridge, Brisbane, to buy a car but had paid Capper \$5000 to buy heroin.

It was alleged that Bright told police Capper induced her to apply for the loan and pay him \$5000.

Christopher Lotinga was described in court as Capper's courier. It was alleged that Customs officers at Brisbane Airport found bags of heroin fixed to his upper thighs.

The court was told Lotinga admitted having obtained the heroin from Capper in Penang and that he was to be paid \$8000 as courier.

Janice Quinn was to receive \$2000 for having introduced Lotinga to Capper after she declined to be courier.

It would be alleged that Hunt was to receive \$10,000 to \$20,000 as courier.

All other charges were remanded to the Brisbane Magistrates Court on June 29.

GSO: 5300



AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

**THEFT FROM PHARMACY**--A young man armed with a sawn-off shotgun menaced staff and stole drugs from a Coburg chemist shop last night. Three minutes before he struck, a police car had checked the shop, at the corner of Moreland Road and Nicholson Street. Police said the man fled north along Nicholson Street after taking the drugs in a green garbage bag. The hold-up was the second yesterday. A man escaped with \$170 from a service station in Fern Tree Gully Road, Mulgrave, about 1.15 a.m. Police believe the man had a gun hidden under a jumper when he walked in and demanded money. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Jun 79 p 3]

**HEROIN AND MORPHINE HAUL**--Heroin and morphine from a St. Kilda flat had a street value of more than \$253,000, Melbourne Magistrate's Court was told on Saturday. Federal narcotics agent Graeme Edward Newman, said he found 256.4 grams of morphine in a large plastic bag in a flat in Crimea Street. He said the morphine sold uncut and wholesale was valued at \$50,000 but cut the drugs were worth about \$250,000. Before the court was Helen Margaret Barnacle, single, a hairdresser of Crimea Street. She was charged with possessing morphine and heroin. Mr. G. Hoare, SM, refused bail. Mr. Newman said a further search of the flat revealed 19 grams of heroin in powder and capsule form hidden in a handbag. He said the heroin had a street value of \$3250. Mr. Newman said Barnacle's passport had been confiscated by the Narcotics Bureau because she had been overseas "two or three times." [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Jun 79 p 2]

**KILLING OVER HEROIN**--Sydney detectives believe a man who was savagely stabbed to death at Kings Cross on Wednesday night was killed in an argument over heroin. The murdered man, Hamed Hamdi, 30, was known to police from a conviction for possession of heroin in 1978. Homicide and Kings Cross detectives investigating the murder believe the two men were arguing over a heroin deal before the fight. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 15 Jun 79 p 3]

**ANTIDRUG FUND**--Mayne Nickless Limited will donate \$500,000 during the next five years for drug education for teenagers. A company director, Mr. Jack Ashby, said Mayne Nickless had decided to use one per cent of its pre-tax profit to combat the growing abuse of hard drugs in Australia. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 13 Jun 79 p 3]

FIVE HEROIN DEFENDANTS--Sydney.--Five men allegedly involved in the supply of heroin valued at \$2 million appeared on a new charge of conspiracy in Central Court yesterday. They were each charged with conspiring with each other and others to supply heroin between May 10, 1978 and May 10 this year. In previous court appearances the five men have been charged with a number of offences connected with the supply or possession of heroin. The men are Gerald Kron, 49, restaurant manager, of North Bondi, Nyen Vui Yong, 59, shipping company director, of Singapore, Stephen Charles Rice, 30, unemployed chef, of Centennial Park, Christopher Lance Mellanion, 41, company director, of McMahon's Point and Paul Robert McMurray, 27, manager, of Belmore. Opposing bail, police prosecutor Sergeant Noel Whalan said it was alleged that five kilograms of heroin was involved, with a street value of \$2 million. He said Mellanion was allegedly one of the principals involved in the importation of heroin. Sergeant Whalan said McMurray, Rice and Yong had allegedly admitted the offences in a police record of interview and it was alleged by police that Mellanion and Kron had made verbal admissions. Mr. Kevin Jones, SM, refused bail and remanded the five men to a special committal hearing on July 16. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 14 Jun 79 p 12]

IMPORTATION OF CANNABIS OIL--A truck driver allegedly imported about \$500,000 worth of cannabis oil into Perth on Saturday, the East Perth Court was told yesterday. Mr S. O'Sullivan, prosecuting alleged that the oil weighed between two and three kilos. Riad Hussein Taha (30), of Punchbowl, New South Wales, and Elia Fraj (34), unemployed, of Ashfield, New South Wales, were remanded in custody till June 20 after bail was opposed. Mr O'Sullivan said he believed that both men were not residents of Australia and would be great bail risks. Mr T. Mitchell, for the men, said that Taha had been living in Australia for about 10 years and Faraj had come to WA from New South Wales. Both are charged with possessing cannabis oil at Perth on Saturday. Taha is also charged with importing cannabis oil at Perth on Saturday and reckless driving at Merredin on March 10. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Jun 79 p 20]

HYDROPONIC MARIHUANA FARM--Queensland drug farmers are turning to science for a quicker turnover and higher profits. Wynnum detectives recently seized what is thought to be the first hydroponic marihuana "farm" discovered in Australia. Detectives seized 13 elaborate hydroponic units, 150 plants and trays of seedlings from the verandah of a house at Cleveland. As a result of the raid two people will appear in court. Detectives said that each plant, when fully grown could yield up to \$900 worth of the drug. The units, each about three metres long, were made of two lengths of plastic irrigation tubing. The larger tube was cut open and filled with volcanic gravel. The smaller was sealed at each end and filled with water and minerals. The pipes were joined by lengths of plastic tubing. Small aquarium pumps and automatic timers carried water to the pipes containing the plants. [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 12 Jun 79 p 3]

CSO: 5300

BURMA

CLAMP DOWN ON DRUGS PRESSED

Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 16 Jul 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Mandalay, 12 Jul--In a crackdown on narcotic drugs abuse and vice and criminal activities in the squatters' wards on the banks of Irrawaddy between Mandalay and Patheingyi Townships, a police party seized heroin valued at more than K 10,000 and rounded up seven women and ten men this morning.

Police officials from Mandalay Division People's Police Force and Patheingyi Township People's Police Force together with Ward People's Councilors raided some houses in Kyaukhabeik and wards near Daungmin Saw Mill and seized heroin, hypodermic syringes and illicit liquor.

Thirty-one penicillin vials containing heroin solution worth more than K 700 were seized from the house of Daw Mya Nyunt, Kyaukhabeik Ward, an aerated-water bottle containing heroin solution from the house of U Kyai Ni, 29 packets of heroin each worth K10 from the house of U Kan Thar, a hypodermic syringe from the house of Daw Su and a hypodermic syringe from the house of Daw Hla of the same ward.

Police are taking action under Sections 6(b) (possession), 10(b) (sale) and II (abetment in the offence) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

Police arrested Kyaw Kyaw and Tun Kyi who were found at the house of U Kyai Ni; Tun Paing and La Mary from the house of Daw Mya Nyunt; Hnin Maung, Tin Aung and Win Maung from the house of U Kan Tha and action was taken against these people under Section 6(b) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

Tin Pe, Tin Win, Ma San Hmi, Ma Maw Kyi and Ma Gwet Htaw who were found taking heroin at these houses were also arrested and action was taken against them under Section 14(d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

In addition, five bottles of illicit country spirit were seized from the house of Daw Than May and police are taking action against her under Section 30(a) of the Excise Act.

Only a few days ago police raided some houses in Kyaukhabeik Ward and rounded up 21 drug peddlers and 11 drug addicts and seized more than K 800 worth of heroin.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

BROWN HEROIN SEIZED IN MONG HPAYAK--On 8 July, Customs officials in Mong Hpayak stopped and searched jeep No B-2033, traveling from Kent Tung to Tachilek. They found 13 packages of brown heroin, weighing 12.7 kilograms and worth over 200,000 kyat, hidden inside the bedroll of driver (Maung Kyaw Sein). The driver, (Maung Kyaw Sein), and owners of the heroin, (U Kyi Tha) and (Ma Ah Ma) of Keng Tung, were arrested and charged by the people's police force in Mong Hpayak. [Text] [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Jul 79 BK]

TWO YOUTHS IMPRISONED--Rangoon, 11 Jul--Pabedan Township Court No (2) today sentenced two youths to six years' imprisonment each on one count and 18-month term each on another count, on conviction of offences under the Narcotic Drugs Law and ordered the sentences to be served concurrently. The case was that on 22 March 1978, Pabedan police led by Sub-Inspector U Kan Myint searched two youths in front of Workers Aslasyon Office in Shwe Bontha Street. They seized a penicillin bottle containing heroin, 10 packets of heroin with a street value of K 10 each and a hypodermic syringe from them. The two, Nay Win Shwe alias Mahmed of 32nd Street, Pabedan, and Aung Khin alias Ali of Kandawalay Dhobi Lane, Mingalataungnyunt, were arrested and booked under Sections 6(b) (possession), 10(b) (sale), II (abetment) and 14 (d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and sent up for trial before the Pabedan Township Court. The Pabedan Township Court No (2) was chaired by U Tha Oo with U San Myint and U Maung Sein as members. (300) [Text] [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 13 Jul 79 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUG CARRIER GIVEN FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Jul 79 p 12

[Text] A businessman, said to have been tempted into carrying dangerous drugs from Bangkok after losing all hope of future financial assistance following the death of his father, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the High Court yesterday.

Leung Kin-kwok (39) brought to Hongkong on December 16 1,818.5 grams of a mixture containing 1,130.1 grams of heroin when he returned from Bangkok.

The drugs, which were worth \$500,000, were concealed in the lining of two cartons containing fish maw.

Leung denied a charge of possession of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking when he first appeared before Mr Justice Baber on Monday and a jury was empanelled to try him.

However, Leung reversed his plea yesterday and pleaded guilty.

His counsel, Mr Patrick Yu, said in mitigation that Leung came from a respectable family.

His father, who was a well-known doctor, had given him financial assistance on more than one occasion to help him in business. But the business failed.

When his father died last year Leung was at a loss as to what to do.

And without hope of any future financial assistance, he was tempted to commit the offence on the promise that some benefits would be given to him after the event.

In fact he had nothing to do with drugs himself, counsel added.

Crown counsel Jonathan Daw conceded that Leung's degree of involvement was as a carrier and not as an owner making profits from the sale of the drugs.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Baber said Leung had allowed himself to be used with some expectation of benefits.

The quantity of heroin involved was very large but he took into consideration Leung's plea of guilty.

Mr Yu was instructed by K.K. and Winston Chu and Co.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

NARCOTICS BUREAU AND CUSTOMS SERVICE JOIN EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLING

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 14 Jul 79 p 9

[Text]

The Narcotics Bureau and the Customs and Excise Service have set up a joint intelligence unit which will begin operations at Kai Tak airport from Monday.

Its main function will be to gather information on drug traffickers, and the methods used by couriers and people who ship drugs by air to Hongkong.

The formation of the unit is a result of long term planning. It consists of two teams of police and customs officers, which will be under the direct command of the Customs and Excise Service.

Chief Superintendent Malcolm Farnham of the Narcotics Bureau, said yesterday that similar joint operations had been conducted in the past, but this is the first permanent joint unit set up to conduct operations at the airport.

The main aim in having such a unit is to combine the expertise and effectiveness of both services.

Supt Farnham pointed out that there has been a definite

drop in drug smuggling recently; and as less drugs are being smuggled in by sea, there is a need for a closer watch at the airport.

He said the drop is also attributable to the poor crop harvest in the Golden Triangle and increased efforts made by the Bangkok authorities to stem the flow of drugs.

He said there had been a number of high level meetings held recently between the Thais and the Burmese and although it is not known what was discussed, there had been positive results since.

Supt Farnham noted that all this has brought about an acute shortage of drugs on the retail market here, pushing the prices up.

He said since the beginning of last month, there had been an increase of about 1,000 addicts seeking treatment at the methadone centres — an increase of 18 per cent.

Senior Superintendent Walter Neil of the Customs and Excise Service said the setting up of the joint intelligence unit at Kai Tak is not a

result of the recent arrest of a Customs and Excise inspector suspected of being a member of a drugs smuggling syndicate.

He said plans to set up the unit were made long before.

Supt Neil said the unit will be mainly concerned with gathering information, although it will conduct operations wherever and whenever the occasion arises.

He believes that there are several small syndicates operating at the airport as opposed to one large one.

He said seizures are of secondary importance to the unit as its main concern would be to root out key personalities involved in the illicit trafficking of drugs.

He pointed out that once the personalities are arrested the syndicates will be easy to crack.

So far this year customs officers have arrested nine couriers and seized a total of three kilos of opium, one kilo of cannabis, and half a kilo of heroin paste.

GSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DANGEROUS DRUGS BILL DESIGNED TO AID DRUG OFFENDERS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Jul 79 p 11

[Text]

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill, which could have an effect on minor drug offenders, was introduced into the Legislative Council yesterday.

The Bill, if adopted, will make it mandatory for courts to obtain a drug addiction treatment centre suitability report on minor drug offenders when a custodial sentence is intended.

The Secretary for Security, Mr Lewis Davies, said that before an offender is sent to an addiction treatment centre the court is first required to consider a report from the Commissioner of Prisons on the person's suitability for cure and rehabilitation against the availability of a place.

However, there was no such provision under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance prior to a minor drug offender being sent to prison.

There are generally two types of sentence which a court can impose on a minor drug offender, Mr Davies said.

The first is non-custodial, such as a fine or probation order.

The second is custodial to either a prison as per the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance or to a drug addiction treatment centre as per the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance.

About 20 to 25 per cent of all people sent to prison since 1977 were imprisoned under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, which relates generally to possession of drugs or related equipment, Mr Davies said.

"Many of these people can probably be better dealt with at a drug addiction treatment centre than at a prison where there is no specialised treatment available.

"The amendment has been proposed to allow this course to be followed and to at least obtain a report on a drug offender.

"Therefore a court, after considering a suitability report, will be able to either send an offender to a treatment centre or prison depending on the circumstances and nature of each case."

CSO: 5300



HONG KONG

BRIEFS

DEADLOCKED JURY IN RETRIAL--After 6½ hours' deliberation a jury in the High Court yesterday failed to reach agreement in the re-trial of Lee Chun-kwai (30) on charges of manufacturing and possessing for unlawful trafficking drugs worth \$2 million. The Court of Appeal had ordered a second trial for Lee because of misdirection of the jury in the original trial. Mr Justice Baber yesterday ordered that Lee be remanded in custody until the Attorney-General decides whether to take further proceedings. Evidence was given during the trial that Lee was arrested by police as he was in the act of climbing to the roof of a 25-storey building. Police found equipment for manufacturing heroin and 20 kilos of heroin mixture inside the flat from which Lee was escaping. Crown counsel Bernard Ryan prosecuted and Miss Filan Chua defended Lee. [Text] Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 13 Jul 79 p 13]

COUPLE CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING--A middle-aged couple appeared in Kun Tong Court yesterday jointly charged with trafficking in dangerous drugs worth about \$200,000. Lam Shu-po (42) and his wife Chow Wai-ling (31) are accused of possession of about 4 lbs of No 3 heroin at a Yuet Wah Street flat on Friday for the purpose of unlawful trafficking. The prosecution asked for a four-day remand pending further police inquiries and a chemical report on the drugs. No plea was taken. Mr G.C. Byrne remanded the case until next Tuesday and set bail at \$15,000 each. Lam and Chow had to surrender their travel documents and must report daily to a police station. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Jul 79 p 7]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

## DEA INFORMER TESTIFIES AT DRUG TRIAL

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 May 79 p 11

[Text]

KLANG, Mon. — The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) paid a certain sum to company manager Christof Gerard Marx, 59, to provide information on the plan by a Malaysian drug syndicate to smuggle 15lb of brown heroin to Amsterdam, the Sessions Court was told today.

Mr Marx said reluctantly the money to cover his expenses was "in the medium bracket" when he was cross-examined by defence counsel Sidney Augustine.

Mr Marx also said the DEA also gave him US\$500 for expenses and of this, US\$100 was passed over to Mokhtar bin Minin while he was establishing contacts with the drug syndicate.

Besides this money, Mr Marx said he also received \$2,000 for expenses from the syndicate.

Mr Marx was testifying at the joint trial of Teo Kim Bee, 32, Ibrahim Ahmad, 38, and Mokhtar Minin, 39, who are charged with drug trafficking.

Teo is alleged to have packed 676 grams of heroin at a house at the 9½ mile Jalan Raya Guar Chempedak in Kedah on behalf of Ibrahim around Aug. 4 1977.

Ibrahim is alleged to have trafficked in the drug at Hotel Jayapuri in Petaling Jaya on Aug. 9 the same year.

Mokhtar is alleged to have bought two return air tickets for himself and another man to take the heroin from Kuala Lumpur to Amsterdam.

Questioned by Mr Augustine, Mr Marx said he told Mokhtar and Ibrahim Mr William Joseph Seaser was a US anti-narcotics agent before he introduced him as Bill to them in a coffeehouse in Kuala Lumpur in May 1977.

Mr Marx said he told Seaser, Mokhtar and Ibrahim would have access to narcotics and Seaser then pretended to discuss the matter with Mokhtar and Ibrahim.

He said Seaser then told Mokhtar he expected to get a first class ticket, travel expenses and insisted on 50 per cent payment to enable him to engage counsel if he was caught.

"Mokhtar did not make any commitment," Mr Marx added.

Asked whether Mokhtar and Ibrahim would be so foolish as to discuss a narcotic deal with Mr Seaser, knowing him to be an anti-narcotic agent, Mr Marx replied, "All the time I was under the impression Mokhtar and Ibrahim were working on

the right side of the law."

"I would never have believed they would join the syndicate."

Questioned by Mr Augustine, Mr Marx said he was neither a DEA agent nor an informer for the Malaysian police, but he added, "I have been working with the DEA for a long time."

Mr Marx said he was not pleased with Mokhtar's suggestion later that he, instead of Seaser, be the heroin courier. When he queried, Mokhtar told him Seaser was too young, he said, but he felt this was not the reason.

Mr Marx said he told Mr Michael Powers, another DEA agent, he would receive the heroin in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 9 and take it to Amsterdam the same day.

He took a flight to Singapore on Aug. 9 with the air-tickets Mokhtar gave him the day before.

From Singapore, Mr Marx said he took a flight to Bangkok where he had since been domiciled.

He said, acting on Mr Powers' instructions, he later tried to get a refund for the unused sector of his air ticket in Bangkok.

Questioned by Mr Augustine, Mr Marx said he did not lure Mokhtar and

Ibrahim into the narcotics deal. He did not inform the Malaysian police because he had no contact and he did not report to the West German embassy because they did not have a drug enforcement agency.

Mr Marx said he was first approached by a DEA agent in Bangkok to give evidence here last December, but he had then refused.

Asked why he had finally decided to give evidence, he said: "I have been more than invited to come here. They (the DEA agents) had been bothering my office 10 to 15 times and they said I would be subpoenaed by the court here."

"This is the first time I am giving evidence in a Malaysian court and I had agreed to come here because I was told I would have no problems."

Mr Marx also told the court he was an advisor to Loatian royal family from early 1975. He subsequently worked for a Swiss consulting firm in Thailand before he became the manager of an Italian company dealing in essential oils in Bangkok.

The hearing continues.

CSO: 5300

18

MALAYSIA

NARCOTIC RIVER FLOWS THROUGH MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jun 79 p 28

[Text]

**KUALA LUMPUR.** — Malaysia forms part of a "narcotic river" which originates in the Golden Triangle in the north and flows down to the Indian Ocean and the South-China Sea, Home Affairs Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie said today.

He said this "narcotic river" was growing in momentum and Malaysia is unable to stem the flow on her own.

"Whatever flows out of Malaysia into these oceans will affect various other nations," he added.

He urged participants of the Commonwealth Working Group of the Asian and Pacific Regions on Illicit Drugs here, to join Malaysia in stemming this flow.

He said failure to stem the flow would result in economic, social and political instability in the region.

Tan Sri Ghazali said it was imperative that illicit drug flow be curbed, and for this reason the Anti-

Narcotic Unit is to be upgraded to form a Narcotics Division within the Police Department.

"By this move I hope to develop a strong enforcement unit," he added.

The Minister also called for a uniform regional or international law covering the confiscation of property and assets of major drug traffickers.

He said that unless this was adopted, the problem of effective control would remain.

"This is primarily because of the numerous disparities in standards regarding the dispensation of justice to drug traffickers.

"Only harsh punitive measures will have the desired effect of reducing the number of people involved in this cruel and inhuman game," he said.

**Rehabilitation**

The Minister said although the confiscation of property would raise the eyebrows of civil liberties advocates, the price was not too high if it ensured the physical and mental health of the young.

"What I am really asking is whether you are prepared to let your child be a zombie," he added.

On the question of rehabilitation of drug addicts, the Minister said it was a complex and difficult task as it involved the psychological re-motivation of the individual.

He said rehabilitation should not merely focus on strengthening the addict physically, but also psychologically to enable him to return to society.

"Until we achieve this we will continue to find the rehabilitated person relapsing to the use of drugs."

He said rehabilitation

should include vocational training as "a vast majority of rehabilitated people have returned to drugs as a result of their inability to find secure jobs."

In the area of education and information, he said there was a need to invoke a feeling of antipathy and revulsion into society towards narcotics.

**'Intelligent'**

He added, however, that such a programme was difficult in the face of "myth information" and information which was counter-productive.

He said many programmes against drugs contained factual and conceptual errors.

"It is time our professionals in this area realise that they are not dealing with an illiterate group of young people. The youth of today are highly intelligent and possess a capacity to perceive and differentiate the truth from the honest lie," he said.

In declaring the conference closed, Tan Sri Ghazali said the National Action Unit on Drug Abuse Control would co-operate with neighbouring countries to control the use of narcotic drugs.

Earlier today the Minister met the UN Narcotics Bureau Director, Dr George Ling, to discuss UN anti-drug programmes and assistance to Malaysia.

Dr Ling was an observer at the conference.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

MILLION DOLLAR HEROIN SEIZURE AT FERRY TERMINAL

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Jul 79 p 1 BK

[Article by Manan Osman]

[Text] Butterworth, Tues--Police recovered two pounds of heroin at the ferry terminal here yesterday. A man was detained.

The heroin, which is capable of producing over 190,000 "shots," is estimated to cost more than \$1 million in the black market.

The OCPD here, Deputy Supt. Tuffile Nawab Din, said today the incident took place at about 4.35 p.m. when the police who were manning the roadblock at the ferry terminal, checked motor-cyclists who were coming out from the ferry.

He said two men on a motorcycle approached the roadblock.

Short Chase

On seeing the road-block, the men stopped their motorcycle and tried to escape, but was spotted by an area security unit officer who was also on duty.

The area security unit officer than ordered the two police corporals manning the road-block to give chase.

One of the suspects was caught after a short chase, while the other escaped towards Jalan Bagan Luar.

Police recovered a "James Bond" bag containing two pounds of heroin from the suspect.

According to DSP Tuffile, the suspect, aged 29, was an icecream seller from Lunas in Kulim.

Two days ago, two detectives arrested two men and recovered 14 small packets of heroin in Jalan Raja Uda here.

MALAYSIA

NARCOTICS ARRESTS, TRIALS, SENTENCES REPORTED

Arrests in Apartment Complex

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 16 Jun 79 p 2

[Excerpts]

KUCHING. — Undercover detectives have been mixing with drug addicts in a block of flats in Kuching in an attempt to track down traffickers.

The Dalat Flats in Ban Hock Road are where a 20-year-old Chinese girl drug addict jumped to her death recently leaving a note warning young people to stay away from drugs.

Kuching police said they have suspected the six blocks of flats have

been used as a centre where addicts could buy drugs.

Over the past few months half-a-dozen addicts have been rounded up and drugs taken from them.

And earlier this month detectives moved into the area to keep a close watch on the occupants and visitors to the seven-storey blocks of flats.

Following the girl's death leap from a fifth floor flat, police rounded up several people for

questioning—most were released but some are still helping police with their inquiries.

The police have promised to carry out more raids in the Ban Hock Road and Central Road district in the future.

Residents of the flats claim addicts have been using the building for a long time, going to the top floor at all hours of the day and night to take drugs or to visit pushers.

And, in some cases,

desperate addicts have extorted money from residents to enable them to buy drugs.

The First Division's police chief, Mr Vincent Khoo, said many of the addicts were residents in the flats, many were teenagers but a few were in their early 20s.

Mr Khoo said he was convinced the number of drug addicts in Kuching was on the increase and the trend was for more and more teenagers to fall prey to drug traffickers.

Heroin Trial

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 May 79 p 15

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Two men and a woman went on trial today on charges of possession and trafficking in heroin.

Tan Chin Chea, 33, is charged with possessing 18 plastic packets containing 94.19 grammes of heroin at a house in Jalan Midah Tengah, Taman Midah, at about 10 a.m. on Jan. 19.

Tan Han Kwong, 30, and Loh Pak Chee, 27, (female) are jointly charged with trafficking 159.65 grammes of heroin at the same time and place.

A government chemist, Mr. Lau

Cheng Siew, testified that he was given a total of 18 small packets and two big packets containing a light brownish substance to analyse.

The 18 plastic packets, which contained 185.99 grammes of the brownish substance, were found to contain 94.19 grammes of heroin.

The two plastic bags, which contained a total of 372.76 grammes of the brownish substance, were found to contain 159.65 of heroin.

The hearing continues.

### Total Drug Arrests

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Jun 79 p 4

[Text]

**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.** — A total of 89 people have been sentenced to life imprisonment and three, sentenced to death since the law allowing such sentences was enforced, Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Datuk Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, said today.

Replying to Enock Hashim Endut (NF-Ulu Muda), the Deputy Minister said 1,408 drug pushers had been arrested under the Dangerous Drug Ordinance since 1976.

Under the Emergency Act, he added, 196 had been arrested in 1976, 265 in 1977; 281 in 1978, and 49 up to April this year.

The Home Affairs Minister, he added, was developing a two-pronged strategy to overcome the problem. Its first objective is to eradicate the desire for drugs through education and the dissemination of information, and the second part of the strategy would concentrate on the eradication through the strict enforcement of the law.

### Trafficking Sentence

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Jun 79 p 6

[Excerpt]

**ALOR STAR, Wed.** — A padi-planter was sentenced by the High Court here today to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of trafficking in 3,093 grams of morphine.

Lebal Salleh bin Saad, 66, received another sentence of five years after he was found guilty of being in possession of 19,364 grams of raw opium. He committed the offences at Kampung Tengah, Kolang, on Oct. 11, 1976, at about 7 a.m.

Justice Datuk Syed Agil Barakbah ordered the sentences to run concurrently with effect from the date of arrest on Oct. 11, 1976.

### Involvement of Government Employees

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jun 79 p 8

[Text]

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.** — A total of 157 government servants were found to be involved in drug activities last year and 117 up to May this year, the Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Tan Sri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, has said.

Replying to Mr. Lee Lam Thye (DAP-Kuala Lumpur Bandar) he said government officers who were addicts were given until Jan. 1, 1977, to seek treatment, as stipulated under a Public Services Department circular dated Septem-

ber 1976.

Disciplinary action, including dismissal, was taken on those who were involved in drug activities after that date, he said.

In reply to a supplementary question by Hajj Nik Abdul Aziz (PAS-Pengkalan Chepa), Tan Sri Syed Ahmad said the figures he gave included personnel in the police and armed forces.

The Deputy Minister said the Government had no intention of setting up anti-narcotic units in government departments as suggested by Mr. Lee.

### Heroin Arrests

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Jun 79 p 28

[Excerpt]

**JOHORE BARU, Sun.** — Narcotics officers seized 21 packets of heroin in a raid on a house at Kampung Kebun Teh yesterday.

Four people, including a 24-year-old woman, who were in a room where the drug was found, have been detained for questioning.

The Narcotics Bureau chief for the southern region, ASP Wan Mohamed bin Wan Dollah, said today that one of the three men detained is believed to be a trafficker.

He said that the packets, weighing about 14 grams each, were found on the floor of the room.

ASP Wan Mohamed declined to say how much the drugs were worth on the black mar-

ket, but it is believed the heroin could provide about 67,000 shots.

He said that Narcotics Bureau officers, acting on a tip-off, raided the house at about 2.45 p.m.

"Apart from the 21 packets, we also seized one long straw and three short straws of the drug," he said.

The drug, sealed in transparent plastic bags, is believed to have been ready for distribution.

In another case, bureau officers arrested a man opposite the taxi stand in Jalan Station and seized five packets of heroin. The drugs were found in one of the man's boots.

### Heroin Sentences

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Jun 79 p 11

[Excerpt]

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — A man and his second wife were today sentenced by the Sessions Court to three years' jail each when they were found guilty of possessing drugs.

Khoo Siew Bee, 29, and his wife, Lim Beng Hup, 24, were jointly charged with having nine plastic packets containing 48.31 gm of heroin.

Khoo was also ordered to receive six strokes of the rotan.

Earlier, Insp. Wan Kok Chul said on Aug 9, 1977, at about 5.45 p.m., he and several

police officers raided a house in Jalan Padang Walter Greiner after getting a tip-off.

Khoo opened the door, he said.

"After I had identified myself, Khoo told me that he had rented the house and then took me to his bedroom where I saw Lim seated on a bed," Insp. Wan said.

Insp. Wan said he searched the room and found a plastic bag from a shelf.

"In the bag was a small parcel wrapped in newspaper, and in it, I found nine plastic packets, a scale, and a bundle of empty plastic bags. I also

found \$1,850 in Khoo's pocket," he said.

Khoo, in his defence, denied any knowledge of the heroin.

He said on the day before the incident, he and Lim, had just arrived from Alor Star.

Lim, who is from Alor Star, denied being in the bedroom at the time of the raid.

### Life Sentence

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Jun 79 p 5

[Text]

**IPOH, Tues.** — A soldier was today sentenced by the Sessions Court to life imprisonment and ordered to be given six strokes of the rotan after he was found guilty of trafficking in drugs.

Lance Corporal Ahmad bin Sukir, 36, was also fined \$10,000 or six months' jail for carrying uncustomed goods.

L/Cpl. Ahmad who was with the 14th Royal Malay Regiment camp, Kroh at the time of the offence, burst into tears when sentence was pronounced.

He was charged with trafficking in 9,792 grammes of cannabis in a commando armoured car at the regimental

camp at about 3.45 p.m. on Nov. 30, 1977.

He was also charged with conveying 600 lbs. of saccharine valued at \$9,000 in the same vehicle at the same place and time.

Three other soldiers — Kernail Singh, 29, Shukor bin Mohamed Yusoff, 32, and Jamaluddin bin Mohamed Isa, 26, who were jointly charged with Ahmad were acquitted and discharged without their defence being called earlier this month.

Earlier, DPP J.L. O'Hara submitted that, Ahmad, in his defence, had tried to make the court believe that the goods were rice meant for an officer, Lt. Abdul Rahim, and that

Kernail Singh was delivering them to the officer.

"Ahmad was shifting the blame to Kernail Singh and his version was highly improbable," said the DPP.

Mr. O'Hara said that as commander of the car that day, Ahmad had permitted it to be driven by Kernail Singh and leave the camp with a civilian, which he knew was against the regulations.

Defence counsel Mr. Chee Weng Weng said the cautioned statements by Shukor and Jamaluddin were inadmissible and could not be used as evidence against Ahmad.

He submitted that his client was never in effective and complete control of the goods.



Opium Arrest

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Jun 79 p 10

[Text]

**KLANG, Wed.** — Police have detained a suspected drug trafficker and seized five pounds of opium worth about \$5,000 after a two-mile chase along Jalan Telok Gadong, here.

The drama happened at 8 p.m. on Monday when traffic policeman Pritam Singh spotted a man driving a car without any road tax disc at Simpang Tujuh.

He gave chase on his motor-cycle but failed to stop the car which turned into Palm Grove Garden.

There the man abandoned the car and fled with two packets.

**Packets**

PC Pritam Singh asked for help from a passing patrol car, and the chase continued on foot.

During the 400-yard chase, the man threw away the packets which were later found to contain opium. He was then captured.

Insp. Alias bin Sam and a police party arrived later at the scene. After questioning the suspect, he found two pellets of opium and a pellet of heroin on him.

The car, which bore Johore registration number plates, is believed to be stolen.

Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk P. Alagendra said: "We also believe the opium was for distribution in Klang and Port Klang areas."

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

SOME 38,000 DRUG ABUSERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 19 Jun 79 p 18

[Text]

THERE is sufficient evidence to indicate that the problem of drug abuse is worsening and causing adverse repercussions in relation to health care services, education, social behaviour, criminality, law enforcement and deterioration of family and community life.

Statistics at the end of last year showed that there were as many as 38,000 drug abusers in Malaysia. Of this number approximately 90 per cent were males under the age of 30 years.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said

the seriousness of the problem would be better understood if it is realised that 11.2 per cent of Peninsular Malaysia's population is made up of males between the ages of 18 and 30 years.

From the statistics it was evident that the persons at risk were the youth who represented the most valuable resource of the country.

Dr Mahathir added that "on the basis of 38,000 identified drug abusers, depending on the scale of visual index adopted, the total population involved in drug abuse may be in the order of 250,000 to 380,000 people."

Dr Mahathir speaking at the opening of the working group of Commonwealth nations in the Asian and Pacific Region on illicit drugs yesterday said the national enforcement agencies had responded tremendously to curb the trafficking of illicit drugs in the country.

He said: "Malaysia by virtue of its geographical position is faced with an extremely serious

problem of the trafficking of illicit drugs."

He pointed out that between 1970 and 1978, 11,721 kg of opium, 470,434 kg of morphine, 420,587 kg of heroin and 9,000 kg of dry cannabis as well as over 216,000 cannabis plants together with 160,000 psychotropic tablets have been seized.

He said that while the figures established the fact that Malaysia was being used as a transit route for the trafficking of illicit drugs it was also becoming increasingly available to users within the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that in view of the dynamics of the problem no nation could afford to sit by the sidelines and "blissfully disregard the sufferings of its neighbours who are afflicted by this cruel disease."

He said that it was essential to formulate a regional response in order to control the drug menace. This was especially so as the problem recognises no geographic or political boundaries.

CSO: 5300

PHILIPPINES

HARD DRUGS NOT AVAILABLE IN PHILIPPINES

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jun 79 p 8

[Text] **KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.** — Hard drugs are not a problem in the Philippines.

The chief of the neuro-psychiatric services of the National Bureau of Investigation in the Philippines, Dr. Romeo Y. Tating, said, this is because "drugs such as heroin and morphine are not available in the Philippines."

"Our addicts turn to substitutes such as cough syrup, tranquilisers and to glue sniffing."

Dr. Tating said the Philippines was only a transit point for heroin and other hard drugs which came from such places as Guam.

In an interview here yesterday Dr. Tating said the hard drug substitutes were freely available at the drug stores and this posed a problem for the authorities.

Presently the Philippines had about 8,000 drug addicts.

There was one government run centre and various other centres for drug rehabilitation run by voluntary organisations.

**Methods**

"Even though the nature of the drugs is different — in Malaysia's case heroin and morphine are involved — the Philippines can learn about Malaysia's methods of tackling the problem," added Dr. Tating.

Dr. Tating said he was impressed by the organised way in which Malaysia was tackling the problem.

He said that although drug abuse was a serious problem in his country, it was under control.

He said the question was not the nature of the drugs involved but to find out the reasons why they turn to drugs and to

tackle the problem from there.

"Relapses by rehabilitated addicts are common all over the world and the 80 per cent rate in Malaysia was not an isolated case," he added.

He said there were so many complex problems encountered by former drug addicts when they came out of rehabilitation centres.

He also said that his country's National Bureau of Investigation tackled problems ranging from smuggling and drugs to corruption. The bureau with its own agents comprising lawyers and certified accountants provided technical assistance to government and private agencies.

Dr. Tating, a psychiatrist, attended a workshop on drug rehabilitation held in Penang recently.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

ARREST MADE IN PROBE INTO \$100 MILLION HEROIN RING

Three-Country Swoop

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 27 Jul 79 p 4

[Article by Paul Palango]

[Text]

One Toronto-area man was arrested yesterday and another was being sought by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as part of a three-country swoop on suspects in a \$100-million heroin racket.

Fourteen men are charged with importing heroin into the United States. Eight of them were arrested yesterday in Canada, the United States and Italy.

The 14 were indicted by a federal grand jury in Buffalo, N.Y., on Wednesday. It found they were part of a drug ring which moved heroin from Italy through Canada to the United States between Jan. 1, 1968, and Dec. 31, 1976.

The shipments apparently arrived at Canadian ports hidden inside automobiles or pleasure ships. Stewardesses smuggled smaller amounts between major shipments.

Canadian warrants were issued by a County Court

judge early yesterday afternoon. Officers from the RCMP and Halton Regional Police arrested Bruno Pisani, 40, a Toronto businessman who lives on Gainsborough Drive in Oakville. He was seized at a shopping centre lot at Islington Avenue and The Queensway.

Mr. Pisani was held in custody last night pending arraignment before a County Court judge this morning. A representative for the U. S. Attorney was expected to oppose bail today and seek extradition at a later hearing.

The other man, who lives in Nobleton, could not be located by police yesterday, an RCMP spokesman said.

Each of the 14 suspects has been charged in the United States with conspiracy to violate U. S. narcotics laws; with unlawful importation of heroin into the United States; and with unlawful distribution of heroin in the United States.

The Buffalo grand jury has been investigating the

heroin traffic for more than two years.

The indictments stem from an investigation which started when a man described as a major drug dealer, Arthur Pickens, began co-operating with U. S. federal officials after his 1976 conviction on heroin charges.

Mr. Pickens now is a member of the federal witness protection program which guarantees his safety in return for his testimony.

The jury found that the illegal drug trade was centred in Rome and Naples, and that the drugs were channeled through France and Canada to the United States. The drugs were destined for markets in Buffalo, New York City, Washington, New Orleans and Detroit.

Among those arrested to date are: Thomas Evege, a Buffalo real estate broker, and Melzer Wilkins, an Amherst, N.Y., laborer. In New Orleans, police arrested Clifford Porche, a bail bondsman, and Alfred Gabriel, a laborer.

Extradition proceedings already have been started in Italy against three men arrested there in connection with the case, a source close to the investigation said.

RCMP Inspector Seth Ginther, head of the Toronto drug section, said in an interview yesterday that the RCMP had been conducting an investigation for the U. S. Attorney in Buffalo "over . . . quite a few years."

Among those indicted by the grand jury was Norman McCaud, 45, a former Toronto resident, who is believed

by the U. S. Attorney to be living in Tipperary, Ireland. The U. S. does not have an extradition treaty with Ireland.

Mr. McCaud was deported from the United States to Ireland in 1972.

While in Canada, Mr. McCaud spent many years in prison, where he studied the law. He earned much publicity in the Sixties and early Seventies for his ability and success at defending himself in court.

#### Bail Denied

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 31 Jul 79 p 4

[Text]

Two Metro men indicted in Buffalo for being part of an international multi-million dollar heroin conspiracy were denied bail in an Ontario court yesterday.

In denying bail for Bruno Pisani, 40, of Oakville, and Gordon Duncan Coe, 38, of Nobleton, County Court Judge Edward Wren said he was not convinced the men were good risks to appear in court when required.

Federal Crown attorney Heather Smith opposed the bail application, saying that the indictment said the drug conspiracy was "an operation of enormous proportions" involving hundreds of kilos of 94 per cent pure

heroin with an estimated value of \$330-million.

Mr. Pisani was arrested at a shopping centre last Thursday and Mr. Coe surrendered to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police later that evening.

They were among 14 men indicted by a U.S. grand jury on Wednesday. The indictment says they were part of a ring moving large amounts of heroin from Italy through Canada to the United States between Jan. 1, 1968, and Dec. 31, 1976.

Toronto lawyer David Humphrey argued that neither man had tried to flee after the grand jury returned a true bill. The lawyer said it took about two

years to get enough information for an indictment "which makes you wonder how long it will be before the trial goes ahead."

Judge Wren noted the allegations in the indictment involve "a wide-ranging international conspiracy to traffic in heroin in extremely large quantities." The judge said that courts are traditionally reluctant to grant bail where extradition proceedings are likely to follow, because there is a treaty obligation to deliver the accused if the request for extradition is successful.

Mr. Pisani and Mr. Coe were remanded in custody to Aug. 8 for an extradition hearing.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

HEROIN PROGRAM CRITICIZED AS WASTE OF MONEY

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 19 Jul 79 p A8

[Article by Carol Volkart]

[Excerpt]

VICTORIA — Opposition members tore into the provincial government's heroin treatment program Wednesday, charging the Socreds with wasting \$9 million on an unworkable experiment while cutting back on needed hospital funding.

NDP health critic Dennis Coker said it proves Health Minister Bob McClelland is a "spendthrift when it comes to experiments but a skinflint when it comes to dealing with people's real needs."

Speaking during a rowdy debate on an Opposition motion of non-confidence in McClelland, Coker said the government is having trouble "scratching around" trying to find enough heroin addicts to fill the Brannan Lake treatment centre.

And he said that, with 320 staff members to take care of 104 patients, the centre has a patient-staff ratio that hospitals would envy.

Graham Lea (NDP-Prince Rupert) said there is no recognized scientific treatment for heroin addiction. He said the program amounts to "political chicanery" because it is aimed at making the public think something is being done about heroin addiction when, in fact, it will accomplish nothing.

The minister is taking advantage of the public's fears about drug addiction, which has to be "the low of low political trickery," he said.

Mounting a spirited defence, McClelland said that a total of 350 people have been processed through the centre so far.

The minister said the NDP have constantly opposed the program "but we have never heard any suggestions of a positive nature from those humanitarians on the other side of the house."

He said all the NDP has ever come up with is a policy of "benign neglect."

McClelland said that, even if the program was to cost \$20 million a year, it would be worth it to alleviate the suffering caused by the heroin trade. And he said that, even if it is only 30 or 40 per cent successful, "I'll consider it a great success."

"This is a five-year demonstration project, the most bold project of this sort in the world," he said.

The minister said that one of the first "graduates" of the program, whom he called Jerry, is expected to be back in the community and working again by the end of July.

He said Jerry, with a history of heroin and methadone addiction, entered the program voluntarily about three months ago and now says that, for the first time in 12 years, he is completely drug-free and intends to stay that way.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

BRIEFS

DRUG ROUNDUP STAGED--Campbell River--Police are rounding up 28 people in five B.C. communities following a three-month undercover drug investigation. Arrests on charges of trafficking in drugs began Thursday morning with about 10 suspects in custody by Thursday night. Warrants were issued for 17 suspects in Campbell River, seven in nearby Courtenay, one each in Gold River and Ucluelet and two in Powell River. Drugs purchased during the investigation included marijuana, hashish, LSD, MDA and cocaine. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 6 Jul 79 p A9]

CSO: 5320

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA SERIOUSLY HURTS ATLANTIC COAST ECONOMY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Jun 79 pp 1-B, 4-B

[Text] A study on the subject shows how much peak marihuana traffic has influenced the coast economy.

In 1976 construction in Santa Marta exhibited an obvious peak. From the 37 permits approved in 1975 for a total value of 23 million pesos, it went to 60 permits budgeted for 38 million. In 1 year the number of workers in this branch of production, who are members of the ISS [expansion unknown], went from 455 to 1,550. At the same time Guajira also exhibited notable urban development.

The phenomenon was also reflected in banking activity. Savings, which in 1968 amounted to 14 million accumulated by 121,000 account holders, in 1976 came to 185 million pesos, deposited by over 800,000 customers. The same thing happened with regular bank deposits involving coastal commercial sales and in the entire activity of the regional economy.

"The appearance of capital that surfaces as if by magic and has a major impact on the regional and local economies, and therefore on the social domain, directed our attention to the cultivation of marihuana, an activity said to provide the source for the accumulation of such capital."

With this simple explanation, the first serious study on the problem of marihuana, completed by two Magdalena University agricultural economy students, is introduced to us. The analysis, the product of investigations, trips and studies conducted in Magdalena and Guajira, is the dissertation which ex-President Lopez Michelsen has commented on, noting that "much has been written on this subject in recent years but almost all the data are second-hand, collected by transients who, along with TIME reporters, speak of the 'Colombia connection,' through hearsay. This study, with academic embellishments, is the result of fieldwork conducted by people who, living in the field, are not only providing us with first-hand data on the whole drug traffic but are giving us their point of view, the approach that ought to be common to the whole region, on the problem."

The conclusions reached in the Santa Marta university students' study are impressive:



#### Twice the National Budget

Colombia collects \$8 billion in taxes through the drug traffic (three times the national budget and twice the total income from coffee). In 1977, the year of the study, 60,000 hectares were planted and 90,000 Colombians cultivated them on the fringe of the law. The same plant, which grows to a height of from 1.5 to 2 meters, has raised all the coast's economic -- and crime -- indices. Any hired farmhand earns 400 pesos a day cultivating a field, while in Bogota it takes a worker a whole month to earn 3,450 pesos, which the marihuana sharecropper makes in 1 week.

Investment indices in the construction sector have risen by 61 percent. Bank and savings deposits have risen by 41 percent. Coastal commercial sales have zoomed and along with them food prices. There has been no one to work the cornfields and yucca farming has yielded to American canned goods. It is felt that the "Santa Marta Golden" was in part responsible for the 30-percent inflation recorded in 1976.

In 1977 the Bank of the Republic took in \$772.6 million, five times more than in 1972, through the "back door."

The regional and national economies have changed. The people have changed and it is feared, with reason enough, that even the face of the land is being changed in the fertile fields of the Sierra Nevada and the Caribbean coast, the chief fields for growing this drug that has also extended itself to cover vast regions in Colombia.

Betty and Frida, the authors of this dissertation, went through large parts of Magdalena and Guajira, spoke with villagers and farmers, found out how the drug is grown, harvested, concealed and exported and came to these conclusions: "The cultivation of marihuana is at peak development in this area," they say, "due to various factors, such as: the big U.S. demand, plus the region's favorable geographical conditions, plus the availability of farmhands as a result of unemployment, plus the lack of farm planning, plus the low standard of living of the farmers, plus administrative corruption."

It is felt that marihuana cultivation began after the start of this decade. The cultivation of the plant and trafficking in it has grown so rapidly that they constitute a reality which it is not only impossible for us to ignore, but which it is hard for us to face and find a solution to: "A reality that is trying to smother itself, or better yet, to wipe itself out with the \$400,000 the American Government sends in the face of a production worth about \$3 billion."

#### A Difficult Area

The students' dissertation begins by geographically identifying the area under study and the problem.

A U.S. Congress report notes that there are some 200 secret airstrips in the Guajira region. That figure could be true or false. The areas under cultivation — which require the setting up of airstrips to fly the product out — "are located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and in some flat regions of the coastal plain, camouflaged by vegetation native to the region or crops like corn, yucca and others. Here and there appear one, two, three, five, seven very well-tilled hectares. Encircled by and blending into the surrounding area we find larger fields under cultivation." Due to the nature of the area, marihuana requires very little: a bit of sunlight, water and wind.

According to the study, areas under cultivation are Panjamo, Rio Piedra, Guachaca, Cienaga, Rio Frio, Villanueva, Pajaro, Palmon, Paraguachon, Palomino and Mingueo, the last-named known as the marihuana capital.

The drug reached the coast and thrived, not only due to the exceptional nature of the soil. The land was further improved due to socioeconomic conditions. The population of the Sierra Nevada is composed of little nuclei of varied origins, many of them people from the interior who came to clear the forest, displaced by violence. They make a living by growing bananas, beans, corn, yucca and marihuana and by raising a few small herds of cattle. There is not much hope for industry or work: the coal mines of Cerrejon, the salt pits of Manaure and a few natural gas and oil wells. Smuggling was and is actually one of the chief activities of the region because of its proximity to the border.

It takes 8 months to grow marihuana, from planting to harvesting. Cultivation does not require any more care than that of any other farm product and the yield is what finally decided farmers to concentrate on it rather than on other crops and farm tasks or fishing. While coffee brings a profit of 12 percent, rice 10 percent and bananas 8 percent, marihuana produces one of 35 percent. The capital needed to begin growing it can be easily obtained.

The contractors themselves are ready to pay in advance and even to very generously provide money to cover the risk of imprisonment and losses of crops seized by the authorities.

#### Camouflaged Fields

The different stages in the cultivation of "cannabis sativa" begin with the start of the year. January and February are months dedicated to clearing and preparing the soil while, on the other hand, the seed beds are leveled. About April, May or June, depending on the rains, the 10-to-15-cm-high seedlings are transplanted to the fields. The usual pattern indicates that other crops are always planted along with the marihuana as camouflage. Corn and yucca with their long stalks allow the marihuana to pass unnoticed, even a very short distance away.

The planted fields require only weeding, fertilization with urea, the application of insecticides, generally methyl, parathion or DDT, cutting and finally harvesting or reaping.

Because of the secrecy involved, after that the drug has to go through another series of procedures before reaching the ship or plane that will carry it to the American consumer centers.

Fundamentally, Colombians participate in this first stage of production. Most of them are tenant farmers who are financed by the mafias that do the trafficking.

The marihuana plantations considerably deplete the soil and normally require crop rotation. However, this concern exists only for some of the "cannabis growers," those who have laid down roots in the region and who regard marihuana as a means of helping themselves. They are, for example, coffee growers who could never get loans to buy pulp-removing machines and who now with a single harvest have enough to buy them and other machines needed in their "legal" activities.

The other "grass growers" are those who think only of tomorrow's harvest and are, in general, the most troublesome. Since they do not devote much care to their activity, things often go badly for them. They cannot meet their delivery schedules and have to steal from their neighbors or attack some hiding place in order to save their own skins.

These harvest — or steal — their crops and leave: "Many residents of Riohacha relate how odd it was to watch these people standing in line in front of the Bank of the Republic in this town, waiting to exchange big sacks full of dollars and how, once they got their hands on the money, they would take off in their Rangers at high speed, drinking in the town and firing their guns for a month, in celebration of the harvest and in coronation of the shipment."

#### Drugged Prices

Marihuana prices depend on supply and demand. But in addition, other factors are important: quality, proximity to points of shipment, number of go-betweens, mode of payment (credit or cash), confidence in buyer or seller and whether or not the financial backer is directly involved in the risks incurred.

Be that as it may, prices are rising like "grass" smoke. At each stage of the operation, the figures multiply. Thus, while the grower may get between 100 and 250 pesos a pound (\$2.50 and \$6), the importer who receives the shipment in the United States may have to pay from \$70 to \$90 for 500 grams, a figure which is tripled when he puts it on the local market.

Prices go up in accordance with how hard the police are cracking down on the traffic.

To package and store marihuana, special plants are required and cleverly concealed "stashes" where the drug cannot be kept for more than 90 days.

When the time comes to bring it to the coast or secret airports, the kind of transport is vital. The typical Rangers of Guajira travel over many different roads. The mule, unrivaled for use on the trails that penetrate the Sierra, becomes a deluxe item which can yield as much as 2,000 pesos a day per shipment. If, in the course of the operation, there are fishermen who rent their boats out, they can earn between 15,000 and 40,000 pesos in one operation, depending on the size of it. There are boats that have carried from 40 to 80 tons of marihuana, just as there are planes that have carried as much as 30 tons of it. In those cases in which planes are used, fuel costs are high and a single landing and take-off may mean from 500,000 to 600,000 pesos.

#### Economic Impact

Guajira and Sierra Nevada farmers' high level of income is merely one of the indices of the extraordinary change the marihuana bonanza has meant to this region, and to the nation.

The dollars with which American traffickers and consumers pay for the supply of drugs have inundated the coastal region to the extent that the Bank of the Republic was forced to suspend the purchase of dollar bills in Riohacha and Maicao.

The bank's so-called "back door" -- which buys dollars with no questions asked -- took in \$165.9 million in foreign exchange in 1974; a year later that figure doubled; and in 1977 it amounted to \$772.6 million.

"It is undeniable," the study adds, "that the growing increase in construction in the departments of Magdalena and Guajira is attributable to the growing of and trafficking in marihuana. This is the only possible explanation, since no other economic sector commands the amount of capital used in this industry." In 1975 and 1976 alone, investment indices in this industry rose by 61 percent.

In the banks, without taking the Mortgage Bank into consideration, during the same period deposits increased by 41.3 percent. And savings, which in 1962 amounted to only 14.6 million pesos, in 1976 rose to 185.3 million.

The dissertation also investigated the big Santa Marta department stores, auditing their sales volumes. On the basis of a 1952 index of "100," it concludes that in 1960 sales totaled 255.4 points, in 1970 3,029 and in 1977 25,498.

And What About Tomorrow?

The investigation conducted by the Samaritan students looks for the roots of the problem, reveals the truth of the current situation and attempts to envision future developments.

In their conversations with marihuana growers and traffickers they asked, for example, about the possibility of legalizing the drug: "...60 percent of them showed themselves to be opposed to legalization of marihuana cultivation because, if this were done, instead of being the privilege of small growers, it would pass into the hands of the big landowners, large-scale farmers and wealthy farmers."

For the foreseeable future, there are primarily a number of unknown factors to which the authors assign "far-reaching importance." These are the following:

"How will the government use this capital, since it is hardly reasonable to assume that there are limits to consumption and there is still a lot of room for savings?

"How will it solve the problem of the growers? With what reliable market product which will yield a profit that will at least permit them to maintain the standard of living they have attained?

"Why is the national and international press more concerned with this region than that of the eastern plains where, according to growers, (marihuana) is very abundant, as it is here? Who own those plantations?

"Will marihuana be legalized in the United States as was the case with alcohol?

"What would happen then?

"How much would deforestation in the Sierra Nevada damage the flatlands? Would there be consequences stemming from the ecological changes planned agriculture for this region might give rise to?"

**Costs of a Typical Shipment**

This shipment consisted of 36,500 pounds worth \$16,635,300, merchandise in Colombia, with the following shipping expenses:

Launches and lookouts	\$ 730,000
Truck transport	1,230,000
Stash	100,000
Loaders	70,000
Road clearing	3,570,000
Supervisors and directors	12,000,000
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$17,700,000</b>
<b>Value of merchandise</b>	<b>16,635,300</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>\$34,435,300</b>

11,466  
CSO: 5300

7

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER KILLED--Guayaquil, Ecuador, 5 Aug (AFP)--Reports received from the southern border today indicate that Evaristo Cordova, an Ecuadorean drug trafficker, was killed in a shootout with a Peruvian police patrol. The reports state that Peruvian policemen at the port of Las Pescas opened fire on members of a group of drug traffickers who resisted arrest. The police also arrested six other traffickers who were attempting to smuggle several kilograms of cocaine paste into Ecuador. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 5 Aug 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE ACCUSED OF BRIBERY IN DRUG ARRESTS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 14 Jul 79 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mexico City, 13 July--Last year, agents of the Federal Judicial Police made deals in 90 percent of the warrants for arrest issued by the penal district judges against those implicated in federal crimes.

The top-ranking official of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Fernando Baeza Melendez, admitted this level of corruption, and said that the accused had obtained their release with large bribes. He stressed the fact that, "in other cases, the federal agents went so far as to use extortion."

Baeza Melendez attributed the phenomenon to the lack of a mechanism to oversee the activities of all the members of the police force. A solution to the shortcoming is being sought with modern electronic computer systems.

On a tour of the hangar facilities of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic at the capital airport, the official demonstrated the operation of the computers which provide information on arrests all over the country, the course of the preliminary investigations and the legal status of those in custody.

The system also allows for overseeing the activities of each investigative agent of the Federal Public Ministry, and those of the agents of the police force, as well as the time taken by them to carry out warrants for arrest issued by the judges, and to complete the preliminary investigations.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic has over 500 police agents for making arrests all over the country.

This team began to operate 4 months ago, and in June of last year the national system for arrests was established. From 1950 to the present, there have been 36,000 arrests for federal crimes recorded.

In discussing the battle against the drug traffic, the official emphasized the fact that, since 1976, the index has been reduced by 90 percent. As



an example, he said that, in 1976, there were 13,500 hectares in Sinaloa planted with poppies, and that there are now less than 500. He remarked that the traditional drug growing areas are now being used for other legal crops.

Baeza Melendez said that the drug traffickers no longer have large expanses of plantations which are readily discovered. Others conceal the crops with coverings, and still others disguise them by mixing the drugs with other crops, in order to prevent their being spotted.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS INVOLVED IN POLICE SLAYING CAPTURED

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 19 Jul 79 Sec A p 12

[Text] A large group of Judicial Police agents detailed to the state of Oaxaca succeeded in arresting five individuals who participated in the recent incidents wherein Federal Judicial Police Comdr Roberto Blanco Valdez and an agent under his command were shot to death in that state. This was learned here in Matamoros from the Federal Judicial Police.

The five persons under arrest, whose names were not disclosed, are very closely associated with the drug traffic; and, according to the results of the investigation, on the day when they killed Commander Blanco Valdez and his agent, they were moving a large shipment of marihuana to the interior section of the country.

From the reports that have been made available, it is known that there are four persons who participated directly in the gun battle with the federal agents, who were pursuing them because they were presumed to be drug traffickers.

The fifth individual under arrest was the brains of the gory incidents which took place last May in the municipality of Tuxtepec, Oaxaca.

It was learned that the arrests occurred after over a month of intensive searching carried out in the entire state of Oaxaca, an investigation handled by several special agents of the Public Ministry, who were assigned for this purpose by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

These individuals are still being questioned about their illegal activities.

The reports that have been released state that, although the gun battle was apparently incidental, after the drug traffickers were unable to evade the stakeout set up by the Federal Police, it is quite likely that some revenge on the part of the brains of the crime was involved.

This supposition was made because of the fact that Commander Blanco Valdez and his agents had seized large shipments of marihuana, causing the underworld to lose several million pesos.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE RELEASES DRUG GROWERS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 5 Jul 79 p 7

[Text] Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 4 July--The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic waived penal action for crimes against health, and 21 persons who had been confined in the municipal public jail were released.

At 1000 hours yesterday, they were released after the clerk of the second district court in Sinaloa gave the prisoners personal notification.

At 2330 hours last Tuesday, the representative of the court and of the agency of the Federal Public Ministry arrived at the jail to announce the immediate release of the prisoners.

At that time, the following were released: Francisco Morga Sarabia, Marcelo Lizarraga Guerrero, Loreto Lizarraga Guerrero, Francisco Rios Silva, Manuel Sanchez Paredes, Joaquin Lizarraga Guerrero, Lorenzo Silva Peraza, Mario Bretado Guerrero, Gonzalo Satabia Mancinas, Fidencio Sanchez Paredes, Margarito Ramirez Torres, Francisco Sanchez Perez, Feliciano Luna Garcia, Manuel Labrador Bretado, Crecencio Renteria Sarabia, Juan Francisco Olivarría Labrador, Ramon Munoz Bretado, Jesus Ramos Pinzon, Otilio Ramos Pinzon, Gustavo Gonzalez Noriega and Zeferino Rochin Villasenor.

The attorney general of the republic, Oscar Flores Sanchez, waived penal action in the degrees of planting, cultivating and harvesting of drugs.

The prisoners who were released were taken by the authorities of the district court themselves to the main highway, so that they would not be arrested by any officials, since it was early morning.

The majority of the prisoners released reside in rural areas of the southern part of Sinaloa, The departure of the prisoners at dawn caused excitement as the report of the releases that had been granted spread.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BAR ASSOCIATION INTERCEDES FOR FARMER TRAFFICKERS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 10 Jul 79 p 8

[Text] The "Lic. Eustaquio Buelna" Bar Association requested the intervention of Oscar Flores Sanchez, attorney general of the republic, to have 29 of the 62 convicts incarcerated in the IRSS [Health and Social Rehabilitation Institute] who were arrested for crimes against health, transferred to their place of origin, Chihuahua, so that the legal proceedings may be continued and the necessary sentences handed down.

The rest of the accused were released, as the president of the bar association, Carlos Gilberto Moran Cortes, explained, when Flores Sanchez waived penal action after their guilt of planting and cultivating marihuana and poppies had been proven, and they were found to be farming victims.

In his letter, Moran Cortes makes note of the fact that the farmers are the least blameworthy for the social evil of drug trafficking, because of the country's poverty, lack of culture and underdevelopment, wherein they are cut off from the ostensible benefits of urban life or progress, and are being used by the real drug traffickers, who are exploiting the situation as they please.

The jurist is of the opinion that the countless individuals confined in the nation's jails for this type of crime should recover their freedom, whether they are on trial or convicted, because they have already been punished enough from the time when they were deprived of their freedom, with the agony they suffered during their incarceration, in addition to being far removed from their homes and families.

Moran Cortes said that they have been jailed since December 1978, and the records have been turned over to the first district judge in Chihuahua, who has not requested the transfer of the accused, so that the legal proceedings in each case may be continued. This action has been precluded, owing to the fact that those involved must appear at the time when the legal proceedings take place.

Moran Cortes explained that the letter was prompted by a transcript that the attorney general of the republic sent the association, in response to the private secretary of the president of the nation, Dr Roberto Casillas Hernandez, in which he reported the waiver in 33 cases and the possible action to be taken as a result in the case of the other convicts.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

JUDGE ACQUITS OWNER OF MARIHUANA SHIPMENT

H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 19 Jul 79 Sec A p 12

[Text] After Federal Judicial Police led by Gerardo de Avila Avila had spent all day yesterday, Wednesday, combing the entire area in search of Mauricio "Guicho" Caballero Salazar, because he had been identified as the owner of a ton of marihuana which was seized in the Federal District, all the investigations were suspended in the evening, after notification was received that "Guicho" had already been acquitted by a district judge located in Nuevo Laredo.

Upon being questioned about this matter last night, Comdr Gerardo de Avila Avila said that two residences in this town had been searched, one at Espana and 16th Streets, in the Buenavista development, and a farm in the municipality of San Fernando, but that no positive results had been accrued in those locations.

The search for Mauricio Caballero Salazar started after three drug traffickers had a gun battle on the afternoon of the day before yesterday with agents from the Federal District's Police and Traffic Department, and one policeman was killed. The three drug traffickers finally surrendered after the arrival of police reinforcements.

The three individuals confessed that they had hidden a ton of marihuana, which they had brought from the state of Guerrero, bound for the northern part of Tamaulipas. Here in Matamoros they were to deliver it to its owner, Mauricio "Guicho" Caballero Salazar.

It was at dawn yesterday that the office of the commander of the Federal Judicial Police detailed to this town received instructions to do everything possible to capture Caballero Salazar.

Meanwhile, in the Federal District, a large number of Federal Judicial Police agents and agents from the local Police and Traffic Department continued a series of investigations in order to apprehend other individuals implicated in drug trafficking and affiliated with the same ring.

The three individuals under arrest confessed in the Federal District that they had on several occasions shipped large amounts of marihuana owned by Caballero Salazar. They also gave the police authorities the names of the suppliers of the drugs in the state of Guerrero, as well as the identities of the members of other rings.

Here in Matamoros, a series of investigations was made promptly by several agents of the Federal Judicial Police, who were attempting at all costs to capture Guicho Caballero, so as to place him at the disposal of the Federal District authorities.

At about 1000 hours yesterday, they searched several residences in this town, and soon afterward they did the same at a farm owned by the aforementioned drug trafficker.

Furthermore, the commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Gerardo de Avila Avila, stated that an intensive campaign would be conducted until Caballero Salazar is captured, because a death caused by his drug trafficking ring should not go entirely unpunished.

He was also shocked last night, only about 10 hours after the search for this individual had begun, to receive the provisional pardon granted the latter immediately by the federal court.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

COCAINE TRAFFICKING HEAD RECEIVES 7-YEAR SENTENCE

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 11 Jul 79 Sec A p 3

[Text] Yolanda Ochoa Ochoa, aged 28, another major head of the drug traffic on this border, was sentenced to 7 years in prison for crimes against health in the degree of possession of 2.5 kilograms of cocaine.

The exemplary penalty, with which the agent of the Federal Public Ministry was satisfied and did not appeal, was handed down by the second district judge, Ismael Ruiz Martinez. The only ones who filed an appeal, as a mere formality, were the "former queen of the drug traffic" and her attorney.

Yolanda, a native of Tonalá, Chiapas, was captured here by agents of the Federal Judicial Police on the night of 27 January 1978. In her residence, located at 406 Valentin Fuentes Street, they found part of the shipment, and the rest was located on the premises of other property owned by her at 823 South Brasil Street.

She admitted to her captors that, when she "learned about the death of Cuco Aguirre, one of the most active drug suppliers in Culiacan, Sinaloa, she went to that location and purchased the shipment," the exact weight of which was 2 kilograms, 400 grams and 900 milligrams.

The woman who, at that time, was managing the nightclub known as "El Chapulin Colorado," on Posada Pompa Street, was arrested with another individual who was released shortly thereafter by the federal judge for lack of evidence with which to try him.

Now, the judge has also required her to pay a fine of 7,000 pesos for the antisocial offense that she committed.

As stated in records, Yolanda's fleeting reign over the drug traffic in the border area was common knowledge after the death of another of the "greats," engineer Arturo Lopez, and the capture of the no less notorious drug trafficker, Antonio Ochoa, who is the husband of the woman who has now been sentenced.





Yolanda Ochoa, "queen of the drug traffic for a brief period" on this border, was sentenced to 7 years in prison and given a fine of 7,000 pesos for possession of 2.5 kilograms of cocaine. She has been in the municipal prison since 27 January 1978.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

AIRCRAFT FOR CURBING DRUG TRAFFICKING IN CIUDAD ACUNA

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 4 Jul 79 p 1

[Text] The Federal Judicial Police group in this port under orders from Comdr Antonio Macias will be receiving an airplane or a helicopter for air surveillance and monitoring throughout the entire region. He gave EL DIARIO this information upon arriving in this port after a week's stay in the capital of the republic, where he engaged in discussions aimed at ridding the area of drug traffickers, labor traffickers and gamblers, an activity that will begin as soon as possible in the nearby border port of Ciudad Acuna.

The foregoing statement was made to EL DIARIO yesterday by Comdr Antonio Macias, who said that intensive action has been planned in this entire town, which has now been converted into what Laredo was prior to the cleanup by prosecutor Salvador del Toro.

He added that Ciudad Acuna has a very serious problem related to drug distribution, and that some very serious situations have become concentrated in that port, which must be eliminated as promptly as possible. For this purpose, an intensive campaign has been proposed, including a complete investigation into the clandestine airstrips that exist on the nearby farms and mountains. It must be realized that this is one of the greatest worries of the citizens of Acuna, because demands for action and calls for assistance are being received, claiming that they will not put up with this serious situation.

A detrimental high rate of drug addiction among the youth has been noted, including a considerable number of young children who have been led into taking drugs, many of whom are using inhalants. The prevailing situation is a very difficult one, and it is intended to make a general cleanup of that port which will have to be taken to its final consequences.

Ciudad Acuna has become a springboard for shipping drugs; and it may not be an exaggeration to say that it could at some time exceed Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. Mention was made of the constant arrests and roundups of drug and labor traffickers which have taken place recently, on the basis of investigations.

2909

GSO: 5330

MEXICO

THREE MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS RECEIVE JAIL SENTENCES

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 6 Jul 79 Sec A p 4

[Text] Carmelo Aviles Labra, alias "Don Carmelo," Salvador Sapien Quinones and Rogelio Nevarez Burciaga were convicted of drug trafficking and sent to the state penitentiary yesterday to serve their respective terms.

The second district judge found them socially and penally guilty of crimes against health in the degrees of possession, trafficking and transportation of a ton of marihuana, which was confiscated from them on 5 March 1978.

"Don Carmelo," whom the police considered to be the czar of the drug traffic in Sinaloa at the time of his arrest there, was sentenced to 6 years in prison, as the owner of the shipment of marihuana seized by police.

Sapien Quinones, who had previously been an agent in the radio patrol service, and Nevarez Burciaga, who was at one time an agent of the State Judicial Police, were, in turn, sentenced to 5 and a half years' imprisonment each, as "Don Carmelo's right-hand men."

They have been incarcerated in the local jail since 6 March of last year.

The warden of the penitentiary, Rodolfo Lozoya, reported that he had turned the three drug traffickers over to a group of police agents assigned to take them to the state penitentiary.

The transfer was made very early in the morning, without any objection on the part of the prisoners in question.

Lozoya said that the second district judge, Humberto Zurita Martinez, representing the legal ministry, authorized the agent of the Federal Public Ministry to order the transfer of "Don Carmelo" and company to the town of Chihuahua.

The three men are at the disposal of the eighth circuit court of appeals of the town of Torreon, Coahuila, inasmuch as they expressed dissatisfaction with the sentence that was imposed.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED IN MAZATLAN

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 18 Jul 79 Sec B p 8

[Text] Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 17 July--Federal Judicial Police forces in this town seized 1 kilogram and 800 grams of heroin, together with 10 individuals who are implicated. The drugs are worth over 4 million pesos.

Based on the investigations conducted by forces from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic in this town, under orders from Comdr Florentino Radilla Gallardo, Natividad Sandoval Vergara, who had the drugs buried at his residence, was captured.

Involved in the business of selling heroin, which the first chemical analyses have shown to be of great purity, was the taxi driver Jose Mendoza Nunez, a native of Villa Union, who claimed to have been kidnapped.

The taxi driver, along with the car which is the property of the state traffic delegate in Villa Union, were taken into custody.

Also captured were Humberto Garate Moreno, who was a contact for the sale, and Ignacio Covarrubias Anaya, also a contact, who was released about 6 months ago from jail, where he was serving a sentence for crimes against health.

In the course of the probe, Jose Luis Tirado Avena was captured. There was a warrant for his arrest issued by the district judge, and he was also implicated in the sale of heroin.

Rodolfo Hernandez Echegaray, a member of the same ring who was seeking contacts for the sale of the drugs, was captured.

In addition to apprehending the aforementioned individuals, the Federal Judicial Police arrested Jorge Osuna Zatarain and Jose Maria Sarabia Rellano, also known as Alfonso Palacios Calderon, who had 5 kilograms of marihuana in his possession and who was also seeking customers for the heroin.

The pair claimed that they had received the marihuana as payment for 5,000 pesos owed them by another individual. The two men in custody apparently have a stand in the Juarez market.

And, finally, Jose Manuel Noriega Torres, who had a marihuana plantation that he was guarding, was arrested, and the plantation was destroyed.

According to the preliminary statements, the drugs were delivered to Natividad Sandoval Vergara by Rosario Valenzuela Arellano and "El Chayo" Valenzuela, who is a fugitive who escaped from the jail in this town.

Natividad Sandoval Vergara resides on the La Urraca farm, near Villa Union, where the drugs were found. When he was captured, he had in his possession 16,000 pesos, the result of the sale of a small portion of the drugs.

Moreover, the public service car which was seized in Villa Union, with license plates 78-TVS and economic number 2710, was taken into custody, together with the driver, Jose Mendoza Nunez.

2909  
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

PROSECUTOR ALBA: MARIHUANA PRODUCTION DOWN 90 PERCENT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 31-A

[Article by Consuelo L de Avalos]

[Text] Tijuana, Baja California Norte, 18 June--In addition to announcing that marihuana and opium poppy production has been reduced by 90 percent, Samual Alba Leiva, assistant attorney general, said that Mexico has never accepted and does not permit international pressure in its permanent struggle against drug trafficking.

He explained that Mexico has always been guided by its own laws and on this basis "has never allowed a foreign country to intervene in its internal affairs, neither has it meddled in the problems of other countries."

And he stressed: "The truceless war against drug trafficking being carried out throughout the country by the office of the attorney general is being waged by Mexico."

The antinarcotics campaign has already reached its highest degree in 6 years, he said pointing out that this is best demonstrated by the report issued by the UN Special Department on Drugs.

"This recognition is the best guarantee of the effectiveness with which the federal government has fought the traffic of drugs."

In 1977, 70,000 opium poppy fields were destroyed and this year only 19,000 have been detected and destroyed. Therefore, it can be said that in Mexico the source of drug production has been closed, permitting an absolute control of this cancer.

Alba Leiva showed satisfaction with the work being carried out along this border by officials of the attorney general's office in their battle against drug trafficking.

Lawyer Carlos Aguilera Garza, responsible for the mission covering the north-east of the country, was congratulated for the "heavy blows delivered against drug traffickers."

Some hours before leaving for the capital, after representing the attorney general, Oscar Flores Sanchez, at the three-day meeting of prosecutors of the country's northern region, Alba Leiva stated:

"It has been found that more than 50 percent of the drugs used by the clandestine drug industry in Mexico comes from the United States, where it returns in the form of pills."

Seventy percent of the clandestine laboratories confiscated in the country work with drugs coming from the neighboring country to the north and, during the last months, more than 200 kilograms of heroin and cocaine, valued at several hundred million pesos, have been seized and destroyed.

9341  
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

COCAINE, FIVE TRAFFICKERS SEIZED IN DURANGO

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jun 79 p 7-D

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] Drugs worth more than 150 million pesos were seized by agents of the Federal Judicial Police in the city of Durango, Durango, upon arresting five drug traffickers, including two Americans, possessing 30 kilograms of cocaine and 70 grams of heroin.

The investigation was initiated after Commander Rafael Diaz Albores learned that substantial drug buying and selling operations were being carried out in that city, the drugs to be sold later in the south of the United States.

Diaz Albores ordered the surveillance of public accountant Sabino Gonzalez Campos, who supposedly was the contact between drug traffickers. In the investigation it was learned that Saul Renato Renato and Ramiro Gonzalez Campos were also involved.

The three men were arrested yesterday together with Joseph Patrick Graham and Paula Jo Phero.

The suspects and the drugs were handed over to an agent of the Federal Public Ministry, who asked for the cooperation of American officials in order to arrest and investigate several persons mentioned by the drug traffickers.

9341

CSO: 5300



MEXICO

TOURISTS SEIZED WITH COCAINE AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 5 Jun 79 p 6

[Article by Laura Quintero]

[Text] Led by Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, director of the Federal Judicial Police, a group of agents arrested two drug traffickers at the Mexico City International Airport. Two kilograms of pure cocaine valued at more than 16 million pesos were confiscated from them.

Traffickers Bradford D. English and James Edward Lee, American nationals, arrived at the terminal on Pan Am flight 502, from Bogota, Colombia, and agents of the Federal Judicial Police noticed that they were extremely nervous while walking toward the customs checkpoint. For this reason their baggage was thoroughly checked and five plastic bags of cocaine were found neatly hidden between the soles and insoles of five pairs of shoes.

In their preliminary statements, both said they had arrived in this capital at the beginning of April, leaving the next day for Baranquilla and Bogota, Colombia, where they made contact in order that the drug be delivered to them.

The drug was supposed to be delivered to a person whose last name was "Rivera" in Talma, California, United States.

General Mendiola Cerecero explained that each shoe contained 200 grams of pure cocaine, which can take some 6 or 7 cuts and has a price of more than \$80,000 per kilogram on the black market.

The two traffickers as well as the cocaine bags, shoes, luggage, passports, visas, travelers checks, driver's licenses, two cameras and money in cash were handed over to a criminal agent of the Public Ministry.

General Mendiola Cerecero stated during the press conference in which he introduced the traffickers, that everything possible is being done to counteract the new drug trafficking systems, since the organizations keep engineering new methods in order to evade the surveillance operating mainly in airports....

He indicated that men as well as women agents have been commissioned at the international airport, since women also carry drugs in different objects of personal use.

In addition to the director of the Federal Judicial Police, second commander Armando Martinez Salgado and agents Julio Cesar Jimenez Teran and Rebeca Gutierrez Valdez also took part in this case.

9341  
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS TERRORIZE CHIHUAHUA STATE INDIANS

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 18 Jun 79 p 16-A

[Text] Chihuahua, 17 June--In Cieneguita de Barranca, Urique municipality, hundreds of Indian families have been victims for a long time of the attacks of members of drug trafficking mafias. Immersed in vast regions, rich in mining and forest resources, the humble and the have-nots subsist in an environment of terror and injustice, where drug-cultivating activities still prevail as well as a battle that is unequal and often unjust on the part of the forces charged with fighting the mafia.

The president of Cieneguita de Barranca's ruling committee, Ruperto Amador, discouraged by the prevailing situation, sent a letter to the nation's attorney general, Oscar Flores Sanchez, stating that "the abuses, crimes and the impunity displayed by the drug traffickers and their accomplices, imposed on the town halls and favored by the traditional political bosses of the region, turns what used to be the modest, but peaceful and quiet, life of our communities into a dangerous and distressing one."

An exhaustive investigation has been demanded in order to eradicate corruption from the organizations charged with fighting drug trafficking, since there have been indiscriminate actions against many honorable and peaceful neighbors who are devoted to making a life through effort and responsibility and who often are victims of violent investigations and mistreatment to a higher degree than the criminals.

There is the impunity and violence exerted by Indian chiefs who are protected by the power of money and influence, and this makes the lives of those who do not participate in mafia activities very dangerous.

In the Sierra region, the Indians serve as guides and interpreters for those officials charged with eradicating drug and narcotics farming, but they do not enjoy any protection. Names such as Valente Quintero, Jose Rojas, Herculano Delgado, Salvador Rojas, Valentin Murillo, are known among the families of Munerachi, Guapalayna, Corareachi and other communities of the municipality of Urique, and they have distinguished themselves by unselfishly offering their services in the fight against drug traffickers, but their backs are against the wall.

9341  
CSO: 5300

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MEXICO

## BRIEFS

DRUGS, WEAPONS SEIZED--Mexico City, 3 July--Over 106 drug traffickers were captured last week by Federal Judicial Police agents, who succeeded in confiscating more than 2 tons of marihuana, a kilogram of heroin, half a kilogram of cocaine, 4 kilograms of opium, and 13 kilograms of marihuana and poppy seed, as well as several joints of grass. In addition to the drugs, the judicial police seized eight weapons, including pistols and high-powered machine guns, 385 cartridges of different calibers, three late-model pickup trucks, four cars and two light planes, with which the drugs were brought in, to the United States in particular. During the investigation to capture these criminals, the agents found three clandestine landing strips, which were destroyed by army forces which participated in this endeavor. As part of the campaign against the planting, cultivation and harvesting of drugs derived from poppies and marihuana, the Federal Judicial Police and the air services of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic burned 74 poppy and 73 marihuana plantations, and mixed plantations which contained 172,959 poppy plants and 845,687 marihuana plants. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 4 Jul 79 p 1] 2909

HEROIN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Drug trafficker Francisco Rivera Quezada earned a jail sentence of 6 years and 6 months and a fine of 7,245 pesos, of which he was notified yesterday by one of the "clerks" of the second district court. Luis Garcia Romero (head of the second court) handed down his final decision yesterday in proceedings 198/977, brought against Francisco Rivera Quezada, whom he found guilty of a crime against health in the degrees of transportation and trafficking in the form of purchasing heroin, sentencing him to serve the aforementioned term in jail. Rivera Quezada was captured on 13 October 1977 by agents of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, who found in his possession 8.5 ounces of a brown powder which turned out to be heroin. On that occasion, Rivera Quezada was arrested at the entrance to the "El Rio" Motel. The federal agents conducted a close investigation of Rivera Quezada, since they had information to the effect that he was engaged in drug trafficking. On the aforementioned date, the federal agents learned that a pickup truck had stopped in front of the "El Rio" Motel, and that an individual had left it, heading for the restaurant, while another remained inside the vehicle. The federal agents noticed the person in the pickup truck getting out, and began surrounding him, subsequently making the arrest. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 13 Jul 79 Sec B p 5] 2909  
CSO: 5330

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE FOUND--National Guard G2 agents yesterday captured a twin-engined Colombian plane carrying a shipment of cocaine valued at \$500,000 on the U.S. underground market. The Colombian plane, registration number HK-1172C, arrived at Paitilla Airport yesterday from Medellin. Local authorities had received advance information that the aircraft was being used to transport drugs. On its arrival in Paitilla, G2 agents searched the plane and found three packages containing a white powder which, after a laboratory test, was found to be cocaine. The total shipment contained 614 grams of the drug. Pilot Luis Carlos Osorio Botero has been placed in the custody of the attorney general's office. According to Osorio, he came to Panama on a banking mission and was supposed to return to Medellin in the next few hours. The inspection of the aircraft was conducted by experts of the narcotics division of the Finance Ministry, headed by Inspector Octavio Rodriguez, who used a trained dog recently acquired by the ministry to detect the drugs. [Text] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

URUGUAY

ELEVEN TRIED FOR AMPHETAMINE PRESCRIPTION FORGERY

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Jun 79 p 10

[Text] The National Directorate of Intelligence and Information advises that the Brigade of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs learned from confidential sources that a group of young users of controlled drugs (amphetamines) was falsifying prescriptions in order to buy at different pharmacies and that one of them had induced his fiance -- a young 20-year old student -- to inject herself with the stimulant.

At the start of the enquiry, probes were made in several pharmacies, seeking out the forged prescriptions, of which 10 were found. As a result, in all 14 young people, of both sexes, between the ages of 18 and 22 years, were detained, the majority of them being students.

In forging these private documents, they used the so-called transferable letters, placing the names of non-existent doctors on them.

They were processed in the 5th Court of Instruction, where the magistrate charged 11 of them with "Falsification of private documents and supply of opiates," and imposed measures in accordance with what is laid down in Article 40 of Law no. 14,294 for the following:

- 1) Nestor Hugo Sastre Acosta, Uruguayan, single, 20 years old;
- 2) Luis Eduardo Gras Lisboa, also Uruguayan, single, 18 years old;
- 3) Victor Hugo Giovinetti Sosa, Uruguayan, single, 18 years old;
- 4) Olga Cristina Angles Introini, Uruguayan, divorced, 30 years old;
- 5) Sylvia Milder Sosa Fernandez, Uruguayan, single, 28 years old;
- 6) Gustavo de Leon Guichon, Uruguayan, single, 20 years old;
- 7) Roberto Rafael de Armas Sienra, Uruguayan, single, 18 years old;
- 8) Ruben David Madjarian Tomiklan, Uruguayan, single, 22 years old;
- 9) Martha Belkiss Oliveira Parreno, Uruguayan, single, 20 years old;
- 10) Jose Antonio Perez Gonzalez, Uruguayan, single, 20 years old; and
- 11) Jorge Mario Abade Livio, Uruguayan, single, 18 years old.

It should be noted that the following are not first offenders: 1) Nestor Hugo Sastre Acosta, 2) Luis Eduardo Gras Lisboa, 3) Victor Hugo Giovinetti Sosa, 4) Olga Cristina Angles Introini and 5) Sylvia Milder Sosa Fernandez.

Once again, attention must be drawn to the severe penalties which the Law foresees for those engaged in any type of activity linked to the traffic and supply of drugs (marihuana, amphetamines, controlled medications, etc.), even though this be done for free, since it is felt that they are spreading what is in effect an epidemic.

At the same time, parents are warned to take the utmost care in watching over their adolescent children in order to prevent their being attracted to that world of horrors that is drug addiction and which generally ends with the physical, mental and moral destruction of the victims.

In the event of any doubts or for purposes of consultation, address yourself to the authorities at the Ministry of Health, 2nd floor, Office #210, or alternatively to the Brigade of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs of the police.



Sylvia Milder Sosa Fernandez, Olga Cristina Angles Introini, Luis Eduardo Gras Lisboa, Victor Hugo Giovanetti Sosa and Nestor Hugo Sastre Acosta, the young people who were jailed for forgery of medical prescriptions and who were guilty of repeated offenses.

7129  
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

DRUG ARREST--Authorities have arrested two drug traffickers identified as Alfredo Moreno Vega and (?Diamantino) Arias, as well as a minor known as "El Chivo," for possession of cocaine worth \$500,000. They will be arraigned in the appropriate courts. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 Aug 79 PA]

POLICE SEIZE DRUGS--Leopoldo Llerena, chief of the Narcotics Division of the Judicial Technical Police, has reported that detectives from his division arrested two international drug traffickers and seized 200 LSD pills, 1/2 kilo of cocaine and several pounds of marihuana. The traffickers were identified as Leonardo Enrique Marin Duran a Colombian citizen, and Felix Omar Ibarra Perez, a Venezuelan citizen. Chief Llerena added that they are conducting further investigations to determine if the traffickers had any accomplices in Caracas or in the country's interior. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA].

CSO: 5300



SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

DRUG RING LEADER SOUGHT--Durban--Police have started a nationwide hunt for Canadian Mr Robert Beck, alleged to be the mastermind behind an international drug smuggling ring. Mr Beck (29) has disappeared while facing charges of smuggling drugs from Durban to Britain. He was released on bail and was due to appear in the Durban Magistrate's Court on Monday. He was arrested earlier last month together with two other men, Mr Victor Fanthrope (20) and Mr Edward Wolhuter after a police raid on several hotels and premises in the Durban central area. Mr Beck was granted bail of R1 500 but had to surrender his passport and report to the police regularly. Captain John Wright of the Durban Vice Squad said yesterday he believed that Mr Beck would try to flee the country. He appealed to anyone who could give information regarding Mr Beck's whereabouts to contact him at Durban 32-7532 or the Flying Squad at 1011 Durban. The three alleged drug dealers are due to appear in court again on Friday. It has been alleged by the State that they wanted to "export" about 210 kg of dagga to the United States and Britain. Mr Beck is a tallish, goodlooking man with sandy hair and a light complexion. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 1 Aug 79 p 13]

CSO: 5300

TURKEY

NARCOTICS BRANCH DETECTIVES NAB MAN WITH 2 KILOS OF HEROIN

Istanbul CUMHURİYET in Turkish 12 Jun 79 pp 1,11

[Text] In operations conducted yesterday in Istanbul, a Gaziantep businessman was arrested with heroin having a market value of 20 million Lira concealed in a secret compartment in his car. In separate operations in the Topkapi markets, contraband electronic instruments were seized and 10 persons taken into custody.

Narcotics Section detectives of the Directorate of Public Security became suspicious of Gaziantep businessman Hasan Gunes and made a search of his automobile bearing the plate number 34 UE 803. As a result of the search, 2 kilos of pure heroin having a market value of 20 million TL, which was hidden in a secret compartment constructed beneath a headlight of the privately-owned Ford automobile, was seized.

The suspect Hasan Gunes, who was taken into custody, confessed that he frequently traveled between Gaziantep and Istanbul and that he was going to take the heroin found in his car to Germany himself. Furthermore, Gunes stated that he had bought the heroin in Erzurum but said that he did not know the person from whom he purchased it.

Narcotics Section detectives were considering the possibility that the suspect may be part of a large smuggling ring and stated that they were conducting the investigation from this standpoint in a comprehensive manner.

In the Topkapi Markets

In another case it was determined that contraband foreign made merchandise was being sold in the Topkapi markets. Financial Section teams organized a big operation to follow up this information, and as a consequence electronic instruments were confiscated with a market value in excess of 500 thousand TL. In connection with the contraband goods seized 10 persons were taken into custody.

Authorities stated that after the closing down of the American markets it had been determined that large amounts of contraband goods were being sold in the market places and for this reason the controls and operations had been stepped up.

9353  
CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

COUNTRY TERMED 'ON BRINK OF HEROIN EPIDEMIC'

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 20 Jul 79 p 8

[Article by David Fletcher]

[Text] Big increases in the number of hard-drug addicts have brought Britain to the brink of a heroin epidemic, it was claimed yesterday.

The increases were announced in a report by the Home Office, which stated that the number of addicts receiving narcotic drugs from doctors had risen by 19 percent, to a record total of 2,408, over the past year.

The number of addicts notified for the first time last year was 1,332--22 percent more than in 1977. The Home Office pointed out that the figures did not cover the total extent of addiction.

They refer only to registered addicts receiving supplies from a doctor, and do not include those who obtain drugs illicitly.

"Between 1973 and 1977 an average of just over 1,000 persons each year were found guilty of offences of unlawful possession, of a notifiable drug or drugs.

13,400 Seizures

"Some of those offenders might not be addicts--for example, pushers who were not addicts--and some might be addicts already notified who had obtained additional drug supplies illicitly."

The Home Office said there had also be 13,400 seizures of controlled drugs, mostly cannabis but including heroin, during the past year.

This was 400 more than in the previous year and the highest number in any year since the Misuse of Drugs Act came into force in 1973.

The total quantity of heroin seized--60.8 kilos (122 lb).--was twice that of the previous year and the total amount of cocaine seized, 16.1 kilos (32 lb) was higher than in any of the previous 5 years.

According to the Home Office, the only drugs offence for which there was an appreciable drop was cultivation of cannabis plants.

It also appeared that drug addicts were older. The most frequent age of known addicts last year was 25-30, whereas 8 years earlier the most frequent age was 19-23.

Mr David Turner, coordinator of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, an umbrella body for a number of voluntary groups concerned with drugs, said: "I believe Britain could be on the brink of a heroin epidemic.

"The panic about drugs in the 1960's was over 750 addicts. We now have over 4,100 officially, yet we are told everything is under control."

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

CLAMPDOWN ON MISUSE OF BARBITURATES PLANNED

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jul 79 p 2

[Article by Charles Nevin]

[Text]

**T**HE Government is to introduce legal penalties for the misuse of barbiturate drugs. A Home Office spokesman said last night that they would be scheduled in Class "B" of the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

The change in the law could be made by the end of the year, and will mean that any person possessing a barbiturate without a lawful prescription will be liable to a sentence of five years and an unlimited fine.

The maximum penalty for illegally supplying barbiturates will be 14 years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

The Government's advisory council on the abuse of drugs recommended the control of barbiturates earlier this year and the Home Secretary has decided to implement the recommendation.

The Home Office spokesman added: "We hope to cut down greatly what we feel was evidence of young people being damaged by this drug."

Barbiturates — Amylobarbitone, Butobarbitone, Cyclobarbitone, Pentobarbitone and Quinalbarbitone — are used as sleeping aids as an anaesthetic, in the veterinary profession and

for the control of epilepsy. There has been great concern about their abuse. It is believed that they cause 2,000 deaths a year, some of them self-inflicted, and up to 10,000 admissions to hospital.

**Deaths reported**

They are known through brand names such as Twinal, Nembutal, Seconal and Sodium Amytal, and can be bought "on the street" for as little as 50 pence a tablet. In London's Piccadilly the current price is £2.50.

Another drug which may come under stringent control is the painkiller Diconal. The advisory council is expected to recommend a "heroin-type" ban on the drug, Dipipanil Hydrochloride, in the autumn.

Diconal is manufactured as an analgesic, but for some years has been subject to abuse. It has been a Class "A" drug since 1976, a year after the first Diconal-attributed deaths were reported in Sheffield and Merseyside.

The advisory council will consider whether it should be limited, like heroin and cocaine, for prescription to addicts by licensed doctors and National Health drug clinics.

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