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JPRS L/8746

1 November 1979

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 46/79)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

PROBLEMS IN PREVENTION OF DRUG SMUGGLING REPORTED

Airport Checks Extended

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Sep 79 p 1

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Customs officials are now conducting "saturation" checks on selected aircraft arriving at Australia's international airports, the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Fife, announced yesterday.

Under new procedures, every person arriving aboard certain aircraft, including passengers and crew, are being checked.

"Saturation checks were being made of selected aircraft, with particular attention being given to passengers' baggage, crews' effects and cargo," Mr Fife said.

Random checks of people arriving at international airports would also continue.

Previously, customs officials made only random checks of passengers and their baggage.

"The measures have resulted in some delays and inconvenience to members of the

travelling public," the Minister said.

"But generally people have accepted the need for increased customs checks because of the growing narcotics problem," he said.

Mr Fife said that in a trial of the new measures at Sydney Airport on August 30, all passengers, crew and cargo from a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet were "thoroughly checked."

A spokesman for Mr Fife said that no extra staff would be put on the customs desks to handle the saturation checks. People wanting to meet connecting services should inform customs officials to get priority treatment.

Mr Fife also said that he was considering using drug-detecting dogs to check arriving passengers and hand baggage.

The dogs, which would be under the control of a customs official, would be allowed to walk about the area where passengers collect their baggage.

River Patrol Needed

Melbourne THE AGE in English 7 Sep 79 p 9

[Text]

DRUG RUNNERS and poachers are working freely on the rivers of Australia's north.

Navy patrol vessels do not enter the tidal river systems: the navy hasn't ships nor the maps adequate to the task.

"Bloody millions", according to Professor Messel, are being wasted on surveillance aircraft, but they are unable to take any action if they do spot something.

Drugs come into the country by shallow-draught boats or low-flying planes. There are numerous grass airstrips along the tidal rivers.

Professor Messel says: "There are all sorts of funny things going on up there, but it isn't for me to speak about it. I'm not getting a bullet through my head. Let others

go and find out. You play with fire up there."

He says the Government's attempts at surveillance are a farce; surveillance will work only with ships such as the survey boat Harry Messel.

"Now the rivers have been opened up, the most important thing from a surveillance point of view, from the drug point of view and for the protection of the few remaining marine resources, is that there should be ships patrolling the tidal rivers. The Government should be monitoring this.

"Flying bloody aircraft doesn't do a bit of good."

Already it is too late to save the wildlife in many of the rivers of the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. But, Professor Messel says, there is still time to stop the same thing happening in the other northern rivers.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HEROIN IMPORT RING--A drug ring imported heroin with an estimated street value of between \$5 million and \$9 million into Australia, Central Court of Petty Sessions was told yesterday. Committal proceedings began against two men alleged to have been part of the ring. Sergio de Mari, 40, travel agent, of Bondi, and Antonio Bruscano, 25, of no fixed address, were charged with having imported heroin into Australia between March 1, 1978, and February 28, 1979. In his opening address, Mr M. D. Finlay, QC, for the Crown, told Mr C. Gilmore, SM, that evidence would be given that six trips were made from Australia to Malaysia in this period. On each trip the heroin was supplied from Penang by a Chinese man called Chiko. Evidence would be given that the three couriers, Mr M, Mrs M and Miss K, brought the heroin into Australia and that Mr and Mrs M were paid \$10,000. Detailing the six trips, Mr Finlay said the heroin was imported in bags strapped to the bodies of the couriers or hidden in a woman courier's boots. He named de Mari, a man named Galiani and Bruscano's older brother Joseph as having ridden "shotgun" for the couriers. [Excerpt] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 12 Sep 79 p 11]

DRUGS IN SPORT--A committee backed by the Federal Government has been established to investigate drug-taking among Australian sportsmen and women. This follows increasing concern among sporting authorities about the use of drugs and other substances to induce increased weight and strength. The sport and recreation branch of the Department of Home Affairs has given \$20,000 to the Australian Sports Medicine Federation to form the committee. Mr Chris Arblaster has been appointed full time research officer. National sporting organisations throughout Australia have been told of the committee's existence. The committee will try to determine the nature, extent and resultant problems of drug-taking by sporting people. It will also establish the minimal laboratory requirements for dope testing and investigate facilities available for this in Australia. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 7 Sep 79 p 27]

DRUG EDUCATION DANGERS--Many drug education programmes in schools turned the young on to drugs instead of off them, a drug education seminar was told yesterday. Mr. Ron Sehpherd, of the Sherbrooke Contact Centre, told teachers that many anti-drug films and education programmes ended up as "how-to-do-it kits". The best anti-drug programme was one that did not mention drugs. It

was important to teach people to cope with the problems which made them take drugs in the first place, he said. [Excerpts] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 5 Sep 79 p 15]

MELBOURNE ODYSSEY OFFICIAL--Golfer Peter Thomson has been appointed director of the newly-incorporated James McGrath Foundation in Victoria. The foundation will be responsible for setting up an Odyssey House in Melbourne and for operating the State's first drug-free therapy programme for addicts. The joint vice-chairmen are Sir Roderick Carnegie, chairman of CRA, and Mr Nigel Dick, chairman of the Victorian Broadcasting Network. The foundation is negotiating for a property. It hopes to open its doors to addicts early next month. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 1 Sep 79 p 3]

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JAPAN

BRIEFS

OSAKA DRUG RING--Police had arrested by Saturday 18 members of a narcotic smuggling ring in Osaka on suspicion of violation of the Stimulant Drugs Control Law. They also seized 571 grams of amphetamines, an Italian pistol and a Japanese sword from the homes of some suspected smugglers. The smuggling ring was affiliated with Sugaya-gumi, a gangster organization in Osaka, they added. Police were still investigating the routes through which the ring was selling drugs. [Text] [Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 30 Sep 79 p 12]

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MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS, POLICEMAN KILLED IN CHIHUAHUA GUN BATTLE

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 21 Sep 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] Chihuahua, Chihuahua, 20 September--A gory shootout between Federal Judicial Police agents and drug traffickers took place yesterday morning in the Alta Vista development area, adjacent to Sports City, leaving a toll of five criminals dead, a casualty on the side of the authorities and three young police officers battling between life and death.

The incidents occurred a few minutes after 1000 hours, opposite the house which served as a "hideout" for the dangerous criminals, located in Privada alley at 31-A and Bustamante Streets, at number 2305, when the federal agents were about to arrest the fugitive from justice, Roque Bojorquez Rembao, an underworld leader.

In the gun battle with such powerful weapons as R-15 and M-1 rifles, and 9 millimeter and 39 special pistols, Bojorquez Rembao was killed, as were the brothers Marcial, Cutberto and Ramon Ramos Juanqui, another individual named "Oscar," and Federal Judicial Police agent Claudio Saldana Salinas, a young and courageous member of that entity.

Apparently sustaining very serious injuries were federal police officers Guillermo Salazar, Javier Herrera and German Gutierrez, who were taken with the appropriate speed in ambulances of the Chihuahua Red Cross delegation to the social security clinic, under strict care of the medical personnel.

The heavy gun battle last about 7 minutes and, within a few more, that section of the Alta Vista development was surrounded by hundreds of curious spectators from the adjoining streets who came to see what was happening. Preventive police forces had to set up a barrier so as not to interfere with the work of the authorities.

Meanwhile, in special vehicles, the bodies of the five "narcos" and the young federal judicial policeman were taken from the scene of the incident, at the order of the Public Ministry, to the operating room of the medical school, where the legal autopsy was made by the forensic physicians.

Roque Bojorquez Rembao, regarded as one of the most dangerous members of the trafficking underworld, had escaped 8 months ago from the Ciudad Juarez prison when, using maneuvers that have not been fully explained, and apparently dressed as a policeman, he fled from the prison on that border.

A warrant for his arrest had been issued by the head of the Juarez federal court, because he had a suit pending against him for crimes against health since, on that occasion, the Federal Judicial Police detailed to Chihuahua had caught him with 1 kilogram of heroin in his possession.

Since this individual's name was at all times in the minds of the federal agents seeking his whereabouts, finally, they recently discovered that their "man" was in this town. But they never thought that he would be in the company of other traffickers, such as Marcial, Cutberto, Ramon Ramos Juanqui, "Oscar" and the Carrillos.

When Bojorquez' hideout was discovered, six federal agents took off in two vehicles and, upon arriving in front of the property and identifying themselves, they were met with shots. They returned the fire, which resulted in the toll of six deaths, three injuries and the arrest of a woman.

Roque Bojorquez, realizing that he was doomed, shot through the window of the house facing the street, firing his pistol furiously, almost point-blank, at the agents. The other criminals did the same, in a confrontation with the police. One of the latter called his headquarters over the radio in his vehicle, requesting assistance.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

CONVICTED DRUG PRODUCERS MOVED TO CHIHUAHUA

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 22 Sep 79 pp 1, 4

[Text] Yesterday, 23 federal prisoners (seven from the Los Mochis jail and 16 from the one in Culiacan) were moved to the city of Chihuahua. None of the prisoners had been sentenced, and hence the proceedings against them will be continued in the jurisdiction in which they were apprehended, according to law.

At 0800 hours the maneuvers began to receive the urban bus in which they were taken to the Bachiraguato airport. Before its arrival, Gen Javier Vazquez Felix, commander of the 9th Military Zone, Gen Felipe Santander, chief of staff, and Jose Humberto Davila del Bosque, agent of the Federal Public Ministry, inspected the grounds, and a group of soldiers was posted around the Mexican Air Force plane with registration number 10003.

"These are the usual security measures," commented General Santander; while Davila del Bosque provided the following information: "The transfer is due to the fact that there was a demurrer to the jurisdiction owing to the lack of authority of the district judge, because the jurisdiction must be where the crime was committed. They are going to Chihuahua, because that is where they committed the crime."

Upon being asked why some of them had been jailed here for nearly 2 years, he said: "This is the base of Zone 06, both of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and for the Condor 4 aviation activity; and, obviously, it is not governed by the state jurisdiction but by that of Zone 06, which includes southern Chihuahua, western Durango and all of Sinaloa."

He explained: "However, their transfer will benefit them, because the proceedings will be continued there, in compliance with the law. They were all arrested in the geographical area of Chihuahua for crimes against health. Most of them are growers of marihuana or had it in their possession; and they have been tried for trafficking, planting and harvesting it. They are country people." He could not continue reporting, because just then a military police squadron arrived, and supervised the transfer, from the very moment that the prisoners left the urban bus until their arrival at the Chihuahua jail.

While this was going on, we had an opportunity to converse with four of the prisoners. The first one said that he had been arrested 22 months ago in Encinal: "They caught me with 11 grams of marihuana seed." The next one, while turning his hat over between his hands, and with a gesture of annoyance, like someone who has repeated the same old story several times, said: "They caught me in Wachochi, with 80 grams of marihuana; I have served 22 months for this, and I don't know when they will sentence me. They are not doing me any favor by moving me to Chihuahua, because my family lives too far from the city to come and see me."

Enrique Aguirre Cruz, the only one who would identify himself, commented, for his part: "I have been held for 9 months. They didn't catch me with anything, but there was a charge from another person who wanted to harm me. They suddenly arrived and hauled me away there in Wachochi." Still another said: "They caught me in Guadalupe Calvo, and for 22 months I haven't known how much they are going to pin on me; and I don't have a cent to pay a lawyer," as he scraped the floor of the bus with his untied boots.

The time for departure arrived and, after being inspected to the last hair, with their belongings taken apart (they were carrying blankets and a change of clothing), they boarded the DC-6, one by one. The maneuver took a little over half an hour, and was carried out by the military police squad, at all times overseen at a discreet distance by Generals Vazquez Felix and Santander.

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MEXICO

LEADING DRUG SUPPLIER FROM CIUDAD ACUNA CONVICTED

Identified by Addicts

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 28 Sep 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the Federal Public Ministry agent, Xavier Elizondo, remanded Jesus Guadalupe Gonzalez Blanco, alias "El Jesse," to the second district court with headquarters in this town, for a crime against health in the degree of marihuana possession.

The capture of Jesus Guadalupe Gonzalez Blanco resulted from the arrest of some addicts, who were caught with traces of cocaine, marihuana and toxic pills, and who, upon being questioned, stated that the one supplying them with the drugs was "El Jesse" himself, a notorious underworld figure in Ciudad Acuna who was also very well known among the drug traffickers in that port. Police sources consider him one of the most powerful traffickers that have been noted in recent years.

Today, he will be required to make his preliminary statement before the judge of the second district court in Piedras Negras.

Imprisonment Ordered

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 29 Sep 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the federal judge, Eduardo Aguilar, of the second district court with headquarters in Piedras Negras, signed the writ for official imprisonment issued for the drug trafficker Jesus Guadalupe Gonzalez Blanco, after he was found guilty of committing a crime against health.

Gonzalez Blanco, alias "El Jesse," who is considered one of the most dangerous drug traffickers in the Ciudad Acuna underworld, was captured by Federal Jusicial Police forces after being identified by four addicts as the distributor of marihuana and other durgs to addicts in Acuna and the region. His capture took place when he realized that the signal had been given, and he was unable to make off with the shipment that he had hidden. It was also stated that only about 130 grams of marihuana which he could not remove at the time of his arrest had been confiscated.

Jose Guadalupe Gonzalez Blanco has been under investigation by the Federal Judicial Police. He was known to have engaged in some action wherein he took marihuana into the neighboring country, as well as sales transactions involving different types of drugs.

It was also commented that other individuals were implicated in this matter and escaped before "El Jesse" himself was captured. The federal judge ordered the official imprisonment for a crime against health in the degree of marihuana possession, and the pertinent proceedings were initiated promptly.

Gonzalo Blanco was said to have claimed that he was tortured so that he would declare himself guilty and sign the charge being brought against him; but, when he was asked for evidence and marks from the blows that he mentioned, he could not show anything.

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MEXICO

CONVICTED HEROIN TRAFFICKER IMPRISONED, FINED

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 29 Sep 79 Sec B p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the federal judge of the second district court, with headquarters in this town, Eduardo Aguilar, sentenced the drug trafficker David Alonso Ramirez, who was convicted of a crime against health in the degree of heroin distribution and sale, to 9 years in prison, and a fine of 200,000 pesos.

This information was given to EL DIARIO yesterday by Federal Judge Eduardo Aguilar, noting that this was the first instance of a sentence being passed in this district court on the basis of the reforms made in the law against drug trafficking, which stipulate a far heavier penalty than in the past, ranging from 7 to 15 years' imprisonment, and fines of from 10,000 to 1 million pesos.

As may be recalled, David Alonso Ramirez was captured by Federal Judicial Police forces in December of 1977, in Sabinas, Coahuila. He had been identified by Frank Hernandez and Carmen Gazca de Martinez as the individual who was supplying them with heroin, and was said to have done so on several occasions. The couple was arrested in Eagle Pass, Texas, by agents from the DEA (Narcotics Bureau), who found over 2 ounces of heroin concealed in the brassiere of the woman, Carmen Gazca.

During the questioning to which they were subjected, these individuals disclosed that David Alonso Ramirez, from Sabinas, was the supplier of heroin and other drugs to residents of the United States and the region as well. A coordinated action was immediately arranged with forces of the Federal Judicial Police, who succeeded in capturing Alonso Ramirez.

The latter, when apprehended by the Federal Judicial Police, stated, in turn, that he had purchased the heroin in towns such as Mazatlan, and that he had participated in several sales transactions in Monterrey, and in Lerdo, Durango.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TWELVE CLANDESTINE RUNWAYS DISCOVERED IN TIJUANA AREA

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 25 Sep 79 pp 1, 3

[Text] Mexico City, 24 September--The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic has discovered 12 clandestine landing strips in the town of Tijuana, Baja California, which were used by domestic drug traffickers for their illegal activities involving bringing drugs into our country.

The 12 runways which were found had been strategically located between mountains and on small meadows, which facilitated their construction. On one of them, located in Cerro Prieto, only 28 kilometers from Mexicali, a white Cessna 180 aircraft with yellow stripes and registration number N-5328-D, containing approximately 1 ton of marihuana, was discovered.

When the helicopters and lightplanes of the Narcotics Division of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic flew over this entire area, the runway and airplane were found, and the aircraft immediately notified the ground control of the exact location. Thus, the federal agents, taking off promptly, reached the site and, in addition to seizing the drugs and the small plane, succeeded in capturing the foreigners Michael Louis Papas and John Cleveland Hardin, both of American nationality.

When the two captured drug traffickers were subjected to questioning, they confessed that they were members of an international ring of drug traffickers which had established several clandestine landing strips around the town of Tijuana, in order to bring into our country drugs which they were carrying from South America, so that, from here, they could be taken into other American and European countries.

2909
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

POLICE CONCENTRATE IN CHIHUAHUA--Over 100 Federal Judicial Police agents from all over the republic are in the city of Chihuahua at present in connection with the investigation of the drug traffic following the gun battle in which five criminals and a police officer were killed. The agent associated with the Federal Public Ministry, Arturo Sanchez Gaytan, announced yesterday that nearly all the Federal Police agents detached to this district are also in the state capital. Only the most indispensable personnel are here to deal with any emergency situations that might arise. The investigation of the ominous shoot-out between "narcos" and the Federal Judicial Police is headed by the coordinator of the antidrug battle in the state, Hector del Castillo, according to the informant. He did not give details on the results nor the target of this investigation, something unusual in the state of Chihuahua, which warranted the concentration of this army of federal agents coming from all parts of the country. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 26 Sep 79 Sec A p 10] 2909

TAXI UNION EXPELLING TRAFFICKERS--Taxi drivers who are involved in drug trafficking will be expelled from the Alliance of Rental Car Owners [APAA]. The decision was made by the members of the APAA's board of directors, according to a statement made by its head, Alfonso Zarate Venzor. He added that this forceful action would be taken, of course, when a judge declares a member guilty of such a crime. Zarate Venzor said that a great effort had been made to lend dignity to the image of the border taxi driver, with considerable success, and hence no conduct that would denigrate the union will be tolerated. There are countless taxi drivers with over 50 years in this public service. Zarate Venzor remarked that, of course, in instances where in an attempt is made to commit injustices against taxi drivers by linking them with drug traffickers, they will be defended. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 20 Sep 79 Sec B p 10]

ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN RESULTS--Mexico City, 18 September--This week, the Federal Judicial Police captured 82 drug traffickers in various parts of the country, confiscating drugs with a value of over 80 million pesos on the international market, as part of the campaign against the planting, cultivation and trafficking of drugs. Prominent among the many operations conducted was the one in the municipality of San Vicente Beach, Veracruz, where a marijuana plantation

covering an area of 22,000 square meters, with plants averaging 3 meters tall, which would produce nearly 3 tons, was burned. Moreover, on the Tuxtepec-Palomares highway, the Federal Judicial Police captured two drug traffickers who were bound for the state of Veracruz to purchase marihuana, for which they stated that they had a sum of 150,000 pesos. Upon being questioned, those under arrest, Pedro Gallegos Aguilar and Israel Balderas Anaya, said that they had for several months been engaged in distributing the "grass" in the municipality of Galvan, a location to which several purchasers from this capital went to buy the drug frequently, so as to resell it tripling its price. Finally, official spokesmen released the list of drug traffickers who had been captured, as well as the total volume of drugs seized. They confiscated 32 tons of packed marihuana, 1 kilogram of heroin, 3 kilograms of cocaine, 1 kilogram of opium gum and marihuana seed, and 2 kilograms of poppy seed. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGRAS in Spanish 19 Sep 79 Sec B p 1] 2909

PUPILS QUERIED ABOUT DRUGS--Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 23 September--A report was made to the No 21 School Inspection Office of the State Department of Public Education concerning the dropout of children who had started attending elementary education classes in communities located in the mountain areas, because the soldiers and Federal Judicial Police combating drugs with "Operation Condor" have taken some of the pupils out of school to question them about the whereabouts of their parents. The teaching personnel sent by the Department of Public Education to fill positions on communal land located far from the town prefer not to go, because they are afraid of being arrested by the same soldiers, such as occurred in San Ignacio last year, when some teachers were accused of complicity in the drug traffic, according to statements made by the teachers Maria Cristina Salgado Navarro, Eloisa Echeagaray Mendoza and Maria del Carmen Perales. They commented: "We are not opposed to the 'Operation Condor' campaign, nor to the techniques used to combat the marihuana or poppy plantations. What we do not want is arbitrary acts committed in the classrooms by the troops and Judicial Police, asking the children where their parents are. This should not be done." The complaint was brought before the Department of Public Education in Sinaloa, and they want to be transferred to communities which are farther away from El Tecamate. Also, the herbicides used by the helicopters of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic for fumigation have burned the corn and wheat crops and fruit trees. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 24 Sep 79 p 4] 2909

COCAINE TRAFFICKER CAUGHT--Mexico City, 14 September--This morning, Federal Judicial Police agents captured a drug trafficker at this city's international airport when he arrived in our country from Panama City on Aeronaves flight 502, and 1 kilogram of pure cocaine that he had concealed in the soles of his shoes was confiscated from him. Waldo Guimero Perez Astuquiapan was arrested because this drug trafficker was wearing shoes with very high heels, and he appeared to be very nervous; hence, the federal agents immediately searched him and thus found the cocaine in his shoes. During the questioning, Perez Astuquiapan claimed that this was the first time that he had engaged in drug trafficking. He said that, for this purpose, "I

used my identification as a judicial supervisor in my country in order to avoid any problems with the judicial police of other countries." [Text]
[Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 15 Sep 79 p 4] 2909

MARIHUANA CASE WITNESS TESTIFIES--"Yes, I have known Ruben Fonseca Carrillo for some time, but I didn't know that he was engaged in illegal activities. I never knew whether or not he had marihuana in Nueva Rosita." The foregoing statement was made yesterday during the confrontation between Ruben Fonseca and Gilberto Lopez, in the district court. As may be recalled, Ruben Fonseca was captured with other individuals by the Federal Judicial Police and 2 tons of marihuana which they had concealed on a site located in Nueva Rosita, Coahuila, were seized from them. The suit was brought against them and yesterday there was a confrontation between Fonseca and Gilberto Lopez, who disclaimed any knowledge of the site where the marihuana was kept, even claiming that he did not know whether it was the property of Fonseca Carrillo. Matters took a different turn yesterday, and it was noticed that both had been carefully advised. It was said that the individuals under arrest held a legal confrontation, and definitely attempted to exonerate themselves from their guilt, which has already been established. All that is required are hearings on the matter, and a verdict is expected for each of those in custody, in connection with the 2,000 kilograms of marihuana seized from them. Furthermore, both Fonseca and Lopez claimed that they had been beaten by Federal Judicial Police forces to force them to make statements about situations wherein they were not at all liable. This was the claim that they made in their respective statements and in the confrontation to which they were subjected by the second district court. [Text]
[Piedras Negars EL DIARIO DE PIEDRAS NEGPAS in Spanish 21 Sep 79 Sec B p 1] 2909

MASS DRUG BURNING REPORTED--Yesterday, in the presence of civilian and military authorities, several tons of marihuana and various amounts of other drugs confiscated during the permanent campaign against the drug traffic and valued at several million pesos were burned on the grounds of the 9th Military Zone. The burning of the drugs took place at 1200 hours, with the approval of the chief of this military zone, Gen Javier Vazquez Felix, and other high-ranking military officials; as well as Fernando Garcia Felix, head of government for the state government, and officials from the state administration and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. During the burning of the drugs, it was announced that, on this occasion, 2,330 kilograms of marihuana, both raw and packed in joints, were destroyed. Also incinerated were nearly 4 kilograms of heroin, 2,118 kilograms of opium gum, 162 kilograms of marihuana seed and various amounts of poppy seed, benzocaine, toxic pills, heroin cutting substance, cocaine, poppy plants, marihuana plants, hydrochloric acid and acetone. The commander of the 9th Military Zone said that, thanks to the permanent campaign against drug cultivation and trafficking, the incidence of this illegal activity had been reduced by a high percentage, with the resultant benefits for the society as a whole. The high-ranking military chief added that considerable amounts of drugs had been seized, reiterating that the work to combat drug trafficking would

be continued with the same intensity as on the first day. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 30 Sep 79 pp 1, 7] 2909

FOREIGN COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Mexico City, 23 September--The Federal Judicial Police arrested a man and two women, all foreigners, at the Mexico City international airport, as they were selling cocaine. The federal agents also seized goods being attempted to be brought into the country illegally from the individuals under arrest. Martha Chevereaux, Angela Careto and Rene Agimann, who identified themselves with their passports as coming from Italy, were carrying 70 grams of cocaine and goods from that country, which they were selling at the airport. When the Federal Judicial Police agents arrested them, they were carrying tickets from the Alitalia company, which some passengers from Italy reported had been stolen, as the federal authorities at the airport were notified. Arrested last Friday night, they were taken to the Federal Judicial Police lockup, and the federal agents brought them before the Federal Public Ministry yesterday. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 30 Sep 79 p 4] 2909

SINALOA, DURANGO DRUG BURNINGS--The commander of the Condor Task Force, Gen Jesus Gomez Ruiz, accompanied by Gregorio Enrique Corzo Marin, deputy coordinator of the permanent campaign against the drug traffic sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General of Justice, burned drugs in two towns located in Sinaloa and Durango. First, they went to Rincon de Huajupa, in the municipality of Santiago Papasquiario, in Durango, where the first destruction of the day took place. In that location, 1 ton and 600 kilograms of raw marijuana seized by forces from the Federal Judicial Police and the Mexican Army itself were burned. Then they traveled to Badiraguato, Sinaloa, to conduct the same operation with 708 kilograms of raw marijuana and another 507 kilograms of the same grass, packed and ready to be shipped outside of the country. According to information that the reporter obtained from the source, in this location 8 kilograms and 395 grams of marijuana seed and 540 grams of poppy seed, products which had also been confiscated by the aforementioned forces, were likewise incinerated. The spokesman for the Office of the Attorney General of Justice observed that, despite the considerable reduction in the growing of drugs in the Sinaloa mountains and in the border areas adjacent to the states of Chihuahua and Durango, the activities will still be considered normal, because we cannot continue to believe that the illegal planting will no longer be done; and hence we must be constantly on guard. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 21 Sep 79 p 10] 2909

HEROIN DISTRIBUTOR CONFESSES--Manuel Hector Bernal Lopez, who was arrested by forces of the Federal Judicial Police on 7 September because he was known to be engaged in the illegal activity of distributing heroin, did not know what to say upon being questioned about his current occupation; and, when the investigators insisted, they managed to elicit his confession that he had 50 grams of the aforementioned drug in his possession. In his statements, Bernal Lopez declared that, a few days earlier, he had gone to the town of Atascaderos, in Chihuahua, where he had bought the drugs from an individual for 120,000 pesos; adding that he intended to recover his investment upon distributing the drugs to addicts at a higher price. He

claimed that he was seeking someone to whom he could sell them when he was arrested. It was also established in his statement that, until the best customer arrived, he had buried the product, carefully protected, in a tree located 2 kilometers from Tameapa, Badiraguato, and he guided the judicial agents to that location, where they seized the heroin. Since all the preliminary and investigative procedures had been carried out properly, the police placed Bernal Lopez at the disposal of the agent of the Federal Public Ministry. After having been subjected to the required physical examination (before questioning), the preliminary probe process involving him has begun, and now the official has remanded him to the district judge, so that the latter may decide on whether or not he is to be officially imprisoned. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 21 Sep 79 p 4] 2909

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--Mexico City, 15 Oct (AFP)--Mexican Police today seized a cocaine shipment worth \$6.5 million from U.S. citizen Steve Curtis Zalabak, in the northern state of Baja California. The shipment, which consisted of 12.5 kilos of cocaine, was going to be introduced into the United States by U.S. citizens Steve Becgler and Patt Pasenheim [as received], who fled from the Mexican Police in the boat they were going to use in the smuggling operation. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0403 GMT 16 Oct 79 PA]

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PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE--Narcotics agents from the Ministry of Finance and Treasury arrested U.S. citizen Jonathan Hutton Trigg, 30, who was carrying a one-kilo bag of cocaine. He was coming from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, enroute to Los Angeles. Also arrested were Adolfo Gaston Nole Moran, 26, and Pedro Eduardo Vizarreta Caceda, 34, both Peruvian citizens from Guayaquil enroute to Guatemala, Mexico, and Los Angeles. They were carrying one kilo and half a kilo of cocaine, respectively. [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Oct 79 p 13 PA]

CSO: 5300

CYPRUS

REPORTAGE ON ARRESTS IN MORPHOU AREA DRUG TRAFFICKING

Traffickers Remanded to Custody

Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English 14 Oct 79 p 1 NC

[Text] A Turkish settler from Turkey and another Turkish Cypriot together with two Greek Cypriots were brought before the Famagusta District Court, sitting at Larnaca, yesterday and remanded in custody for 8 days in connection with suspected hashish trafficking.

They are Mehmet Nazir, formerly of Polis now at Pyla, Mehmet Timoutzi of Turkey who settled in the Morphou area, Andreas Sfikas of Avgorou and Sofoklis Konstantinou of Larnaca.

The police presenting the case said they had reason to believe that the four were involved in the affair. Three were apprehended on the spot and the fourth was arrested under a judicial warrant and three of them were found to be in possession of a "substance resembling narcotics."

Demanding their remand, police said their release might influence the investigations.

Narcotic Plants Cultivated

Nicosia O AGON in Greek 14 Oct 79 p 1 NC

[Text] Settlers from Turkey and Turkish Cypriots living in the Morphou area --an area covering thousands of acres of arable land with plenty of water--have been growing, all the way to the coast, plants from which they get narcotic drugs.

This shocking statement was made to the police by Mehmet Dimunzin [as published], who was arrested night before last at the "Golden Fish" Restaurant in Larnaca and who had in his possession 117 kgs of processed, ready for use, hashish.

Mehmet Nazir, a Turkish Cypriot who was also arrested and who is Mehmet Dimunzin's brother-in-law, has admitted that he was acting as a liaison

between Mehmet Dimuzin and the buyers of narcotics. He did not disclose the names of the buyers but the police believe, on the basis of other information, that they must be Greek Cypriots.

Following an exhaustive interrogation by the Famagusta CID men, both Turkish settler Mehmet Dimuzin and Turkish Cypriot Mehmet Nazir have disclosed the following:

Large areas of land at Morphou are being cultivated with plants from which narcotic drugs are produced. This cultivation is possible because of the vast quantities of water which greatly helps the plants to grow. The soil is considered ideal for the growing of such plants, which are grown among these plantations.

The processing of hashish is done by experts who have come to the occupied areas and who are well paid for this job. Large quantities of narcotics are stored at Pergamos area.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

HESSIAN INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES DRUG PROBLEMS

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 20 Sep 79 p 18

[Article by Bernd Jasper: "Frankfurt Has Become Center of Drug Traffic"]

[Text] Wiesbaden. The worrisome development on the Hessian drug scene is the reason why Ekkehard Gries, minister of the interior, gave orders to the Land police for "general mobilization against narcotics crimes." In spite of the latest successes in Frankfurt, where--according to reports--a number of alleged dealers were arrested and 4 kilograms of heroin was seized, the minister is of the opinion that a new police defense unit must be established because the volume of hard drug traffic and the number of drug-related deaths has reached new records.

It is the reason why the number of narcotics experts in Hesse's detective police force is being increased immediately from 65 to 135 officers. Simultaneously all police departments in the land are supposed to establish separate narcotics commissions. The special strike commandos and the mobile commandos will also be utilized to a greater extent during the fight against narcotics.

The special target, according to the minister of the interior, will be the city of Frankfurt. Gries quoted experts who were of the opinion that "Frankfurt had replaced the city of Amsterdam as the center of drug traffic." The local narcotics division is therefore to be increased by seven officials. But these measures are problematic insofar as the minister of the interior cannot fall back upon additional personnel, but he must reassign officials from other police departments to the narcotics unit. Thus, Gries referred to the "last reserves whom he" could "shift to the drug front." Naturally, the other areas of police activities had to suffer because of it at least temporarily.

The material which gave rise to the curiously dramatic action by the minister of the interior consists of a shattering amount of figures.

Accordingly, during the course of this year until yesterday, 86 drug-related deaths were recorded, 71 of them in the Rhine-Main area. This figure has already surpassed the total number for last year. According to the minister there would certainly have been 100 additional deaths if medical-emergency treatment had not been administered to drug victims in the last minute. These figures place Hesse clearly at the top of all FRG Laender. Even the most populous land, North-Rhine-Westphalia (17 million inhabitants compared to 5.5 million in Hesse), had only half the number of deaths.

In addition, narcotics crimes in Hesse increased by 20 percent (518, which brought the total to 3,077). One reason why drug abuse is growing, the minister stated, is that increasing "supplies" from the Near East, particularly Turkey, have led to a drop in the price of heroin. The Rhine-Main area has become the major transfer point for hard drugs because, geographically, it is centrally located, its traffic facilities are above average, it is close to a major airport and probably also because the dealers have become "accustomed" to this area.

Gries announced increased cooperation with the FRG Bureau of Criminal Investigation as well as with American agencies. The minister felt also that it was necessary to institute more thorough checks of foreigners, because there is no doubt, for instance, that Turks and Persians are playing an unusually large role in the drug business. The police should direct its attention particularly to roads, because by far the largest amount of narcotics is transported to Hesse by land. In this respect, the so-called "Balkan Route" has attained a particularly sad notoriety, Gries said.

In the end everything becomes a question of the beloved money: Yesterday the minister estimated the cost of DM 4.5 million for this special program which has just started. Gries hopes that the Landtag will come to his aid and that the minister of finance will allocate funds for additional personnel when the next budget comes up.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

TWO DEALERS ARRESTED, KILOGRAM HEROIN SEIZED

Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 17 Sep 79 p 14

[Article by Erwin Tochtermann: "One Kilogram of Heroin--Seized by Police"]

[Text] Friday night, agents of the Bavarian Land Criminal Bureau (BLW) struck a new blow against heroin traffic: They arrested a Persian, Kamaladdin M. (34), and his 28-year old wife, a Bulgarian who had been granted asylum, and 1 kilogram of heroin was confiscated. The officials had to fight in order to seize the narcotic, which the woman wanted to destroy as evidence. In the process a portion of the drug was spilled--as a consequence, the three children of the dealer couple had to be taken to a hospital because of suspected heroin poisoning.

While looking for the suppliers following a drug-traffic bust 4 weeks ago in Frankfurt involving 500 grams of heroin, narcotics agents came across Kamaladdin M., a notorious exoffender. His lifestyle--he drove an expensive sports car and indulged his passion for gambling--was out of proportion to his income as welfare recipient.

Investigations With Scotland Yard

As it turned out, investigations conducted in conjunction with Scotland Yard led to the discovery that over M.'s telephone a deal was made involving 1 kilogram of heroin that was to be shipped illicitly to London. An "interested buyer" was sent from London. She established contact with M. and received the "merchandise" on Friday in his apartment. She had to wait, however, guarded by Mrs M., until the Persian was able to secure the purchase price from a designated place nearby. But the agents were already waiting and arrested him.

His wife was considerably more difficult: When she was asked to open the door, she became suspicious and wanted to snatch the "stuff" from the customer to flush it down the toilet and destroy the evidence. During the struggle which resulted, during which the sons, Kevan (8) and Kamran (11)



supported their mother, some of the heroin was spilled and inhaled by the parties involved. When Mrs M. was finally overpowered and arrested, Kevan and Kamran, as well as their 1 and 1/2 year-old brother, were taken to a hospital because of suspected drug poisoning.

No Information About Suppliers

In the meantime a warrant was issued by the prosecutor for the arrest of the dealer couple, who gave no information about their suppliers. The spilled narcotic was secured with a vacuum cleaner. This new strike brought the seizure of heroin during the first half of September to approximately 5 1/2 kilogram--a quantity that would have been sufficient for 150,000 individual portions.

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FRANCE

BRIEFS

DRUG RING IN VALENCE--An international drug-trafficking ring has been uncovered by police in Valence. This may represent the biggest drug operation carried out by the police for a long time. Two tons of hashish have been recovered from the culprits' hideout in Valence, a town doubtless chosen for its good transport possibilities. About 20 people are thought to be implicated, and 7 have been taken into custody so far. They will appear in court tomorrow morning. [Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 23 Oct 79 LD]

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ITALY

HEALTH MINISTER PROPOSES CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN

Minister's Proposal

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 4 Sep 79 p 6

[Article: "Every 2 Days in Italy, a Youth Is Killed by Narcotics--Drugs: a Plan From the Minister"]

[Text] Minister Altissimo, in an interview in L'EUROPEO, says that semilegalization of the sale of heroin is under study.

Rome--The Liberal minister of health, Renato Altissimo, would like to launch by Christmastime an antiheroin plan based on a form of semilegalization of the sale of that drug. The sensational announcement was made in an interview given to L'EUROPEO, which will be on the stands Wednesday.

"Because of heroin," the minister declares, "a young person dies every other day. Frankly, I am terrified. I am not forgetting, of course, that there are also health reform, the mental hospitals, abortion--all being laws based on correct intuitions but not functioning for various reasons. But heroin.... One has to have a deep knowledge of the problem, one must check what is happening in the other countries that have experienced this plague earlier in time than we have. In the United States, for example, why were there 1,954 official deaths from heroin in 1970 and only 800 in 1977? Perhaps because many American states had broadly depenalized the use of hashish and marijuana? Perhaps because the system of prohibition of the other drugs encourages the spread of the hard ones? It could be."

Altissimo adds: "If we found a system for controlled distribution of heroin through certain public bodies, we would eliminate the drug addict's necessity to hook others. We would therefore block the concatenated expansion of the phenomenon. Not only this: every day, the drug addicts are responsible for dozens of crimes against property, which would be drastically reduced. A colossal side-effect on public order."

"For this reason," the minister continues, "I have asked the minister of industry and the Higher Institute of Health to prepare in detail a proposed

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solution of the problem in this direction. I have already asked Professors Pocchiari and Donato (who chairs the Health Commission of the EEC) to go to England immediately and bring me back a report. I am thinking of convoking the European council of ministers of health."

"I would like to have a bill ready by Christmastime. Naturally, controlled distribution would only be the beginning. Just as important are prevention and rehabilitation. I would like the schools," the minister concluded in the L'EUROPEO interview, "to inform the young about the perils of drugs--for example, with a couple of hours of audiovisual materials per week. The health structures--let's admit it--are deficient."

Parties' Reaction

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 5 Sep 79 p 8

[Article by U.M.: "The New Minister of Health's Antidealer Plan--On the Tragedy of Heroin, the Politicians Discuss the Proposal for Controlled Distribution"]

[Text] Renato Altissimo says: "By working out a system for distribution of the drug to the addicts without charge, in the hospitals and through the pharmacies, we could stem the expansion of the problem."

Rome--Someone has called him the "minister of state heroin." One thing is certain: if nothing else, Renato Altissimo, the young Liberal recently named minister of health, has the merit of having stirred up the stagnant waters of political initiative against the drug scourge. He has said in an interview in L'EUROPEO: "If we found a system for controlled distribution of heroin to addicts through certain public bodies, we could block the expansion of the phenomenon."

As soon as they read these words, both parties and experts reacted immediately--some positively, others perplexedly. The PSI [Italian Socialist Party], for example, went right into action, preparing to work out its own bill. In any case, says its expert Antonio Landolfi, the proposal is "timely." The PCI, more cautious, asks the health commissions of Montecitorio and Palazzo Madama to meet urgently to discuss the problem. The members of parliament of the DC [Christian Democratic Party] have decided to set up a group of experts, with a first meeting on Tuesday 18 September.

While waiting for the interministerial committee on drug dependence--which is to meet in the Ministry of Health on 11 September--to begin to reexamine the forms of assistance to addicts, and for the professors sent to London to return, we collected several opinions on the initiative by the minister of health, and we present a summary of them.

We begin with Tina Anselmi, Christian Democrat, who was minister of health during the last legislature. "Altissimo's supposition," she says, "seems

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rather dangerous to me. The reality is that drug dependence, its deep causes, must be eliminated. The health aspect is not sufficient in itself. In the recent past we have held seminars, we have had contacts with the World Health Organization, we have collected data from other countries of the European Economic Community. So, then, there is complete documentation in the ministry's files. Altissimo would do well to look for it. He would find in them that these experiments, distribution of methadone or heroin, have had a negative outcome."

Senator Adriano Ossicini of the Independent Left, a 40-year-old psychiatrist, says: "I have nothing against the drug addict's being given heroin instead of other junk. But it's simplistic. Do we go from state methadone to state heroin? I have never seen addicts cured by administration of methadone or heroin. The problem has to be tackled in a different way, by smashing the political market in drugs and eliminating the psychological problems which throw the way open to their diffusion. Should we administer heroin in the hospitals? All right. To whom? How? When? What are we to do with the number of addicts at the beginning? What are we to do with foreigners? What Altissimo says is not clear."

"The minister's intentions," says the honorable Giovanni Berlinguer, Communist and teacher of health and social medicine, "seem good. We ourselves had urged that various methods be tried out, including controlled distribution of heroin, to protect drug addicts from serious harm, and that the distinction between the various drugs, and between dealers and consumers, be made sharper. Nevertheless, it does not seem very scientific to me--I'm not saying it isn't done seriously--to announce broad measures for the free prescription of heroin and at the same time decide to send experts to England to see how this system has functioned. Wouldn't it have been better to gather the facts in Italy and elsewhere first, and then formulate the proposals on the basis of experience? Moreover, the English experience of administering heroin in hospitals has not given results positive enough to warrant application of it by law on a broad scale."

According to Professor Berlinguer, since there have not been consultations among the government parties there is the risk of seeing "a methadone party and a heroin party" arise with the public administration. For this reason, the PCI asks that the question be discussed in the parliamentary commissions on health. "Unfortunately, we must take account of the fact," Berlinguer says, "that there is no absolute remedy. Above all, it is necessary to call on the young to transform society, instead of pushing them into passivity and destruction."

The Radicals call Altissimo's initiative "an innovative breakaway from the past." Adelaide Aglietta shows some apprehension: "The bottleneck of the public structures could be the failure of any attempt to give this problem a solution. Structures as practicable as possible for physicians and addicts must be designed, without hindrances such as registrations and bureaucratic controls." The consultation system provided for by the law must be made to

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function. The addict must not be considered a sick person. "On the contrary," says Adelaide Aglietta, "it is possible to take a step forward in the fight against the black market in heroin by respecting the addict's individuality and his choices."

Still another opinion--that of Prof Eugenio Paroli, director of the Institute of Pharmacology of the University of Rome. "Treatment with methadone has greater advantages because methadone is less toxic than heroin and has a longer-lasting effect. Support of the addict with medications, allowing him to take heroin every 6 hours, cannot be conceived of. And how would an addict take heroin under a liberalized system? In an authorized pharmacy? Heroin is a toxic substance and may not circulate freely. If heroin is sold by the pharmacist, another drug will certainly hatch out, as the experience with amphetamines has taught us."

Editorial Comment

Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 14 Sep 79 p 1

[Editorial by Gaetano Scardocchia: "A Tragedy and Many Uncertainties---Drug Archipelago"]

[Text] Rome--Drawing up a trial balance of the debate on drugs, one sees that it has been unusually sober, without ideological prejudices, characterized by a realistic and pragmatic approach often lacking in the past in regard to other problems (divorce, abortion) that had ethical aspects in addition to social ones.

Alongside this positive observation, though, stands another which is not positive. The proposal--a rather vague one, too--by Minister Altissimo to liberalize the distribution of heroin in some way has caught the political world unprepared. The government officials had not studied the phenomenon. Two experts have been hastily sent to London to gather information on a health experiment, the British one, which is already the subject of a vast literature that should be on file in the ministerial libraries (but are there any in Italy?). Even the dimensions of drug addiction are unknown to the public authorities: some say there are 20,000 heroin addicts, while others insist that there are more than 100,000.

The parties, caught off-balance once again, have reacted with confused, contradictory, hasty judgments. The DC, not having any counterproposals to make, has suggested caution and prudence. The Young Communists (but will the party go along with them?) have suggested the idea of legalization of the light drugs (marijuana, hashish) "which could take the form of a state monopoly on production and sale"; and a Socialist deputy has asked for "complete liberalization" of the derivatives of Cannabis indica.

We shall not go into the merits of these opinions, which are perfectly legitimate ones; but the way in which they have been advanced shows that the political parties, except for the Radicals and the far left, had never concerned

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themselves with a problem that is one of the most heart-breaking and painful of the contemporary world.

Therefore Altissimo's proposal, although it has the merit of having opened a salutary debate, is marred by a birth defect: a pioneering approach, or at least a breakaway one, such as the liberalization of heroin, is being suggested by the government of a country that is the last to arrive on the battlefield and does not boast too much confidence against its murderous enemy. Those who are actively concerned in these matters--in Italy and, even more so, abroad--have thrown water on the fire. Therefore we can make an initial and summary inventory of several questions and perplexities arising from the initiative by the minister of health.

(1) Controlled distribution of heroin requires by its nature that there be controls. Therefore, an efficient public health organization--which in Italy does not exist--is necessary. Someone proposes entrusting the distribution of heroin to the banks, maintaining that they would know how to guard the vials of the drug with the same rigor with which they guard money. It is a bizarre idea, but is based on a premise that is not bizarre: the public structures do not give sufficient guarantees.

Whatever the distributing agency might be, the problem is a difficult one to solve in any case. The state would have to provide the addict with enough heroin to choke off the black market, but not so much that he can in turn furnish it to new channels of illegal consumption. The first British experiment, the ultraliberal legislation in force until 1968, failed in this dilemma, because too many physicians proved irresponsible or inattentive.

But more restrictive systems too (the British one after 1968, the big American hospitals of Lexington and Fort Worth, the Italian therapeutic centers themselves) have many deficiencies: the black market has not disappeared, and some of the legal drug (which may be heroin, but also methadone, a less potent and euphoric substitute) is recycled by addicts in the dealer circuit. Then there is the warning by those who know the addicts' world: many of them do not want to be registered--and some form of registration would be inevitable--and many others would refuse the state-supplied drug as a way of politico-cultural protest.

(1) It is an illusion to think that if state heroin were supplied to all existing addicts, their number would remain stable and circumscribed. Those who think this way consider drug addiction as a biological phenomenon, a disease: one gives insulin to diabetics, and one gives heroin to heroin addicts. But drug addiction is not a disease; it is a symptom. Of what? The phenomenon has social and existential roots that cannot be probed scientifically. Why do people drug themselves? In protest against the DC and the PCI? Or because a readiness to alter the psychic processes chemically in order to overcome anxiety and unhappiness is now widespread in the industrialized societies of the West? This is already happening with alcohol, and on a very vast scale.

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If it is true that this deep subcultural movement exists, if there is therefore an increase in the demand for drugs, then it may be presumed that the black market would survive even if the state distributed heroin to the addicts already existing. The clandestine circuit could, perhaps with lower profits, meet the demand from the new disciples. A question: couldn't the certainty of being able to count tomorrow on state distribution of drugs, free-of-charge, clean, well-dosed drugs--in a word, the certainty of being able to drug oneself conveniently--become in itself an incentive to drug addiction?

(3) The drug phenomenon requires a unified and coherent strategy. One could also propose the partial liberalization of heroin, but with the very clear understanding that such a remedy implies a less repressive attitude toward the other drugs too, such as the derivatives of Cannabis sativa (marijuana and hashish): one cannot furnish heroin free of charge to the heroin addict and at the same time make life difficult for the smoker of Indian hemp. Questions: is the Italian government prepared to liberalize the so-called light drugs? What is its overall strategy on the drug problem?

(4) It has been said on several sides that the Altissimo proposal would brand the drug addicts as irrecoverable. Let us say that it has been presented more from humanitarian motives and reasons of public order (supervising the drug addict's life, but rendering him inoffensive and preventing him from becoming a dealer himself) than with therapeutic intent. Therefore, the real problem to be solved is not whether to distribute state drugs or not: this is already happening, with methadone and even with morphine, which are being used in our hospitals and in the specialized centers. The fact that heroin may be added to these is irrelevant. The difference is something else: until now, drugs (methadone or even morphine) have been given with therapeutic justification, in decreasing doses, to free the addict from immediate physical dependence, in the hope that he can then free himself from psychic habituation as well; but tomorrow he would be inoculated with continual maintenance doses, permanently, even for the rest of his natural life. What moral and even legal problems are raised by such a decision?

When we presented some of these doubts to Minister Altissimo a few days ago, he replied with a doubt of his own: "Which is better--a dead addict or an addict kept alive by state heroin?"

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UN Hytten's Remarks

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 9 Sep 79 pp 1, 17

[Article by Giancarlo Angeloni: "Criticisms of the Minister's Proposals-- Let Us Not Repeat Others' Mistakes in the Fight Against Drugs--Hytten: Legal Distribution of Heroin Makes the Addict Irrecoverable"]

[Text] "On the drug problem, the Italian government is advancing backward." This judgment is one of those that are going to count. It is given by Eyvind

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Hytten, a Norwegian and chief of the UN's European social development program. Hytten, who knows the problems of our country and of the Mezzogiorno very well, and who worked in Sicily for 8 years, has studied thoroughly the phenomenon of the spread of drug addictions, which arose first in Northern Europe and more recently in the Mediterranean countries. With special reference to the latter, the United Nations held a seminar in Lisbon in September of last year, and Hytten was its organizer.

It was said on that occasion that if a "drug problem" exists, it is only to the extent that the phenomenon should be viewed as a chain of linked social questions and dissatisfactions. Thus the "proletarianization" of drug addictions in Italy and elsewhere is to be considered as an outlet for malaise that in other conditions would have taken a different course, or would have done so in a less sensational manner, towards criminality, suicides, prostitution or urban vandalism. Drugs, in brief, are said to be an "aspecific" evil, and what shows is the social manifestations of maladjustment.

Hence it is not surprising that Hytten is argumentative about the proposals advanced by the minister of health for "controlled distribution" and semi-legalization of heroin. "They look like humanitarian assistance," he says, "but they are exactly the opposite. In this way, the addict would be branded as irrecoverable. It does not seem out of place to me to make a comparison with hopeless cancer patients to whom one gives morphine. In today's medicine, though, we do not know how to cure certain forms of cancer; but it has not been proved that such is the case for drug addicts also. There may even be desperate cases, but this does not justify a policy of social abandonment. Furthermore, controlled distribution is done to defend society from crime, and not the victims of drug addiction. In brief, with this decision the Italian government would declare itself officially powerless to combat the phenomenon."

There are other considerations too, which in Hytten's opinion are not to be underestimated. Italy has subscribed to the UN's Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which dates from 1961, and the Vienna convention of 1971, which establish limits and controls on the importation and distribution of narcotic substances. More generally, each signatory country commits itself, by these agreements, to outlaw all types of drugs. "One of the purposes of the agreement," Hytten states, "is to keep any state from becoming in any way an accomplice of the drug addict, in order to solve domestic crime problems. Thus, if Italy instituted controlled distribution of heroin, it would at least have to make a report to the UN's drug commission, to which it belongs. And it should be recalled that a couple of years ago The Netherlands made known its intention to depenalize the possession of cannabis (hashish and marijuana) for personal use--something which in 'moderate quantities' is already provided for by Italian law--and was severely attacked by the other member countries. I wonder, then, how the international community, through the UN, may react to such drastic action as that by the Italian minister of health. And it should be considered also that there is great mobility today: thus, who can prevent a Swedish heroin addict, for example, from buying a ticket to Italy and being

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supplied with drugs free of charge here, like what so many young Europeans have done in picking Holland as their country of tourism and travel for the sake of 'light' drugs?"

There is much talk these days of the English experiments in controlled distribution of heroin and morphine, first, and then of methadone, as happened several years ago, without taking account of an important fact which made it possible for Great Britain not to injure its international relations in the matter of the fight against drug addiction. It is the British common law which, because it is not written, gave the possibility of not putting what was gradually being tried out in this field into terms of written law. Let us look at the essential characteristics of those experiments.

Until the 1950's, England and the United States adopted very different policies in the fight against drugs. American law treated the drug addict entirely as a criminal, and in the frankly repressive atmosphere, there was great fear of asking for cure and assistance. England, in contrast, was quick to accept the idea that the drug addict should be considered a sick person, and it was established that once drug addiction had taken hold, it was better to recognize the fact, furnishing the needed drugs through the health services. Thus the drug addict could go to one of several dispensaries during established hours, usually in the evening, present a registration card, and receive his dose of heroin or morphine.

This experiment revealed all its limitations--recalls psychiatrist Luigi Cancrini, cultural advisor for the Lazio region--when, several years later, there was a massive outbreak of drug addiction. The rather liberal system of controlled distribution then went into crisis. England then retreated, but allowing the possibility also of experimental centers for distributing heroin, as is still done today.

The United States and England adopted a similar attitude, though, towards methadone, because this opiate substitute was immediately considered not as a drug but as a therapeutic substance. Thus, antidrug centers based on distribution of methadone, as well as on collateral forms of help, were established in the last 10 years; and the United States in particular showed the same generosity with methadone as England had in distributing heroin and morphine.

But if, says Cancrini, one takes into account the fact that one of the reasons for the use of methadone, which is entirely similar to heroin and the other opiates, is that it enables addicts to keep out of the grip of the illegal market, it must then be recognized that the results obtained in the two countries, through controlled distribution, have been very modest. In fact, there has not been a positive effect either on the number of deaths or on the spread of drug addiction itself; nor has any reduction in drug traffic been observed. On the contrary, an enormous number of new drug addicts have been created by methadone.

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With regard to the English experience, Cancrini reports an extremely interesting piece of information: it has been calculated that the methadone taken from the centers by drug addicts and put onto the market constituted in England, in 1977, the beginning drug for a larger number of cases of new drug addicts than than for heroin itself. Thus, the drug addict supplied with methadone sells it in order to buy heroin. Furthermore, the experience of other countries seems to be equally discouraging.

And this brings us back to the present debates. Cancrini says: "Before coming out with such a strong proposal, the minister could have done a survey of the Italian situation, convoking the council of representatives of the regional committees for prevention of drug dependence, and then bringing the data on the individual regions to Parliament, presenting them to the competent commissions, with possible proposals thus emerging from the discussion. In this way the minister would have avoided what can only be termed a "gaffe"--that is, declaring, in 1979, that he had sent two experts to England to see 'what is happening'."

He continues: "But what has stricken me most on the part of the experts, of England or other countries, is the insistence with which they have always told us: 'What we can teach you is only how to avoid the mistakes we have made.' But all these experts are intensely interested in the Italian legislation in the field of drug dependence and psychiatric hospitals, considering it not only from the civil point of view but also in its technical and scientific aspects, which are among the most advanced in the world. It seems well to say this at a time when it seems to me that there is a conservative 'revival' with regard to the law on drug addiction--indeed regarding all three of the assistance laws: on abortion, drugs, and psychiatry. And this 're-awakening' seems to be recognized by Cabinet itself."

On the other hand, it is not by chance that Eyvind Hytten also agrees with this judgment. "I consider the Italian law," he says, "to be more open to the complexity of the problem of drug addiction than are those of other countries that have experienced this phenomenon earlier than you. Furthermore, it is the only law in the world in which the psychiatric hospital system is explicitly excluded from treatment of drug addicts."

Finally, there remains a big problem regarding the procedures (by which an eventual form of semilegalization would be put into effect). Cancrini declares: "The basic question is not yes or no to heroin, but the type of control over distribution. If it were to be given like methadone in the hospital facilities, problems should not arise: in some cases it could be easier to do antiaddiction therapy, either fast or over a period of time, using heroin instead of methadone. I am not convinced of this, but I respect the opinion of those who maintain it. But if one is talking about administration of heroin by any physician whomsoever, even in private practice or in an outpatient situation, I would consider the decision disastrous. Above all, there would be a real explosion of new drug addiction, because more or less open sale, through the pharmacies, would lead to enormous production of drugs, so

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much as to make the market absolutely uncontrollable. The heroin in circulation, manufactured under state license, would be of controlled quality, not 'cut,' and therefore in great demand. Italy thus would quickly become a base for distribution to other countries, as happened until the beginning of the 1970's with the amphetamines, before they were put on the list of narcotic substances."

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ITALY

COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUP'S APPEAL TO MODIFY THE DRUG LAW

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 8 Sep 79 p 2

[Text] The FGCI [Italian Communist Youth Federation] national leadership has examined the serious and pressing problem of the spread of drugs, and especially of heroin.

The extent of the phenomenon--the FGCI asserts among other things--and its consequences for the new generations, and for society as a whole, constitute, aside from the subjective reasons for addiction to drugs, a real and full-scale social tragedy, and it is therefore necessary for the state and society to take charge. It is no longer possible to regard drug addiction as solely a problem of public order or solely one of improving the public health and social welfare services.

The FGCI is therefore appealing to all the youth forces, and especially those of the left, to take part in mounting an inquiry, a drive, a joint operation, aimed at stemming and combating the spread of drug addiction. The communist youths are asking the youth forces wishing to commit themselves to this fight to join them in organizing a "national assizes" against drugs, which would be the forum for a mass discussion on ways of attacking the problem at idealistic and cultural levels and on appropriate steps to be taken immediately against the black market, drug deaths, and the spread of addiction.

Intervening effectively today in the drug addiction tragedy means first of all undertaking two immediate objectives with respect to young people and with respect to society:

- 1) To curb, diminish and possibly eliminate deaths resulting from cutting, overdoses, and syringe hepatitis;
- 2) To cripple the drug trade, this extremely powerful crime multinational, with its political ties and protection, and its mind-boggling turnover of billions--the real and true lifeblood of the new urban organized criminality.

An early modification of Law 685 on drugs is urgently needed.

In the opinion of the FGCI, such modification must begin with a clear distinction, from the legislative viewpoint, between the hard drugs and the derivatives of Indian hemp. The latter substances are, according to scientific research, not considered any more harmful than others, such as tobacco and alcohol, which, though also harmful, are commonly accepted by our culture and our legislation.

A proposed legalization of such substances must be openly debated. Such legalization could be in the form of a state monopoly of their production and sale.

Any remaining tie between soft and hard drugs, which owes its current existence to the clandestinity of the trade, could in this way be broken.

The FGCI also proposes sharpening the distinctions among addicts, small pushers and big traffickers: that for cases of drug addiction, the "reasonable dose" be fixed in genuinely scientific terms and that alternative forms of punishment be fixed for minor crimes. But to strike a blow to the drug trade--the FGCI continues--the drug-dependent addict must be freed from blackmail by making available to those who elect to consume heroin choices other than clandestinity, thus breaking the addict's isolation.

As regards heroin as well, the state must also intervene. Provision must be made to permit drug addicts to obtain legally and continually the substances they feel they need, without, however, tying the issue of the drugs, as in the past, to a commitment by the addict to undergo withdrawal therapy. Issue of the drug should be used as a means of building up such conditions of real free choice as can only be produced through true and effective recovery therapy.

There are differing viewpoints on the issue under discussion.

The communist youths are against an outright liberalization that would lead to an indiscriminate spread of drug use, without improving conditions for the addicts. We feel, however, that the controlled distribution of drugs through government services, as well as their sale through prescriptions from doctors specially and specifically selected for this purpose, offer a practical basis for discussion.

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ITALY

CONCERN OVER INCREASE IN DRUG ADDICTION REPORTED

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Sep 79 p 18

[Text]

ROME, Sun: A sudden increase in drug addiction and in deaths from heroin overdoses is spreading alarm in Italy. A slight increase in drug cases, especially heroin, is also reported in France, Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands but the situation in Italy is called by the news-weekly Espresso "a mass rite in what will undoubtedly be known in the future as the heroin age." From one heroin death in 1973, Italy recorded 60 last year. Narcotics experts estimate that the number will almost double by the end of this year. Every three days a youth's body is found near a palace or fountain in Rome or Milan or in the fields

of the countryside once noted for its traditional tightly knit families. The number of heroin-users—only a handful a decade ago—is now estimated by the newspaper Corriere della Sera at up to 100,000. The heroin market, in which the Sicilian Mafia is said to be active, grosses an estimated \$1000 million a year. The Italian Government, at an urgent meeting, established an anti-drug commission. And amid growing controversy, it is considering emulating the example of Britain in administering drugs to known addicts in an effort to identify the habitual users, and keep them under control.

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ITALY

PCI LAUNCHES ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 15 Sep 79 pp 1,16

[Article by Giancarlo Angeloni: "The PCI: Antidrug Fight Without Taboos"]

[Text] Rome--The Italian Communist Party [PCI] has decided to promote a vast, continuing and manysided campaign against drug addiction, and particularly against the scourge of heroin. This announcement yesterday morning by comrades Gerardo Chiaromonte, member of the Secretariat, and Giovanni Berlinguer, head of the Environmental and Public Health Section, opened a much awaited and very crowded press conference. The prior polemics of the past few days, the minister's "sorties," the crisscrossing of opinions and of the most disparate proposals, all seemed, by contrast, to give to this meeting an air of conciseness and simplicity; as if the Babel of tongues had merely been expressing the need of many to understand and learn more on the matter, even though it be in a preliminary orientation stage as yet. The object of the conference--as Chiaromonte stated in the beginning--was to reveal the lines of intervention of a "campaign of hope, faith and fight" to be conducted in every locale throughout the country, in public forums including Parliament. This is to be the point of departure of the drive.

"Italy," said Giovanni Berlinguer, "is becoming a widespread drug market and a worldwide drug distribution center. If this phenomenon continues, it will have disastrous consequences not only for the health and idealistic orientation of coming generations but also for the future of Italian democracy. The PCI is naturally aware of the novelty and limitations of a political party's efforts in this domain. It is equally aware of the difficulties involved in an undertaking that has no "miraculous solutions"--neither in laws, which must nevertheless be applied and improved, nor in technosanitary measures, which must nevertheless be researched and tried. This is the essence of the polemic against the propagandistic improvisations of the health minister, who first said, 'We will supply heroin,' then sent two experts to England to find out what had happened there--the exact opposite, that is, to strict methodology and to a proper scientific attitude."

The polemic, however, is also directed against exaltation of drugs as a "sign of freedom," and more generally against any steps susceptible of expanding the trade and rendering difficult, as has occurred in the case of tobacco and alcohol, the reversibility of mass consumption of new substances that produce drug addiction.

In its rally to faith and fight, the communist campaign will tend toward understanding the phenomenon and its novel aspects, and toward establishing a greater bond of solidarity (though not of acquiescence, Berlinguer made clear) with the drug addicts.

Some initiatives are already under way in government administrations. But other more farsighted ones will involve the party, beginning with the demand for a discussion in the national Parliament and for another one in the European body, and not neglecting to underline the fact that in the face of problems of this kind the fences between parties and the obstacles of majoritarian formulas must be hurdled. Demonstrations, discussions and the opening of action centers throughout the country will also be promoted.

There will shortly be three meetings to examine in depth the various aspects of the spread of addiction and the related scientific work being carried on (Milan), the relationship between drugs and the Mafia (Palermo), and the role of education and of teacher training (probably in Rome).

Taken altogether, however, these actions will not suffice unless they are accompanied by pressures on the national government, the regional administrations and all apparatuses of the state to carry on a much more diligent repressive action (very little is being done today) against the drug trade's organizational centers, pressing also for actions by the United Nations and by the governments of European countries, the United States, and Third World countries. The party will also press for the creation of regional services (but not hospital ghettos or insane asylums) dedicated to helping drug addicts and fighting against drugs. These services can be effective if they are associated with the conduct of sanitary reforms and if they make use of scientifically worked out therapeutic techniques, taking advantage at the same time of volunteer activities to aid recovery and rehabilitation.

"Today"--said Giovanni Berlinguer during the meeting with reporters--"the discussion in the press is becoming centered on a few options that appear to be more ideological than realistic and more miraculist than effective. The Communist Party rejects this approach and seeks to respond seriously through deeper understanding and analysis. As a preliminary approach, it can therefore recommend three initial steps: first, accentuate the distinction between heroin and other, more or less 'lighter,' substances for purposes of classifications and of systems of control and punishments; second, experiment, unconstrained by preferences or taboos in respect to any substance, with the use of therapeutic methods, even though of long duration, designed to assist addicts in avoiding worse consequences and

in breaking away from their dependence on drugs and on the trade; third, mitigate the criminal punishment code against drug users, as has been proposed by the PCI in parliamentary proceedings, with an amendment that was rejected in 1975. The anti-drug law," said Giovanni Berlinguer, "established in origin a distinction between pusher and user. It is now necessary to accentuate this differentiation, with a more clearly defined 'reasonable quantity' for which there is no penalty. A case ruling by the Court of Cassation has defined a 'reasonable quantity' as a single dose of a narcotic substance, although it is well known that a heroin addict uses at least four doses a day. It is therefore urgent to intervene on these contradictions, without neglecting, however, to concentrate effort on the suppression of the traffic and the pushing."

Berlinguer also responded to one who asked him to explain the differences between the approach proposed by the FGCI [Italian Communist Youth Federation] and that developed by the PCI: "In the fight against drugs"--said Berlinguer--"the FGCI has a valid viewpoint, aimed at freeing the young person from the dangers to his or her health and from criminal liability. Also, the FGCI is proposing a vast youth assizes on drug addiction topics. This is in no way a negative proposal but rather one that can provide a useful forum for the debate and confrontation of ideas. However, the FGCI's proposals on the practical plans do not always coincide with those of the PCI."

In conclusion, Berlinguer warned that every individual step in the campaign will require deep awareness of the danger and the will to fight it, leaning neither toward repression nor toward acquiescence. Each step will require an unflagging commitment to human, in addition to political, solidarity, as well as the ability to communicate with our youths, constructing together with them alternatives for the future and for day to day living. Without these things, each step will be useless and will moreover lead only to new problems.

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SWITZERLAND

DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF HALCION SCRUTINIZED

Zurich DIE WELTWOCHEN in German 15 Aug 79 p 41

[Article by Peter M Ronner: "Halcion and the Consequences; Battle for a Medication"]

[Text] The case is outright classical. The Dutch psychiatrist Van der Kroef believes that he can trace back behavioral changes, which he observed recently in four patients, to the sleeping pill Halcion. He reports to the proper state authority, writes an article for a medical journal--and gains publicity which, especially with an appearance on television, induces many people to report that they have also taken the medication and have had the same bad experiences. After a second television program, the Ministry of Health hurriedly suspends the sale of Halcion for 6 months and orders a thorough examination during this period.

Did the watchfulness of a single specialist help to halt a tragical calamity here? It would be insincere to pretend complete certainty in answering this question because the Dutch Ministry of Health is keeping locked up for the time being the 600 reports which support it. And only these will permit a trustworthy judgement. Yet Van der Kroef's campaign had some unmistakably strange features. Even when we grant him the genuine need to cut off as fast as possible a medication when he is fully convinced that it produces unbearable side effects, he--and especially he as a psychiatrist--must have fully known what stepping in front of the TV cameras would precipitate.

Whichever medication would be accused under such circumstances that, in some cases, it produces an altered relation to one's own person and to reality, fear, despair all the way to death wishes, aggressivity or unacceptably impulsive behavior--there would always be thousands ready to confirm it from their own experience. And frequently the experience would be real. The only remaining question would be whether there was a direct connection with the medication or not.

In the case of sleeping pills, this aspect is especially difficult to evaluate; because frequently unresolved difficulties or deep psychological problems underlie sleep disturbances--and give rise also to other complaints

all the way to altered perceptions, reactions, sensations. How could one keep apart here, with ultimate certainty, the direct consequences of the basic disease, the effects of insufficient sleep and the side-effects of the sleeping pills taken? What surprises can arise are demonstrated by the particularly precise studies undertaken in the course of introduction of a new sleep medication. Here only a part of the patients receive the new medication. But the strongest complaints about side-effects often come from the others who were given merely pills without active ingredients (placebos).

As long as it is so difficult to distinguish clearly between the side-effects of a sleep medication and independent symptoms of the patient, such efforts merit determined support whether they are aimed at further refined scientific criteria or at a broader statistical basis and its better evaluation. In every country the physicians should report exactly their serious observations to the duly qualified authority. They should also be certain that these observations will be examined there rapidly, independently and competently, without the additional help of telecasts, and that they will also be handled resolutely should the occasion warrant it.

Such type of authorities, strong in personnel, material equipment and power, not only accommodate the security needs of the public; they are also in a better position to give a suspected product those fair chances that Halcion will never have--at least not in the Netherlands after the uproar of the last few weeks--even if the examination resulted in acquittal. And this appears quite probable as long as Van der Kroef stands alone against all those experts who have set up controlled studies and found everything else to create an alarming impression.

Naturally, Halcion is just as unobjectionable as all other sleeping medications: restraint is also required with it. However, in comparison with other benzodiazepine derivatives, it is tempting by having the advantage of being effective in clearly lower amounts and of being retained in the body for a shorter time. Thereby those after-effects, the following day, are diminished which are quite serious especially in connection with traffic accidents. These advantages are highly valued by physicians. And therefore many experts caution emphatically against being misled to use the principle "when in doubt, against the accused" in a panic atmosphere. The justified claim of patients to be protected from dangers can be satisfied even without such extremes.

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SWITZERLAND

SOPORIFICS; THEIR DANGER, ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSED

Zurich DIE WELTWOCHTE in German 15 Aug 79 p 41

[Article by Prof Alexander A. Borbely]

[Text] Soporifics are among the most frequently prescribed medications. It was determined 2 years ago by an official inquiry involving the entire country of Switzerland that nearly 1 million prescriptions of sleeping pills and sedatives are being written annually in ambulant medical practice. A recent survey of middle-aged persons also confirmed that a considerable fraction of those questioned consume, at least occasionally, pills because of sleep disturbances (18 percent of those surveyed by prescription, 20 percent without prescription by a physician.) Recently an increasing number of voices have been raised representing the view that the consumption of sleeping pills has reached excessive proportions. The distinguished Institute of Medicine of the (US) National Academy of Sciences called upon physicians to use more constraint in prescribing sleeping pills and stressed the possible dangers which receive too little attention.

What kinds of sleeping pills are there and what can be said of their desirable and undesirable effects? An assortment of the soporifics used are presented in the following table.

Soporifics

Group	Generic name	Brand name	Dosage in milligrams (Adults)
Aldehyde derivative	Chloralhydrate	Chloraldurat	500
Barbiturate	Pentobarbital	Nembutal	100
	Secobarbital	Seconal	100
	Heptabarbital	Medomin	100
Piperidinedione	Glutethimide	Doriden	250
	Methylprylon	Noludar	200
	Pyriethyldione	Persedon	200
Quinazoline derivative	Methaqualone	Toquilone	200

[Continuation of table]

Benzodiazepine	Flurazepam	Dalmadorm	15
	Nitrazepam	Mogadon	5
	Flunitrazepam	Rohypnol	1
	Triazolam	Halcion	0.5

Chloralhydrate, one of the oldest soporifics, was first used at the end of the last century. Because of its reliable and rapid sleep-inducing effect it remains in use today. Its irritative effect on the gastrointestinal system can lead to complaints.

Barbiturates were introduced into medicine at the beginning of this century. They rapidly reached a dominant position among soporifics which they maintained over 50 years. Although barbiturates are reliable soporifics and sedatives, they have two important drawbacks. An overdose leads to severe poisoning, involving above all the respiratory center function. In addition, barbiturates can produce cases of severe physical dependency (addiction). Although new classes of more effective soporifics have been developed (for example the piperidinediones and methaqualone; see table), a significant lowering of the dangers of poisoning and dependency has not as yet been attained.

Significant progress was first achieved with the introduction of benzodiazepine, a class of drugs which have been used mainly as tranquilizers (for example chlordiazepoxide: Librium). With the benzodiazepines there is less danger of severe poisoning by an overdose and less danger of dependency than with other sleeping pills. The changes in the metabolic processes of the liver, which appeared as an unpleasant side effect of the prolonged use of barbiturates, also no longer play a significant role with benzodiazepines. Finally, it is demonstrated by the extremely low dosage of benzodiazepines, in comparison with other sleeping pills, that they are extremely potent medicines.

Have we succeeded in developing the ideal sleeping pill with benzodiazepines? Unfortunately this is not so for various reasons. Like all of the other sleeping pills, benzodiazepines also do not induce natural sleep; they alter the stages of sleep and the pattern of brain potentials (EEG) appearing during sleep. Nevertheless it must be stressed that detrimental effects attributable to such changes have not been demonstrated.

However, it has been well documented that the effect of sleeping pills usually does not end with awakening in the morning. Symptoms of indisposition and sleepiness can appear as unpleasant after-effects and these can also be objectively demonstrated by means of performance tests and EEG studies. Since many benzodiazepines and their pharmacologically active decomposition products are excreted extremely slowly from the body, the repeated intake of sleeping pills can lead to their gradually increased concentration in the body (accumulation). This can lead to decreased

performance during the day and can be dangerous in certain situations which require full attention and concentration (for example street traffic.) Because benzodiazepines enhance the effects of alcohol, even a moderate intake of alcohol can have devastating consequences.

These considerations suggest certain conclusions which can be summarized in three points.

--Soporifics are effective medicines which should not be used lightly.

--Soporifics can serve very well as a means to bridge over and help severe sleep disturbances. However, they cannot remove the cause of sleep disturbances and, therefore, cannot be viewed as true therapeutic means.

--The chief disadvantages of soporifics are: a danger of poisoning by overdose and a danger of dependency (mostly with the older soporifics); their often prolonged persistence in the body and the consequent limitations in productivity during the day; their potentiation of the effect of alcohol; and possibly the alteration of the natural sleep pattern.

What nonpharmacological measures can be considered in the presence of sleep disturbances? Because a thorough discussion of sleep disturbances and their treatment cannot be undertaken here, only a few important points will be mentioned. It is important to know that sleep disturbances appear now and again in most people and that such disturbances are not a symptom of disease. Severe sleep disturbances of long duration or those arising suddenly should, of course, be elucidated by a physician.

In the presence of mild or sporadic sleep disturbances, the following points should be considered: It is better to get up and be busy for a while (for example reading or needlework) than to toss and turn in bed sleeplessly. Regular bedtime is important for good sleep. If sleep at night is disturbed, sleeping during the day should be avoided. Physical activity during the day and relaxing activities in the evening encourage sleep. Excessive meals, smoking and alcohol should be avoided in the evening. Finally, one must consider that sleep is a process not independent of the mode of living while awake and that problems and conflicts which arise during the day will continue their effect at night and can disturb sleep. With this consideration one can often determine the cause of sleeplessness oneself and possibly even eliminate it, and thereby one can avoid reaching for the sleeping pills.

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UNITED KINGDOM

ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE CORRUPTION INVESTIGATED

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 13 Sep 79 p 19

[Article by T. A. Sandrock]

[Text]

SIR DAVID McNEE, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, yesterday denied that there was any suggestion of corruption by police officers following the discovery in a Bedfordshire wood of more than one million LSD tablets—worth between £8 million and £15 million.

Police are satisfied the drugs cache was left over from "Operation Julie," code-name for the police team who smashed the world's biggest LSD manufacturing and distributing ring.

The haul was found with the help of two of the "Julie" criminals.

The possibility of more LSD tablets being hidden away has not been ruled out. Mr Richard Loe, who as a detective chief inspector before he resigned, led "Operation Julie", said at his Scarborough home yesterday that he was "not at all surprised" at the find.

He said that at the end of the operation — which led to 15 people receiving jail sentences ranging from two years to 15 years—about two million tablets were unaccounted for. Police made searches in several woods, but without success.

Police in Bedfordshire said yesterday that the tablets would sell at about £8 each in Britain and up to £15 each in other parts of the world.

Spreading Inquiry

They were found on Friday after police spent five weeks searching Steppingley Woods near Ampthill, as a result of information given to a team led by Mr Leonard Burt, Assistant Chief Constable of Dorset, who is investigating allegations of corruption against Metropolitan and City of London police officers.

This illustrates the way the corruption inquiry, called "Operation Countryman," is spreading and why it is now expected to take another 12 months to complete, instead of the six to eight weeks expected when it started last November.

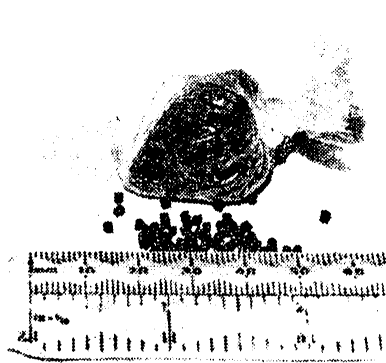
Already, the team has grown to more than 80 officers. An inquiry headquarters has been set up at Godalming police station, Surrey, and the total cost of the investigation is now expected to reach £2 million.

The allegations began with a "supergrass" seeking a reduced sentence for crimes he committed by informing on others. He claimed that City of London officers had helped to organise armed bank robberies for a share of what was stolen.

During inquiries allegations of corruption were put forward by other criminals, some of whom were still serving prison sentences. These accused police of accepting bribes and fabricating evidence during investigations of crimes in which police were said to be involved.



Three large plastic jars containing LSD drugs worth millions of pounds on display at the "Operation Countryman" headquarters in Godalming yesterday. Below: The undergrowth in a Bedfordshire wood where the drugs cache was found and the "microdot" LSD pills the hidden store contained



Drugs ring check

Police have no doubt that many of the allegations are by criminals jumping on the bandwagon, either seeking a cut in their sentences or taking revenge on police officers responsible for their arrests, but every case is being checked.

About 40 police, some of senior rank, have been named in the allegations. So far, six have been suspended.

Some of the allegations of corruption concerned drugs and it was while questioning prisoners convicted of such offences that the "Countryman" detectives obtained the information which led to the recovery of the LSD.

The detectives questioned, among others, Henry Todd, 34, serving a sentence of 15 years for setting up an illicit laboratory in Surrey as part of the "Julie" ring, and Brian Cuthbertson, 31, serving 11 years.

Some months ago police were told that there were members of the "Julie" gang prepared to disclose where a large quantity of LSD tablets were hidden, but this came to nothing. Then about six weeks ago, detectives got the breakthrough they were hoping for.

Two of the "Julie" ring went with police to Skeppingley Woods. But they could not pinpoint the drugs' hiding place because of the growth of vegetation during the 18 months since they were sentenced.

The woods, just off Four Field Road, near Millbrook cross-road, well in the heart of farming Bedfordshire. The acres of pine forest are used by locals to exercise their dogs, by horse riders, and by the police, as an exercise ground to train their dogs.

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UNITED KINGDOM

'OPERATION CYRIL' RAIDS NET 4.5 TONS OF CANNABIS RESIN

Sea Chase

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 18 Sep 79 pp 1, 36

[Article by Colin Randall]

[Text]

CANNABIS resin worth about £2 million on the black market was seized as Customs investigators, Cornish police and Scotland Yard Drugs Squad officers launched a combined land and sea operation near Polperro, Cornwall, early yesterday.

The haul of 1½ tons of cannabis is believed to be the biggest ever made in Britain and the operation, which had involved months of investigation, reached a climax with a dramatic 90-minute sea chase.

More than 40 Customs and police officers kept watch at Talland Bay, Polperro, for at least two nights and their vigil was rewarded at 3 a.m. yesterday.

A converted motor fishing vessel, Guiding Lights, arrived in the bay and began offloading packages of cannabis, wrapped in Christmas paper to waiting motorised dinghies, which transferred them to vans waiting on the shore.

As the Customs and police swooped, Guiding Lights hurried out to sea, followed by four Customs cutters — Vigilant, Swift, Alert and Active. They finally caught up with the boat after a chase in which speeds reached 24 knots.

Arrest at sea

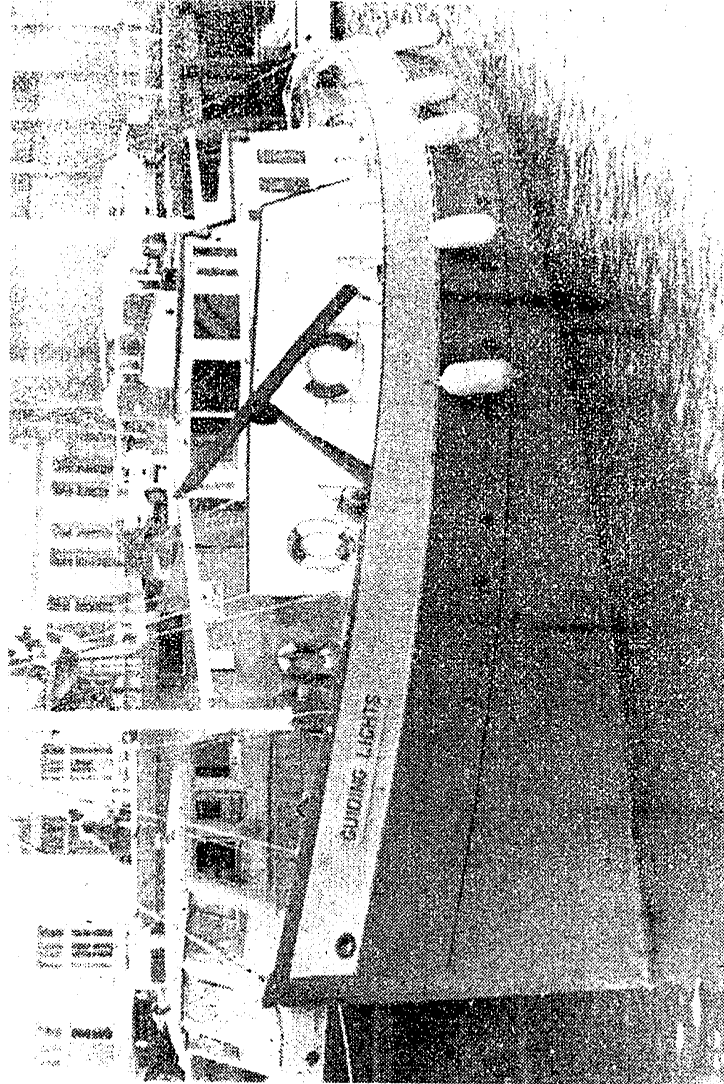
Customs men leapt on to the Guiding Lights as Vigilant and Swift pulled alongside and the former fishing vessel was escorted, under arrest, into Millbay Docks, Plymouth, for further examination by divers.

Four men were arrested on the Guiding Lights and with 15 more men and three women detained in Cornwall and raids in London they were being held in a London police station last night.

Officers on vigil at Talland Bay apparently waited until about half the consignment of drugs had been landed from the Guiding Lights before flashing a signal from the clifftop to the cutters to move in on the boat.

At least some of the people arrested are thought to have been staying in rented cottages in the Polperro area. Also staying in the area, posing as caravan holidaymakers, were five London detectives.

Talland Bay is within 1½ miles of Polperro, which was the centre of extensive smuggling operations involving alcohol, silk, tea and tobacco from 1780 to 1815.



The motor vessel Guilding Lights lying in Millbay Docks, Plymouth, yesterday after she had been impounded following a dawn sea chase involving four Customs cutters. Cannabis resin worth about £2-million was seized and seven men were arrested.

London Raids

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Sep 79 pp 1, 36

[Article by T. A. Sandroek]

[Text]

THE total amount of high quality cannabis resin seized during the "Operation Cyril" raids in London and Cornwall on Monday was 4½ tons, it was learned yesterday. It had a street sale value of nearly £10 million.

Each of the hauls was 2¼ tons. The London one was found in a garage in Station Road, Penge, which Det. Chief Supt. John Smith, head of Scotland Yard's Drugs Squad, described as "fortified almost as well as the Bank of England."

The garage's windows were bricked up and the very heavy wooden doors were steel-lined and secured with heavy double padlocks.

In a second London raid on Monday night, "Operation Cyril" detectives found £250,000 in a safe at a detached house in Pinner.

The first 2¼ ton haul of cannabis was seized during an early morning operation near Polperro, Cornwall, in which Customs cutters shased a converted motor fishing vessel, Guiding Lights, out to sea before arresting it.

The equal quantities of cannabis found in London and Cornwall suggest it was the regular load brought in by the 63-ton Guiding Lights. Packets of cannabis found in both raids were wrapped in decorative paper.

Modern equipment

It is possible, police and Customs investigators believe, that the Guiding Lights made up to four deliveries a year from the Middle East.

The boat carried modern radar and other navigational aids, sufficient for it to travel "round the world."

The smuggling ring had been operating for "some time, perhaps some years" and it was impossible to estimate just how much cannabis had been brought into Britain, said Det. Ch. Supt. Smith.

It was a "highly organised operation. I do not think there is a group of smugglers in this

field which has been as successful as this one seem to have been."

Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner (Crime), said that the original information which led to Monday's raids was received by Yard Drugs Squad officers about three months ago and Customs investigators were called in at an early stage. One third of the Drugs Squad's strength — 10 detectives — was assigned to Operation Cyril with 10 Customs investigators.

"The success of Operation Cyril and other recent investigations show that the joint operations between police and Customs are working extremely well," Mr Kelland added. "A bigger organisation, such as a national drugs squad, would be more difficult to control, and it is not time for a national squad."

Immense profits

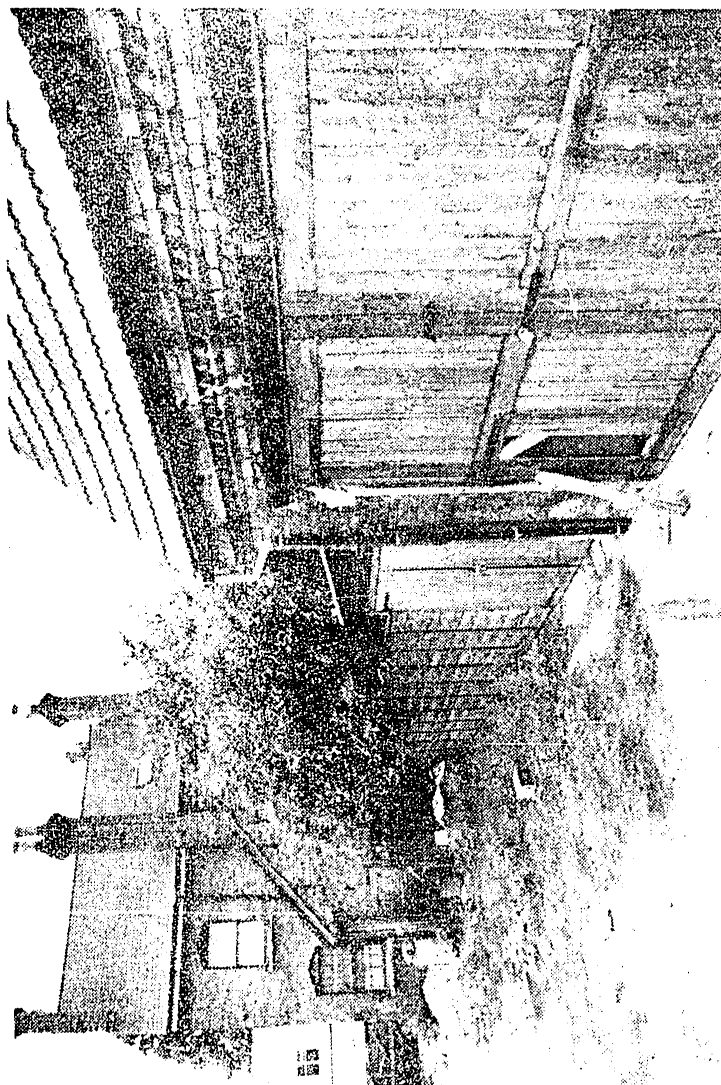
Det. Chief Supt. Smith described the cannabis as of "high quality" and said it was the biggest seizure of its kind ever made in Britain. In 1977, the total haul for the year was about two tons.

He believed the haul was intended for distribution and use in Britain.

Asked whether the seizures would result in a significant drop in the smuggling of drugs into Britain, he said: "We have dealt with the biggest-ever drugs smuggling ring in this country, but I do not believe that no more will be brought in. The profits are really immense and people will take the chances to get those profits."

He had no doubt Monday's seizures would create a temporary shortage of cannabis on the addicts' market, and this would make the cost of buying a few grammes to roll and smoke "sky high."

Three women and 19 men arrested during Operation Cyril were still being questioned last night. They include three married couples.



The drug store—a garage at the back of a house in Pense—is fortified almost as the Bank of England, where Operation Cyclone uncovered 2.4 tons of cannabis resin worth nearly £5 million.

Twelve Remanded

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 21 Sep 79 p 3

[Text]

Fifteen people appeared in Horseferry Road magistrates' court yesterday following the "Operation Cyril" drugs swoop. Twelve of the accused, including a woman, were remanded in custody until later this month and the other three were granted bail until Dec. 20.

The defendants were brought to court after spending the night at Rochester Row police

station. Reporting restrictions were not lifted for the 1½-hour hearing.

All those before the court were charged that together with Ambrosio Vinales and persons unknown, between Jan. 1, 1974, and Sept. 17, 1979, they conspired to contravene the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1974.

Drugs Cash Link in Gibraltar

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Sep 79 p 3

[Article by John Weeks]

[Text]

THE foundations of a new hotel in Gibraltar were being searched yesterday by detectives and customs officers investigating the seizure of four and a half tons of cannabis valued at £10 million on the black market in Cornwall and London last week during "Operation Cyril."

Army units on Gibraltar are being used in the search, after £125,000 was found in a house of a man arrested by local police on Thursday.

The police and Army are searching for further sums of money, believed to be used to purchase illicit drugs from North Africa, and for other clues.

Gibraltar has been used as a "bank clearing house" for the buying of drugs in North Africa, police believe, and a number of bank accounts there have been frozen. A bank manager is helping police with their inquiries in Gibraltar.

Inquiries are continuing by a joint team of Scotland Yard detectives and customs officers in many countries in Europe and North Africa.

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The inquiry will continue for many months and, by the time it is completed, detectives believe, they will have uncovered a major plan to smuggle drugs into Britain.

Det. Chief Insp. Brian Jackson, of Scotland Yard's Drug Squad, and a customs investigator flew into Gibraltar on Tuesday to continue inquiries into "Operation Cyril."

Men loitering

The following day, two local patrolling police officers became suspicious of two men loitering near a bush and, after keeping observation on them, arrested them.

They found a pick-axe and a spade under the bush, and signs of digging.

During a search of a house owned by one of the suspects they found the money. Markings on some of the notes indicated that it may have been part of the "Operation Cyril" investigation.

Last week, police and customs seized four and half tons of cannabis from a boat in Cornwall and from addresses in London. They also recovered £250,000 in cash.

Fourteen men and a woman have already appeared in court charged with varying offences arising out of the find.

UNITED KINGDOM

CANNABIS WRAPPED IN MAGAZINES DISCOVERED BY CUSTOMS

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Sep 79 p 19

[Text] A routine check by a Customs officer led to the discovery of an international drugs ring which may have smuggled over 1 million pounds' worth of cannabis into Britain, a court heard yesterday.

The officer examined a parcel of magazines from Pakistan and found they were wrapped round a cardboard cylinder containing cannabis resin, said Mr John Hugill, QC, prosecuting, at Manchester Crown Court.

The package had a Manchester address and inquiries disclosed that similar parcels had been sent to the homes of members of an Indian family.

Another 15 parcels were delivered after the discovery. They contained about 20,000 pounds' worth of cannabis resin.

"That gives you an idea of the scale of the trafficking," Mr Hugill told the jury.

Six members of the family, all from Longsight, Manchester, plead not guilty to conspiracy to smuggle cannabis resin between October, 1975, and April, 1978.

Swoop on House

Mr Hugill said that when the drug was first discovered Customs officers replaced it with a harmless substance and put the package back in the post. After its delivery the officers swooped on the house within minutes.

Less than three hours later a telegram was sent to a contact in Pakistan telling him to stop the shipment. But it could not stop the parcels already in the post.

The accused are Abdul Wahid, 61, of Martindale Crescent; his sons, Jahaid, 33, of Hector Road; Shahid, 29, of Bletchley Close; and John Lewis, formerly Zahid, 31; Slade Len, his daughter Ishrat, 27, and her husband Fakhur Saddiqi, 30, both of Hector Road. The trial was adjourned until today.

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

OPIUM HAUL--Three Iranian men were being questioned by Customs officers at Heathrow last night after one of the biggest-ever hauls of smuggled opium at the airport. The drug, worth about 105,000 pounds, was found concealed in a trunk being carried by a woman traveller from Teheran. Afterwards Customs officers arrested three men at a Maida Vale address. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 15 Sep 79 p 1]

HOTHOUSE CANNABIS UNCOVERED--Drug squad detectives pulled aside a screen of ripening tomatoes yesterday and found up to 500,000 pounds worth of hothouse cannabis. In a dawn swoop on an isolated South Devon farm, they uncovered thousands of cannabis plants in four greenhouses. It was the second major drugs raid in the South-West this week. On Monday a ton and a half of cannabis was seized at Tallands Bay, Cornwall. The farmhouse, at Compton, near Torquay, had been let to tenants for several months. Two men and two women were later helping police inquiries. The raid by a 20-man team which included local police, was code-named Operation Goldie and led by Det. Chief Insp. Mike Walsh, after weeks of investigations and undercover work. By last night one of the four 90 ft greenhouses had been stripped of plants, which were taken away for examination. The tomatoes at the entrance to each greenhouse provided perfect camouflage. The farm is at the end of a narrow, bumpy quarter-mile-long track, a few minutes' walk from Compton Castle, a National Trust property. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 27 Sep 79 p 3]

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END